HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS

REPORT 2009
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Personnel
3. Teaching and Levels 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
1. Introduction

The year 2009 one was marked by several transitions. On August 28, GHF celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a successful one-day conference and an anniversary volume; von Stuckrad accepted a full professorship at the University of Groningen and was succeeded by Dr. Peter Forshaw; and Hanegraaff was given the opportunity of a sabbatical during the first semester of the academic year 2009-2010. In this period, his teaching tasks in the bachelor program were taken over by Dr. Hereward Tilton.

2. Personnel

During the spring of 2009, von Stuckrad announced that he had been approached by the University of Groningen about a vacancy for the position of full professor in the study of religion, and had accepted. His new position took effect as of 1 September 2009.

The vacancy for an “Universitair Docent” Western Esotericism in the Early Modern period was announced by the usual channels, and a committee was formed (Prof. Dr. W.J. Hanegraaff [Chair], Prof. Dr. J.N. Bremmer [GHF Foundation], Dr. M. Pasi [GHF], P. Koopman [ICG], S. van Rossem [student member]). Four international candidates were invited for a personal interview. The committee decided unanimously and with enthusiasm to appoint Dr. P.J. Forshaw, who accepted the appointment and joined the staff of GHF on 1 September 2010.

Peter J. Forshaw's research focuses on the confluence of learned magic, science and religion in early modern Europe. He researched his doctorate in Intellectual History at Birkbeck, University of London, investigating the theosophy, alchemy, magic, and Christian Cabala of Heinrich Khunrath (1560-1609), with a particular consideration of the series of engravings in the *Amphitheatrum Sapientiae Aeternae* (1609). Following this, he was awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship for research into the History of Ritual Magic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. He held fellowships at the universities of Strathclyde and Cambridge, where he worked on projects related to alchemy and astrology. He is elected council member and webmaster of the SRS (Society for Renaissance Studies), SHAC (Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry) and ESSWE (European Society for the Study of

2. **Teaching: Program and Levels of Participation**

**2nd semester 2008-2009**

Bachelor

Hermetica II: Westerse Esoterie in de Oudheid en de Middeleeuwen (K. von Stuckrad, J. Pijnenburg). 15 students

Hermetica IV: Westerse Esoterie sinds de Verlichting (M. Pasi). 12 students

Master

Occult Trajectories I: The Esoteric in Modern and Contemporary Art (M. Pasi, T.M. Bauduin), 8 students

Other teaching

Religious Pluralism in Europe (K. von Stuckrad, R. Pauls). 10 students


**1st semester 2009-2010**

Bachelor

Hermetica I: Inleiding Westerse esoterie (M. Pasi, H. Tilton). 60 students

Hermetica III: Westerse esoterie in de vroeg-moderne periode (H. Tilton). 14 students
Master

Contested Knowledge II: Paganism, Images and Christian Identities (P.J. Forshaw). 8 students
Renaissance Esotericism II (P.J. Forshaw). 7 students

Other teaching

Core Module Methods and Theory in the Study of Religion (M. Pasi, coord.). 4 students

4. Research

4.1. Research Program

The research program Western Esotericism: Continuities and Discontinuities has continued as before. For descriptions of the individual research projects see Report 2006. The individual project(s) of Forshaw will be formulated as part of a revision of the general research program planned for 2010.

4.2. Research Output.

Egil Asprem

“Parapsykologiens historie,” Humanist 2 (2009),4-27.

Tessel M. Bauduin


Peter J. Forshaw


Wouter J. Hanegraaff

Ed. with Joyce Pijnenburg, Hermes in the Academy: Ten Years’ Study of Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam University Press: Amsterdam 2009. 163 pp.


“Ten Years of Studying and Teaching Western Esotericism,” in: Wouter J. Hanegraaff & Joyce Pijnenburg (eds.), Hermes in the Academy: Ten Years’ Study of Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press 2009, 17-29.


