



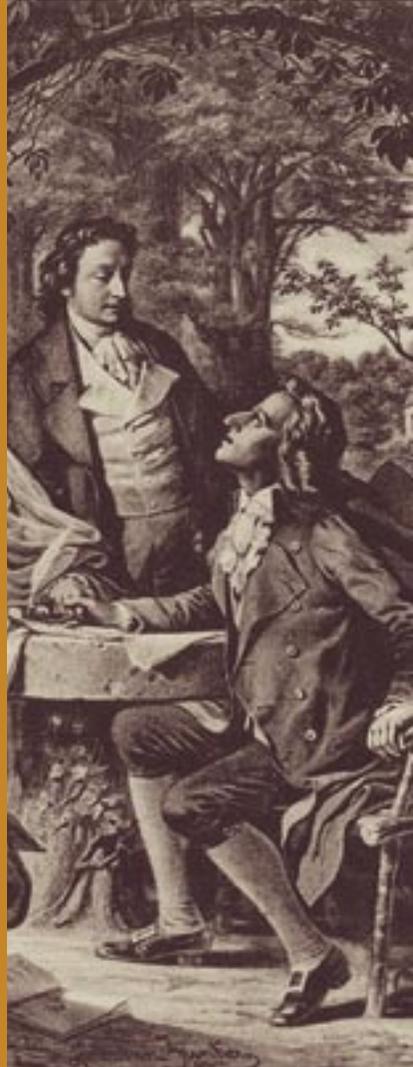
NEW YORK OPEN CENTER
AND LAPIS MAGAZINE ONLINE
present

An Esoteric Quest in Central Europe:

From Renaissance Bohemia
to Goethe's Weimar

AUGUST 31–SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Co-sponsored with the Alchemy Museum in Kutná Hora
and the Lumen Foundation



JOIN US ON A QUEST

for the profound esoteric truths that await us in the forgotten corners of Central Europe. The Open Center has produced four previous conferences in Europe on the Western Esoteric Tradition in the Czech Republic, Wales and Italy. Now we pick up the golden thread anew with a unique conference that will travel from the medieval silver mining town of Kutná Hora, an hour east of Prague, to the pearl of Bohemian spas, Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) and conclude in the evocative and beautiful Thuringian town of Weimar, home of the great German poet, playwright, novelist and scientist, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

This journey will be both spiritual and geographic. We will begin by evoking the profound alchemical, hermetic and kabbalistic world of late medieval and renaissance Bohemia. We will enter the half-forgotten philosophy, spirituality and art of this period and look at how this esoteric tradition has gone on to influence Twentieth Century writers and thinkers. After three days we will travel west to the secluded valley and forests of the beautiful spa town of Mariánské Lázně, a place to which countless nineteenth century cultural icons made a pilgrimage for its tranquility and healing presence.

After two nights relaxing amidst the waters and forests, we will journey on to Weimar, home also for many years to Schiller, Nietzsche, Bach, Liszt, and Rudolf Steiner, to name but a few. The town's leafy boulevards, medieval squares, and multiple layers of cultural and spiritual history evoke a forgotten Germany when idealism, art and the esoteric all mixed to create an unrivaled spiritual oasis that offered nourishment to many of the finest artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Our quest will be to follow the Western Esoteric Tradition from sixteenth century Bohemia to its reemergence in Goethe's artistic and scientific work. And throughout we will ponder the special spiritual gift that this tradition offers to the contemporary world.

Speakers include many outstanding British, American, Czech and German scholars, researchers and writers.

Contact Andrea Lomanto at 212.219.2527 ext.101 or write quest@opencenter.org for more information.



Let Nature Be Thy Guide—Michael Maier

PLENARY SESSIONS



Jacob Boehme and His Theosophical Vision

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, D.Phil.

Jacob Boehme (1575–1624), a simple shoemaker of Görlitz, is regarded as the pioneer of theosophy, the wisdom of the divine, in the modern era. One day, when gazing on a dazzling light produced by the sun's rays breaking on a pewter vessel, Boehme felt himself surrounded with celestial light and filled with ecstatic joy. He walked into the fields with a newly opened vision that penetrated to the inmost essence of all things. His works elaborated a rich tableau of Hermetic cosmology and alchemical ideas. This talk surveys Boehme's life and esoteric cosmology together with visual images of the "three worlds" and the choices facing all human beings.

Oratory and Laboratory: Heinrich Khunrath's Alchemy, Magic and Cabala

Peter Forshaw, Ph.D.

