

The Golden Builders Alchemists Rosicrucians First Freemasons

Written in a clear and concise A to Z format, Decoding the Lost Symbol is the essential guide to the thrilling third Dan Brown novel to feature Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, The Lost Symbol. Decoding the Lost Symbol takes you on a journey of discovery through the world of Dan Brown and Robert Langdon, opening up the real mysteries and historical facts that are the basis of The Lost Symbol. Set over a breathtaking twelve hours, The Lost Symbol creates a world of intrigue and mystery based around the city of Washington DC. You will discover the amazing truth behind the storyline in Decoding the Lost Symbol, the must-have definitive guide to the Dan Brown novel. Simon Cox is the world-renowned expert on the mysteries of Dan Brown, having already authored the international bestseller Cracking the Da Vinci Code, Illuminating Angels & Demons and The Dan Brown Companion. His guides are essential reading for all fans of the Robert Langdon series of novels and are available in more than fifteen languages.

The first complete historical and philosophical investigation into the "invisible fraternity" of the Rosicrucians • Contains the latest research on the origins of the Rosicrucian movement • Presents the ties between Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, and the Templars • Written by a "perfected" Knight of the Rose Croix and the Pelican (18th degree, Ancient and Accepted Rite) For nearly 400 years, incredible myths and stories have been woven around the "invisible" Brothers of the Rose Cross, the Rosicrucians. It is said that they possessed the secret of man and God, that they could turn lead into gold, that they governed Europe in secret, that theirs was the true philosophy of Freemasonry, and that they could save--or destroy--the world. In The Invisible History of the Rosicrucians, Tobias Churton, a "perfected" Knight of the Rose Croix and the Pelican (18th degree, Ancient and Accepted Rite), presents the first definitive historical and philosophical view of this mysterious brotherhood. Starting at its beginnings in Germany in 1603, Churton unveils the truth behind the complex story that underlies the Rosicrucian movement. He explains its purpose, the motives of its earliest creators, and the manifestos "accidentally" published in the 17th century that emerged at precisely the time when modern science was emerging. He details the people who influenced its development--including Johannes Kepler, Robert Fludd, and Sir Francis Bacon--and the ties between the Rosicrucians, Freemasons, and Templars. He also shows how Rosicrucianism shaped the mythology and spiritual consciousness of both North and South America and reveals that there are many Rosicrucian fraternities still active throughout the world today.

Were the first scientists hermetic philosophers? What do these occult origins of modern science tell us about the universe today? The Forbidden Universe reveals the secret brotherhood that defined the world, and perhaps discovered the mind of God. All the pioneers of science, from Copernicus to Newton via Galileo, were inspired by Hermeticism. Men such as Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Leibniz, Bacon, Kepler, Tycho Brahe - even Shakespeare - owed much of their achievements to basically occult beliefs - the hermetica. In this fascinating study, Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince go in search of the Hermetic origins of modern science and prove that not everything is as it seems and that over the past 400 years there has been a secret agenda behind our search for truth. From the age of Leonardo da Vinci, the influence of hermetic thinking upon the greatest minds in history has been hidden, a secret held by a forbidden brotherhood in search of the mind of God. Yet this search does not end in history but can be found in the present day - in the contemporary debates of leading evolutionists and thinkers. The significance of this hidden school can hardly be over-emphasised. Not only did it provide a spiritual and philosophical background to the rise of modern science, but its worldview is also relevant to those hungry for all sorts of knowledge even in the twenty-first century. And it may even show the way to reconciling the apparently irreconcilable divide between the scientific and the spiritual. Picknett and Prince go in search of this true foundation of modern rational thought and reveal a story that overturns 400 years of received wisdom.

Did the Freemasons consciously affect the geographical growth of the USA in order to invest the layout of the states with a deeper, symbolic meaning? The narrative concentrates on the development of Masonic ritual during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuriesOCoespecially their description of the "ideal building" or TempleOCothe concurrent construction of America and the role Freemasons played in it, and the emergence of a simple but highly symbolic mathematical formula that recurs regularly throughout the history of the Republic. Maps and diagrams illustrate the surprising coherence of the theory."

Aleister Crowley and Western Esotericism

A Guidebook to Signs, Symbols, and Ceremonies at the Origin of America's Capital

Templar Sanctuaries in North America

The Spiritual Meaning of the Sixties

From Ancient Persia to Modern Times

The Gnostic Philosophy

A Dictionary of Western Alchemy

Through a close-reading of the work of five prominent American postmodernist writers, this book re-evaluates the role of the past in recent American fiction, outlines the development of the postmodernist historical novel and considers the waning influence of postmodernism in contemporary American literature.

