



FACULTEIT DER GEESTESWETENSCHAPPEN  
*Afdeling Kunst-, Religie- en Cultuurwetenschappen*

**HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY  
AND RELATED CURRENTS**

**REPORT 2005**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Personnel
3. Teaching
  - 3.1. Teaching Program
  - 3.2. Level of Participation
4. Research
  - 4.1. Research Program
  - 4.2. Research Output
5. Further Activities
  - 5.1. Conference Organization
  - 5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation
  - 5.3. Editorial Activities
6. Other



## **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 "Westerse 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

#### 1<sup>e</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

(ed., et al). *The Learned Eye: Regarding Art, Theory, and the Artist's Reputation. Essays for Ernst van de Wetering*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 228 pp.

Imagination (with Wouter J. Hanegraaff). In : Wouter J. Hanegraaff (ed., in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek & Jean-Pierre Brach), *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, vol. II, pp. 606-616.

### W.J. Hanegraaff

*Lodovico Lazzarelli (1447-1500): The Hermetic Writings and Related Documents* (with R.M. Bouthoorn), Tempe, Arizona: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, x + 356 pp.

(ed., in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek & Jean-Pierre Brach). *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, 2 vols., Leiden: Brill, 1228 pp.

Forbidden Knowledge: Anti-Esoteric Polemics and Academic Discourse, *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 5:2, pp. 225-254.

La fin de la tradition hermétique: Frances Yates et Lodovico Lazzarelli, *Accademia* VI, pp. 85-101.

Spectral Evidence of New Age Religion: On the Substance of Ghosts and the Use of Concepts, *Journal of Alternative Spiritualities and New Age Studies* 1:1, pp. 35-58.

Idolatry. *Rever: Revista de Estudos da Religião* 5:4 (2005)



[http://www.pucsp.br/rever/rv4\\_2005/](http://www.pucsp.br/rever/rv4_2005/)>

Human Potential before Esalen: An Experiment in Anachronism. In: Jeffrey J. Kripal & Glenn W. Shuck (eds.), *On the Edge of the Future: Esalen and the Evolution of American Culture*, Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, pp. 17-44.

Swedenborg, the Jews, and Jewish Traditions. In: Peter Schäfer & Irina Wandrey (eds.), *Reuchlin und seine Erben: Forscher, Denker, Ideologen und Spinner* (Pforzheimer Reuchlinschriften 11), Ostfildern: Jan Thorbecke, pp. 135-154.

Introductory Remarks on the Study of Western Esotericism, *Groniek* 167, pp. 217-235.

Genezen door te sterven: Het medische dilemma van Justinus Kerner. In: Amanda Kluveld et al. (ed.), *Genezen: Opstellen bij het afscheid van Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra*, Amsterdam: Pallas Publications / Amsterdam University Press 2005, pp. 149-162.

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)

All in: Wouter J. Hanegraaff (ed., in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek & Jean-Pierre Brach), *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.

New Age Movement. In: Lindsay Jones (ed. in chief), *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd edition, Detroit etc.: Thomson Gale 2005, vol. 10, pp. 6495-6500.

Channeling. In: Kocku von Stuckrad (ed.), *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*, Leiden: Brill, vol. I, pp. 318-320.

Gnosticism. In: Kocku von Stuckrad (ed.), *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*, Leiden: Brill, vol. II, pp. 790-798.

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

The Idea of Magic in the Occultist Current in England, 1875-1947, *Societas Magica Newsletter* 13, pp. 4-6.

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

All in: Wouter J. Hanegraaff (ed., in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek & Jean-Pierre Brach), *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.

Magic.

Occultism.

Both in: Kocku von Stuckrad (ed.), *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*, Leiden: Brill.

Review of Silverio Corvisieri, *Il mago dei generali: Poteri occulti nella crisi del fascismo e della monarchia*, Roma 2001. In: *Politica Hermetica* 19, pp. 146-152.

Translation of Constance A. Jones, *G.I. Gurdjieff e la sua eredità*, Leumann: Elledici 2005, 128 pp.



