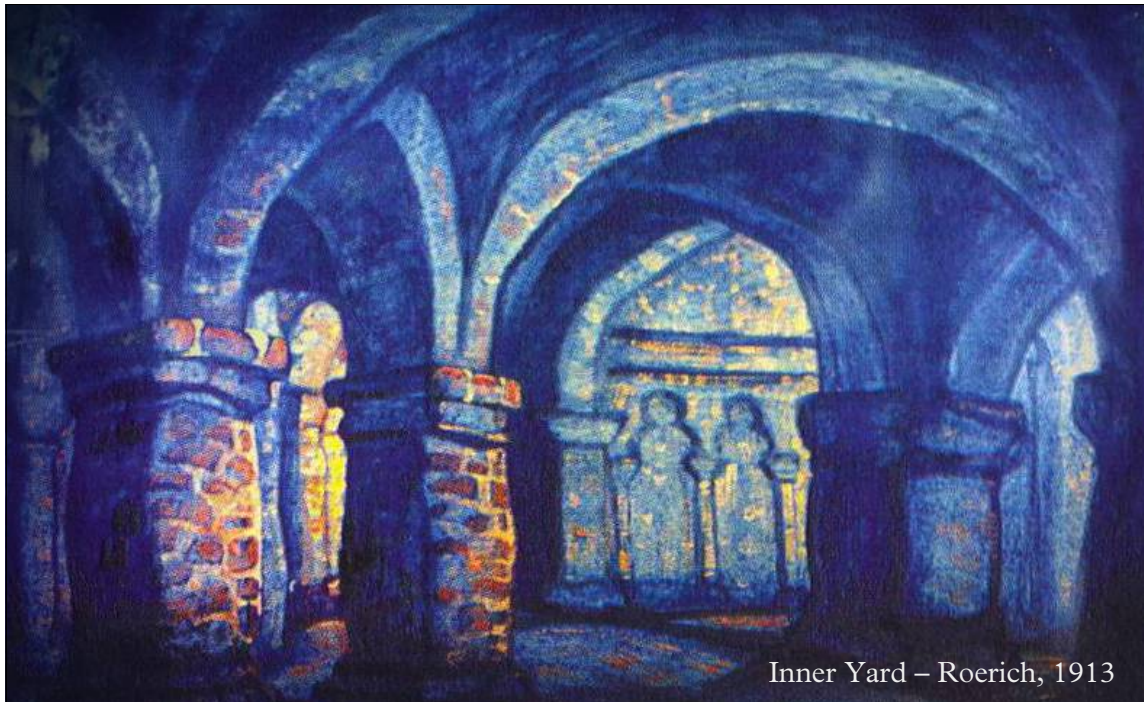


✦ INNER
GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Iyonomus Asplenifolius



