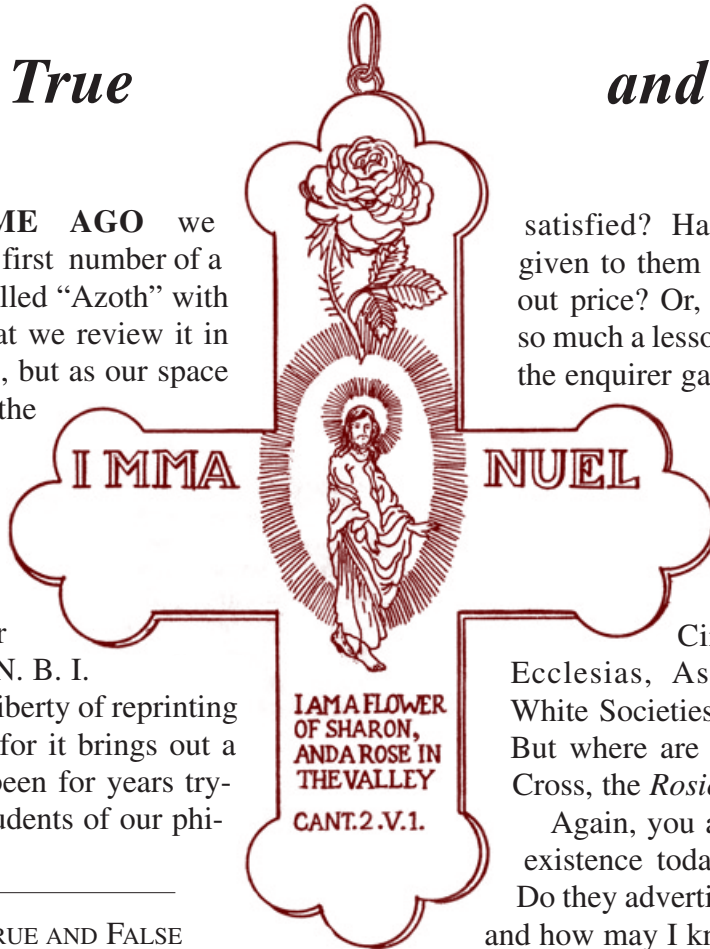


Rosicrucians

True

and False

SOME TIME AGO we received the first number of a magazine called "Azoth" with a request that we review it in our columns, but as our space is all too limited for the regular articles we regret that we cannot comply. However, in looking over the pages of "Azoth" we found an article under the above caption by "N. B. I. L." which we take the liberty of reprinting with some comments, for it brings out a point which we have been for years trying to impress upon students of our philosophy.



Secret Symbols of the Rosicrucians of the 16th and 17th centuries. Altona, 1795

satisfied? Has the information been given to them without money and without price? Or, has the "master" charged so much a lesson? And, after all, what has the enquirer gained?

On this vast Western Continent there is today a great unrest, a people running hither and thither, after this teacher and that. There are Schools, Circles, Classes, Lodges, Ecclesias, Assemblies, Fellowships, White Societies, and so on, *ad infinitum*. But where are the Brethren of the Rosy Cross, the *Rosicrucians*?

Again, you ask me: "Are there any in existence today? Where do they meet? Do they advertise? Where can I find them and how may I know them?"

Let me answer these queries as I have recorded them.

Rosicrucians are in existence to-day.

Their meeting places are secret, none but the members of the Order knowing of the places and times of assembly.

They do not advertise; nothing is more repugnant to their teachings.

It is not permissible for me to answer the remaining queries. A member may be sitting next to you on the car, or at your elbow in your office or workshop. You may discover him by your earnestness in seeking to live a right life, by your endeavors to attain true spiritual equipoise and knowledge of

ROSICRUCIANS—TRUE AND FALSE

How the name of *Rosicrucian* fires the blood of all Occult students! The imagination runs riot. The Soul reaches out to—it knows not what, yet in its deepest recesses it is always seeking for Truth and Light. How many neophytes have been asked the question "What do you wish?"; and have given the answer "Light, more Light, and Truth!"