Two French Protestant refugees in eighteenth-century Amsterdam gave the world an extraordinary work that intrigued and outraged readers across Europe. In this captivating account, Lynn Hunt, Margaret C. Jacob, and Wijnand Mijnhardt take us to the vibrant Dutch Republic and its flourishing book trade to explore the work that sowed the radical idea that religions could be considered on equal terms. Famed

engraver Bernard Picart and author and publisher Jean Frederic Bernard produced *The Religious Ceremonies and Customs of All the Peoples of the World*, which appeared in the first of seven folio volumes in 1723. They put religion in comparative perspective, offering images and analysis of Jews, Catholics, Muslims, the peoples of the Orient and the Americas, Protestants, deists, freemasons, and assorted sects. Despite condemnation by the Catholic Church, the work was a resounding success. For the next century it was copied or adapted, but without the context of its original radicalism and its debt to clandestine literature, English deists, and the philosophy of Spinoza. *Ceremonies and Customs* prepared the ground for religious toleration amid seemingly unending religious conflict, and demonstrated the impact of the global on Western consciousness. In this beautifully illustrated book, Hunt, Jacob, and Mijnhardt cast new light on the profound insight found in one book as it shaped the development of a modern, secular understanding of religion.

Beyond Meetings with Remarkable Men into the truth behind the self-crafted mythology of Gurdjieff's life • Reveals evidence that Gurdjieff was a secret Freemason, relying on hypnotism, psychic research and spiritualism • Explores the profound influence of the Yezidis, esoteric Christianity, and the "gnostics" of Islam, the Sufis, on Gurdjieff's Fourth Way teachings and the "Work" • Uncovers the truth behind Gurdjieff's relations with Aleister Crowley • Accurately dates Gurdjieff's real activities, particularly his enigmatic early life In November 1949, architect Frank Lloyd Wright announced the death of "the greatest man in the world," yet few knew who he was talking about. Enigmatic, misunderstood, declared a charlatan, and recently dubbed "the Rasputin who inspired Mary Poppins," Gurdjieff's life has become a legend. But who really was George Ivanovich Gurdjieff? Employing the latest research and discoveries, including previously unpublished reminiscences of the real man, Tobias Churton investigates the truth beneath the self-crafted mythology of Gurdjieff's life recounted in *Meetings with Remarkable Men*. He examines his controversial birthdate, his father's background, and his relationship with his private tutor Dean Borshch, revealing a perilous childhood in a Pontic Greek family, persecuted by Turks, forced to migrate to Georgia and Armenia, only to grow up amid more war, persecution, genocide, and revolt. Placing Gurdjieff in the true context of his times, Churton explores Gurdjieff's roles in esoteric movements taking root in the Russian Empire and in epic imperial construction projects in the Kars Oblast, Transcaucasia, and central Asia. He reveals Gurdjieff's sources for his transformative philosophy, his early interest in hypnosis, magic, Theosophy, and spiritualism, and the profound influence of the Yezidis and the Sufis, the "gnostics" of Islam, on Gurdjieff's Fourth Way teachings and the "Work." Churton also explores Gurdjieff's ties to Freemasonry and his relationships with other spiritual teachers and philosophers of the age, such as Madame Blavatsky, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Aleister Crowley, dispelling the myth that Gurdjieff forcibly expelled the "Great Beast" from his Institute. Showing how Gurdjieff deliberately re-shaped elements of his life as parables of his system, Churton explains how he didn't want people to follow his footsteps but to find their own, to wake up from the hypnosis that drives us blindly through life. Offering a vital understanding of the man who asked "How many of you are really alive?" the author reveals the continuing importance of Gurdjieff's philosophy for the awakening of man.

Unveils the spiritual meaning that fueled the artistic, political, and social revolutions of the 1960s • Investigates the spiritual principles that informed everything from the civil rights and anti-war movements, to the hippies' rejection of materialist culture, to the rise of feminism, gay rights, and environmentalism • Reveals how medieval troubadours, Gnosticism, Renaissance hermetic magic, and the occult doctrines of Aleister Crowley helped shape the psychedelic Sixties • Offers in-depth analysis of many of the era's most famous books, films, and music No decade in modern history has generated more controversy and divisiveness than the tumultuous 1960s. For some, the '60s were an era of free love, drugs, and social revolution. For others, the Sixties were an ungodly rejection of all that was good and holy. Embarking on a profound search for the spiritual meaning behind the massive social upheavals of the 1960s, Tobias Churton turns a kaleidoscopic lens on religious and esoteric history, industry, science, philosophy, art, and social revolution to identify the meaning behind all these diverse movements. Engaging with views of mainstream historians, some of whom write off this pivotal decade as heralding an overall decline in moral values and respect for tradition, Churton examines the intricate network of spiritual forces at play in the era. He reveals spiritual principles that united the free love movement, the civil rights and anti-war movements, the hippies' rejection of materialist culture, and the eventual rise of feminism, gay rights, and environmentalism. He traces influences from medieval troubadours, Gnosticism, Hindu philosophy, Renaissance hermetic magic, and the occult doctrines of Aleister Crowley. He also examines the psychedelic revolution, the genesis of popular interest in UFOs, and the psychological consequences of the Bomb and the assassinations of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King. In addition, Churton investigates the huge shifts in consciousness reflected in the movies, music, art, and literature of the era--from Frank Sinatra to the Beatles, from *I Love Lucy* to *Star Trek*, from John Wayne to *Midnight Cowboy*--much of which still resonates with the youth of today. Taking the reader on a long strange trip from crew-cuts and Bermuda shorts to Hair and Woodstock, from liquor to psychedelics, from uncool to cool, and from matter to Soul, Churton shows how the spiritual values of the Sixties are now reemerging, with an astonishing influx of spiritual light, to once again awaken us.

