

Editorial

Jimmy Elwing and Aren Roukema

Welcome to the second issue of *Correspondences*, the first (and to date only) open access journal for the academic study of Western esotericism. In our last editorial we invited you to learn about the history and purpose of this journal, and we are happy to be able deliver another issue of cutting-edge research into what is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating and up-and-coming fields of research in the humanities. Since some time has passed since the inaugural issue was released last summer, we thought that we'd update you on what has been going on in the *Correspondences* family and share some of our plans for the future.

First of all, we would like to welcome Egil Asprem as the book review editor of *Correspondences*. Egil's been with us from the start as an active member of our editorial board, and we are happy to now promote him to the position of Book Review Editor. He has already started working with us in preparation for this issue, but the next issue will feature his first fully curated review section. Read Egil's own musings about his new position on pages 105–107.

We've also been in discussions with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) to include the journal in an open access database. While *Correspondences* is already freely available to all, this will enable us to give our published authors more exposure, as their articles will turn up more easily in searches generated from sources such as university libraries.

Journal publishing, particularly online publishing, is a continually ongoing process, so we're already thinking about issue number three (Fall 2014) and invite submissions for this issue up until 1 June 2014. Of course, we're not complete futurists – we are extremely excited about the issue that you're

about to click, swipe, or voice command your way through. *Correspondences* 2, no. 1 (2014) features a balance between theory and application that we'd like to see in every issue. Egil Aspren provides the theory in "Beyond the West," an analysis of research structures in the field of Western esotericism; Kristoffer Noheden provides the application in "Leonora Carrington, Surrealism, and Initiation," analysing the esoteric context of the French surrealist's work; and Mike A. Zuber offers a thorough examination of Wilhelm Christoph Kriegsmann's (1633–1679) life and works in "Between Alchemy and Piety," arguing that the notion of ancient wisdom, *prisca sapientia*, is a crucial key to understanding the synthesis between alchemy and piety in Kriegsmann's thought. We are also happy to include two reviews written by J. Christian Greer and Ethan Doyle White. We hope you find this research valuable and stimulating, and that you'll consider joining the discussion by submitting your own high quality academic research for publication in *Correspondences*.