How have these earnest seekers after truth been answered? Has the Light been unveiled to their uplifted eyes? Has the longing of their souls been

Though this article appeared in an earlier issue of the Rays, we believe that it continues to be as relevant now as when it was first published and that its relevance warrants reprinting in the editorial section, notwithstanding its length.

yourself. And you may know him by his unassuming life, by his endeavoring to live up to the injunction, "Let him that is greatest among you become the servant of all."

He that seeks earnestly shall find. To him that knocks, the Door shall be opened. To him that asks, if he be of good report, it shall be given in great abundance.

"Oh, yes," you reply wearily, "I have heard all this before, but tell me, how, out of these numerous societies and their various claims upon the credulous, am I to know which is which? You say that the Rosicrucian wears no emblem on the lapel of his coat, no charm on his watch-chain, no signet ring on his finger. Then how am I to know where to seek, or to knock, or to ask?"

The reply is test, Test, TEST, all. When you are ready the teacher will appear.

Testing the authenticity of an order is very simple. If you are contemplating the purchase of a house you do not rely upon the mere word of the vendor. The first thing you do is to fully examine the title. Then to make doubly sure, if you are wise, you call in an expert from a title insurance company. If his report be adverse, you refuse to complete the purchase.

If purchasing a piece of jewelry you turn it about to find the assay mark; if it be 14 carat, you pay 14 carat price, and if 22 carat, 22 carat price. If it have no assay mark you put it down as bogus.

In buying diamonds you go to a reputable firm and get a guarantee of their genuineness and weight.

If you wish to become a Freemason you go to someone you have reason to believe is a member of that Order. You tell him your desires and ask from him his authority and the status of his Lodge, whether legally instituted or clandestine. You assure yourself by the most rigid scrutiny that all is absolutely correct and upright. Then you are ready to associate yourself with the Masons, if you are acceptable to them.

These are the methods you should use in testing the genuineness of the claims made by any society that invites your affiliation with them. If they will not stand the acid and microscope tests, reject them.

The false order blazons its trademarks all over

the columns of such newspapers as it can get to take its copy. The editors are just as ready to take the stuff as is the gullible reader to believe it. I have been amazed at the utter stupidity of some editors in lending their columns to so bold and flagrant a mass of Baron Munchausen fables.

In your search, you will discover that the Rosicrucian Order never asks anyone to join. You will speedily find that it is like looking for a needle in a haystack to learn where they meet.

I have read a report that there are thousands of Rosicrucian temples throughout the world, and that hundreds of thousands of members are ready to welcome Rosicrucians from this country who may be visiting France, Italy, Egypt, India, and England. There is not an authentic temple the world over that would receive one of the members of any organization which publicly claims itself to be Rosicrucian.

The members of the Rosicrucian Order are not generally known, and there is no authority given to anyone to tell an outsider who these are.

I saw printed in a publication, some months ago, a list of twenty or twenty-five names of men and women Rosicrucians, presumably prominent throughout the world. Being jealous for the honor and integrity of the true Rosicrucian Order, I wrote to these persons whose names and addresses were public property, with the result that I had returned to me, through the Dead Letter Office, the majority of my letters marked "Not Known." And they are still coming back one by one.

By their fruits ye shall know them. Any so-called Rosicrucian Order that dabbles in spiritualistic seances or hypnotism is bogus.

If any high-degree Mason is a member of a fraudulent Rosicrucian Order he can readily learn for himself its lack of genuineness. Whether he be a 32nd degree member or a Knights Templar, he will soon discover that the authentic source of these Orders is lacking. In the true Rosicrucian Order there is no mistaking the origination of Masonry.

This was not written for the man in the street; he will pass it by; it holds nothing for him. He may call it twaddle, simple, inane, or any other name that suits him. But to the Truth-seeker, who asks to

be led aright, there is much hidden.

Go search, and you will find the message.

