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The
**Ancient and Mystical Order
Rosae Crucis**

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ITS HISTORY, PURPOSES
AND SYMBOLISM

By H. SPENCER LEWIS, F. R. C.
(12° ILLUMINATI, TOULOUSE, FRANCE)


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LORD EDWARD BULWER LYTTON

an enthusiastic Brother of the Order of Rosæ Crucis, described it as: "An august fraternity—most jealous of all secret societies—whose doctrines (hinted at by the earliest philosophers) are still a mystery to the greatest scholars not initiated. It's members still prosecute their profound researches into natural sciences and occult philosophy, and no monastic order is so severe in the practice of moral precepts."

HE real history of the Order has been draped in obscurity for so many centuries, due to the absolute secrecy of its origin and growth, there is little wonder that seemingly competent authorities disagree as to the actual existence of the Order and its present status. The Encyclopaedia Britannica, for instance in one volume of its new edition states that the Rosaecrucians were brought into being as a result of the propaganda of one Rosenkreutz in the seventeenth century in Germany, while in another volume of the same edition another authority refers to the Rosaecrucians and their Order in Italy in the year 1422. Such diverse opinions, mixed, as they usually are, with bias or prejudice, have left the honest investigator decidedly perplexed and in doubt.

The history of the Order, is however, more definitely established than that of Freemasonry,—the next oldest fraternal or secret Order in the word, and in reality an offspring of the Order of Rosae Crucis.

The writer has made a very careful search of all the existing records, has carefully examined all the oaths and pledges exacted from Officers, Councilors, Knights, Sorores and Members of the Order or its Illuminati, and nowhere has he found any word, or implied word, of promises regarding the secrecy of the Order's history. The *Supreme Council of the World* and the highest authority of the Order now living, agree that there are no reasons (except those of pride or the love of mystery) why the *true* history of the Order should remain *secret*. At the request of the writer, additional and important facts have been supplied to the many records in the Order's archives and these have been assembled into a

most readable history, revealing the origin, growth and present firm foundation of the Order throughout the world.

This history—about ready for the press—will be published by the Publication Committee of the American Supreme Council in handy book form for general distribution in the belief, true to the American spirit, that greater light upon the subject will give the Order that prestige and that recognition in *this* country, which mystery and darkness have given to it in Europe and other continents.

Briefly stated, the book will show that the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis was founded, first as a secret local institution or school of learning in Egypt by the family of Thothmes IV., and then was gradually organized into a secret order of men and women until the descendants of Thothmes IV., especially one Amenhotp IV., prepared and established the rituals and ceremonies for a fraternal order and outlined the present-day Initiations, Services, and course of study. All this occurred between 1540 B. C. and 1350 B. C.

Gradually the Order spread into Jerusalem, where Salomon, then a Brother of the Order, established a similar fraternal body, which later became the foundation for the structure now known as Freemasonry. Likewise the Greeks established branch Lodges of the Order in various cities after having completed their course of study in Egypt. Other branch Lodges were established in Italy (by Pythagoras), France, Spain and finally in Germany, where the only publicity ever given to the work eventually came to be recorded in the annals of history. It is for *this reason* that those unfamiliar with the Order's *true* history believe that the *first* Lodge of Rosaecrucians was established in Germany.

EQUALITY OF SEXES.

It is the only secret, fraternal, scientific Order in the world today which admits women on an equal basis with men and offers them the same high offices and honors. In this respect it is the first body of men and women recognizing the equality of the sexes. The archives of the Order, wherein are recorded the great accomplishments of its Brothers and Sisters in the fields of art, literature, medicine, law, science and research, show that *sex* has placed no limit upon the heights which the members of the Order may reach in these fields *after having completed* the prescribed Rosaecrucian course of instruction and research.

From the very inception of the Order women have had a very prominent place in its activities. In the first assembly held in Egypt one of the most powerful queens Egypt ever had was made an Officer and ever since then women have held Offices in the Order on an equal footing with the men. Time and experience have proven that women are not only as capable for many of the offices as men, but that the success of the Order, its steady spiritual development and its unique influence for goodness, brotherly love, toleration and culture have been mainly due to the presence of women in this secret society. Despite the claims of other secret societies and fraternal orders women *do* realize and appreciate the sacredness of their vows, the seriousness of the work, the necessary broad-mindedness of views, and the bonds which unite all mankind. In fact the Rosaecrucians hold that to the same degree as man is incomplete without the feminine element, so is a body of men incomplete as a representation of the microcosm without the feminine counterpart. The Negative and Positive qualities must be present in unison to make the perfect unit.