Marco Pasi


“In esclusiva per Secretum le *Theses de magia* (I), Secretum,” *Scienze saperi forme di cultura* 37 (2009). online at: [http://www.secretum-online.it](http://www.secretum-online.it)

“In esclusiva per Secretum le *Theses de magia* (II), Secretum.” *Scienze saperi forme di cultura* 38 (2009). online at: [http://www.secretum-online.it](http://www.secretum-online.it)

“I’ve heard it told that once upon a time:’ The Mysterious Photograph of a Chess Game that never happened,” in: *Um Fernando Pessoa*, online at: [http://files.dropbox.com](http://files.dropbox.com). Introduction at: [http://umfernandopessoa.blogspot.com](http://umfernandopessoa.blogspot.com)

“Ouvi contar que outrora:’ A misteriosa fotografia de um jogo de xadrez que nunca aconteceu,” in: *Um Fernando Pessoa*, online at: [http://files.dropbox.com](http://files.dropbox.com). Introduction at: [http://umfernandopessoa.blogspot.com](http://umfernandopessoa.blogspot.com)

Joyce Pijnenburg


“Hermes and his Students in Amsterdam,” in: W.J. Hanegraaff & J. Pijnenburg (eds.), *Hermes in the Academy: 10 Years’ Study of Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press 2009, 149-156.

Kocku von Stuckrad


Osvald Vasicek

“Heterology in Amsterdam: The Academy takes the Other out to Dinner,” in: W.J. Hanegraaff & J. Pijnenburg (eds.): *Hermes in the Academy: Ten Years’ Study of Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam University Press: Amsterdam 2009, 109-110.

5. Further Activities
5.1. Conference Organization

Tessel Bauduin

Organization of Anniversary Conference *Hermes in the Academy*, Chair History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, Amsterdam, 28.08.2009.

Peter J. Forshaw


Marco Pasi

Organization of panel ‘The presence of esoteric currents and ideas in Italy from the 18th century to our days’, for the EASR conference *Religion in the History of European Culture*, University of Messina, 14-17.09.2009.

5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation

Egil Asprem


Tessel M. Bauduin

Peter J. Forshaw


Wouter J. Hanegraaff

“Monothéisme en idolatrie,” Stichting BAK (Basis voor Actuele Kunst), Utrecht, 01.03.2009.

“Politics and the Study of Western Esotericism. President’s Address,” 2nd Biannual Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), Strasbourg, 02.07.2009.
“Ten Years of Studying and Teaching Western Esotericism,” 10-year Anniversary Seminar of the chair History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, University of Amsterdam, 28.08.2009.

Marco Pasi


“Il risveglio occultista e neopagano tra la fine dell’Ottocento e gli inizi del Novecento nell’area anglosassone,” Conference Diavoli goffi con bizzarre streghe: Un convegno di studi tra iconografia e antropologia, Collegio Ghislieri, University of Pavia, 07.02.2009.


“Anger without Tears: The occult films of Kenneth Anger,” Lectures at the Cinemateca Portuguesa, Lisbon, and Fundação Serralves, Oporto, 04-05.05.2009.


Joyce Pijnenburg


Kocku von Stuckrad


“Astrologie als onderdeel van de westerse cultuurgeschiedenis,” Lecture for the "Illustere School", University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 05.03.2009.


5.3. Editorial Activities

Wouter J. Hanegraaff


(editorial board) Religion. Elsevier.

(editorial board) Religion Compass, Section “New Religions”.

http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/religion/

(advisory board) Esoteric http://www.esoteric.msu.edu

(advisory board) Journal of Contemporary Religion. Carfax

(advisory board) Nova Religio, University of California Press.

Peter J. Forshaw


Marco Pasi

(book review editor) *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*.

(editorial board) *Politica Hermetica*.


Kocku von Stuckrad


(editor) *Numen Book Series (Studies in the History of Religions)*. Leiden and Boston: Brill.

(editor) *Texts and Sources in the History of Religions*. Leiden and Boston: Brill.