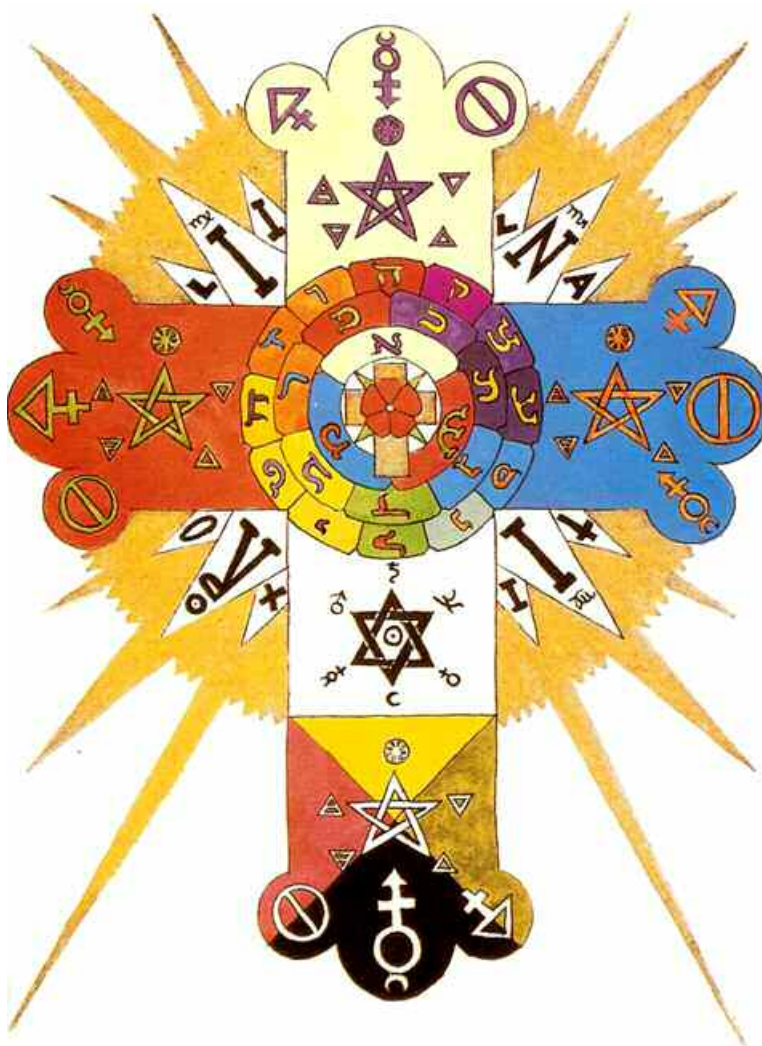
N. B. I. L. is right in a number of his points. There *is* a great unrest and hungry souls *are* running hither and thither seeking the bread of life. They are also often caught by a name that has nothing to back it, and given a stone or even a serpent that turns to bite and poison them.

But just as there must be a genuine dollar before there can be a counterfeit, so there must be a real Rosicrucian Order before a pseudo order can be formed, and in order to give our students a proper conception of what the real Order of Rosicrucians is and to guard them against misconceptions as to their own status and the status of the Rosicrucian Fellowship, we have made some very explicit statements from time to time. We quote the following from a lesson published in 1911:

“It is essential that the student should understand exactly who and what are the Rosicrucians and their relation to the Rosicrucian Fellowship, for there are many people who foolishly or ignorantly call themselves Rosicrucians, and even students of the Rosicrucian Fellowship might commit the same mistake in their enthusiasm for the teachings.

“There are upon earth seven Schools of the Lesser Mysteries, and five of the Greater Mysteries and the whole is grouped under one central Head Who is called the *Liberator*.

In the Schools of the lesser Mysteries the pupil is taught to understand his past evolution upon earth (as thoroughly explained under the chapters on Initiation in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*), and is also shown the future development during the remainder of the Earth Period. The Rosicrucian Order is one of these Schools and its teachings are particularly suited to the people of the Western World. The other



Painting, Steffi Grant, based on original design of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, Skoob Pub., U.K.