WOMAN'S OPPORTUNITY.

The literature of the Order seldom makes public the work of any of its members, nor does it boast of the achievements in art, science or literature of its Brothers and Sisters. But the writer may be pardoned for speaking of the wonderful results attained by Mme. Curie in metalurgy as an example of what women may accomplish after a careful study of the Rosaecrucian philosophies and sciences.

For women who wish to succeed in life in independent research and devote themselves to the advancement of humanitarianism; for those women who desire to reach the greatest possible heights in all fields of endeavor, and for those who long to express that inner-personality and find success, happiness, contentment and *power*, this Order offers a means and an assurance of attainment found in no other way. Mental, physical and spiritual development are within the Sister's reach. Personal abilities, latent capabilities and undeveloped talents are given every opportunity for that full, rounded, magnificent expression and application in every field of endeavor which make for the benefit of mankind and the uplifting of the individual.

MAN'S POWER MAGNIFIED

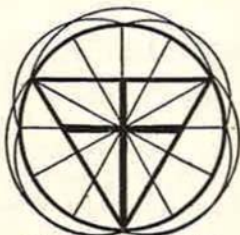
To men the opportunities are the same. Those who desire to become masters of their inner-forces, conquerors of *self*, dominators of the *will* and magnetic, dynamic factors in the business, scientific or art world will find this Order the *open doorway* to their ambitions. On the other hand, those who seek to humbly work for the achievement of the advancement of particular sciences, or who wish to carry on the great work of the

R+C Symbolism

The signs and seals shown below are the only true marks of the ORDER, and distinguish this society from all others.



General Symbol of the Order in the World



The Great Seal of the American Supreme Council



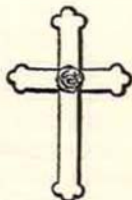
Sign of the American Publication Committee



The Seal of the Founder



Emblem worn by the Brothers and Sisters



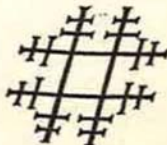
The Rosae Crucis (official)



The Seal and Sign of the Secretary-Gen.



Great Seal of the Grand Master General.



The Sacred Insignia of the Grand Master Gen.

Past Masters in the fields of philosophy, music, art, literature, chemistry, therapeutics, etc., will find in this Order the foundations upon which to build, and the material with which to complete their life work.

Regardless of the individual's personal strength, this Order will magnify and glorify the power and *forte* of each who works diligently and in the name of the Order.

ROSAECRUCIANISM NOT A RELIGION.

In no respect is this a sectarian, religious movement. The belief in God is requisite for membership because Rosaecrucianism proves the existence of God, knows God and owes to God its *all*. It cannot concern itself with the conversion of those who have never found, in all the glories of the world, the conviction that there is a God. Furthermore, true Rosaecrucians are not *made* but *born*, and it is only *after* the conviction of the *reality* of God, and the inner-desire to associate with those who are working with God's miracles, come to a man or woman that they are entitled to membership in this Order.

Gentile and Jew, Protestant and Catholic alike find in the Rosaecrucian teachings the wonders of God's universe, and the powers of man. All religious denominations are represented on the American Supreme Council of the Order, as are various fraternal orders, including Freemasonry.

The Convocations in the R. C. Temple are as sacred, as beautiful, as symbolical and as ceremonious as the services in the Catholic or Episcopal churches. But the lectures, the teachings, the costumes, and the paraphernalia take one, as in a dream, back to the grottos of Egypt and Greece where the alchemist—the wonder worker—performed his great miracles and stood over his fire and crucible, lecturing and explaining the mysteries

of life, science, and death, to the mystics circled about him on the floor.

No matter what your religious belief, your code of morals, your politics or your nationality, you will find nothing in the Order which will do otherwise than help you to live a good, clean, moral life. Many of the world's greatest divines have been actively interested in the Order.

NOT TO BE CONFOUNDED WITH "ISMS."

And—Rosaecrucianism is not to be confounded with "isms." It has nothing in common with Spiritualism, Christian Science, Theosophy, Mentalism, or Hindu and Yogi Philosophy. It has no connection with the New Thought movement or any other movement, regardless of creed or doctrine. It is independent of them and older than them all. It makes plain the good in every philosophy and likewise reveals their falacies. The lectures as given in the Temple were outlined 3,500 years ago and the philosophy was practically completed over 2,000 years ago. Time, experience and investigations by the Brothers and Sisters of the Order, have added new facts and additional matter to the lectures and the scientific processes; but as a whole the R. C. doctrines and philosophies are older than any of the present-day "*isms*" and certainly older than Christianity itself. Therefore, there can be no connection with speculative sciences of recent invention.

