

PREFACE TO *SECRET SYMBOLS OF THE ROSICRUCIANS*

H. Spencer Lewis, FRC

In 1935, Emperor H. Spencer Lewis issued a new edition of *Secret Symbols* which included both books of this eighteenth-century classic of mysticism and art. Here is his preface to that edition.



The increasing interest in all things Rosicrucian shown by a large portion of the public in the Western world has brought to light, in the past twenty-five years, hundreds of rare publications of a Rosicrucian nature. Within the past three years, the search for more of the original copies of known and unknown works on this subject has unearthed some very rare, important books and manuscripts in which indisputable facts and unquestionable evidence create a new and admirable story of the ancient and modern Rosicrucians.



Secret Symbols of the Rosicrucians, opening page. From the collection of the Rosicrucian Research Library.

However, the old book by the unknown frater, revealing—yet concealing—the Hermetic, alchemical, and spiritual meaning of the unique Rosicrucian symbols and Philosophical Principles, will always remain one of the cherished possessions of the sincere student. Several reprints of this book, made by lovers of its designs and text and admirers of its Sacred Revelations, have become jewels in the libraries of collectors. [The full text of *Secret Symbols* is now freely available to all at <http://www.rosecroixjournal.org/>—Ed.]

Naturally, the Rosicrucians of the Occident rejoice in this newest reprint, made with such tender consideration for the original text and subtle illustrations which



H. Spencer Lewis playing his cello. An accomplished musician, painter and writer, he was dedicated to the arts and understood their mystical value. Photo from the Rosicrucian Archives.

contain so many secrets in little elements of word or line. . . .

I have been happy to check its text and observe the preservation of the coded principles and terms. The sincere student would do well to analyze with care, each idea or ideograph presented in word, phrase, line, or color. In the years 1785 to 1788 when the symbols and principles contained herein were in use to such an extent that the first edition of this book was warranted, humanity's thoughts were being directed in channels quite new. The uniqueness of the text was, therefore, startling; but today the world needs these surprising truths to an equal degree.

I have seen two of the original copies, in German text, so thumb-worn as to proclaim

the useful service they have rendered for many years. Their old, yellowed and faded condition spoke eloquently of the passing of time, but from each page came the voice of eternal truth. . . .

On behalf of many thousands of neophytes and adepts whom I represent, I wish to thank the publisher for his vision and altruism in undertaking such a tedious and costly task, and in making such a timely contribution to the bibliography and literature of true Rosicrucianism.

In the Bonds of the Order

H. SPENCER LEWIS

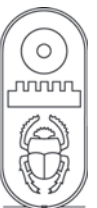
Imperator for North and South America

San Jose, Calif.,

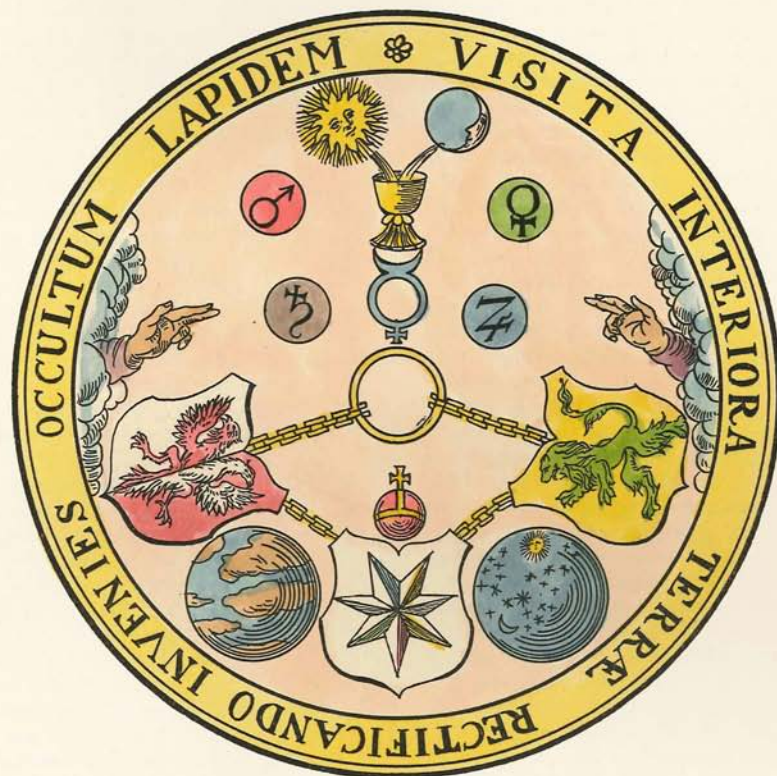
November 15, 1935



From the desk of Imperator H. Spencer Lewis. Photo © 2011 Supreme Grand Lodge, AMORC. From the Rosicrucian Archives.



