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Picturing the Volk

Webster, Christopher Peter

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ESSWE3 CONFERENCE
**LUX IN TENEBRIS: THE VISUAL AND THE SYMBOLIC IN WESTERN
ESOTERICISM**

6-9 July, 2011, Szeged, Hungary

Officially accepted papers, as of 2011-06-10

PLENARY TALKS

Allen, Michael J. B.

(UCLA / English), USA

PLENARY TALK: Glory, Transfiguration, and the Fire Within: Ficino on the Metaphysics and Psychology of Light

Bolzoni, Lina

(Scuola Normale Superiore / Italian, Pisa), ITALY

PLENARY TALK: The Memory Theatre of Giulio Camillo: Alchemy, Rhetoric, and Deification in the Renaissance

Brinzeu, Pia

(University of the West / English, Timisoara), ROMANIA

PLENARY TALK: Romania and India: Spaces of Initiation for Eliade and Brancusi

Idel, Moshe

(Hebrew University / Jewish Thought, Jerusalem), ISRAEL

PLENARY TALK: The Shield of David: An History of a Symbol from Jewish Kabbalah to Western Esotericism

CONFERENCE PAPERS (strictly 30 minutes' slots, 20-25 minutes talk + discussion)

Åkerman-Hjern, Susanna

(Stockholm), SWEDEN

De sapientia Salomonis: Emanuel Swedenborg and the Kabbalah

Archip, Bianca Bogdana and Sever Laurențiu Sava

(Spiru Haret University, Bucharest / Sociology-Psychology), ROMANIA

Symbolic and Visual in Present-day Testimonies of Nde (Near-death Experiences) Contrasted with Swedenborg's Discourse

Asprem, Egil

(University of Amsterdam / History of Hermeticism and Related Currents (PhD candidate)), THE NETHERLANDS

Visions Beyond Sight: Representational Practices in Science and Esotericism Ca. 1900

Baier, Karl

(University of Vienna / Religious Studies), AUSTRIA

Meditating Visual Symbols. Carl Happichs Method as Meeting Point Between Esotericism, Protestantism and Psychotherapy

Baron, Frank

(University of Kansas / German, Lawrence), USA

Sichem's Engraving of Faust (1608) in Its Historical Context

Bauduin, Tessel M.

(University of Amsterdam / History of Hermetic Philosophy (PhD candidate)), THE NETHERLANDS

The "Occulture" of Modern Art in Surrealism

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Békés, Enikő

(Hungarian Academy of Sciences / Institute for Literary Studies, Budapest), HUNGARY

"A Principio Enim Omnia Pendent". Descriptions of Outward Appearance Determined by the Stars in Some Physiognomical Works

Binet, Anna Maria

(Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux3 / Portugal Studies), FRANCE

Light and Darkness, Two Main Symbols in Fernando Pessoa's Esoteric Writings

Bogdan, Henrik

(University of Gothenburg / History of Ideas, Literature, and Religion), SWEDEN

Envisioning the Birth of a New Aeon: Dispensationalism and Millenarianism in the Thelemic Tradition

Burmistrov, Konstantin

(Russian Academy of Sciences / Institute of Philosophy, Moscow), RUSSIA

Pictorial Representations of the Structure of Creation (Ilanot) in Jewish and Christian Kabbalah

Burns, Dylan

(Yale University / Religious Studies, New Haven), USA

To Enter the Heavenly Treasuries: Sigils, Seals, and Visualization in Gnosticism and Early Jewish Mysticism

Chaitow, Sasha

(University of Exeter / EXESCO (PhD candidate)), UK

Symbolist Art and the French Occult Revival: the Esoteric-aesthetic Vision of Sâr Péladan

Chajes, Julie

(University of Exeter / EXESCO (PhD candidate)), UK / ISRAEL

Annie Besant's Saree: Syncretism, Orientalism and "Going Native"

Chajes, Yossi

(University of Haifa / Jewish History), ISRAEL

It's Good to See the King: The Nature & Function of Kabbalistic Divinity Maps

Cleave, Julia

(Temenos Academy / London), UK

Tobias and the Angel. The Showing of a Heavenly Effect in an Earthly Actor

Cole, Brendan

(Eton College, Windsor), UK

Art in Search of the 'Grand Agent Magique'; the Initiatory Quest in the Work of Jean Delville

Collis, Robert

(University of Sheffield), UK

The Bruce Calendars (1709-1715) and the Visual Expression of Astrology in Russia

Cora, Zoltán

(University of Szeged / English), HUNGARY

The Uncanny, the Numerical and the Unknown: Sublime as Esoteric?

