ESOTERICISM AND THE ACADEMY

Academics tend to look on “esoteric,” “occult,” or “magical” beliefs with contempt, but are usually ignorant about the religious and philosophical traditions to which these terms refer, or their relevance to intellectual history. Wouter J. Hanegraaff tells the neglected story of how intellectuals since the Renaissance have tried to come to terms with a cluster of “pagan” ideas from late antiquity that challenged the foundations of biblical religion and Greek rationality. Expelled from the academy on the basis of Protestant and Enlightenment polemics, these traditions have come to be perceived as the Other by which academics define their identity to the present day. Hanegraaff grounds his discussion in a meticulous study of primary and secondary sources, taking the reader on an exciting intellectual voyage from the fifteenth century to the present day, and asking what implications the forgotten history of exclusion has for established textbook narratives of religion, philosophy, and science.

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ESOTERICISM AND THE ACADEMY

Rejected Knowledge in Western Culture

WOUTER J. HANEGRAAFF
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Page 1, quotation from Tertullian, *Adversus Valentinianos* iii.5. “Merely pointing out that which is concealed so carefully, means destroying it.”

Page 5, quotation from John Crowley, *The Solitudes*. Copyright © 1987, 2007 by John Crowley. Published by The Overlook Press in 2007. All rights reserved.

Page 77, quotation from Jean Baudrillard, “La part maudite.” Copyright © The UNESCO Courier. All rights reserved. “Exorcizing means producing something in order to curse it.”


Page 368, quotation from Friedrich Nietzsche, *Zur Genealogie der Moral* ii.13. “Only that which has no history can be defined.”
Acknowledgments

This book is the outcome of more than twenty years of intense involvement in a new field of research that is carried by a large and rapidly growing international community of scholars. The bibliography documents the impact that they have had through their publications; but behind this formal array are memories of innumerable personal encounters, conversations, collaborative enterprises, and friendships. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues from all over the world for how they have enriched my life on both the intellectual and the personal level. If I mention only a few of them here by name, this is because their contributions to this book have been particularly concrete and indispensable.

The Foundation for the Chair of History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam made it possible for me to take a sabbatical during the academic year 2009–2010, and it is only because of their generosity that I have been able to finish the manuscript at all. This is the right place to express my gratitude to the founder of the Chair, Rosalie Basten, for all the things that she has done, through the years, to enable this field of research to flourish. Next to her, I wish to thank the other members and former members of the Foundation (Willem Koudijs, Frans Tilman, Sijbolt Noorda, Roelof van den Broek, Ernestine van der Wall, Karel van der Toorn, Jan Bremmer, and Pieter van Onzenoort) for their continuing support.

Secondly, I want to thank my colleagues (permanent Staff and Ph.D. candidates) at the Center for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents: Marco Pasi, Peter J. Forshaw, Egil Asprem, Tessel M. Bauduin, Gemma Kwantes, Joyce Pijnenburg, and Osvald Vasiček. It is a pleasure to work with such a warm and committed group of people, and I am grateful for the many larger and smaller ways in which they have all helped me – perhaps sometimes without realizing it – to bring this project to completion (in the cases of Marco and Peter, I particularly want to mention their reading and commenting upon the final manuscript under...
Acknowledgments

heavy time pressure, and their stepping in during my sabbatical). Naturally, my gratitude extends also to the former members of the Center, Jean-Pierre Brach, Olav Hammer, Kocku von Stuckrad, Roelie van Kreijl, and Marieke J. E. van den Doel; and last but not least, I wish to thank all my present and former students, whose enthusiasm and openness of mind have made teaching in Amsterdam a pleasure through the years.

From my wider circle of colleagues, a few must be mentioned here by name: Ruud M. Bouthoorn for his help with some problems of Latin translation; Roelof van den Broek for some crucial feedback on Chapter 1; Dylan Burns for help with some Greek translations and identifying the source of a mysterious set of quotations; Antoine Faivre for reading and commenting upon the manuscript (including the section about himself) and giving me access to his personal records; Hans Thomas Hakl for allowing me to profit from his invaluable library, and sharing the still unpublished English translation of his book on Eranos; Kristine Hannak for providing me with photocopies of a hard-to-find book; John Monfasani for sending me articles and providing feedback on the section about Plethon; Victoria Nelson for her reading of the manuscript and her continuous support and encouragement; Monika Neugebauer-Wölk for exactly the same gifts; Lawrence M. Principe for reading and discussing the first three chapters, and particularly the sections on alchemy; Hereward Tilton for reading and commenting upon the first two chapters; Chiara O. Tommasi Moreschini for sending me photocopies of an extremely rare book; and Jan A. M. Snoek for indispensable information and feedback regarding Freemasonry.

Finally, I want to thank the editorial team of Cambridge University Press – particularly Kate Brett, Anna Lowe, Laura Morris, and Sarah Roberts – not only for their professionalism, but also for having made a new author feel welcome by taking a personal approach and showing genuine interest in his work: an attitude that is unfortunately not universal in the world of academic publishing, and therefore all the more appreciated. Last but not least, I am indebted to Ann Lewis for her thorough and efficient copy-editing and want to thank her for the pleasant collaboration.

Writing a large book feels like building a cathedral. In order to prevent it from collapsing, one needs to give equal attention to the general architectural design and the tiniest details of construction; and next to the hard physical labor of collecting the building materials (books, articles, more books . . . ), this requires a state of continuous mental concentration that sometimes borders on meditation. In other words, during most of the time it took me to write this book, I lived the life of a monk. I could not have done it without the company of two little demons, Lilith and Pillows, who
Acknowledgments

came walking over my keyboard or sat purring in front of my screen at the most inconvenient moments. They kept reminding me that life just goes on beyond the enchanted circle of scholarly concentration, and therefore this book that they will never understand, and that leaves them wholly indifferent, is fondly dedicated to them.