Heinrich Khunrath of Leipzig (1560–1605) 'doctor of both medicines and faithful lover of theosophy' has been variously described as 'one of the most remarkable theosophists and alchemists of the late Sixteenth Century' and 'one of the greatest Hermetic philosophers.' His magnum opus, *The Amphitheatre of Eternal Wisdom*, is best known for its collection of occult engravings which have been counted among the most important mystical drawings in the world. This talk will discuss how Khunrath's notions of knowledge and wisdom, research and revelation formed complementary facets of a worldview that aimed at the integration of scientific knowledge and religious belief under the motto '*Ora et Labora*' (Pray and Work).

Charting Rosicrucian Europe

Christopher McIntosh, D. Phil.

This talk explores the key role of Bohemia in the Rosicrucian tradition and describes the transmission of Rosicrucian ideas into other parts of Europe and the people who were influenced by them, including Goethe, Rudolf Steiner and other writers and thinkers.

Kutná Hora: Its History, Tradition and Metallic Blood

Vaclav Cilek

Kutná Hora is located in an area where more than 20 ceramic prehistorical cultures have been discovered. Two "hengese"—circular sanctuaries made of earth and wood and a thousand years older than Stonehenge—were recently revealed. The town developed during the Romanesque and Gothic periods into the second most important Bohemian city next to Prague, and represented one of the major medieval European silver deposits until its decline in the late 16th-century. Kutná Hora is listed as a UNESCO Heritage Site and has its sacred urban geometry, a feeling of lost glory, the dark symbolism of underground labyrinths, and some bright soft melody under its skin.

Note: A night walk after the talk may reveal some traces of past ages, feelings and ideas.

Mystical Sisters: Images of the Alchemical Feminine

M.E. Warlick, Ph.D.

Alchemists describe the world as polarized into masculine and feminine forces. Masculine Sulphur comprises all hot, dry, and fixed qualities, while feminine Mercury represents the cool, moist, and volatile qualities of matter. The alchemist separates, refines, and reunites these two polarities within the laboratory. Alchemical illustrations depict the sexual dynamics of their "Chemical Wedding" and equate the production of the Philosopher's Stone to human conception, pregnancy, and birth. This talk will focus on the evolution of female images in alchemical manuscripts and printed books, illuminating the many planetary, religious, royal, and mythological figures, who come to represent the alchemical feminine.



The Esoteric Quest from Antiquity to the Renaissance

Leonard George, Ph.D.

What is the esoteric quest? It arises from a yearning as old as humanity—some people of every era have felt called to seek a spiritual reality within or beyond the realms of sense and self. In each culture, the quest takes on specific forms that evolve over time. The Western esoteric quest is rooted in the ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern world. By late antiquity many paths beckoned the seeker, from Hermetism and Gnosticism to Mysteries and Theurgies. Fed by Medieval and Islamic streams, the Renaissance recovery of ancient lore triggered the blooming of the Western Esoteric Tradition.

Paracelsus/Goethe/Steiner

Dennis Klocek, M.F.A.

Paracelsus was the first to break away from the science that came out of the ancient world unchanged by the realities of the physical world. He did this by studying phenomena. This alchemical approach passed into the soul of Goethe as a deep respect for observation of the natural world as a process. Through Goethe's work this approach to science became phenomenology. Rudolf Steiner, inspired by the scientific writings of Goethe, founded a science of the spirit that used phenomenology as an approach to the development of higher powers of seeing on the path of self transformation. This lecture will address the common elements in the work of these three seminal thinkers.

The Eternal Feminine: Goethe in Marienbad

Christopher Bamford

In the summer of 1823, when Goethe was seventy-four, he came to Marienbad, overflowing with passion, to propose marriage to Ulrike van Levetzov, who was then nineteen. Rejected, he wrote his last great love poem, "The Trilogy of Passion." For Goethe, this act of folly and wisdom was the culmination of a lifetime's devotion to the eternal feminine and life lived as an alchemical adventure. What is the "eternal feminine that draws us on"? What is the role of eros in the realization of the Philosopher's Stone? Goethe's life was dedicated to such questions. Thus, he becomes exemplary of a certain aspect of the "Hermetic" life.

The Hermetic Harvest of Goethe's Alchemical Retreat

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, D.Phil.