K. von Stuckrad

*Western Esotericism: A Brief History of Secret Knowledge*, London: Equinox, 320 pp. (translation of *Was ist Esoterik? Kleine Geschichte des geheimen Wissens*)

*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*)

(ed., with Günther Oestmann and H. Darrel Rutkin) *Horoscopes and Public Spheres: Essays on the History of Astrology* (Religion and Society 42). Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, viii + 290 pp.

(ed.). *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill (thoroughly revised English edition of the "Metzler Lexikon Religion", ed. Ch. Auffarth, J. Bernard and H. Mohr), xxxvi + 2154 pp.

(associate ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. Ed. Bron R. Taylor. 2 vols. London & New York: Thoemmes Continuum, 1877 pp.

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

Whose Tradition? Conflicting Ideologies in Medieval and Early Modern Esotericism. In: Steven Engler and Gregory P. Grieve (eds.), *Historicizing 'Tradition' in the Study of Religion*, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 211-226.

Heilung durch die Geister: Der moderne westliche Schamanismus. In: Werner H. Ritter and Bernhard Wolf (eds.), *Heilung - Energie - Geist: Heilung zwischen Wissenschaft, Religion und Geschäft*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, pp. 187-207.

Introduction: Horoscopes and History (with G. Oestmann and H. Darrel Rutkin). In: Günther Oestmann, H. Darrel Rutkin and Kocku von Stuckrad (eds.), *Horoscopes and Public Spheres: Essays on the History of Astrology*, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 1-10.

The Function of Horoscopes in Biographical Narrative: Cardano and After. In: Günther Oestmann, H. Darrel Rutkin and Kocku von Stuckrad (eds.), *Horoscopes and Public Spheres: Essays on the History of Astrology*, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 225-240.

Communitas: Environmentalist Activity and Ritual Theory. In: Vasilios N. Makrides & Jörg Rüpke (eds.), *Religionen im Konflikt: Vom Bürgerkrieg über Öko-Gewalt bis zur Gewalterinnerung im Ritual*, Münster: Aschendorff, pp. 226-235.

Esoterik. In: Peter Eicher (ed.), *Neues Handbuch theologischer Grundbegriffe*. 4 vols., Munich: Kösel, vol. I, pp. 273-281.





Divination romaine. B. Divination et pouvoir: 3. Astrology between public and private'. In: *Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum antiquorum (ThesCRA)*, Vol. III, Los Angeles: Eisenbrauns, pp. 93-94.

Astrology (Western).

Esotericism.

New Religions

Prophecy/Divination

All in: Kocku von Stuckrad (ed.), *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*, Leiden: Brill.

Encyclopedias

Festschriften

All in: Lindsay Jones (ed. in chief), *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd edition, Detroit etc.: Thomson Gale 2005, vol. IV, pp. 2782-2785.

Astrology III: Middle Ages.

In : Wouter J. Hanegraaff (ed., in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek & Jean-Pierre Brach), *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, vol. I, pp. 119-128.

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

In: Bron R. Taylor (ed. in chief), *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, London & New York: Thoemmes Continuum.

Review of Jeppe Sinding Jensen, *The Study of Religion in a New Key: Theoretical and philosophical soundings in the comparative and general study of religion* (Studies in Religion, 3), Aarhus 2003. In: *Numen* 52:1, pp. 146-149.

Review of Michael J. B. Allen & Valery Rees (with Martin Davies) (eds.), *Marsilio Ficino: His Theology, His Philosophy, His Legacy* (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History, 108), Leiden 2002. In: *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 5:1, pp. 127-131.

Review of Roy Willis & Patrick Curry, *Astrology, Science and Culture: Pulling Down the Moon*, Oxford & New York 2004. In: *Journal for Contemporary Religion* 20:3, pp. 421-422.



## 4. Further Activities

### 5.1. Conference Organization

#### W.J. Hanegraaff

(with J.J. Kripal). Organization of conference *Hidden Intercourse: Eros and Sexuality in Western Esotericism*, Esalen Institute (California), 4-7.4.2005.

(with Allison P. Coudert). Organization of “Western Esotericism” group at the *2005 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Philadelphia, 20.11.2005.

