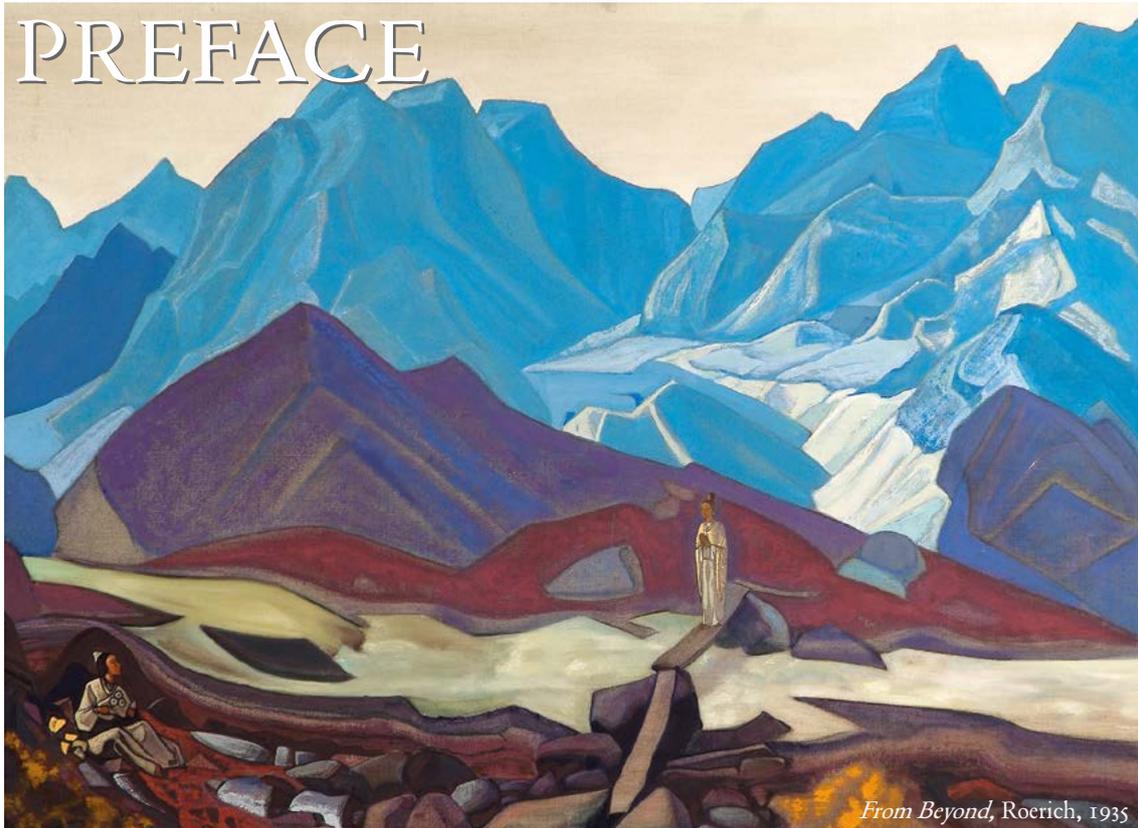


✦ INNER
GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Ficus religiosa [37079]

PREFACE



The bark on the cover of this annual report belongs to a Bodhi tree [37079]. This species, with its characteristic heart-shaped leaves, is said to have provided the canopy under which Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment. The specific giant descendant pictured here is found near Mendut temple in Indonesia — a temple richly decorated with hieroglyphs of the Tree of Life, locally known as *Kalpataru*. This Tree of Life is described in the *Churning of the Ocean*, a philosophical tract which explains the origin of the nectar of immortality. The search for the endless and undying is *the* central theme of both internal and external Alchemy and thus leads us to the realm of our beloved Art.

One endeavour this year is evocative of both the transiency of mundane life and its perpetual cyclicality. In the last prima class of the [Paracelsus College](#) in 1984, Br. Aashiq al-Hikma collected seeds from the lemon balm plants the College had worked with for years. He used the seeds to grow Melissa in his backyard ever since and, since he did not introduce other specimens of Melissa into his garden, these seeds continued to carry the same genetics as the family that was nurtured in the days of the Paracelsus College. As such, these seeds could be seen as a living link to the egregore of the College and times long before. The act of sending the seeds led to a series of striking synchronisities pointing Br. AaH and myself to the infinite in the moment and the weft of our works from and into times unknown.