In 1768 the young Goethe fell ill, broke off his studies at Leipzig University and returned home. Throughout the next year, in the company of his friend Susanna von Klettenberg, he became familiar with the writings of Jacob Boehme, pietists, and alchemists such as Paracelsus, and the early eighteenth-century writer Georg von Welling. He made practical experiments in alchemy and read theosopher Emanuel Swedenborg. This talk traces the sources of Goethe's studies in Hermeticism and alchemy, and shows the powerful effect they had upon his literary imagination and scientific thought, both in his great drama *Faust* and his work on botany.

The Alchemy of Goethe's Fairy Tale

Dennis Klocek, M.F.A.

The great poet Goethe penned *The Fairy Tale of the Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*. That work is an epic esoteric story of magical transformation that is deeply rooted in alchemical thinking and the alchemical language of symbols. Goethe took his lead from the Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosencreutz and wove a tale that can be used to build a bridge between ancient esoteric lore and the modern path of Initiation science. In this lecture the symbolic themes of the kings, the ferryman, the Lily and the Green Snake will be presented in the context of current alchemical practice and concepts that lead from the laboratory to self transformation within the human soul.

Ritual Illumination: The 'Higher' Masonic Orders, the Illuminati, and the Esoteric Quest

Jay Kinney

This presentation will examine the rise of the so-called higher degrees of Freemasonry in Germany and France in the mid-1700s and their possible role as transmitters of the Western esoteric traditions. Out of this milieu came both the romantic myth of the Knights Templar and the revolutionary myth of the Illuminati. Was there real spiritual substance to these pursuits or were they exercises in self-glorification—or perhaps a bit of both? What is their significance and legacy today? Answers will be proposed to these questions as we delve into this fascinating era of ritual creativity.



Georg von Welling

Alchemy and Chemistry in the Work of Goethe

Helmut Gebelein, Ph.D.
and Heiko Barth

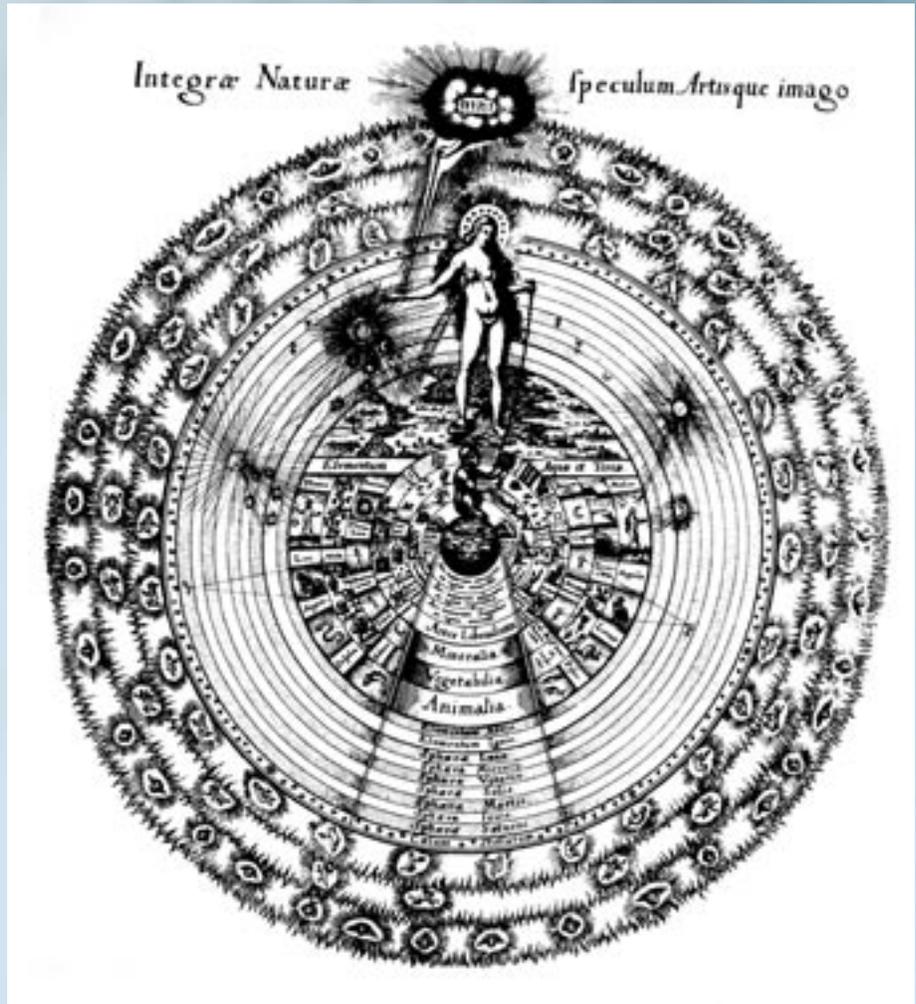
This talk focuses on Goethe's knowledge of alchemy and chemistry and examines the alchemical ideas in *Faust*, or *Das Märchen (The Fairy Tale)*, as well as in the writings on natural science such as *The Theory of Colors*. Also illustrated is the influence of modern chemistry—which was in the making during the lifetime of Goethe—on the novel *Elective Affinities*. Goethe was responsible for the installation of the first professors of chemistry at the university of Jena, and throughout his life he was interested in alchemy and chemistry. During the lecture there will be demonstrations of alchemical and chemical experiments Goethe has or may have performed.

