



## The Golden Dawn Tradition in America

The Golden Dawn was founded by Dr. William Wynn Westcott, a London coroner, Master Mason and Secretary General of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia (Rosicrucian Society in England), who in 1887 gained possession of a secret manuscript, written in cipher and containing fragments of initiation rituals of unknown origin. Dr. Westcott managed to decipher the content and to flesh-out the fragments into full-scale rituals, which drew on numerous traditions such as the Kabbalah and the Hermetic Arts and Sciences.

On 1st March 1888, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was established with the opening of the Isis-Urania Temple at 17 Fitzroy Street, London, with Dr. Westcott, S. L. MacGregor Mathers (a member of the Rosicrucian Societies High Council) and Dr. W. R. Woodman, Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, as the three chiefs. The Gold- und Rosenkreuz (Rosicrucian) grading system was employed which consisted of ten grades or degrees, each corresponding to the ten Sephiroth of the Tree of Life of the Kabbalah. These grades were divided into three distinct Orders, referred to as the first (outer), second and third (inner). On 20 December 1891, Dr. Woodman died and no one was chosen to take his place in the Golden Dawn ruling triad. Mathers had supposedly made contact with Masters of the Inner Order, and under their authority, appointed himself Head of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Mathers was a dedicated scholar, linguist and creative ritualist. It was Mathers who developed the Second Order Curriculum, which was based largely on the Rosicrucian Legend.

In the spring of 1892, Mathers and his family moved to Paris and set up the Ahathoor Temple #7. Dr. Westcott assumed authority for the Order in England. By 1897 however, schisms were forming. Westcott was forced to withdraw from the Order due to outside political pressures, and the Head of the Order, S. L. MacGregor-Mathers, due to various disagreements with London Adepts, dismantled the Order and broke away to form the Rosicrucian Order of the Alpha et Omega (A.:O.:). Other disassociated Adepts soon followed suit, founding splinter groups of their own. In 1904, the first American temple of the A.:O.:, Thoth-Hermes #9 in New York, opened as an active first order temple (warrant granted by Mathers in 1897). The temple's Second Order was established in 1914. Between 1919 and 1921, three other temples were formed (Philadelphia - 1919 [Ptah #10], Los Angeles - 1920 [Atoum #20] and San Francisco – 1921 [Themis]). MacGregor-Mathers passed away at midnight on Tuesday, November 19, 1918. In his last moments he appointed his wife, Moina Mathers, along with John Brodie-Innes and Edmund Berridge as ruling Chiefs (the governing triad) of the Order. He named as his direct Successor and

as Supreme Chief of the Order, representing the Inner Order, the V.H. Frater Sub Spe (John Brodie-Innes).

During the heyday of the Golden Dawn (1888-1896), three hundred and fifteen initiations took place. Members included the renowned poet, William Butler Yeats, Arthur Edward Waite (creator of the world's most widely used tarot deck), Florence Farr (famous stage actress), the infamous Aleister Crowley, and in the later years, Dion Fortune and Dr. Israel Regardie.

The Golden Dawn, at its height, possessed the greatest known repository of Western magical knowledge, and was the Order that would virtually redefine the English Speaking occult world for the Twentieth Century. Today, almost every existing western magical tradition (including witchcraft) has been influenced in some form by the Golden Dawn teachings.

## **Dr. Paul Foster Case**

*"Dr. Paul Foster Case entered into his life's work at a very early age, due to his recall of past lives as a Qabalistic Initiate and Adept. His mission: to translate, enlarge and extend hitherto Secret Techniques of Tarot and Qabalah (teachings of the Ageless Wisdom) into terms understandable to and usable by the Modern Mind."*

Dr. Case was born in Perendora, New York (now called Fairport) at 5:38 PM on October 3, 1884. His father was caretaker of a private library and Deacon at a Congregational Church. His mother was a teacher.

At the age of three, Case's mother discovered his unique musical talents. She immediately began to teach him the piano and organ. Case was a precocious child and an avid reader. Ann Davies is quoted as saying, "He could not remember when he learned how to read, for by the age of four he was surreptitiously curled up with forbidden books in the attic of the library building, absorbing the knowledge of the ages with the same fervent eagerness a mystic experiences in reaching for God". At the age of seven, young Case became Organist for his father's Congregational Church.