The Alchemical Mercurius

Gothic Cathedrals

The Invisible History of the Rosicrucians

The Templar Meridians

Deconstructing Gurdjieff

Medieval Mysteries

Sacred Bloodlines and Secret Treasures

• *Shares the history and meaning of Freemasonry and its symbols* • *Offers thoughtful explorations of different areas of Masonic experience, drawing on esoteric doctrines and paralleling them with experiences found in daily life* • *Provides simple exercises and practices to help internalize and personalize the lessons presented, including dreamwork, journaling, meditation, and prayer* In this practical guide, Mark Stavish details the spiritual lessons and rituals of Freemasonry as a step-by-step path of spiritual development and self-improvement for both Masons and non-Masons, men and women, alike. He explores the history and meaning of Freemasonry and its symbols--from its origins in the Temple of Solomon to the Medieval craft guilds to the Renaissance--and explains how the Craft promotes personal growth through the symbolic building of self and an inner Temple of Wisdom in much the

same way that Masonry's rituals symbolize the building of Solomon's Temple in accordance with the mystical architectural instructions of Hiram. Drawing on esoteric doctrines, including the Qabala, alchemy, sacred geometry, John Dee's angelic magic, and the secrets of the Gothic cathedral builders, each chapter addresses an area of the Masonic experience, paralleling them with experiences each of us finds in our own lives. The author provides simple practices to help internalize and personalize the lessons presented, including dreamwork, journaling, meditation, prayer, and understanding sacred architecture. The author also examines the crafting and use of the spiritual and symbolic tools of Freemasonry, such as the trestle or tracing board and the Chamber of Reflection. Providing the tools to make the Craft an initiatic experience of self-improvement, the author shows that, ultimately, the Masonic experience is the human quest for self-realization and self-expression, so that we each may find our place in the Temple of Wisdom.

Contemporary seekers on the hunt for an overview of the Western mystery traditions often face a small selection of dense, out-of-date tomes. Alternatively, *Hidden Wisdom* is a fresh, coherent, and accessible work that expounds many of the teachings of Western esotericism, examining its key figures and movements.

In a breathtaking span of detailed research, Churton reveals the crucial pre-history of Freemasonry, from its Alchemical & Hermetic roots in ancient Alexandria through the Rosicrucian Order of the 19th century. Debunking myths while revealing genuine mysteries, this book is an enticing read that explores the deeper meaning of magic & human existence as revealed in the records & actions of the Alchemists, Rosicrucians, & Freemasons. It is not only a thorough overview of the ideas & men that molded the Hermetic traditions, it is a highly readable journey through the sources of the Western spiritual sciences. Churton is a writer & is best known for his work on English TV's award-winning Gnostics series.

In her new account of an old religion, Lynn Picknett explains that Lucifer means 'the light bringer' and was a personification of the Morning Star, the planet Venus and its goddess. 'He' was originally 'she' -- a divine representation of love, light and human warmth. The early Christian Church appropriated the name Lucifer, and it became synonymous with darkness and the Devil. Yet many great thinkers have covertly followed the old Luciferan way, most famously Leonardo da Vinci, who encrypted the symbols of his heretical beliefs in his work, visible only to those who have the key.

Golden Builders

Freemasonry

Picart and Bernard's Religious Ceremonies of the World

The Golden Builders

The Biography: Spiritual Revolutionary, Romantic Explorer, Occult Master and Spy

Esoteric symbol of Jung's life and works

The Unknown Lore of Amexem's Indigenous People

This book is a study of contemporary spirituality as it is practiced in the world today, characterized by its secular and inclusive nature, and applied to art and art education. It identifies the issues facing a formal introduction of contemporary spiritual concepts into a secular and multicultural arts educational environment. Lander begins by separating the notion of "the spiritual" from the study of organized religions. She uses examples of art from different cultures in contemporary spiritual systems, making the study a reference book for contemporary spirituality and spirituality in art education, with usable definitions and practical examples suitable for scholars in art and visual studies, art education, and contemporary spirituality.

After completing my first book "The Huevolution of Sacred Muur Science" I found there were many aspects of Muur history and culture that I touched on too lightly. So, I set out to do a follow up book that more or less expounded on subjects like Joseph Smith and the Mormons, the Poro & Keetowah societies, and the Delawares & Nanticokes. This particular book also has a chapter on ancient & modern round ball sports, after reading it, one, might better explain the overall craze of round ball sports in America. One of the most fascinating aspects of Moorish Science Temple history is the (Pan American Conference 1928) And the so called Moor circle (7). I conclude this book with Addendums dealing with these very intriguing subjects along with the national headress the (Fez). My mother is part Nanticoke and Fulani, my father Cherokee & Mende. My mission, was to represent my family roots through literature along with magnifying cultures not often written about, at least not by one of its own.