A FEW OF THE CLAIMS FOR THE ORDER.

This is the oldest *secret* and *fraternal* order known to man.

It is autocratic in nature, select and exclusive in membership.

It has an *initiation* and many *degrees*, just as has Masonry, and the members meet with their *Officers* in a *Temple* where the *Grand Master* conducts a *service* as solemn and as inspiring as any held in the most high churches, yet without religious dogmas or creeds and *teaching* and *instructing* rather than preaching.

It is purely scientific, philosophical and helpful—mentally, morally and physically.

It has naught to do with any religious sect but vests its power in God and in the Grand Master.

It brings together physicians, scientists, artists, artisans, mechanics, lawyers and laymen in one unit, working for one end—the betterment of mankind and the uplifting and unfoldment of the individual's character, personality and abilities for material and moral achievement.

It is the *real* universal Brotherhood and Sisterhood and proclaims the equality of the sexes and the unity of man and woman.

It is the most powerful secret organization in the world today with millions of members in every country on the globe.

Six of the Kings of France, three of the Emperors of Germany and five of the Kings of England were Grand Masters of the Order.

There are Chapters and Lodges of the Order in every country of the world today, including America.

The world's greatest physicians, scientists, philosophers,

writers, thinkers and *doers* have been Rosaecrucians, many of them officers in various Lodges.

Rosaecrucianism is a philosophy, a science, an art and a secret—all of these, inseperable and *one!* *The Alpha* and *Omega* of all learning.

It teaches the world's most profound secrets. It explains life and its phenomena; it makes plain *biology* and *ontology*; it reveals life and death in a different light from that generally understood. It deals as comprehensively with cosmogony, astrology (the original science of astronomy as taught by the Rosaecrucians first) and geology, as with metalurgy, medicine, art and philosophy.

It reveals the life we have lived and the life we shall live as plainly as the life we *are* living.

It takes from science in all its branches the great mysteries which have defied solution by the lay-mind and the uninitiated.

It makes of all members real Brothers and Sisters; it makes the humble mechanic or artisan in America the equal, the peer, of the most powerful ruler in Europe, not by humiliation, but by the true law of *equality*.

THE ORDER ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA.

On the 9th of August, 1909, the present Grand Master of the Order in America again renewed his eighth annual application for the privilege of establishing the Order in America (The United States). Already prepared in the principles, he was given the final tests in the City of Toulouse, France, where the Grand Lodge of France was established in 883 A. D., under the *charge* given to one Arnaud II., of Royal lineage. The necessary papers were prepared, certain Jewels assigned and the sponsorship guaranteed by Raynaud Emil de Bellcastle-Ligne,

Grand Master of the R. C. Order in France and its Colonies. The papers permitted public negotiations to be made in the United States only after January 1, 1915; for the year 1915 was the one designated centuries before as the proper time for the Order to be born in America. This is why the attempts of Dr. Randolph and one or more other Rosaecrucians of foreign initiation to establish the Order in this country within the past hundred years have always failed. The necessary papers, co-operation and privilege could not be secured, even regardless of the fact that Dr. Randolph was one of the foremost men of the Order who ever lived in this country and was at one time Grand Master of the R. C. Lodge in France, which was attended by one of the Napoleons.*

With the necessary papers and assistance from the *Supreme Council of France*, the Order was established in America in February, 1915, and a Supreme American Council appointed April 1st, 1915; and in September of the same year, after the Grand Lodge of America was in work in New York City, a visit to the Grand Master was paid by Mons. Jerome T. Verdier, *Magi of the Supreme Council of France* in Toulouse. His approval

*In regard to the many Rosicrucian movements in America of the past and present, the American Supreme Council wishes to make the following explanation. Many Rosaecrucian students, initiated abroad, have published very interesting abstract treatises and outlines of the R. C. doctrines which are recommended for general reading. In some cases, students have organized classes for the study of such unofficial literature, under the names of "Rosicrucian Fellowships," "Rosicrucian Centres" or "Rosicrucian Society." But since none of these was an official organization, no attempt was ever made to use the official title: "Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis"; nor even the terms "Order" or "Lodge"; and the real symbols were never used by them. See the chart of correct symbols on page V.

was given to the plans then under way for State Lodges in every State of the Union and for local lodges in the principal cities. Final instructions, seals and secret papers were delivered into the hands of the American Grand Master after an examination of official reports; and approval was given of the delivery into the hands of the Grand Master of certain other papers and Jewels by agents selected by the *French Council*. These gave to America authoritative, working instructions and power, through devious sources unknown to the Grand Master in America, but delivered in due time in accordance with the laws.