Crasta, Francesca

(University of Cagliari / Philosophy), ITALY

The Arcanes of the World: Symbols and Mystical-allegorical Exegesis in Emanuel Swedenborg's "De Cultu et Amore Dei"

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Crockford, Susannah

(graduate of Western Esotericism / Amsterdam), ??

Symbolism in Modern Western Shamanism

Csetényi, Korinna

(University of Szeged / English (PhD candidate)), HUNGARY

Symbols of Difference and Haunting in the Works of Stephen King

Dascal, Reghina

(University of the West / English, Timisoara), ROMANIA

Tantrism and Mithila Art from a Western Perspective

Drobot, Irina-Ana

(Technical University of Civil Engineering / Foreign Languages and Communication, Bucharest), ROMANIA

Esoteric Aspects and Lyricism in Virginia Woolf and Graham Swift

Duggan, Colin

(University College / Religious Studies, Cork (graduate student)), IRELAND

Locating Yeats: Western Esotericism, Symbols of the 'New Ireland'

Epstein, Marc Michael

(Vassar College / Religion, New York), USA

Hidden and Revealed in Medieval Jewish Manuscript Illumination

Fanger, Claire

(Rice University / Religious Studies, Houston (Texas)), USA

Use of Figures and Letter Meditations in John of Morigny's /Liber Florum// /Old Compilation, Oxford, Bodleian liturg. 160

Faxneld, Per

(Stockholm University / History of Religions), SWEDEN

Blavatsky the Satanist: Luciferianism in Theosophy

Ferentinou, Victoria

(University of Ioannina), GREECE

The Iconography of "Coniunctio Oppositorum": Visual and Verbal Dialogues in Ithell Colquhoun's Oeuvre

Gentzke, Joshua L. I.

(Stanford University / Religious Studies (PhD candidate)), USA

Imagining the Image of God: Iconic Discourse in Medieval and Early Modern Christian Esotericism

Gerbilsky, Lew

(NGO "Green Doctors - ISDE Ukraine"), UKRAINE

Visual Representations of Tarot Cards

Godwin, Joscelyn

(Colgate University / Music), USA

Color Symbolism: from Tradition to Science

Gosa, Codruta and Andrea Serban

(University of the West / English, Timisoara), ROMANIA

The Vampire of the 3rd Millennium: from Demon to Angel

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Granholm, Kenneth

(University of Stockholm / History of Religions), SWEDEN

Visual Popular Culture and the Esoteric

Gregov, Sebastien

(University of Rennes / Political Science), FRANCE

The Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz

Guidice, Christian

(University of Exeter / EXESCO (student)), UK

The Angered Beast: Aleister Crowley, Thelema and the Cinema of Kenneth Anger

Hakl, Hans Thomas

(Independent scholar, Graz), AUSTRIA

The Hermetic Symbolism of Julius Evola

Hamvas, Endre

(Németh László Lyceum / Hódmezővásárhely), HUNGARY

Classical Mythology and the Iconological Representation of Alchemical Process in Michael Maier's Works

Harari, Yuval

(Ben-Gurion University / Department of Folklore, Beer Sheva), ISRAEL

The Tree of Knowledge (Etz Ha-da'at): an Ornamented Hebrew Manuscript of "Practical Kabbala" from the 16th Century, Safed

Harmsen, Theodor

(Ritman Institute / Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, Amsterdam), THE NETHERLANDS

The Symbols of Valentin Weigel and Pseudo-weigelian Artistry

Hedesan, Jo (Georgina)

(University of Exeter / EXESCO (PhD candidate)), ROMANIA / UK

The Verbal and Visual Symbolism of Distillation Alchemy in the 17th Century: Interpreting the "Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz" and the "Mutus Liber"

Heinzel, Thomas

(University of Erfurt / Religious Studies), GERMANY

Prometheus Unbound. Esotericism in the Works of Angelos Sikelianos

Huss, Boaz

(Ben Gurion University of the Negev / Department of Jewish Thought, Beer Sheva), ISRAEL

The Kabbalah Medal (2009): Representations of Kabbalah in an Official Government Medal of the State of Israel

Johnston, Jay

(University of Sidney / Department of Studies in Religion; University of New South Wales / Art History), AUSTRALIA

Esoteric Aesthetics: Subtle Materiality and Subject–Object Relations

Kadary, Yoed

(Ben-Gurion University / Department of Jewish Thought), ISRAEL

Representation of Angelic Liturgy in the Kabbalah of R. Moses Cordovero

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Khalturin, Juriy

(Moscow Medical-Stomatological University / Philosophy), RUSSIA

Kabbalah, Symbolism and Metaphysics in Theories of Russian Freemasonry of the 18th and 19th Centuries