Henrik Bogdan and Martin P. Starr offer the first comprehensive examination of one of the twentieth century's most distinctive occult iconoclasts, Aleister Crowley (1875-1947), one of the most influential thinkers in contemporary western esotericism.

The figure of the alchemical Mercurius features ubiquitously and radically in Jung's later works, but despite this, there has been little research concerning Mercurius in Jungian studies to date. In this book, Mathew Mather explores the figure of the alchemical Mercurius and contextualises and clarifies its significance in Jung's life and works. Placing the alchemical Mercurius as a central concern reveals a Jungian interpretation in which the grail legend, alchemy and precessional astrology, as three thematic threads, converge. In such a treatment, Jung's belief in the dawning of a new platonic month emerges as a central consideration and an esoteric perspective on Jung's life and works is brought more fully to light, constructing a life-myth interpretation. The book is comprised of three parts: Aurea Catena: locating the figure of the alchemical Mercurius within the Western esoteric tradition Daimonic Encounter: the relevance of this figure in Jung's personal life Magnum Opus: Jung's portrayal of this figure in key texts such as Synchronicity, Aion, Mysterium Coniunctionis; and Emma Jung and von Franz's The Grail Legend. The Alchemical Mercurius is a unique contribution to analytical psychology, substantially revealing 'esoteric Jung' and providing valuable perspectives on the theme of his myth for our times. The book will appeal to researchers and academics in the field of analytical psychology as well as postgraduate students.

Unravelling the Secrets Behind Dan Brown's International Bestseller: The Unauthorised Guide

The Meaning of Being Illuminati

The Book That Changed Europe

The Real Life of William Blake

The Magus of Freemasonry

American Postmodernist Fiction and the Past

A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions

The Western Esoteric Traditions offers a concise history of a distinct form of philosophical spirituality extending from Hermeticism, Neo-Platonism, and Gnosticism in the early Christian era up until the present. New paradigms in medicine and science attest to the continuity of esoteric ideas into the twenty-first century.

An extensive examination of the history of gnosticism and how its philosophy has influenced the Western esoteric tradition – Explains how the Gnostic understanding of self-realization is embodied in the esoteric traditions of the Rosicrucians and Freemasons – Explores how gnosticism continues to influence contemporary spirituality – Shows gnosticism to be a philosophical key that helps spiritual seekers "remember" their higher selves Gnosticism was a contemporary of early Christianity, and its demise can be traced to Christianity's efforts to silence its teachings. The Gnostic message, however, was not destroyed but simply went underground. Starting with the first emergence of Gnosticism, the author shows how its influence extended from the teachings of neo-Platonists and the magical traditions of the Middle Ages to the beliefs and ideas of the Sufis, Jacob Böhme, Carl Jung, Rudolf Steiner, and the Rosicrucians and Freemasons. In the language of spiritual freemasonry, gnosis is the rejected stone necessary for the completion of the Temple, a Temple of a new cosmic understanding that today's heirs to Gnosticism continue to strive to create. The Gnostics believed that the universe embodies a ceaseless contest between opposing principles. Terrestrial life exhibits the struggle between good and evil, life and death, beauty and ugliness, and enlightenment and ignorance: gnosis and agnosis. The very nature of physical space and time are obstacles to humanity's ability to remember its divine origins and recover its original unity with God. Thus the preeminent gnostic secret is that we are God in potential and the purpose of bona fide gnostic teaching is to return us to our godlike nature. Tobias Churton is a filmmaker and the founding editor of the magazine Freemasonry Today. He studied theology at Oxford University and created the award-winning documentary series and accompanying book The Gnostics, as well as several other films on Christian doctrine, mysticism, and magical folklore. He lives in England.

At last, the unexpurgated, true story of the amazing Aleister Crowley—philosopher, poet, artists, writer, magus, explorer, parapsychology—and spy. Packed with fresh research and previously unpublished —Crowleyana.— For 100 years, Aleister Crowley's true achievements have been suppressed and his true character defaced in a campaign of vilification unparalleled in British history. Until now, Crowley's life has not been written—it has been written over. Tobias Churton is a world authority on Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, and Gnosticism. In writing Aleister Crowley, he enjoyed complete access to all Crowley's restricted papers, unpublished letters and personal diaries kept in a trust at London's Warburg Institute and in the Ordo Templi Orientis archives. Ninety percent of the authentic material here has never before been published.