“Will not in the end all become soul?”

Novalis and
Sophie von Kuhn

Christopher Bamford

Friedrich von Hardenberg (called “Novalis”) was the great prophet and forerunner of Sophianic consciousness, which he called “magical idealism.” He created a body of work of such radiance, transformative feeling, and philosophical depth that only now can we begin to understand the vision he embodied. Called “to cultivate the earth,” to baptize and humanize it by love raised to the highest power, Novalis’ initiation and transformation came through his encounter with a young girl, Sophie von Kuhn. He created a new world in which the realities of alchemy, Hermeticism, and the purest Christianity were renewed in the human soul.



Robert Fludd's *The Mirror of the Whole of Nature and the Image of Art*



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Three Phases of Inventing Rosicrucian Tradition in the Seventeenth century

Susanna Åkerman, Ph.D.

We will examine the Rosicrucian Tradition by looking at images from the Kutná Hora alchemist Daniel Stolcius' little known "*album amicorum*," now in Uppsala. We will also focus on John Dee's *Monas hieroglyphica* and its use by later Rosicrucian alchemists in the seventeenth century. Johannes Bureus' *Adulruna* will be compared to Dee's *Monas* to acquire new insight into Isaac's blessing over Jacob in Genesis: "God give thee of the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth"; how it is treated in the Zohar and in the development of the clandestine attempt to explain the Rosicrucian "sign and seal" FRC as *Fratres roris cocti*, the mysterious Brothers of Boiled Dew.

Goethe in Bohemia

Lubos Antonin, Ph.D.

Goethe's many visits to Bohemia, including his stays in Marienbad, and at the monastery at Tepla, were meticulously documented in a recent exhibit in the Czech Republic. This afternoon, the exhibit's curator will present his discoveries and bring alive the cultural and geographic worlds that Goethe inhabited as he journeyed through this deeply intriguing part of Central Europe.

Sacred and Symbolic Gardens of Europe

Christopher McIntosh, D.Phil.

Gardens can be places of initiatory experience, filled with deliberately created symbolic meaning. This workshop describes and illustrates some remarkable European examples of such gardens and parks and will give some suggestions for creating one's own garden of meaning.

Hermetic Transmutation through the Images of the Tarot

Part I: Silver, the Albedo, and the heavenly Sophia

Part II: Gold, the Rubado, and the Philosopher's Stone

Ellen Goldberg, M.A.

These two workshops honor the alchemical metals of the Coniunctio, Silver and Gold. Using the transformative images of the Tarot, we will engage the subconscious, using the study of symbols, guided meditation, and active imagination. In Kutná Hora, site of the Imperial Silver mines, we will evoke states associated with Silver and the Moon, including soul, imagination, memory and the Divine Sophia. In Weimar we take our inspiration from the Golden age in which brilliant artists suffused this town with their genius. Gold evokes the Inner Sun, the Heart, the Christ principle and illuminating consciousness. Our aim is an experience of the marriage of the Masculine and Feminine.

Alchemical Literature in the Castle Libraries of the Czech Lands

Lubos Antonin, Ph.D.

More than three hundred well-preserved libraries in the Czech lands, formerly belonging to aristocrats, create a unique historical resource. The aristocracy was involved in spreading Freemasonry in the latter part of the 18th-century and turned its attention to alchemy. Its financial resources permitted the purchase of a vast quantity of historically and artistically important works connected with an alchemy.

Meditations on the Genius Loci

Donata Pahnke, Ph.D.