AMERICAN ORGANIZATION COMPLETE.

The American Constitution—based upon the French Constitution—the complete laws and rulings, all degree work and ceremonies and dies, seals and special symbols have been completed and approved and the American Supreme Council is now in charge of the Order's affairs in America. Applications are being made by many cities for Charters for State and Branch Lodges and the work of establishing the Order is at last well under way. Its success in America is assured.

The Order in America will operate under its Charter, signed by the Council, and will exist, legally, under another Charter from the State of New York. The American Council and the Officers of the Grand Lodge will have the supreme power in all Rosaecrucian matters in the United States and dependencies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

It has always been customary in this Order to *invite* those whom it would seem advisable and desirable to

have with us. There are two reasons for this. 1—In this way it has been possible to reduce the number of applicants who would be rejected because of disqualification. By inviting those who can qualify, rejections are few, and unpleasantness is avoided. 2—Since new members are desired only because of the good they can render to the Order and to humanity by their presence in this body of men and women, it is befitting that the Order, through its Officers, invite those who can help us, rather than those who selfishly make plea for admittance.

The Order's promise to all neophytes is that, as ye give so shall ye receive. The greatest good you receive is that which you give away. Only as you bring into the Temple the love, the sincerity, the fellowship, the truth and the power of an humble heart zealously striving for everyone but self, shall you receive the wondrous gifts of this Order.

THE INNER-CALL.

If, after reading this booklet and other literature, there comes to you that irrisistible desire, that determination born of an awakened spirit, to add your God-given abilities and humble talents to our Order; or if you suddenly realize that out of the black, impenetrable depths of the past there comes a faint recollection of life among men and women of this strange cult; or, should the day's dawn bring before your eyes the splendor of the call that seems to reach your inner-self, and fires your heart and soul with the wish to *learn* and *know* that others may profit thereby—then, and only then, have you felt—*realized*—the real DE-SIRE which makes all men and women true and humble applicants at the THRESHOLD of the Temple.

If you have such a desire, and it is expressed to one of our Officers or to a Brother or Sister of the Order, an Application Blank *may* be given to you with an invitation to join the fraternity.

The qualifications are that men and women must be over 21 years of age. A belief in God, a clean moral life, good reputation and the willingness to study to the best of your ability, are also necessary. When these are assured on your Application Blank you will be considered as an Applicant.

Upon acceptance by the Membership Staff, you will be invited to attend the Initiation of the Applicants, and this will be your opportunity—if you are honored and rewarded with such invitation—to Cross the Threshold, which is one of the most beautiful, sacred and inspiring ceremonies ever held in this country.

There is nothing in any of the ceremonies or convocations of all the secret societies in the world which equals the Rosaecrucian Initiation when the neophytes Cross the Threshold. In itself, it reveals many of the secrets sought by those who have always felt that God's Love and Goodness and TRUTH were symbolized somewhere in *this* world. And while the neophyte comes face to face with life and death and the eternal soul in his body, FEAR is never present; for *that* condition is dispelled by the ceremony itself, and only joy and trust and confidence remain. The fact that women, as well as men, Cross the Threshold in this Order, and the additional fact that you are accompanied throughout the ceremony by both Brothers and Sisters of the Order, should indicate that the Initiation inflicts no mental or physical suffering or unpleasantness. 'Tis but the soul that suffers, *if* the applicant is undeserving.

INITIATION FEES AND DUES.

Every Lodge in America has the power to establish its own Initiation Fees and Dues. In general the Initiation Fees are nominal and the monthly dues are kept within a very reasonable figure. Financial matters concern Rosaecrucians very little. They have no books to sell and if it were not for actual expenses no dues would be required at all. In this respect, the Order also differs from other fraternal or secret societies. The local Secretary will inform you of the Initiation Fees and Dues.

AFFILIATIONS.

The Order Rosae Crucis in America extends to its Brothers and Sisters the welcome of all Rosaecrucian Lodges in the world. Its pass-words, grips, signs and symbols are the same; and a Brother or Sister in our Order will have no difficulty of entering the R. C. Lodges anywhere in Europe, Japan, or Australia and even the wierd R. C. Grottos in Egypt, Africa and Asia.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

The Order in America will hold special ceremonies for Christening of children born to its members, and the beautiful and sacred Marriage Services for those of its Brothers and Sisters who wish this form of true marriage either before, or in conjunction with a religious or sectarian service, in the R. C. Temple. Burial and Funeral Services are also conducted upon request.