From Arabic al-kimia (of Egypt) and old Egyptian keme (black, fertile soil), alchemy is the ancient science of elements and interactions in both the natural and the spiritual realms. Spanning 2,500 years and informed by Hermetic and Neoplatonist influences, it has been practiced in the classical Greco-Roman world, medieval Europe and the medieval Middle East and Orient, and up to the present in esoteric circles. Alchemists have three main pursuits: the transmutation of base metals into gold by means of the Lapis Philosophorum, the Philosopher's Stone; the concoction of the Elixir of Life, a universal medicine; the reconciliation between spirit and matter and direct knowledge of the Divine This concise dictionary of alchemy provides clear access to one of the major roots of Western esoteric thought. Subjects include alchemical processes and procedures, the natural elements and apparatus used, major practitioners and philosophers, and concepts and beliefs. Distinguishing this guide from similar ones is the addition of etymology, connecting the language of alchemy to its Latin, Greek, and Arabic sources. Symbolic pictographs accompany half of the over four hundred entries, and a fascinating illustration from the long tradition of alchemical art introduces each letter of the alphabet. Most important is the author Jordan Stratford's unique perspective as both a modern Gnostic priest and a Freemason. He also brings to bear extensive knowledge of the depth psychology of C. G. Jung, who based his key concept of individuation on the premise that what the

ancient alchemists truly sought was inner transformation.

A Field Guide to Golems, Patchwork Solders, Homunculi, and Other Created Creatures

Llewellyn's Complete Book of Ceremonial Magick

Pranksters

Traditional Lodge Methods for Modern Mages

The Craft as a Spiritual Practice

Man-Made Monsters

How the Freemasons Designed the Republic

An exploration of Freemasonry and its history, philosophy, symbols and practices.

The Golden Builders is divided into three parts: - Part 1 presents a broad survey of the Hermetic current and its transmissions from Hellenistic Alexandria to the time of Paracelsus. - Part 2 focuses on the Rosicrucian movement as a vehicle of the Hermetic current, drawing on state-of-the-art research, such as the works of Spanish scholar Carlos Gilly. - Part 3 concentrates mainly on one man, the English polymath, antiquarian, collector, alchemist, astrologer, and early Freemason, Elias Ashmole, after whom the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is named, and one of many Renaissance figures who carried the Hermetic current forward. - Unlocks the secret to Hiram's Key. - A crucial pre-history of modern Freemasonry from its Alchemical and Hermetic origins in ancient Alexandria through the Rosicrucian Order of the 18th century.

This book features the greatest minds of magic assembled in one place! Compiled by two of the leading figures in the magick community, this new hardcover title in Llewellyn's Complete Book series includes more than 650 pages of fascinating insights into the history and contemporary practice of ritual magick. With contributions from dozens of top authors, this book brings the practices, theories, and historical understanding of magick into the 21st century, including in-depth chapters on: Foundations of Western Magick • Qabalah • Demonology & Spirit Evocation • Alchemy • Planetary Magick • Enochian Magick & Mysticism • The Magick of Abra-Melin • The Golden Dawn • Thelema & Aleister Crowley • Polytheistic Ceremonial Magic • Magician's Tables • The Future of Ceremonial Magick

A fully illustrated guide to the Masonic origins and present-day Masonic sites of Washington, D.C. • Provides a walking tour of the Masonic sites and symbols of the city • Explores the critical role of Freemasonry in the founding of the United States • By the author of The Templars and Assassins In this guide to the Masonic underpinnings of America's capital, James Wasserman reveals the esoteric symbols and the spiritual and visionary ideas that lie hidden in the buildings, monuments, and physical layout of Washington, D.C. His walking tour of these Masonic sites includes both the expected and unexpected--from the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building to the Federal Reserve complex, National Academy of Sciences, and the Library of Congress. Each location includes descriptions, interpretations, and explanations of the Masonic symbols and ritualistic meanings hidden within its structure, all illustrated with contemporary color and historic black-and-white photographs. Wasserman explains the purpose behind putting these symbols and Masonic designs into the capital and how all these monuments fit into the spiritual vision held by the founding fathers. He reveals the prominent role that Freemasonry played in the 18th-century Enlightenment movement and shows how in the New World of America, free of monarchy and aristocracy, the ideas of the Enlightenment were able to flourish. This illustrated guidebook to the Masonic secrets of Washington, D.C., provides valuable insights on the founding of America. It will be welcomed by students of esoteric art and symbolism, admirers of American history, and devotees of Dan Brown novels and National Treasure movies.

Jerusalem!

Biography of a Spiritual Magician

Alchemists, Rosicrucians and the First Free Masons

Making Mischief in the Modern World

The Forbidden Universe

The Mysterious Life of Elias Ashmole--Scientist, Alchemist, and Founder of the Royal Society