The ceremonies of ritual expert Donata Pahnke serve as a meditative deepening of the themes of the journey. These include a daily morning meditation, spiritual attunement to the *genius loci* of the different stations of the tour, and spontaneous rituals in places of spiritual significance.

From Star Palace to White Mountain: the English in Bohemia (1570–1620)

Elizabeth's ambassador to Prague in 1577, Sir Philip Sidney visited a small palace, in the shape of a star, combining elements of astrology, alchemy and the pagan mysteries of classical learning. Here was a symbol of that Bohemia which the Sidney circle hoped might serve as a cultural model for Britain. But some 40 years later, a few hundred yards away, these hopes were dashed at the Battle of White Mountain in 1620, a decisive Habsburg victory. This presentation looks at the lost dreams of travelers from London to Prague during this period.



(above) Goethe's Garden House 1800; (right) Goethe's Garden House present



The Alchemical Path: Meditations on Alchemical Themes

Clare Goodrick-Clarke

In meditations we will enter imaginatively into the alchemical drama and explore the transformational journey of the mind and heart that is initiated by the alchemical process.

Alchemy works with inner and outer correspondences, and brings us into a domain where the substance in the flask creates a subtle but profound non-verbal interchange with the psyche of the observer. The emerging allegorical and symbolic intimations from the *univers imaginaris*, mediate an experience of our own inner psychodynamic state and offer the possibility of growth and integration into higher states of being.

Art and Alchemy: An Illustrated Talk

Clare Goodrick-Clarke

This talk will explore the symbiotic relationship between art and alchemy and also look at the persona of the alchemist in the mirror of art, including Goethe's own protagonist, Dr Faust. From the sumptuous interiors of 17th-century Netherlandish genre painting to the 19th-century Romantic movement, paintings on the theme of alchemy provide a remarkable insight into the rapidly changing worlds of science and social culture. Many artists' colors and techniques were only discovered through alchemy, and Goethe's own investigations of light and color were stimulated at least in part by the colors of alchemy.



Marienbad 1800s

The English Romantics and the Esoteric Tradition

Paul Bembridge, M.Phil.

Blake, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Byron and the Shelleys—the names of the English Romantics are set in stone, and so, we might think, are their principal teachings concerning the need for unmediated spiritual contact with the sublime forces of nature. But was there not also an element of tutored response to the mysteries of life, learned from the alternative spiritual traditions of the West? This presentation tests some of our long-cherished assumptions about the Romantics and explores some of the little-trodden pathways which connect them to the sages of the Renaissance and earlier masters of the esoteric tradition.

Hieroglyphic Wisdom: Visual Philosophy and the Hermetic Tarot

Leigh J. McCloskey

Author, artist, actor and visual philosopher Leigh J. McCloskey will explore the implication of Hermetic science, perennial wisdom and the archetypal theatre of the psyche. He will discuss his seventeen-year odyssey of adventuring into the heart of the Tarot, its transforming vital knowledge, and how it creates the imaginative ground from which to reclaim our mythic selves and the ancient symbolical languages of visual philosophy. He will also touch upon his other creative experiments involving mandalas and multidimensional fractal environments all based upon his painting. His work ties together the ancient worlds with the modern, art with science and beauty with knowledge.



Alchemy as Empirical Cosmology

Christopher Bamford

Older than recorded history, Alchemy is sacred science—the ancient, primordial, sacred science of Nature and Life: the primal cosmological revelation. Dedicated to healing and harmony, resting upon non-dual experience, in various forms it has accompanied, sustained, and underlain every epoch in humanity's evolution and is present in all historical cultures from India and China in the East to the Abrahamic West. Originating in the ancient Mysteries, with their decline and the rise of the world's great Religions, alchemy always adapted itself to the changing circumstances to become the path of the empirical cosmological realization.

Hermetic Visions: Alchemy in Contemporary British Literature

Alexandra Lembert, Ph.D.

Historians of Science often claim that during the Age of Enlightenment the practice of alchemy lost its significance as a 'serious' discipline and consequently nearly vanished from the cultural surface. Even though this observation is correct with regards to modern science, it is only partly true for literature, for alchemy never ceased to inspire the artistic imagination. This workshop briefly refers to the post-Enlightenment literary tradition and its dealing with alchemy before discussing various interpretations of alchemy by contemporary British authors (such as Peter Ackroyd, Lindsay Clarke, Bruce Chatwin or Hilary Mantel) in more detail.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Alchemy and The Art of Healing

Helmut Gebelein, Ph.D.