Golden Dawn Cross

This densely symbolic design is an amalgam of occult figures, including the central Rose Cross, whose history dates at least as far back as the Middle Ages. It is surrounded by the three Mother letters (corresponding to the elements of fire, air, and water); seven Double letters (corresponding to the planets); and twelve Simple letters (corresponding to the twelve signs of the zodiac) of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the four arms of the larger cross bear a pentagram surrounded by the symbols for the four elements, plus the fifth element (quintessence) of spirit, and the alchemical symbols, in changed positions, for sulfur, salt, and mercury. The planetary hexagram is surrounded by the six planets with the sun in its center. The letters I.N.R.I., atop Christ's cross, are at the fixed angles.

Mystery Schools are variously graded to meet the spiritual requirements of the most precocious among the earlier races with whom they work.

“We know well that when a boy has graduated from grammar school he is not therefore fitted to teach; he must first go through high school and then through college, and even after that training

he may not feel the call to teach, but desire to take up some other vocation. Similarly, in the school of life, while graduation from the Rosicrucian Mystery School does make one an Adept, he is still not yet a Rosicrucian.

“These Adept-graduates of the schools teaching the Lesser Mysteries advance into one of five schools that teach the four Greater Mysteries. After they pass the four Great Initiations they reach the Liberator and receive knowledge concerning other evolutions. They are then given the choice of remaining here to assist their brothers or of entering other evolutions as Workers. Those who elect to stay are given various positions according to their tastes and natural bent. The twelve Brothers of the Rose Cross are among those Compassionate ones, and they, with their august Head (the Thirteenth), are the only ones who have the right to use the name “Rosicrucian” as applying to themselves.

“Neither the lay-brothers or lay-sisters who have received one or more Initiations at their hands, or the Adepts who have graduated from their school, are entitled to use that name, much less, of course, the students in the Rosicrucian Fellowship, who have just commenced a study of their sublime teachings and started to live the life which, if persistently pursued, will eventually bring them in direct touch with the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross.”

Unfortunately N. B. I. L. is right—there are many people who sacrilegiously desecrate the name *Rosicrucian*, as there are thousands of people who commit sacrilege by applying the name *Christian* to themselves. While it may be pedantic to harp upon these distinctions, it is well to hold them in mind and upon occasion to enlighten those who are not aware of the facts

But N. B. I. L. is emphatically wrong when he says that “a member (of the Rosicrucian Order), may be sitting next to you on the car or at your elbow in the office or workshop.” The Elder Brothers are not riding around in street cars, nor have they time to work in a shop or office. That may apply to lay-brothers, and even very few of them are so employed at any time. Nor are Adepts

to be thus found. They have a greater work to do.

Nor does N. B. I. L. give the test by which the true Teacher is known and which we have given time and again to protect our students from imposition by unscrupulous charlatans and self-styled teachers who offer to initiate them into this, that, and the other thing, though they have nothing to give and leave the credulous, who think they can substitute dollars for soul-growth and buy their way into heaven, poorer in pocket but richer in experience. They are lucky if they do not find themselves on a hospital cot or in an insane asylum.

All this may be avoided if the student will only use common sense and realize that though the Elder Brothers are human, they are vastly exalted above our own status and that a considerable time lived as an intensely zealous *visible* helper is necessary for the aspirant to evolve his soul-body to such a degree of luminosity that it will attract the Teacher. No listless, easygoing study or dreamy contemplation will bring him. He is himself a *servant* in the highest sense of that word, and no one who is not serving with all his soul need expect to meet him.

When he does come, he will need no credentials, for the very first sentence spoken by him will carry its conviction and so will every other word he ever speaks to the pupil, for being endowed with the consciousness which we will all possess in the Jupiter Period, (see *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*), each sentence creates in the listener a series of pictures which accurately illustrate his meaning.

If he undertakes to explain the method of death, the pupil sees inwardly the passing spirit leaving the body, he may note the uncoiling of the Silver Cord, he sees the rupture of the seed-atom in the heart and how it leaves the body and clings to the spirit.

No charlatans can produce these effects, and if people would “judge them by their fruits,” instead of falling for their baseless claims, they would soon go out of business. But, alas, it is easier to pay \$25 or \$100 for “Initiation” (?) than to live the life, and we are afraid that people will continue to demand the services of the imposter. However, the students who have digested the facts here stated know how to differentiate. □