A Historical Introduction

Reveals the true nature of the secret science the Templars discovered in the Holy Land that was the key to their power • Shows the cartographic knowledge that allowed the Templars to cross the Atlantic and establish settlements in the New World • Explains the connection of the Templar meridians to the journey of Lewis and Clark • Shows the role played by secret societies in the establishment of the United States The most enduring mystery surrounding the Templars concerns the nature and whereabouts of their great treasure. Whereas many believe this lost treasure contains knowledge of the bloodline of Christ, William F. Mann shows that it actually consists of an ancient science

developed before the Great Flood--knowledge discovered by the Templars in the Holy Land during the Crusades and still extant today in Templar/Masonic ritual. Among other things, this knowledge enabled the Order to establish accurate latitudinal and longitudinal positions long before the foundations of the current science were laid in the seventeenth century. This allowed them to cross the Atlantic to reach the New World, where they established secret settlements and mining operations that gave them a limitless supply of precious metals and a military edge over their opponents. Pursued farther into the interior of the North American continent by their adversaries from the Old World, the Templars left artifacts, relics, and information caches at key sites, confident that future initiates could use their understanding of the science of meridians and ley lines to locate them. The author points out that not only did future masons such as Jefferson and Washington use this science as the basis of their designs for Monticello and Washington, D.C., but the true motive of the expedition of Lewis and Clark was to identify the meridians mapped by the Templars and to search for the final resting place of Prince Henry Sinclair--where the great Templar treasure could also be found.

Profiles history's notable tricksters--from P.T. Barnum to Stephen Colbert--and their spectacles from the 1600s to the present, considering how pranksters have used humor to expose larger truths and, on occasion, incited social change.

Life exists all around us, in forms that we can readily and easily identify. But what if there were, lurking in the shadows, other forms of life that are not so familiar, creatures created not by Nature, but by Man? We know their names--Frankenstein, the Golem, the homunculi of the ancient alchemists; they exist in our stories and myths. But just what are these mysterious creatures, and do they actually have some basis in reality? In his fascinating and wide-ranging new book, Dr. Bob Curran explores man-made monsters and the truth behind the myths. You'll learn fascinating details about: The 19th century scientist who tried to bring the dead back to life--the model for Mary Shelley's Frankenstein The Man of Clay who lumbered through the streets of medieval Prague at the command of early rabbis Tales of robots that may have existed in the ancient world and threatened Greek and Roman warriors. Cloning and the artificial creation of life, and what strange and mysterious areas they may be heading into. Man-Made Monsters is essential reading for anyone who wants to explore artificial beings and peer into the dark recesses of the human mind...where they may indeed be hiding.

Delving into the spiritual side of one the Romantic period's most renowned artists and poets, this biography explores for the first time the deeper meanings and enlightened thoughts that sit at the heart of Blake's trademark symbolism. It's hard to believe that Blake was largely unrecognized in his own time, today we can look back and see the influence that his visionary words and images had on our most recent culture history. Resonating most strongly during times of change we last saw a resurgence of Blake's influence during the 60s in the inspiring music of the Doors or Jimi Hendrix and the enlightening words of Aldous Huxley. Now as we once again face massive change in the world it's time to open our minds to the real William Blake, a revolutionary spiritual guru who can bring us right into the heart of our own true being.

The Occult Origins of Science and the Search for the Mind of God

A History of Paganism

The Magic, Myth, and Music of the Decade That Changed the World

The World's Most Mysterious Secret Society

An Aboriginal Treatise

Decoding the Lost Symbol

Miracles of Our Own Making

A comprehensive look at the life of Elias Ashmole, who represents the historic missing link between operative and symbolic Freemasonry • Explores the true role of occult and magical studies in the genesis of modern science • Explains the full meaning of the term magus, which Ashmole exemplified Elias Ashmole (1617-1692) was the first to record a personal account of initiation into Accepted Freemasonry. His writings help solve the debate between operative and “speculative” origins of Accepted Freemasonry, demonstrating that symbolic Freemasonry existed within the Masonic trade bodies. Ashmole was one of the leading intellectual luminaries of his time: a founding member of the Royal Society, a fellowship and later academy of natural philosophers and scientists; alchemist; astrological advisor to the king; and the creator of the world's first public museum. While Isaac Newton regarded him as an inspiration, Ashmole has been ignored by many conventional historians. Tobias Churton's compelling portrait of Ashmole offers a perfect illustration of the true Renaissance figure--the magus. As opposed to the alienated position of his post-Cartesian successors, the magus occupied a place at the heart of Renaissance spiritual, intellectual, and scientific life. Churton shows Ashmole to be part of the ferment of the birth of modern science, a missing link between operative and symbolic Freemasonry, and a vital transmitter of esoteric thought when the laws of science were first taking hold. He was a man who moved with facility between the powers of earth and the active symbols of heaven.