THE JUNIOR ORDER.

As in Europe there will be established here, in the near future, a Junior Order Rosae Crucis for boys and girls over eight years of age. They will have Initiations of their own, their pass-words, grips, signs and symbols. They will meet in a Temple under the jurisdiction of the VESTAL VIRGIN of the senior Order and will receive instruction in the principles of truthfulness, honesty, manliness, gentleness, spiritual unfoldment and Godliness. No better training for budding girlhood and manhood can be given than is afforded in the Junior Order where that "finished touch of refinement, culture and inner beauty is given in the Name of God, and for the betterment of the future race."

THE ROSAECRUCIAN COLLEGE.

Likewise there will be established an American Rosaecrucian College, to be affiliated with the United R. C. Colleges of the world. Plans have been drawn for a college and monastary buildings in pure Egyptian architecture, to occupy a spacious site in the suburbs of either New York City or Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN OFFICERS

The following Officers of the Grand Lodge of America constitute the Foundation Board for the United States and Dependencies:

H. Spencer Lewis, F. R. C.,

Grand Master General,
Address: New York City.

Thor Kiimalehto, K. R. C.,

Secretary General,
Office and R. C. Library, 80 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City

David Jerrold Loria, K. R. C.

Treasurer General,
Address: 1126 Union Avenue, N. Y. City

MAY BANKS-STACEY, S. R. C., Matre.

NICHOLAS STORM, K. R. C., Deputy Master General.



Miss ADALINE WHEELOCK, S. R. C..

Secretary, American Supreme Council, A. M. O. R. C.

All communications regarding membership, Initiations and dates of meetings, should be addressed to the Secretary General. Applications for State or Local Lodges, courses of reading or study, and official private correspondence should be addressed to the Grand Master General. All remittances should be made payable and addressed to the Treasurer General.

WM. P. M. SIMS, Prelate and Organizer-at-Large.

THE FOREIGN LEGATION OF THE ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES

The following Legates have been selected and appointed to represent the American Order in their own countries. Each forms a link in the Rosaecrucian chain of strength, fellowship and influence which encircles the earth.

Representation	Legate
Lower Egypt	Luke Boctor
Upper Egypt	Emanuel S. Camilleri
Bombay	Prof. C. Magala Desai
Madras Presidency	Chavakar Annasame Rao
Ceylon	Mohamed Ismail, I. G. O. H.
Bengal	Sir. N. Irnathellickerjo Lemindar
British West Indies	Miss Louise Aitcheson
Central America	Miss C. Arrhenins
Mexico	Miss C. Arrhenins
Costa Rica	Mme. Ellen Clemenston
Panama	Mme. Ellen Clemenston
England	Lady Florence Burgess
Scotland	Mary A. Baker
Portugal	John Jose de Macedo, Y. B. S.
Spain	John Jose de Macedo, Y. B. S.
New Zealand	Prof. George Brown
South Africa	Miss Anna Brew
West Africa	Thomas Hahn
East Africa	Sir William Samuel Grant
China	Lady Ida Brooks
Australia	Miss M. Earsman
Germany	Jacobus Muir
France	Raynaud E. de Bellcastle-Ligne

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West Africa	Thomas Hahn
East Africa	Sir William Samuel Grant
China	Lady Ida Brooks
Australia	Miss M. Earsman
Germany	Jacobus Muir
France	Raynaud E. de Bellcastle-Ligne

THE PROGRESS OF A NEOPHYTE THROUGH THE ORDER.



To relieve any anxiety on the part of the Neophyte, the following encouragement is given:

After the Initiation into the First Degree, the Neophyte is given secret signs, pass-words and a grip. He or she is honored with a title and decorated with the Rosaecrucian Apron.

No *previous* knowledge or study of any subject is required for the Neophyte to successfully and *easily* advance. The First Degree Lectures are held in the Temple twice monthly—usually on Thursday evenings. The lectures are very simple, illustrated with signs and demonstrations. In four to six months the Neophyte is usually ready for the Second Degree. After this Second Initiation the Brother or Sister can advance very rapidly through the 12 Degrees, usually reaching the last one within three years.

The lectures, instructions and practical demonstrations are enticing, inspiring and wonderful. The ability to listen and to remember (with the assistance of notes, which may be made in symbols), are the only qualifications the neophyte requires.

There are Brothers and Sisters of the Order always ready and willing to assist the earnest student in advancing as rapidly as possible, regardless of age or education.

The last Degrees constitute the world-famed Illuminati, a College of co-workers in every field of research and achievement.