HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS

REPORT 2005
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1. Introduction
This has been a very successful year for GHF, particularly as regards publication output. A highlight was the publication of the two-volume *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism* by Brill Academic publishers, the first copy of which was presented to Dr. S. Noorda, the head of the Board of Governors of the Universiteit van Amsterdam, during a festive book launch organized by Brill on March 8. Designed as the standard reference work in the domain of Western esotericism, in the meantime the *DGWE* has been receiving uniformly high praise from reviewers in a variety of academic and more general journals.

2. Personnel
Drs. Marieke van den Doel’s four-year appointment as Ph.D. research associate has come to an end in October 2005. She is now finishing her dissertation, the final manuscript of which is expected to be ready by the end of 2006.

At the time of writing, Drs. Osvald Vasicek has just been selected as van den Doel’s successor. He and his research project, on Johannes Reuchlin, will be presented in more detail in the annual report over 2006.

3. Teaching
3.1. Teaching Program
The BA minor “Werste esoterie” has been continued without major changes. “Hermetica I” was given by Hanegraaff, “Hermetica II” by von Stuckrad, and “Hermetica III” by Pasi. Furthermore, von Stuckrad has again taught the course “Introductie Religiestudies”.

As for the MA “Mysticism and Western Esotericism”, Hanegraaff taught a new module “Contested Knowledge” (which takes the place of “Western Esotericism and the Quest for Enlightenment”); von Stuckrad taught “Renaissance Esotericism”; and Pasi taught “Occult Trajectories”. In addition, von Stuckrad also coordinated the MA core module “Key Publications in Religious Studies”.
3.2. Level of participation

2nd semester 2004-2005

Bachelor
- Hermetica II C.K.M. von Stuckrad 15 students

Master
- Occult Trajectories I: Magic and Modernity M. Pasi 6 students

1st semester 2005-2006

Bachelor
- Hermetica I W.J. Hanegraaff 52 students
- Hermetica III M. Pasi 16 students

Master
- Renaissance Esotericism II: Religious Pluralism and Esoteric Discourse C.K.M. von Stuckrad 8 students
- Contested Knowledge II: Paganism, Images and Christian Identities W.J. Hanegraaff 14 students

Other courses taught by GHF staff members

- Introductie Religiestudies C.K.M. von Stuckrad 48 students
- Key publications in religious studies (Research Master Core Module I) C.K.M. von Stuckrad 4 students

4. Research

4.1. Research Program

There are no changes in the current overall research project, and in Hanegraaff’s and von Stuckrad’s projects. Marco Pasi has joined the program with three projects, of various durations.

1. The history of a mysterious formula: Konx Om Pax (2005-2008). This research concerns processes of what may be termed the “esoterisation” of themes and ideas. It focuses on the history of the alleged Eleusinian formula “Konx Om Pax”. It is an example of an interesting phenomenon of
“migration” of ideas, symbols and themes, which have been historically rejected by mainstream scholars and scientists, and are at one point adopted by esoteric discourses. This connects also to the relationship between secularisation and contemporary esotericism, because one can see in these migrations of ideas an almost paradoxical effort at re-enchanting what had never been enchanted before. This project should result in the publication of a scholarly monograph.

2. The problem of magic in the history of Western culture (2006-2008). This project aims at writing a broad, historical overview of the role played by the idea of magic in Western culture, and it builds up on previous research made for my Ph.D. dissertation, which focused mainly on the idea of magic in occultist circles between the 19th and the 20th century. This overview would apply, obviously on a larger scale, the methodological tools that have been proposed and used in this dissertation. It should result in the publication of a book.

3. Researches on esotericism and modern culture (2005-2011). The idea is to write a book which would explore the complex relationship between modern esotericism and contemporary culture. It would address several aspects considered to be essential in order to understand its development: orientalism, gender, politics, art, science, religion. Each aspect should form a chapter of the book, and would be built upon my series of related MA courses at the UvA.

4.2. Research Output.

M.J.E. van den Doel


W.J. Hanegraaff


http://www.pucsp.br/rever/rv4_2005/>


Esoterik, Gnostika 31, pp. 25-35.

