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Western Esotericism: A Concise History (SUNY Series In Western Esoteric Traditions)



Synopsis

Widely received in France, this brief, comprehensive introduction to Western esotericism by the founder of the field is at last available in English. A historical and pedagogical guide, the book is written primarily for students and novices. In clear, precise language, author Antoine Faivre provides an overview of Western esoteric currents since late antiquity. The bulk of the book is laid out chronologically, from ancient and medieval sources (Alexandrian hermetism, gnosticism, neoplatonism), through the Renaissance up to the present time. Its coverage includes spiritual alchemy, Jewish and Christian Kabbalah, Christian theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Illuminism, 'mystical' Free-Masonry, the Occultist current, Theosophical and Anthroposophical Societies, the Traditionalist School, and 'esotericism' in contemporary initiatic societies and in New Religious Movements. Faivre explores how these currents are connected, and refers to where they appear in art and literature. The book concludes with an annotated bibliography, which makes it an essential resource for beginners and scholars alike.

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Customer Reviews

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Antoine Faivre is Professor Emeritus at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Religious Studies), Sorbonne. He has published extensively, including *Access to Western Esotericism* and *The Golden Fleece and Alchemy*, both also published by SUNY Press. Christine Rhone has translated numerous books, including Faivre's *Theosophy, Imagination, Tradition: Studies in Western Esotericism*, also published by SUNY Press.

A guide from a great teacher and researcher of the hermetic tradition. Great help for those who want to learn.

Nice introduction to the subject and its academic study.

Excellent!!!

This book is very dense for its small size. But a great starting point if wanting to know more on this particular topic

A great book on Western Esotericism, since I haven't finished reading it yet, all I can say is that the price was right and the shipping was fast, thanks.

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