Kocic, Larisa

(University of Szeged / English (PhD candidate)), HUNGARY

Milton and the Cherubim in Embrace

Kokkinen, Nina

(University of Turku / Comparative Religion), FINLAND

Occult Interpretations in the Finnish Fin-de-Siecle Art Field

Lachter, Hartley

(Muhlenberg College / Religious Studies, Allentown, PA), USA

Mapping Divine Territory: Kabbalistic Commentaries on the Ten Sefirot in Late 13th Century Castile

Láng, Benedek

(University of Technology and Economics / History and Philosophy of Science, Budapest), HUNGARY

Magic, Esotericism, and Cryptic Symbols

Leone, Massimo

(University of Torino / Philosophy), ITALY

God's Graffiti

Lubelsky, Isaac

(Tel-Aviv University / Comparative Religion Program), ISRAEL

The Theosophical Seal: Blavatsky's Symbolic Synthesis between East and West

Menzel, Birgit

(University of Mainz / Slavic Literatures and Culture, Gernersheim), GERMANY

The Occult Underground of Late Soviet Russia

Meroz, Ronit

(Tel-Aviv University / Hebrew Culture Studies), ISRAEL

Visual Aspects of Zoharic Symbols

Meyer, Jürgen

(University of Halle / English), GERMANY

Sense and Sensibility: Reading the Esoteric

Morlok, Elke

(University of Heidelberg / Hochschule für Jüdische Studien), GERMANY

Visual and Acoustic Symbols in Gikatilla and Neoplatonic Thought

Nosachev, Pavel

(State University Higher School of Economics / Department of Cultural Studies, Moscow), RUSSIA

Semiotical Analysis of the Hermetical Text

Ofengenden, Ari

(Oberlin College, Ohio), USA

Representing Transmigration of Souls: Kabbalistic Metempsychosis or Repressed Wishes

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Pakhomov, Sergey

(Saint-Petersburg State University / Oriental Philosophy and Culture), RUSSIA

Interpretations of the Symbolical by Rene Guénon

Parlog, Aba-Carina

(University of the West / English, Timisoara), ROMANIA

What Lies Behind the Magic? Peter Ackroyd vs. John Fowles

Pasi, Marco

(University of Amsterdam / History of Hermeticism and Related Currents), THE
NETHERLANDS

Early Forms of Abstract Art and Spiritualism: Georgiana Houghton's Spirit Drawings

Percec, Dana

(University of the West / English, Timisoara), ROMANIA

*Weird Sisters and Overthrown Charms: Representations of Witchcraft and Magic in Tudor and
Stuart England*

Péter, Róbert

(University of Szeged / English), HUNGARY

Hidden Numbers: the Concept of Esoteric(ism) in the Nineteenth-century British Press

Pijenburg, Joyce

(University of Amsterdam / Center for the History of Hermetic Philosophy (PhD candidate)),
THE NETHERLANDS

"No Query Escapes These Ideis": Images in Bruno's Lampas Triginta Statuarum

Prinke, Rafał T.

(Eugeniusz Piasecki University of Poznan /), POLAND

*"Un gentilhomme polonais qui est un esprit élevé": Polish Travellers and Exiles in the 19th
Century Esoteric Revival*

Putnik, Noel

(Central European University / Medieval Studies, Budapest (PhD candidate)), SERBIA /
HUNGARY

Agrippa's Cosmic Ladder: Building a World with Words in the "De Occulta Philosophia"

Santos Silva, Francisco

(Universidade Nova de Lisboa), 2010-11-17-receipts

What is the Right Sigil?: Mather's Use of Sigils in the Clavicula Salomonis

Schorsch, Jonathan

(Columbia University / Religion, New York), USA

Angels, Avant Gardes, and the Esoteric Archive

Sedgwick, Mark

(Aarhus University / Center for Arabic Studies), DENMARK

Sufism in the Romantic Imagination

Semetsky, Inna

(University of Newcastle, Australia), AUSTRALIA

The Visual Symbolism of Tarot Images: Implications for Contemporary Geopolitics

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Shore, Paul

(Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba), CANADA

"Even just in this manner death doth play with us": Moral Lessons, Metaphors and Esoteric Knowledge in the "Zodiacus Christianus" of Jeremias Drexel

Stockinger, Hermann E.

(Independent scholar, Vienna), AUSTRIA

Explaining John Dee with the Knowledge of an 17th Century Esotericist. Friedrich Geissler's Translation and Commentary of the "Monas Hieroglyphica".

