

MAX HEINDEL AND THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP



Max Heindel 1865-1919.

MAX HEINDEL
and The Rosicrucian Fellowship

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P R E F A C E

A first attempt to write a biography of Max Heindel, the Twentieth Century messenger of the Order of the Rose Cross produced a typescript of 130 numbered pages in quarto, and was distributed in 120 copies in the year 1968. Much information was lacking, such as any details about Heindel's youth. The archives of Copenhagen contained no data other than that he had lived there. This changed when, after recalculating Heindel's horoscope, it appeared that the position of the Moon was incompatible with the northern latitude of Copenhagen, but that it did align with Aarhus. It was the registrar of the archive of Aarhus, Mr Rickelt, who in his free time did much inquiry into Heindel's youth, and whose results are described in the second chapter. Using this information it was possible to do targeted research in Scotland. Heindel's eldest daughter, Wilhelmina Grasshoff, provided additional background and three photos of her father, mother and the four children. The Berlin archives had little to offer, because during World War II many records were lost in the bombing. Research in America was also difficult for lack of any specifics upon which to begin a search. With helpful assistance, however, it became possible to uncover quite a lot of data.

I am greatly indebted to individuals who shared authentic information which they possessed. The niece of Mrs Heindel, Mrs Olga Borsum Crellin, wrote a short but complete report about the Foss family and donated some unique pictures. Mr George Schwenk from Ojai, California, who was a good friend of Mrs Heindel for many years, furnished much first-hand information. Also, in 1982 Mr and Mrs Barkhurst, who became members of the Fellowship around 1920, gave not only much information and material about the spiritual exercises but also a copy of the manuscript, *Memoirs of Max Heindel and the Rosicrucian Fellowship*, of which they possessed the original. Mrs Barkhurst gave an abridged version of these memories, written by Mrs Heindel in 1941, to *Echoes*, and it was serialized under the title *The Early History of the Rosicrucian Fellowship*, beginning January 1948. The Barkhurst family donated the original manuscript to Headquarters shortly before their passing, where it was printed in 1997 under the title *Memoirs about Max Heindel and the Rosicrucian Fellowship*.

From time to time, during the 50 years of writing this biography, many more individuals provided me with important information. They are named in the footnotes.

Mr Jaap Kwikkell, one of the first members in Holland, witnessed the development in the Netherlands and I received much data from him. I

myself knew Mrs A. van Warendorp who introduced the Teachings in the Netherlands but she, alas, was no longer able to communicate.

The last few years were devoted to sketching the theosophical movement in Germany during the five months Heindel spent in Berlin in 1907/8. They include the spiritual development of Steiner previous to 1912, the relationship between Steiner and Heindel and similarities and important differences between their views which, at first sight could be easily overlooked, yet are of vital importance; these are discussed. I include the passage in which Steiner himself in a lecture on October 11, 1915, in Dornach affirmed his, "being no messenger of the Rosicrucian Order." So, the idea of some that anthroposophy is a metamorphosis of the Teachings of the Rose Cross appears to be erroneous.

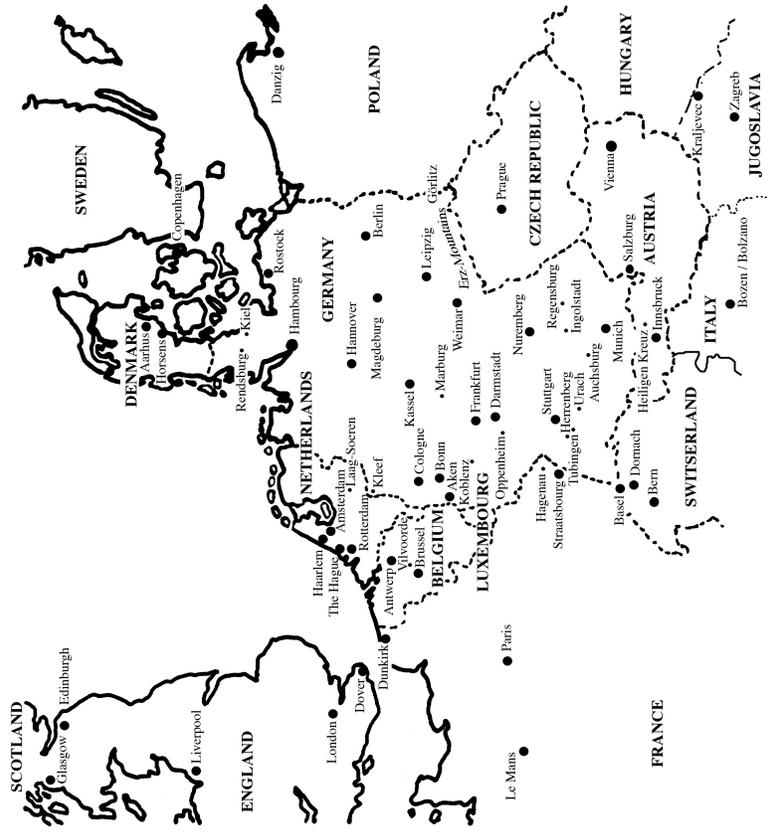
The name 'Rosicrucian' speaks to the imaginations of many people. There are numerous groups that use this name in their blazons, to the great confusion of outsiders. Therefore, Chapter One is devoted to the genesis of the Order. Addendum 13 gives an outline of the most important organizations in which the name 'Rosicrucian' occurs and includes a schematic survey of origination.

At the beginning of the 1600's the Rosicrucian manifestoes: *Fama Fraternitatis R.C.*, *Confessio Fraternitatis R.C.* and *Assertio Fraternitatis R.C.* caused much commotion. They are rendered anew into the English language in addendum one.

The Order of the Rose Cross is one of the seven schools of initiation of the Lesser Mysteries. It is designed especially for Westerners and is linked with Christianity. The last chapter gives a survey of the preparation for the process of initiation.

In closing, I wish to thank Ms. Suzanne Harker, Mr Allen Edwall and Mr Rick Manoff for their valuable suggestions and for their help in proof-reading the typescript and anyone that I might have forgotten to mention.

Laag-Soeren, September, 2009.



2 Map of Europe