

Editorial

A Forum for Correspondences

Aren Roukema

E-mail: aren.roukema@correspondencesjournal.com

The central goal of this journal is indicated by its title. *Correspondences* was founded in order to provide a freer flow of conversation among those engaged in research and analysis of the wide diversity of traditions gathered under the umbrella of Western esotericism. We continue to operate according to this mandate, encouraging researchers of all levels and backgrounds to dialogue with others inside and outside the field via quality, well-researched articles, while also attempting to widen our scope further to include research produced outside the ivory tower—a structure that social and political pressures are making less and less amenable to those who wish never to leave its high-walled courtyards.

Thus far, achieving our conversational mandate has gone rather well. We have been pleased to provide a publication vehicle for early researchers as well as more well-known scholars. We have been able to construct an editorial board and panel of reviewers that represent research communities all over the academic world, as well as the analytical methods and priorities of a number of different disciplines. Our website analytics show that the articles published in *Correspondences* are read around the world in significant numbers. While this correspondence between researchers has largely been of a broad, impersonal nature, we have provided a platform for more directed conversation as well. This platform is best exemplified in this, our third issue, as Christopher Plaisance's article, *Magic Made Modern?*, dialogues with Alison Butler's research on modern occult magic, while a much enhanced Reviews section enables

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discourse surrounding exciting new publications in a variety of fields. We will continue to provide an open access forum for such discussion and we encourage any and all to join in correspondence by submitting innovative, high quality research related to the burgeoning field of Western esotericism.

In the near future we hope to up the conversational ante even further. For example, we intend to introduce a function on our website that will allow instantaneous, informal responses to the articles that we publish. We have also decided to change the publication model of the journal to take advantage of the quick turnover time between submission and publication that is made possible by web-based publishing. All accepted articles will now be published as fast as they can be evaluated via peer-review, revised, edited, and typeset. Articles will be published as soon as possible, rather than published biannually in a collected issue, as in a conventional print-based model. All articles published in a particular year will then be gathered into a volume related to that year to enable easier access by libraries, databases, and search engines.

These and other improvements to the *Correspondences* project await us on the horizon. For now, please enjoy issue 2.2's excellent articles and reviews. In addition to Plaisance's article, this issue features an analysis of modern pagan elements in primetime television by Robert A. Saunders, as well as Roberto Bacci's in-depth discussion of esoteric views of consciousness in Fascist Italy, along with reviews by Peter Staudenmaier, Stefan Arvidsson, Matthew J. Dillon, Ethan Doyle White, and Damon Zacharias Lycourinos. We hope you enjoy these submissions to the greater debate framed by Western esotericism, and encourage you to add your voice to our correspondences.