This workshop offers a history of alchemy and the art of healing. It begins with a short biography of Paracelsus, the great alchemist and physician, and explains his theory of sickness. Remedies can be prepared according to the ideas of Paracelsus. We will examine his methods and the philosophy of preparation, known as “spagyrik”. Spagyrical remedies are still produced today and examples will be given.

Rudolf Steiner, Weimar and the Western Tradition

Ralph White

Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925), the Austrian philosopher, educator and spiritual teacher, lived in Weimar in the late Nineteenth Century while he was researching Goethe’s scientific works in the Goethe/Schiller Archives. One of the most remarkable spiritual figures of the last hundred years, he left an unrivaled holistic legacy in the form of Waldorf Education, Biodynamic Agriculture and the worldwide anthroposophical movement. This workshop examines his life and accomplishments, his penetrating spiritual insight into the contemporary world, and addresses his profound views of destiny, karma and the life between death and rebirth.



Goethe & Schiller statue in Weimar

Alchemy in the Czech Lands: The Role of Kutná Hora

Vladimir Karpenko, Ph.D.

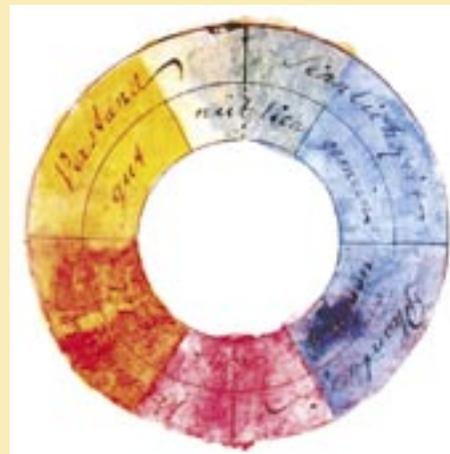
Alchemical activity in Bohemia becomes important in the Fifteenth Century.

The first Czech treatise appears at that point, and further personalities connected with Kutná Hora emerged in the 16th and 17th centuries: Daniel Stolcius was born there, and Wenzel Seiler worked there as the master of the mint. The greatest flourish of alchemy came into being during the reign of Rudolf II, when important Czech and foreign (Maier, Sendivogius, and Drebber) alchemists lived in Bohemia. After the Thirty Year’s War there was a period of decline which continued until the end of the 18th century when Bergner, the last Prague Alchemist, operated his laboratory.

In Scripture and Picture: Theosophical and Hieroglyphical Figures in Khunrath’s Amphitheatre of Eternal Wisdom

Peter Forshaw, Ph.D.

Khunrath and his *Amphitheatre*, though frequently praised, are rarely understood, and largely misrepresented, due to the obstacles his works present with their mélange of Latin, German, Hebrew and Greek, subsequent lack of reliable translated material, and the dearth of research in the area of occult philosophy and learned magic. In the workshop, we will look in more detail at his twelve ‘hieroglyphical’ and ‘theosophical’ figures, examining the interplay between image and text, speculating on inter-connections between the various images and comparing them to other representations of the occult worldview in early modern Europe.



Goethe's Color Wheel



Alchemists at work



Excerpt from Khunrath's Amphitheatre

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Evening events during the conference will include the following:

An Evening of Alchemical Music

Some of the Czech Republic's most gifted musicians will play music from the Sixteenth Century with special emphasis on Michael Maier's *Atalanta Fugiens*.



An Evening with Goethe

Actor Frank Metzger will portray Goethe and perform selected scenes in English from Goethe's most beloved works.



Kutná Hora

A Night Walk through Kutná Hora

Vaclav Cilek, one of the Czech Republic's best known cultural and scientific figures, will lead us on a night walk through the lanes, cathedrals, and mysteries of this ancient, silent town.

An Evening of Music from the Romantic Era

One evening in Weimar will be devoted to music from the period of Goethe and Schiller that is intended to evoke the mood of soul that characterized this golden time.



National Theater in Weimar

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

A Day in Marienbad

Monday, September 4th, will be a day devoted to the enjoyment of Marienbad and its surrounding forests and waters. For centuries, writers beginning with Goethe, musicians, and visitors seeking rest and renewal have strolled the peaceful forest paths outside the town and enjoyed the pleasures of the healing waters in the town's sophisticated spas.