“An absolute must for anyone interested in the development of paganism in the modern world. I cannot recommend this book enough.”—Janet Farrar, coauthor of A Witches’ Bible “At last, we have a history of British Paganism written from the inside, by somebody who not only has a good knowledge of the sources, but explicitly understands how Pagans and magicians think.”—Ronald Hutton, author of The Triumph of the Moon and The Witch What do we mean by “paganism”—druids, witches, and occult rituals? Healing charms and forbidden knowledge? Miracles of Our Own Making is a historical overview of pagan magic in the British Isles, from the ancient peoples of Britain to the rich and cosmopolitan landscape of contemporary paganism. Exploring the beliefs of the druids, Anglo-Saxons, and Vikings, as well as Elizabethan Court alchemy and witch trials, we encounter grimoires, ceremonial magic, and the Romantic revival of arcane deities. The influential and well-known—the Golden Dawn, Wicca, and figures such as Aleister Crowley—are considered alongside the everyday “cunning folk” who formed the magical fabric of previous centuries. Ranging widely across literature, art, science, and beyond, Liz Williams debunks many of the prevailing myths surrounding magical practice, past and present, while offering a rigorously researched and highly accessible account of what it means to be a pagan today. For centuries, magical lodges have been one of the most important and least understood parts of the Western esoteric traditions. The traditional secrecy of lodge organizations has made it next to impossible for modern students of magic to learn what magical lodges do, and how their powerful and effective traditions of ritual, symbolism and organization can be put to work. This updated and expanded edition of Inside a Magical Lodge reveals the foundations of lodge work on all levels—from the framework of group structure that allows lodges to efficiently handle the practical needs of a working magical group, through the subtle approaches to symbolism and ritual developed within lodge circles, to the potent magical methods that lodges use in their initiations and other ceremonial workings. It is a must-read for members of existing lodges, for students of magical traditions such as the Golden Dawn, for practitioners of other kinds of group magical work and for all those who have wondered about the hidden world behind lodge doors.

Mysterious creatures and man-made monsters are considered in this riveting and comprehensive narrative. The authoritative text begins with Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s man-made monster, who was actually nameless but became known as the figure of Frankenstein. Then, the Golem legend, the large clumsy figure formed of clay that moved through Jewish mythology at the bidding of the holy men who created it—a mindless, speechless figure that is under external control, is also investigated. The volume includes stories of the homunculus, the little human of alchemic tales, fables of robots that existed in ancient Greece and Rome, and strange tales of cloning and the artificial creation of life, among other man-made forms that lurk in the shadows. Black-and-white illustrations by Ian Daniels add to the sinister aura of the volume. The text is essential reading for fans of the paranormal and science fiction, or for those who are fascinated with peering into the dark recesses of the human psyche.

The Masonic Magician

The Secrets of Masonic Washington

The Path of Freemasonry

The Secret Mapping of the New World

Rituals, Symbols & History of the Secret Society

A Guide to History, Lore, Places and Symbolism

The Western Esoteric Traditions

Cross the threshold into the world of the High Middle Ages and explore the illuminating wisdom, beauty and art of the Gothic cathedrals, stunning wonders of the medieval era for all to bejewelled stained glass windows to a pilgrimage “on the road” to Compostela, the wonders of Gothic architecture continue to inspire many worldwide. From the 12th century, the Gothic continued to spread throughout Europe. Highly-regarded medievalist Dr. Karen Ralls explores the legacy of this exquisite architectural period, whose artistic beauty and expert craftsmans centuries to inspire feelings of spiritual reverence and aesthetic wonder. She details the relationship between architecture, geometry, and music; explores the concept of the labyrinth; pilgrimages; Madonnas; astronomical calculations in the design and location of cathedrals; stone and wood carvings; gargoyles; the teachings of Pythagoras and the later Neo-Platonists, and more. For the casual reader and specialist alike, Dr. Ralls guides the reader through the history, places, art, and symbolism of these unique “books in stone”, providing a lively portal and solid resource for all. Lavishly illustrated with photographs, a recommended reading section, lists of the major European cathedral sites and a full Bibliography, Gothic Cathedrals is a fascinating showcase of the mystic and spiritual significance of these great structures of Europe, information that will help modern readers visit these sites and share in the energy of the sacred they continue to radiate.

This book articulates a new research program, called “Ur-Illuminism,” which consists in an integrated and systematic study of humanity’s quest for “illumination,” namely, for the highest and most authentic mode of being. Thus, it takes on the challenge of revising widely accepted ways of understanding and interpreting the ontological underpinnings of civilization and the ontological potentialities of the human being. It allows the reader to delve into a creative “rediscovery” of Platonism, medieval Christian mystics’ and scholars’ writings, and various “illuminist” systems, from the Orphic mystical cult to the Enlightenment and thence to the eighteenth-century Illuminati fraternities and beyond. Moreover, the book studies major issues in the history of philosophy, political theory, and esoteric systems (from Hermeticism, the Kabbalah, alchemy, the Rosicrucian movement, Freemasonry, and the Bavarian Illuminati). It maintains that a postmodern “rediscovery” of premodern metaphysics, specifically a postmodern esoteric theocracy (as distinct from old sacerdotalism and religious formalism), is the best bulwark against oppression and the ontological degradation of humanity, as well as the attainment of that wisdom and spiritual self-knowledge which constitute the existential integration and completion of the human being. In this context, it proposes a peculiar and intellectual

between Tory Anarchism, Libertarianism, Platonism, and Byzantine Hesychasm, as they are elucidated here.