Szilágyi, Tamás

(University of Szeged / Religious Studies), HUNGARY

Emerging of New Myths and Myth-makers in Hungarian Neopaganism

Szőnyi, György E.

(University of Szeged / English; Central European University / History, Budapest), HUNGARY

Myth and Magic in Victorian Enoch

Tamari, Assaf

(Ben Gurion University of the Negev / Department of Jewish Thought), ISRAEL

"And I Asked Him to Tell Me Who My Soul was": Fragmentation and Destabilization of the Kabbalist's self in Lurianic Anthropology

Thejls, Sara M.

(University of Copenhagen / History of Religions), DENMARK

Visuality and Audibility in Kabbalistic Theories of Language

Webster van Tonder, Christopher

(Aberystwyth University / School of Art), UK

Picturing the Volk: Icons of Ideology and the Myth of the Master Race

Wilke, Carsten

(Central European University, Budapest / History), HUNGARY

Where Geometry Meets Kabbalah: Paul Yvon's Esoteric Engravings

Willard, Thomas

(University of Arizona / English, Tucson), USA

Illustrations and Symbols in Andreae's "Chymische Hochzeit"

Wilson, Cecile

(Carleton University / German, Ottawa), CANADA

Concealment and Revelation in Rembrandt's "Scholar in His Study, Watching a Magic Disk"

Winter, Franz

(University of Vienna / Religious Studies), AUSTRIA

Western Esotericism and Japanese Manga Literature

Zuber, Mike A.

(Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich / Literature and Culture Studies), SWITZERLAND

Depicting Alchemical Substances: Johann Joachim Becher's Mineralogia (1662)

The National Socialists were not too fond of the German Anthroposophists either, because as Hitler and the Nazis perceived it all "Freemasons, Jews, and the Press, etc., were all in cahoots, and apart of a global international conspiracy to implement the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Again, what of this has anything to do with Helena Blavatsky's writings? What has Adolf Hitler, a man who presented himself as the guarantor of the Volk "pleading "give me four years," and pumped high up on drugs (Adolf Hitler abused drugs) during the war, be anything a man Blavatsky, or the Rosicrucian chiefs would have admired? Ideas behind Adolf Hitler's ideology, or the National Socialists who were interested in... It testifies, the author notes, to the extraordinary impact National Socialism made on him when he was a student in Bavaria. He was equally impressed by the extraordinary evanescence of the Nazi experience as he experienced it 20 years later when he was a British diplomat in Hanover and Bonn. Alfred Rosenberg and Nazi Ideology. By Robert Cecil. Illustrated. 256 pp. Though Rosenberg was a man of relative probity by Nazi standards, "The Myth" incidentally made him rich. With the stoic heroism of the dedicated biographer, Cecil has demonstrably read it, which is more than can be said of Rosenberg's colleagues and contemporaries. The other Nuremberg defendants were unanimous, credible, and apparently rather proud, that they had not read it. Indeed, German National Socialism provides the master case for the proposition that the sacrality of a religion of nature "masks -- and often quite explicitly reveals -- a passionate concern for place and mastery in society." To illustrate this thesis, we will first look briefly at the philosophical roots of German National Socialism. and as National Socialist actions and ideology were aimed at seizing control of German destiny, the National Socialist religion of nature constituted the ultimate expression of sacrality masking "a passionate concern for place and mastery in society." Savitri Devi and the National Socialist Religion of Nature. Nicholas Goodrick-Clark has observed with some justification that. National Socialism is one of the most unusual and documented regressus ad uterum historical events in modern times. It's a unique case in history when a modern political party returned to its mythological past and built its essence around it. The Third Reich created their roots in Nordic mythology and their unilateral interpretation of it. So the legendary myths, the heroes, the Valhalla, and the Norse gods and legends become a model to look at with admiration. Richard Wagner, the true German bard, was able to bring this visionary universe, the Mythos, to the forefront as a part of the collective unconscious of a people-race, the Volk. However, the Third Reich used it as a representation of the national socialist man moving to his "Ilkisch self" realization. National Socialist ideology and the fascist aesthetic that developed alongside it, was a dynamic and contradictory amalgam of high modernism and neo-classicism, of industrial rationality and agrarian romanticism, biological materialism, and racial mysticism. To be sure, Goebbels and his acolytes were always willing to make concessions to the market and the needs of propaganda. National-Socialist-era photographers also glorified labour, though in ways that emphasized technology as well as race, creating images not dissimilar from those idealizing industrialization in America or the Soviet Union. Photos of the German Heimat were, in contrast, especially romanticized and racialized, drawing on the mythical imagination of Germany's past and future.