A Town Square in Weimar

Walking Tour of Weimar

Weimar has a stunningly rich cultural heritage from the painter Lucas Cranach the Elder to Bach, Herder, Schiller, Nietzsche, Bauhaus and the Weimar Republic. A walking tour of the town will be available each afternoon that gives special emphasis to Rudolf Steiner and Freemasonry. Conference participants can also visit Goethe's town house, his garden house where he wrote *Faust*, the Nietzsche Archives, and wander the many leafy boulevards and medieval squares that make this town so delightful.



Weimar Market

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Susanna Åkerman, Ph.D., worked as a research fellow in the History of Ideas at Uppsala University and the University of Stockholm. She is the author of *Rose Cross over the Baltic: The Spread of Rosicrucianism in Northern Europe*.

Luboš Antonín, Ph.D., studied philosophy and history at Charles University. Since the beginning of the 90's he has worked in the National Museum Library in the department of Castle Libraries, where he is responsible for the expert processing of 1,600,000 books from the 9th to the mid 20th century.

Christopher Bamford is editorial director of Lindisfarne/Steiner books and the author of *An Endless Trace: The Passionate Pursuit of Wisdom in the West*.

Paul Bembridge, M.Phil., a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, has a life-long interest in the alternative spiritual traditions of the West developed over a long career teaching literature in UK universities.

Vaclav Cilek is one of the Czech Republic's best known writers and film makers on science, geology, and spirituality. An expert on topics as varied as caves and climate change, his films include a ten-part series on Bohemia Underground. He is the recipient of the 2005 Tom Stoppard Award for literary essays.

Peter Forshaw, Ph.D., teaches renaissance literature at Birkbeck College, University of London, where he is a British Academy Research Fellow.

Helmut Gebelein, Ph.D., is professor of chemistry at the University of Giessen and has written on alchemy and chemistry in the work of Goethe.

Leonard George, Ph.D., is a psychologist and one of Canada's leading scholars of the western esoteric tradition. He is the author of *Alternative Realities and Crimes of Perception*.

Ellen Goldberg, M.A., has taught the tarot and the hermetic tradition for many years at the Open Center.

Clare Goodrick-Clarke teaches the history of alchemy at the University of Exeter and is a practicing homeopath.

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, D.Phil., is professor of Western Esotericism at Exeter University in England and the author of many books on the western esoteric tradition.

Vladimir Karpenko, Ph.D., is professor of philosophy and the history of science at Charles University in Prague. A long-time member of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, he has written widely on the history and practice of alchemy in the Czech lands.

Jay Kinney was publisher of *GNOSIS: A Journal of the Western Inner Traditions* from 1985 to 1999. He is the editor of *The Inner West*, co-author of *Hidden Wisdom*, and author of *The Masonic Enigma*, to be published in 2007. He is a recipient of the 2005 Albert G. Mackey Award for Excellence in Masonic Research.

Dennis Klocek, M.F.A., is director of Goethean Studies at Rudolf Steiner College in California. He is the author of *Seeking Spirit Vision* and *The Seer's Handbook*.

Alexandra Lambert, Ph.D., teaches at the University of Leipzig and is the co-editor of *The Golden Egg: Alchemy in Art and Literature*.

Leigh J. McCloskey is an author, visual philosopher and actor. His first book, *Tarot ReVisioned* has been reviewed as one of the most important books on the Tarot in many years. He is currently working with Stanislas Kossowski De Rola on a television program dealing with esoteric themes.

Donata Pabnke, Ph.D., studied Religion, Psychology and Education and is a professional ritual teacher in Bremen, Germany. She runs the *Selene-Institute for Ritual* and teaches at various universities in Germany and Austria.

Christopher McIntosh (D.Phil., Oxford) has written books on Rosicrucianism, the French occultist Eliphas Lévi and, more recently, *Gardens of the Gods*, dealing with the sacred and symbolic dimensions of garden design. He has lectured at three previous Open Center conferences.

M. E. Warlick, Ph.D., is associate professor of European modern art at the University of Denver. She is the author of *Max Ernst and Alchemy: A Magician in Search of Myth* (2001) and *The Alchemy Stones*.

Ralph White is co-founder of the New York Open Center, one of America's leading institutions for holistic learning. He is the principal organizer of a series of conferences on the Western Esoteric Tradition of which this is the latest. He introduced and edited *The Rosicrucian Enlightenment Revisited*.

Conference Director: **Ralph White**, New York Open Center

MA in Western Esotericism at the University of Exeter, UK

A part-time, distance learning Master's programme for graduate students

Applications are now being taken for October 2006 entry.

