HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS

REPORT 2007
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1. Introduction
The year 2007 has been a solid and good one both in terms of research and of teaching. As a research group, GHF enjoys an excellent reputation in the context of the Institute for Culture and History; and likewise, the teaching programs on the Bachelor and Master level are very well regarded by the Teaching Institute and the Graduate School of Humanities. Internationally, GHF maintains an uncontested leadership role in the field of Western esotericism as a field of academic research. All in all, the situation of stability and consistent quality that was created in previous years is maintained during 2007 as well.

2. Personnel
Unfortunately Roelie van Kreijl’s position as Ph.D. student has had to be discontinued before termination of her period of appointment. A standard procedure for selecting her successor was initiated after the summer, and has resulted in the appointment of Tessel Bauduin, who has started in 2008 and will therefore be further introduced in the next annual report.
Dr. Kennet Granholm (Finland) is spending a year at GHF as an unaffiliated researcher. He is working on a book about contemporary “Left-Hand” magical orders.

3. Teaching
3.1. Teaching Program
Like last year, the BA minor “Westerse esoterie” consisted of four modules: Hermetica I: Inleiding Westerse esoterie (taught by Hanegraaff, Pasi, von Stuckrad), Hermetica II: Oudheid/Middeleeuwen (taught by von Stuckrad), Hermetica III: Vroeg moderne periode (taught by Hanegraaff) and Hermetica IV: 18e/20e eeuw (taught by Pasi). Furthermore, von Stuckrad has again taught the introductory course religious studies (now titled “Religiestudies: Methoden en Thema’s”) in the Bachelor.

3.2. Level of participation

2nd semester 2006-2007

- Bachelor
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Hermetica II</td>
<td>Kocku von Stuckrad</td>
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<td>Hermetica IV</td>
<td>Marco Pasi</td>
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<td>Religiestudies: Meth&amp;Thema’s</td>
<td>Kocku von Stuckrad</td>
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- Master Trajectory Mysticism and Western Esotericism

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1st semester 2007-2008

- Bachelor
  
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<td>Hermetica I</td>
<td>Wouter Hanegraaff,</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marco Pasi</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Kocku von Stuckrad

Hermetica III

Wouter Hanegraaff 12 students

• Master Trajectory Mysticism and Western Esotericism

Contested Knowledge II

Wouter Hanegraaff 15 students

Renaissance Esotericism II

Kocku von Stuckrad 17 students

• Research Master Religious Studies

Methods and Theory in the Study of Religion

Marco Pasi (coord.) 7 studenten

Religious Pluralism in Europe

Kocku von Stuckrad, Rob Pauls 21 studenten

4. Research

4.1. Research Program

The research program *Western Esotericism: Continuities and Discontinuities* has continued as normal. For descriptions of the individual research projects see Report 2006, and for the research output, see section 4.2.

4.2. Research Output.

W.J. Hanegraaff


M. Pasi


C.K.M. von Stuckrad


5. Further Activities

5.1. Conference Organization


5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation

W.J. Hanegraaff


‘Western Esotericism in Enlightenment Historiography: The Case of Jacob Brucker’. *Constructing Tradition: Means and Myths of Transmission in Western Esotericism,*
Inaugural Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), Tübingen, Germany, 20.7.2007.


M. Pasi

‘Lo studio storico dell’esoterismo: concetti e problemi’, Invited lecture at the University of Turin, 26.3.2007.


‘Konx Om Pax: The Mystery of the Mysteries in the 18th Century’, Constructing Tradition: Means and Myths of Transmission in Western Esotericism, Inaugural Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), Tübingen, Germany, 22.7.2007.


C.K.M. von Stuckrad


‘Wisdom beyond Demonstration: Experiential Knowledge From Late Antiquity to the 13th Century in Interreligious Perspective’. Conference Forms and Currents of Western Esotericism, Venice, Italy, 30.10.2007.
O. Vasicek

‘Johannes Reuchlin’s Use of the Concept of the Sefirot’, Inaugural Conference

*European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism*, Tübingen, Germany, 20.7.2007.

5.3. Editorial Activities

W.J. Hanegraaff


(advisory board) *Esoterica* http://www.esoteric.msu.edu

(advisory board) *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. Carfax

(advisory board) *Nova Religio*, University of California Press.

(editorial board) *Religion Compass*, Section “New Religions”.

http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/religion/

M. Pasi


(editorial board) *Politica Hermetica*. Lausanne: L’Age d’Homme


C. K. M. von Stuckrad


6. Other

The new GHF website, built by Webspace Design, was put online early in 2007 and is working to full satisfaction.