#### M. Pasi

Co-organization of conference *L'ésotérisme au féminin*, Politica Hermetica, Paris, 3-4.12.2005.

#### K. von Stuckrad

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

(with Steven Engler et al). Organization of “Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion” group at the *2005 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Philadelphia, 19-21.11.2005.

### 5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation

#### M.J.E. van den Doel

Inspiration and Imagination: Marsilio Ficino's Influence on 16th Century Art. Conference: *Western Esotericism and Polemics* as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo (Japan), 29.3.2005.

#### W.J. Hanegraaff

Forbidden Knowledge: Anti-Esoteric Polemics and Academic Research. Conference: *Western Esotericism and Polemics* as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo (Japan), 29.3.2005.



Under the Mantle of Love: Sexuality and Eros in Marsilio Ficino and Giordano Bruno. Conference: *Hidden Intercourse: Eros and Sexuality in Western Esotericism*, Esalen Institute (California), 4.4.2005.

Abendländische Esoterik als Ergebnis polemischer Diskurse. Invited lecture *Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäischen Aufklärung*, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), 14.7.2005.

Western Esotericism and the Status of the Image. Conference: *Masonic and Esoteric Heritage: A New Perspective for Art and Heritage Policies*, The Hague (The Netherlands), 20.10.2005.

The Night Side of Reason: Shamanism and Western Esotericism. Invited public lecture *Rice University*, Houston (Texas), 17.11.2005.

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

Esotericism versus Science: A Riot in Early 19th Century Medicine. Conference: *Western Esotericism and Polemics* as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo (Japan), 29.3.2005.

#### 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.

Definitions of Occultism: A Methodological Survey. Conference: *Western Esotericism and Polemics* as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo (Japan), 29.3.2005.

The Knight of Spermatophagy: Unveiling the Mysteries of Georges Le Clément de Saint-Marcq (1865-1956). Conference: *Hidden Intercourse: Eros and Sexuality in Western Esotericism*, Esalen Institute (California), 7.4.2005.

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

Exégèse et sexualité: l'occultisme oublié de Lady Caithness. Conference *L'ésotérisme au féminin*, Politica Hermetica (Paris), 3.12.2005.



### K. von Stuckrad

Kalender, Astronomie und Heilsgeschichte: Zeitliche Ordnungsmuster in Qumran und im frühen Christentum. Lecture series *Zeit, heilige Zeit, Ewigkeit im antiken Mittelmeerraum*, University of Münster (Germany), 10.1.2005.

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.

Religion und Naturwissenschaft: Interferenzen und diskursive Transfers. Conference: *Elemente einer Europäischen Religionsgeschichte: Entwicklungspfade und Vermittlungswege*, Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt, Erfurt (Germany), 19.2.2005.

Christian Kabbalah and Anti-Jewish Polemics: Pico's Theses Revisited. Conference: *Western Esotericism and Polemics* as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Quintennial Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religion, Tokyo (Japan), 28.3.2005.

Die Mär vom Christlichen Abendland: Ende einer Meistererzählung. Conference: *Europa-Konferenz*, University of Konstanz (Germany), 22.4.2005.

On the Interface of Cultures: Astrology, Chymistry, and Kabbalah between Science and Religion. Lecture in "Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion" group, *2005 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Philadelphia, 19.11.2005.

### **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](http://www.esoteric.msu.edu)

Editorial advisory board. *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

Editor (with Pratap P. Kumar). *Numen Book Series (Studies in the History of Religions)*. Leiden: Brill.

Editor. *Aries Book Series: Texts and Studies in Western Esotericism*. Leiden: Brill.



M. Pasi

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

Editor. *Politica Hermetica*.

K. von Stuckrad

Editorial board. *The Pomegranate: The International Journal of Pagan Studies*.

Editor (with Gustavo Benavides). *Religion and Society*. Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Editor (with Steven Engler, Kim Knott & Pratap Kumar). *Numen Book Series (Studies in the History of Religions)*. Leiden: Brill.

Editor (with Iain Gardner & Garry W. Trompf). *Gnostica: Texts and Interpretations*. London: Equinox.

**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.