In 1891, at the age of 7, Case discovered an ability to manipulate his dream states. He corresponded with Rudyard Kipling after reading his novel "Kim". Kipling assured him of the reality of the supersensory states that Case had been experiencing. In 1900, Case played at a charity performance, where occultist Claude Bragdon was also performing. Bragdon asked Case where he thought playing cards originated. Case was intrigued by the question, and set out to find the answer. He discovered, in his father's library, that they originated from Tarot (originally called the Game of Man). From this day forth, Case researched as much as he could concerning the Tarot and collected every book and Tarot deck available. Year after year, he poured over these Archetypal Images of Power, researching, delving, studying, meditating. He began to hear a Voice guiding him in his researches. The stimulus of Tarot had opened up his "Inner Hearing" to the highest spiritual levels.

His researches inevitably led him also to Qabalah, the "Secret Wisdom of Israel", which he found he "already knew". He did not have to study the Hebrew-Chaldean Script, for he "remembered" it. From 1905 to 1908, Case undertook extensive Yoga practice, which included a great deal of pranayama. In 1907, whilst in Chicago, Case read "The Secret of Mental Magic", by William Walker Atkinson (aka Ramachakra) and wrote to the author. Both Case & Atkinson met and became well-acquainted. This eventually led to their collaboration on "The Kybalion".

It was in 1910 that Case was approached on the streets of Chicago by a stranger who called him by name. He revealed Case's most secret thoughts and desires. This stranger, who we now know to have been Dr. Fludd, a prominent Chicago physician, told Case that he had been sent by a Master of Wisdom, who was the teacher of them both [the Master Rococzy]. Case sensed that he had a role to play in the development of human evolution, but at that stage, did not know what it was. In anticipation however, he increased his research and studies.

In late 1916, after many years of intense Tarot research and practice, Case published his attributions of the Tarot Keys in the magazine "The Word".

It was in 1918 that Case met Michael Whitty, editor of "Azoth", and Cancellarius of the Thoth-Hermes Lodge (#9) of the Rosicrucian Order of the Alpha et Omega, or A.:O.: (S.L. MacGregor-Mathers' post-Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn). Whitty soon recognized Case's abilities and invited him to join the Order. Case accepted, and was initiated into the A.:O.: in November 1918, taking the aspiration name "Perseverantia"; I will persevere. In the same year, due to Case's extensive expertise, he was appointed Sub-Praemonstrator of the Thoth-Hermes (mother) Lodge.

On the 16th of May 1920, Case was initiated into the Second Order of the A.:O.:, receiving the grade of Zelator Adeptus Minor (5=6).

On December 27, 1920, Micheal Whitty passed away in Los Angeles. Whitty was holding the Praemonstrator's office at the time. Shortly after Whitty's death, Case was officially appointed Praemonstrator of the parent lodge of the Rosicrucian Order of the Alpha et Omega (United States) by Countess Mathers and Brodie Innes, but received no honorary title (the honorary title corresponding to the Praemonstrator's office is 7=4).

After Case's assumption of office, the American lodges started to blossom. Morale increased and membership grew. Members flocked to hear Case lecture, and for the first time, the American Order was on solid ground. Unfortunately, It didn't take long for jealousy to set in. After only 6 months in office, Case was the subject of unfounded rumors and innuendo. Case had discovered via scrupulous research, that a considerable portion of the Golden Dawn curriculum had been lifted from books available in the public libraries, and questioned the authenticity of the Rosicrucian lineage. Case soon after resigned in distaste; the Countess Mathers responded to his claims by removing his name from the Order's membership roll. By this time, the American Order was on the brinks of collapse, with a number of members vowing to follow Case. In the writings of

prominent American Golden Dawn adepts, Case was described as a true visionary; "the goose that laid the golden egg".