TABULA SMARAGDINA HERMETIS.



VERBA SECRETORUM HERMETIS.

It is true, certain, and without falsehood, that whatever is below is like that which is above; and that which is above is like that which is below: to accomplish the one wonderful work. As all things are derived from the One Only Thing, by the will and by the word of the One Only One who created it in His Mind, so all things owe their existence to this Unity by the order of Nature, and can be improved by Adaptation to that Mind.

Its Father is the Sun; its Mother is the Moon; the Wind carries it in its womb; and its nurse is the Earth. This Thing is the Father of all perfect things in the world. Its power is most perfect when it has again been changed into Earth. Separate the Earth from the Fire, the subtle from the gross, but carefully and with great judgment and skill.

It ascends from earth to heaven, and descends again, new born, to the earth, taking unto itself thereby the power of the Above and the Below. Thus the splendor of the whole world will be thine, and all darkness shall flee from thee.

This is the strongest of all powers, the Force of all forces, for it overcometh all subtle things and can penetrate all that is solid. For thus was the world created, and rare combinations, and wonders of many kinds are wrought.

Hence I am called HERMES TRISMEGISTUS, having mastered the three parts of the wisdom of the whole world. What I have to say about the masterpiece of the alchemical art, the Solar Work, is now ended.

The Hermetic Philosophy.

I attract all those seeking God and the truth; those alone will find the art. I am the Magnet-Stone of divine love; attracting the iron-hard men on the road to the truth.



PRIMA MATERIA.



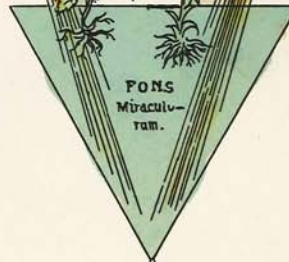
Sanguinalis animala Rosa Hierichuntia
 Spiritualis. Lucida, argentea,
 lactea-stillata ex candida Lilia
 in Valle Josophat.

I am the moisture which preserves everything in nature and makes it live, I pass from the upper to the lower planes; I am the heavenly dew and the fat of the land; I am the fiery water and the watery fire; nothing may live without me in time; I am close to all things yea; in and through all things, nevertheless unknown.

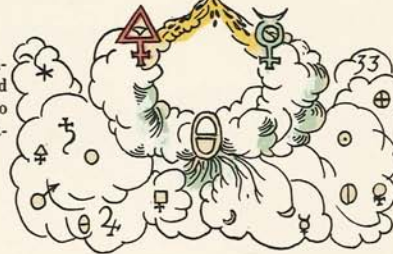
Nevertheless I only am in the grasp of the Philosophers.

I unfold and fold up again,
 Bringing contentment to the artists,
 Without me thou canst do nothing
 Furthering any of your affairs.

Therefore fear God, pray and work in patience, if you find me your want would cease and you have a merciful God who befriendeth thee and giveth thee whatever thy heart may desire.



This moisture must be caught, lest it should change into vapor or fume.



The two vapors or fumes are the roots of the art.

The Prima Materia derives its existence from the Fiat, the Word of creation. And this Word comes from the Father who is the creator of all things, and the Spirit radiates from both: This is God's life giving air. Then, too, air brings to life everything within the elements. The fire warms all things, the water refreshes, delights and saturates all things: And the nitrous earth, Mother-like, nourishes and sustains all things; the air was born out of fire, and in turn makes the fire burn, that it may live, but air in the form of water is food for the fire, and the fire burns into this element: Water and dew of the ground, the greasy fat dew of the ground, the earth as keeper of nitrous salt nourishes it. For the womb of the earth is the sulphuric nitrous-salt of nature, the one good thing God has created in this visible world.

The same Salt-Mother of the elements is the nitrous, aluminous and spiritual gumosic water, \ominus earth or crystal, which has Nature in its womb, a Son of the Sun, and a Daughter of the Moon. It is a Hermaphrodite, born out of the wind, a phoenix living in fire, a pelican, reviving his dear young ones with its blood; the young Icarus, drowned in the water, whose nurse is the earth, whose Mother is the wind; whose Father is the fire, the water her caretaker and drink, one stone and no stone, one water and no water, nevertheless a stone of living power and a water of living might; a sulphur, a mercury, a salt, hidden deep in nature, and which no fool has ever known nor seen.

Deus vendit sua dona pro labore.

The Hermetic Philosophy from *Secret Symbols of the Rosicrucians* (1935), hand-colored by H. Spencer Lewis.