Moreh



LAB ALCHEMY

A research group called **Ripley's Realm** has begun to investigate one of Sir Ripley's ways of operating with our Mercury and Sulfur, Sun and Moon, Silver and Gold, our Sol and Luna. Br. Lwowl has offered to lead the group into Ripley's Realm on the basis of his lifetime of experience with this work. We are grateful for the enthusiastic lead Lwowl provides the group and it is good to see the corresponding eagerness of those partaking in this research.

In the Partner section, the following notes were released:

Note	Subject	Author
N208	Low Cost Heating Mantle	Similia
N209	Furnace For Dry Distillation and Control Box	Similia
A506	Collection Development Policy	Moreh

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INNER WORK

Like last year another AIR 1 (Alchemical Inner Reconciliation) course was held; this year guided by Br. Zehuti with senior input from Br. JML. Seven students participated. The course was conducted in 12 online Skype lessons. Some reactions from the participants:

“I am very grateful I was able to be a member of InnerGarden Inner Reconciliation group and must admit it was much more than I expected. I’ve re-learned to be humble, patient, dedicated, caring and punctual in order to see the results of the course.”
 Br. Justitius

“The course materials/lessons sent prior to each meeting were exceedingly instructive and excellent, the meetings great and always punctual, the meditations wonderful, my course mates focused, eager and friendly and our Guide – Brother Zehuti – dedicated, humble and outstanding! The whole environment and setting – very harmonious. A most wonderful time I had!”
 Br. Nakel

Desoille's waking dream and creative visualization techniques were further studied and Inner Garden became a partner of the [International Network for the Study of Waking Dream Therapy](#). A number of 'later generation' techniques on spontaneous imagery processes from the 1970s were revisited; like for example, the Psychogenic's guide *Voyages of Discovery: Instructions and Travel Guide to Your Own Mind* by W. Wenger PhD.



The Alchemy Archive has continued its development both in terms of the scripting of the foundational modules of the online portal as well as in terms of the expansion of the collection. For example, we received permission from A. Fehres to add his monumental neo-classic *BOR (Book of Revelation)* and from L. Osburn to add *Better Living Through Alchemy* and *Green Gold the Tree of Life*. Aashiq al-Hikma added a wealth of new material among which transcripts of Seminars by J. Dubuis.

On 14 December 2019, Verizon deleted all Yahoo Groups content as 'a relic of a previous internet age.' Since the beginning of the 21st century, Yahoo forums have been an important online meeting place for students of Alchemy to exchange ideas and experiences. As custodians of the Art, Inner Garden took the initiative to archive these forums before the data was wiped. With the help of friends, we managed to archive the following forums:

MEM_Alchemical_Solvent.zip	MEM_THE-ALCHEMIST.zip
MEM_Alchemy2.zip	MEM_The-Haven-of-Rest.zip
MEM_Alchemyastrology.zip	OWN_Alchemystica.zip
MEM_AlchemyNintzelStuden.zip	OWN_Filius_Artis.zip
MEM_Dealchemia.zip	OWN_GALEIDOSCOPE.zip
MEM_Evola.zip	OWN_HermeticFoundation.zip
MEM_Alchemical_Solvent.zip	OWN_Porta_Radix.zip
MEM_SpiritualAlchemy.zip	OWN_Stoneworks_Labring.zip
MEM_Spiritus_Mundi.zip	



To give an idea of the thriving exchange of experiences on these forums, the two most commonly known forums alone in the list above are good for well over 100,000 posts (The Alchemist with 55,159 posts and Alchemystica with 51,650).

Aashiq al-Hikma donated an CZUR Aura x Pro scanner to facilitate further digitalisation of valuable works.

The Alchemy Archive has become a member of the branche association of archivists KVAN/BRAIN. (KVAN was founded in 1891 and is the eldest professional association of archivists in the world.)



SEEDS

Traditional plant-based medicine still caters to a broad group of people. Alchemical and spagyric preparations, while rooted in ancient tradition, remain relevant from a modern pharmaceutical-chemical viewpoint and, for a number of people, are still considered to be the epitome of purification and concentration of the healing essence — the **Arcanum** of the plant.