Toward the end of 1921, Case was contacted, and later met with The Master Rococzy in person, at the Hotel Roosevelt located on the corner of Madison & Lexington Avenues at 43rd Street, New York. Case spent 3 weeks receiving instruction. Paul Case then retired from his successful and lucrative career as Musical Director for the Keith Circuit, to devote his full time to the service of humanity. He set about establishing a new mystery school with the assistance of 4 other Golden Dawn Initiates, 3 of which were Chiefs of G.D. Temples in New York and Philadelphia. This new school, which was founded at the Vernal Equinox in 1922, was initially named, "The School of Ageless Wisdom". The Order's first public announcement, issued in August 1922, described the Order as "A society devoted to the practical investigation of the principles of cosmic law, and to the study of the literature, rites and symbols whereby knowledge of these principles has been transmitted through the ages." Dr. case authored an extensive curriculum, which included a 13-year correspondence program focusing on Qabalah, Tarot, Alchemy, Astrology, Healing & Esoteric Psychology. Case carefully refined the Golden Dawn Rituals; making changes where needed.

Dr. Case was a world-renowned authority on Tarot and Qabalah and a brilliant author, such credit being given to him in the writings of many prominent Occult authorities, including Manly P. Hall. He attained both Inner and Outer Initiation in the most advanced grades of Adeptship within the Western Mystery training system. Some of his published works include "The True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order" (1927), "The Tarot: Key to the Wisdom of the Ages" (1927), "The Book of Tokens" (1934). His erudite scholarship, piercing and discriminating mentality, and direct spiritual perception were a rare combination. Yet his humanness expressed itself in wit, humor and complete compatibility with people of all social classes, races and creeds. Dr. Paul Foster Case came into incarnation in order to fill a great spiritual need for the modern world. His unique and effective contribution to the spiritual Path of Return being completed, he withdrew from his physical vehicle on March 2, 1954, while on a vacation train trip in Mexico with his wife, Harriet. His death was sudden and easy. The ashes of Paul Foster Case, Harriet B. Case, and Ann Davies (Case's successor) lie together in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.

### **Other Interesting Facts:**

- (1) Case was initiated into Freemasonry on 22 March, 1926 (E.:A.:).
- (2) Case was passed to 2nd Degree Mason on 12 April, 1926 (F.:C.:)
- (3) Case was raised to 3rd Degree Mason on 28 June, 1926 (M.:M.:)
- (4) Case held a doctorate in Theology & an honorary doctorate in Music.
- (5) Case was ordained to the priesthood of the Liberal Catholic Church on July 5, 1937.

## Dr. Ann Davies

Dr. Ann Davies was born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 28, 1912. At the age of two, she moved to New York, where she spent much of her childhood. Dr. Davies began to be consciously aware of the Divine Presence at a very young age, and her spiritual insights and experiences sustained and upheld her during years of suffering and illness. In 1944 she met Dr. Case, and soon after became his understudy. Initially, Davies helped Case by fixing meals and mimeographing lessons. After Dr. Case's passing in 1954, she succeeded him as Head of the Order. During her 20 year service as Spiritual Chief of the Order, she maintained close communication with both the Inner School and her discarnate Elder; extending and expanding his original teachings. Dr. Davies died June 9, 1975. Her body lies at rest in the Forest Lawn Cemetery, alongside Dr. Case and his wife Harriet.

## The Tradition Continues...

During her lifetime, Ann Davies received in her meditations, instructions that she was to expect some young individuals who had come into life for the purpose of attaining initiation, so that they could carry on and expand the esoteric tradition after her passing. Her duty was to train them. She was told she would not choose, but would "recognize" them. Shortly after, the first of these youngsters, a lad aged 12, wrote Ann requesting Initiation into the Mysteries. His petition was approved and he underwent special training in the tradition. Prior to Ann's transition in 1975, she appointed this individual as the first of seven Stewards, charged with carrying-on the tradition after her death. In 1982, Dr. Paul Clark founded The Fraternity of the Hidden Light as a vehicle for the new dispensation.



Compiled from the following sources:

- Case Timeline by Lee Moffitt (F.L.O. Archives)
- The Meaning of B.O.T.A. (Wheel of Life 1936)
- B.O.T.A. official biography printed in their Merchandise Pamphlet
- Profile on Dr. P.F.C. Founder of B.O.T.A. by Rev. Ann Davies
- Adytum News-Notes (April 1963)
- Secret Cipher of the G.D (Morgan / Clark)
- Highlights of Tarot (P.F.C.)
- TIRO (P.F.C.)
- The Rosicrucians (McIntosh)
- S.R.I.A. Archives
- Japan Times (Sep. 11, 2004)
- Golden Dawn American Source Book