Journey into twelve of the world's favorite medieval mysteries and cross the threshold into the world of the High Middle Ages. From Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" to Umberto Eco's "Name of the Rose," Brown's bestselling "The Da Vinci Code," the medieval period continues to intrigue, inspire, entertain and fascinate many today. For the general reader and specialist alike, medieval expert, Chapel museum exhibition curator and bestselling author Dr. Karen Ralls guides the reader through the key historical facts, legends and lore, affiliated places and major symbolism of each medieval enigmas, providing a lively introductory portal which includes some of the lesser-known, sidelined or unacknowledged aspects of each of these enduring topics. The story of each as never before, providing a solid introduction for all readers as well as further suggested resources for teachers and researchers. Also included are photographs, a recommended reading of the key major sites associated with each topic, and a full Bibliography. Topics covered include: King Arthur, Merlin and GlastonburyThe Grail Quest Mary MagdaleneThe real meaning of E MadonnasThe Knights Templar, the Cathers, and Rosslyn ChapelMedieval Guides and TroubadoursHeresy and Heretics Let this book serve as your personal pilgrimage back to the High Mid time of potent symbolism, occult knowledge, and spiritual quests.

Traces the movement of the Templars' secret treasure across North America to where it still resides, protected by a sacred lineage of guardians • Explains how the Templars found refuge in American tribes, intermarrying with the Natives to continue the Holy Bloodline and further the lineage of guardians needed to protect their treasure and secrets • Reveals new evidence for Templar settlements and monuments across North America and how these reactivate the continent's sacred rose lines • Pinpoints the exact location of the Templar/Holy Bloodline treasure searched for the lost treasure of the Knights Templar, most famously at Oak Island. But what if the treasure wasn't lost? What if this treasure--necessary to sanctify the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem--was moved through the centuries and protected by a sacred lineage of guardians, descendants of Prince Henry Sinclair and the Native American tribes who helped him? Drawing on the work of Grand Archivist of the Knights Templar of Canada and his own role as a descendant of both Sinclair and the Anishinabe/Algonquin tribe, William Mann examines new evidence of the Knights Templar in the New World long before Columbus and their mission to protect the Holy Bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. He reveals the secret settlements they built as they moved westward across the wilderness of North America, evading the European Church and Royal Houses. He explains how the Templars found refuge in the Sacred Medicine Lodges of the Algonquins, whose ceremonies bear striking resemblance to the initiations of Freemasonry. He reveals the strategic intermarriages that took place between the Natives and the Templars, furthering the Holy Bloodline and creating a lineage of blood-guardians. The author explores how Sinclair's journey from Nova Scotia across America also served to reactivate the sacred rose lines of North America through the building of "castles" and monuments, including the Newport Tower and the Kensington Rune Stone. Pinpointing the exact location of the Templar treasure still hidden in North America, the author also explains why for Templar sanctuaries to be the chief motivation behind the Lewis and Clark expedition and the murder of Meriwether Lewis.

Frankenstein & Other Man-Made Monsters

Aleister Crowley

Spiritual Art and Art Education

Inside a Magical Lodge

Alchemists, Rosicrucians, First Freemasons

Hidden Wisdom

Gnostic Philosophy

In a breathtaking span of detailed research, Tobias Churton reveals, without resorting to mythology or pseudo-history, the most up-to-date knowledge on the development of Gnostic alchemy, the true origins of pre-Grand Lodge Freemasonry, and the mysterious Fraternity of the Rosy Cross (the Rosicrucians). Following the Hermetic spiritual and philosophical stream through 1,600 years of esoteric history, Churton introduces readers to great men of magic and wisdom--spiritual heroes and masters like Paracelsus, Caspar Schwenckfeld, Johann Valentin Andrae, and Elias Ashmole. The Golden Builders is an essential addition to any serious seekers' library. The Golden Builders is divided into three parts: Part 1 presents a broad survey of the Hermetic current and its transmissions from Hellenistic Alexandria to the time of Paracelsus. Part 2 focuses on the Rosicrucian movement as a vehicle of the Hermetic current, drawing on state-of-the-art research, such as the works of Spanish scholar Carlos Gilly. Part 3 concentrates mainly on one man, the English polymath, antiquarian, collector, alchemist, astrologer, and early Freemason, Elias Ashmole, after whom the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is named, and one of many Renaissance figures who carried the Hermetic current forward. Debunking myths while revealing genuine mysteries, The Golden Builders is an enticing read that contains much spiritual wisdom. Explore the deeper meaning of magic and human existence, as revealed in the records and inspiring lives of the Golden Builders.

The Masonic Magician tells Cagliostro's extraordinary story, complete with the first English translation of his Egyptian Rite of Freemasonry ever published. The authors examine the case made against him, that he was an impostor as well as a heretic, and find that the Roman Church, and history itself, have done him a terrible injustice. This engaging account, drawing on remarkable new documentary evidence, shows that the man condemned was a genuine visionary and true champion of Freemasonry. His teachings have much to reveal to us today, not just of the secrets of the movement, but of the mysterious hostility it continues to attract.

The Secret History of Lucifer (New Edition)

A Comprehensive Guide to the Western Mystery Tradition

Alchemists, Rosicrucians, and the First Freemasons

The Architects of America

A Guide to the History, Places, Art, and Symbolism