Traditional alchemical medicinal preparations draw upon the Mineral, Plant or Animal Kingdoms. The Plant Kingdom is seen both as the gateway to the Mineral Kingdom (in the preparation of menstua) as well as the basis for countless valuable spagyric preparations. In 2008, the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (representing botanic gardens in 120 countries) warned that ‘400 medicinal plants are at risk of extinction, from over-collection and deforestation, threatening the discovery of future cures for disease.’ These included yew trees (the bark is used for cancer drugs); Hoodia gordonii (from Namibia, source of weight loss drugs); half of Magnolias (used as Chinese medicine for 5,000 years to fight cancer, dementia and heart disease); and Autumn crocus (for gout).

It is in this light that the Inner Garden Foundation focusses part of its efforts on the ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants and trees that have a central place in the domain of Alchemy. This closely aligns with the first article in our Mission Statement where the term *source material* refers to both plant resources themselves as well as data describing alchemical procedures:

Mission Statement

The Alchemy Archive aims to be a repository of valuable source material on Alchemy with the purpose to preserve this knowledge for future generations and as a basis for present ongoing research.

Inner Garden believes that custodianship of the alchemical tradition is inseparably connected to nature and a care for life in all its diversity. This underlines the importance of our efforts in the conservation of medicinal herbs and trees.

Like the Millenium Seed Bank and the Global Seed Vault, our collections of seeds are dried and frozen, thus providing insurance against a species becoming extinct in the wild. Inner Garden's focus on plants with a particular alchemical relevance is unique (a number of the species preserved are at this time not yet present in the Global Seed Bank) and it is in this particular domain that we believe our collections to be invaluable. The collections are curated to a high standard to achieve and maintain high collection quality which is essential for maximising the usability of the collections for research, re-introduction and restoration. The FAO Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is followed and the seeds are labelled with a QR code containing the MCPD V.2.1 passport with EPP0 codes to sort the accessions.



As mentioned in the preface, the provenance of some seeds is of special interest to the alchemical community. The Centre for Genetic Resources in The Netherlands currently keeps a safety duplicate of our seed bank under batchnummer 6209.

Inner Garden is registered as seed bank under WIEWS code NLD164

Partners of Inner Garden — affectionately called **Gardeners** — are encouraged to keep a dedicated medicinal herb garden. At the headquarters of Inner Garden, both a botanical garden and a seed bank are kept for the ex-situ conservation and multiplication of plants with a particular alchemical significance or history.

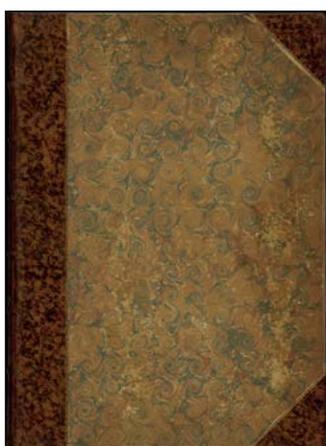
Artefact

Jasper boat mortar in hardwood box, total weight 7.5 kg.

The bottom of the stone shows a concavity as wide as the pestle due to centuries of persistent erosion from frequent use. The stone is fit into a chest which allows the mortar to sit soundly on the floor between one's legs allowing one to lean into it when grinding. Like agate, jasper is a cryptocrystalline quartz, a dense variety whose structure cannot be resolved in an optical microscope. Red jasper is known to have been a favorite gem in the ancient world as a stone of endurance, a stimulator of life force, channeling physical strength and earth energies, balancing male and female elements. The many virtues of jaspers have been extolled throughout the ages by the most noted physicians, magicians, poets, scientists, lapidaries and alchemists. Some believe the oblong shape was a result of the demands of nomadic life and the need to be able to fit the mortar in a saddlebag. It is observed, however, that the finely carved arc and angle of the stone points to a relevance beyond a mere form following function. The sharp points clearly delineate an elegant *vesica piscis* and together with the lighter coloured chalcedony pestle may be evidence of a mystical relevance: the intersection of the divine with the world of matter and the beginning of creation – the *vesica piscis* being constructed of two circles with the same radius that symbolize the union of the forces of spirit and body by the soul. It is said that the circle of the *vesica piscis* for Druids is the equivalent of the square in Masonic symbolism.

