

Editorial: A Good Year for Correspondences

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It's unclear at the moment how history will look back on 2016, but it was an exciting year for *Correspondences*. Our long term efforts to solidify our fledging project gained traction in March, when we received almost 400 euros through the Sponsorship Program for Independent Scholarly Initiatives, a development grant offered by the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism. This grant provides us with funding for three years of web hosting, as well as the financial resources needed to secure membership with professional open access databases, a move which will make our content more easily searchable and accessible.

Even without this affiliation, *Correspondences* has been making good progress in our efforts to establish a publication that can deliver important new research and widely distribute it via an open access (OA) publishing model. We recently dug around in the belly of the intrawebs and gathered statistics on the journal's performance since its founding in 2012. Despite our publication's relative youth, our readership and citation statistics (as measured by Google Scholar) suggest that with a few more years of longevity we'll have similar citation rates to established print publications of a similar size and research scope. We believe that in addition to the quality of the work *Correspondences* has been fortunate to publish, this impact can be explained by the widespread distribution enabled by the OA model.

Our most significant step forward this year, however, was the appointment of Dr. Allan Johnson of the University of Surrey to our editorial team. Allan specializes in esoteric currents in modernist British literature. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and former Marjorie G. Wynne Fellow of British

Literature at Yale University. In addition to his work with *Correspondences*, Allan is taking exciting new approaches to the study of esotericism as director of the Magic, Language, and Society Network, funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council, in partnership with Treadwell's Bookstore in London. Allan has already improved the journal's digital infrastructure, switching the journal's management and publishing software to Open Journal Systems (OJS), and will be taking on other editorial roles in the future.

2016 also brought us the articles and reviews enfolded in this volume. As usual, these essays and analyses of recently published material reflect the enormous diversity of esoteric studies. Egil Asprem looks at the roots of the esoteric imagination in medieval kataphatic spirituality; Julian Strube places Eliphas Lévi's symbol of the Baphomet in the context of his political, religious and scientific views, and Boaz Huss provides a history of Zohar translations that will prove invaluable to researchers of the history of kabbalah. Reviews by Amy Hale, Keith Cantú, Peter Olsson, Dylan Burns, Christopher Plaisance and Cimminnee Holt round out an issue that, in its diversity, should appeal to all. We hope you enjoy it.