Introduction (I, vii-xiii)
Champier, Symphorien (I, 254-255)
Correggio, Giovanni da (I, 273-275)
Correspondences [with Jean-Pierre Brach] (I, 275-279)
Esotericism (I, 336-340)
Imagination [with Marieke van den Doel] (II, 606-616)
Intermediary Beings IV: 18th Century-Present (II, 628-631)
Jewish Influences V: Occultist Kabbalah (II, 644-647)
Kerner, Justinus Andreas Christian (II, 660-662)
Lazzarelli, Lodovico (II, 679-683)
Magic I: Introduction (II, 716-719)
Magic V: 18th-20th Centuries (II, 738-744)
New Thought Movement (II, 861-865)
Novalis [with Arthur Versluis] (II, 869-871)
Occult / Occultism (II, 884-889)
Roberts, Dorothy Jane (II, 997-1000)
Tradition (II, 1125-1135)


Animisme (I, 61)
Antroposofie (I, 81-82)
Bijgeloof (I, 200-201)
Boehme (I, 223-224)
Channeling (I, 295-296)
Demonen (I, 410-411)
Emanatieleer (I, 500)
Geestverschijningen (I, 613-614)
Gnostiek (I, 669-670)
Healing (II, 744-745)
Heksen (II, 769-770)
Hermetisme (II, 784-785)
Holisme (II, 803)
Horoscoop (II, 813-814)
Magnetisme (II, 1146-1147)
Nag Hammadi (II, 1245-1246)
Neo-Platonisme (II, 1286-1288)
New Age (II, 1291-1292)
Nostradamus (II, 1315)
Rebirthing (III, 1507-1508)
Rozenkruisers (III, 1569)
Scholem (III, 1608)
Tolkien (III, 1755-1756)
All in: George Harinck, Wim Berkelaar & Lodewijk Winkeler (eds.), Christelijke Encyclopedie, Kampen: Kok.

M. Pasi


Crowley, Aleister (I, 281-287)
Mathers, Samuel Liddell “MacGregor” (II, 783-785)
Ordo Templi Orientis (II, 898-906)
Westcott, William Wynn (II, 1168-1170)

Magic.
Occultism.


K. von Stuckrad


*Astrología: Una historia desde los inicios hasta nuestros días*, Barcelona: Editorial Herder, 488 pp. (translation of *Geschichte der Astrologie, von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart*).

*Storia dell’astrologia: Dalle origini ai nostri giorni*, Milano: Oscar Mondadori, X + 346 pp. (translation of *Geschichte der Astrologie, von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart*).


Western Esotericism: Towards an Integrative Model of Interpretation, *Religion* 35:2, pp. 78-97.


Astrology (Western).
Esotericism.
New Religions
Prophecy/Divination

Encyclopedias
Festschriften

Astrology III: Middle Ages.

Bohm, David.
Capra, Fritjof
Einstein, Albert
Harner, Michael, and the Foundation for Shamanic Studies
Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm
Messner on Everest and Cosmos
Mountaineering
Pauli, Wolfgang
Peat, F. David
Philosophy of Nature
Prigogine, Ilya
Schelling, Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph
Shamanism, Neo-
Sjeldrake, Rupert
Western Esotericism


4. Further Activities

5.1. Conference Organization

W.J. Hanegraaff


M. Pasi


K. von Stuckrad

Organization of symposium “Western Esotericism and Polemics” as part of the 19th Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo, Japan, 24-30.3.2005.


5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation

M.J.E. van den Doel


W.J. Hanegraaff


The Night Side of Reason: Shamanism and Western Esotericism. Lecture *ARIES* (Dutch Association for the Study of Western Esotericism), Amsterdam, 11.11.2005.

R. van Kreijl


M. Pasi

Magic, occultism, and other pathways into the study of modern Western esotericism. Lecture *ARIES* (Dutch Association for the Study of Western Esotericism), Amsterdam, 24.2.2005.


Magia tra scienza, filosofia e religione. Invited public Lecture, Board of Culture of municipality of Villasanta, Villasanta (Italy), 28.4.2005.

K. von Stuckrad


StucVan Engeland naar Europa: De herintroductie van de astrologie op het continent rond 1900. Public lecture in collaboration with the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek naar de Astrologie (NVWOA) and the Astrologische Vakvereniging Nederland (AVN), Utrecht (The Netherlands), 5.2.2005.


5.3. Editorial Activities

W.J. Hanegraaff

Editor in chief (with R. Edighoffer and A. Faivre). Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism.

European editorial board. Religion.

Editorial board. Numen.

Editorial board. Esoterica www.esoteric.msu.edu


M. Pasi

Book Review Editor. *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*.

Editor. *Politica Hermetica*.

K. von Stuckrad


5. **Other**

GHF was co-organizer, along with the OVN (Foundation for the Advancement of Academic Research into the History of Freemasonry in the Netherlands) and the Chair for Cultural Heritage, Conservation & Restoration of the University of Amsterdam, of the 2-day conference *Masonic and Esoteric Heritage: New Perspectives for Art and Heritage Policies*, Royal Library, The Hague, 20-21 October 2005.