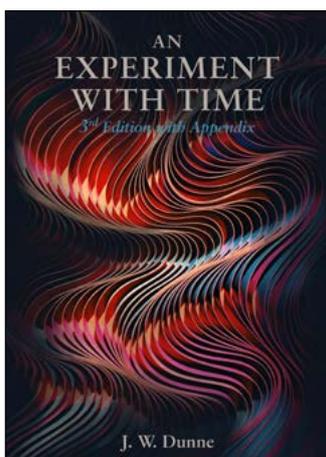


The Art of Alchemy has long evoked the best and most artistic side in its practitioners. Over many centuries, artefacts, heirloom objects, tools, manuscripts and jewelry have illuminated this illustrious Art. We plan to occasionally feature objects of museal quality related to the Royal Art in our annual reports. Their exposition is a way of illustrating and sustaining the artisan part of the cultural heritage in the domain of Alchemy. This year I came into possession of the old nomadic apothecary or Druid's mortar shown on the previous page. About fifteen years ago I paid a handsome price for a modern blue agate mortar for use in the lab. It has served me well, especially when grinding salts very fine. The hard agate stone has a very nice ring to it when in use. It is no match however for this ancient, formidable and gracefully shaped mortar made from one solid piece of red jasper.



The Alchemy of the Mason, Part I, E-book

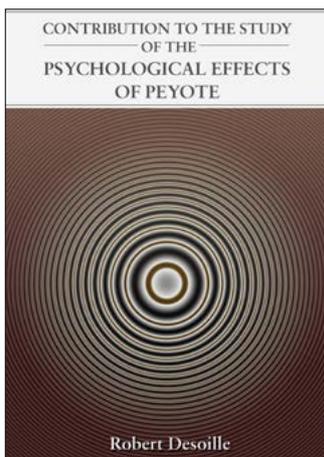
This richly illustrated book is spell binding to flip through. It clearly is the product of love. Part I alone contains over a hundred ornate diagrams and figures which, through an intricate web of associations by names, numbers and images dealing with Masonic and Alchemical tenets, invites the reader to a deeper awareness of the fabric of our universe. This book stands apart for reason of a distinctly theoretical-philosophical approach towards a synthesis of alchemical, Rosicrucian and Freemasonic imagery.



An Experiment With Time, 3rd Edition, E-book

This book provides a unique angle of perspective on the potential of nocturnal dreams. It leads the reader into the enigmatic realm to which dreams form a gate. This profoundly stirring and fascinating classic opened up many readers to join the author's gaze towards new and vast horizons. At the time of publication of this e-book, there is no digital version of Dunne's 3rd Edition available. The 3rd Edition of *An Experiment With Time* is of particular interest since it contains more detailed explanation and experiments as well as an attempt to provide more practical instructions to reproduce Dunne's findings.





Psychological Effects of Peyote, E-book

In this study, the master of the Waking Dream, Robert Desoille, explores the visions and psychological effects induced by Peyote. Desoille conducted this research at a time when he was only just beginning to explore the mechanics of the Waking Dream out of a curiosity in what way psychedelic substances might benefit or influence creative visualizations. In due time, Desoille came to the conclusion that the induction of visions by ingestion of hallucinogens was not generally necessary for guided sessions of the Waking Dream.



In 2019, the Foundation admitted seventeen Candidate Partners. Our welcome goes out to Makrothumias, Lux Ignis, Spanta, Heba, Timaeus, White-Burnt Raven, Libertatem Humilitas, Lineal So, Aeon, Festina Lente, Baal, Horatius D'Omeros, Sophos, Sikharais, Hiram Oakenstone, Zalmoxis, Raziel. Br. Zehuti has strengthened the core of the group as Partner.

The Foundation has taken steps towards implementing the [Governance Code Culture 2019](#). In accordance with the principle 'apply or explain,' the intention is to implement the code whenever possible. The Board has initiated a dialogue on the matter involving the primary stakeholders of the Foundation (internal and external). The most important change involves a transition from a one tier board to a two tier board. We plan to install a Supervisory Board with a planned ammendment of the Articles of Association in 2020.



A copy of our Balance Sheet is available upon request for benefactors of the Foundation. We would like to thank all of those who contributed their time and effort in transcribing, translating and compiling research notes and lessons.