- Modules include:
- Western Esoteric Traditions: historical survey
- Gnosticism
- Alexandrian Hermeticism, Neo-Platonism and Astrology
- Hermetic Art of Alchemy
- Renaissance Kabbalah
- Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry
- Theosophy

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER

Telephone: +44 (0)1392 263301
Email: n.goodrick-clarke@exeter.ac.uk
www.exeter.ac.uk/huss/postgrad/ma/esotericism.htm



Maik Schruck

ARRIVAL IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

All participants need to meet at the airport in Prague by 10:30am on Thursday, August 31 to travel with the Open Center to Kutná Hora, approximately one hour east. If your travel plans do not allow for this, information will be provided so that you may travel independently to your hotel in Kutná Hora. We recommend that you arrive in time to check in to your hotel, relax, and then join us for dinner at 6pm. Maps and directions will be provided.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will begin in Kutná Hora on Thursday, August 31, at 6pm with dinner, followed by a welcome, introduction and orientation. After three days we will travel west on Sunday, September 3, to Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad). After two nights we will journey on Tuesday, September 5, to Weimar. The conference concludes after lunch on Friday, September 8.

PRE & POST-CONFERENCE WALKING TOURS

We are researching the possibility of a walking tour of the esoteric sites of Prague on Wednesday, August 30, as well as a walking tour of Berlin on Friday, September 9, visiting sites related to Rudolf Steiner.

REFUNDS

A refund will only be given if cancellation happens by Monday, August 14. A \$200 cancellation fee will be deducted from the refund.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE FEE

06SQUEST

Registration by June 15: \$1975
\$2125 (with room upgrade)

July 15: \$2075
\$2225 (with room upgrade)

August 15: \$2175
\$2375 (with room upgrade)

All accommodations are in double rooms. Please specify if you will be attending as a couple or wish to share a room with a friend.

Price includes full conference, all accommodations (August 31–September 7) and meals, evening entertainment, and ground transport between cities and from Prague's airport to Kutná Hora.

PAYMENT

All payment is in US dollars. Please pay by credit card, international money order, or personal check (US bank accounts only). Prices do not include travel to Europe. An affordable payment plan is available. Please contact Andrea Lomanto at 212-219-2527, ext. 101, or at quest@opencenter.org for details.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Registrants must make their own travel arrangements to Prague's airport and out of Weimar (Weimar is roughly equal distance between Frankfurt and Berlin).

..... *Detach here*

AN ESOTERIC QUEST IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Today's Date: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____ Traveling Companion: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Telephone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

FOR HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: Age: _____ Male Female

AMOUNT ENCLOSED—CONFERENCE FEE \$ _____ How did you hear about this conference?

Credit Card: MasterCard Visa AmEx NYOC Catalog Conference Brochure Internet Other

Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Check #: _____ (Please make check payable to: New York Open Center.)

Please mail to: New York Open Center, Attn: Esoteric Quest, 83 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012
Call **Andrea Lomanto** at 212.219.2527 x101 or email quest@opencenter.org for more information.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS INCLUDE

**Jacob Boehme
and His Theosophical Vision**

and

**The Hermetic Harvest of Goethe's
Alchemical Retreat**

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke

**Oratory and Laboratory:
Heinrich Khunrath's Alchemy,
Magic and Cabala**

Peter Forshaw

Paracelsus/Goethe/Steiner

Dennis Klocek

Charting Rosicrucian Europe
Christopher McIntosh

**Mystical Sisters:
Images of the
Alchemical Feminine**

M.E. Warlick

**The Esoteric Quest
from Antiquity to
the Renaissance**

Leonard George

**The Eternal Feminine:
Goethe in Marienbad**

and

**Novalis and
Sophie von Kuhn**

Christopher Bamford

**"Ritual Illumination:
The 'Higher' Masonic Orders,
the Illuminati, and
the Esoteric Quest."**

Jay Kinney



WWW.OPENCENTER.ORG

WWW.LAPISMAGAZINE.ORG



An Esoteric Quest in Central Europe:

From Renaissance
Bohemia to Goethe's Weimar

AUGUST 31–SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

NEW YORK
OPEN CENTER

NY'S LEADING CENTER OF HOLISTIC LEARNING & WORLD CULTURE
83 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012



Alchemy Museum in Kutná Hora

The World's First Museum Dedicated to Alchemy in all its Aspects

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage

PAID

New York, NY
Permit #03101