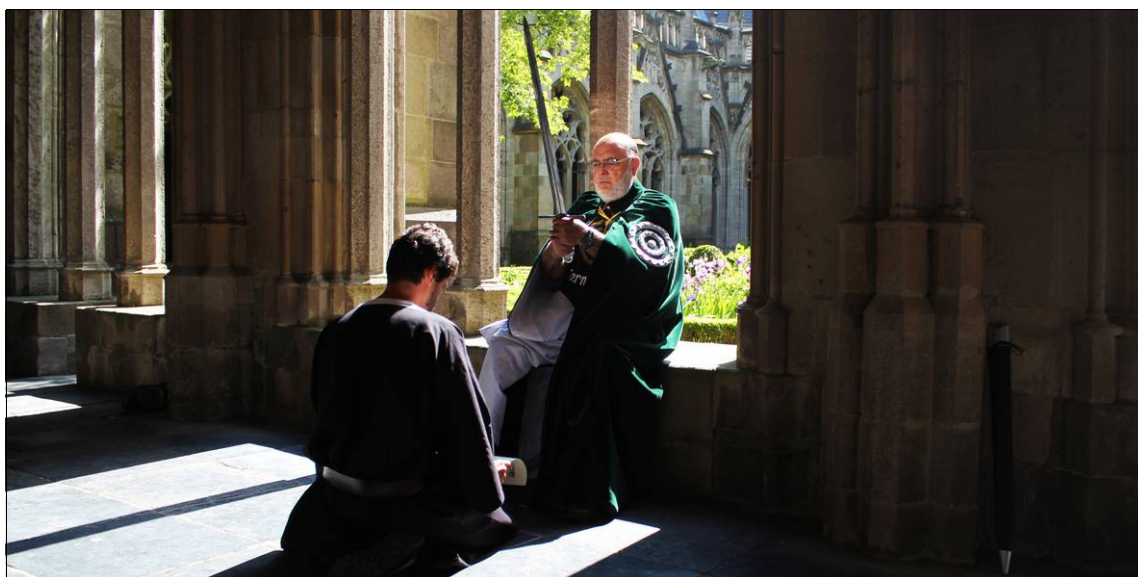
Inner Yard – Roerich, 1913

PREFACE

This year the Inner Garden Foundation celebrated its 1st lustrum at summer solstice. Since its establishment in 2010, our Annual Reports have offered a summary of the public part of our work for the general benefit. Traditional alchemy, however, contains many well guarded secrets. According to tradition these secrets are transmitted exclusively from mouth to ear after the student has made an oath of secrecy. Some subjects therefore are beyond the scope of our Annual Reports.

Above mentioned secrecy may seem like an artefact of the past in light of the rapid movement towards a more liberal sharing in this current Age of Information. Inner Garden, however, is fairly traditional and makes a distinction between information for the outer, public eye, and information reserved for an inner circle. Nevertheless, we have included some words and images that provide an idea of some of the activities of this inner circle. We show the beginnings of an old path to the Philosopher's Stone and an image of an initiation within the metaphorical walls of Inner Garden. The **Green Mantle** — available for the Gardeners that have been admitted to the inner circle — is a symbol of the integration of the inside-outside nexus. The outer aspect of a mere piece of fabric may come to encompass non-physical values which are invested in it by initiation and investiture, as well as by the subsequent work of the initiate. The mantle is plain on the outside except for a single emblem. However, it may contain various talismanic emblems on the inside. Its value is not in the physical mantle but in the

spiritual power that the mantle is imbued with when worn during mystical exercises and ceremonies. This coincides with the alchemist's belief in the absolute correspondence between the physical and spiritual dimensions of the individual and the Art.



The mantle used within Inner Garden is made by Ede & Ravenscroft. The mention of this tailor and the forest green of the mantle may bring to mind Fulcanelli's elaborations on the chivalric Order of the Thistle; the hermetic character of that Order and the relevance of the thistle — not just as a druidic and ancient Celtic symbol of nobility of character nor that of the punishment that is yielded by the wounding or provocation of a thistle. Interesting as his account may be, the Order of the Thistle does not lie directly at the roots of this mantle.

The Green Mantle, first and foremost, is a symbol of the sacred bond with the Divine and with Nature. Throughout written and orally transmitted history the colour green expressed the living link between Heaven and Earth: with the Celts, the Sufis, the Egyptians, and beyond that, veiled in the mists of time. Green is the colour of meadows and of the **Water of Life**: the long sought elixir of immortality. It is the colour of the noble minded and of the hearty. Tradition demands that the wearer turns one circle when donning the mantle, thus symbolizing the finding of the individual centre of balance and of the heart. From this may follow an understanding of the meaning of the emblem on the mantle with its three concentric rings. It symbolizes the centre of the universe, the meeting place of the three cosmic zones of heaven, earth and hell, the axis mundi, the navel of the Earth, where we find the sacred centre of life so often symbolized by the Tree. This is the zone of absolute reality that is the subject of our ventures and of the process of creation and re-creation — the **Quest for the Centre**. I consider it a privilege to share this quest with the nascent group that makes up Inner Garden. Many hands make light work and an enjoyable journey.

- Moreh -





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BENJAMIN
FOUNDED 1689



One of the highlights of this year was the alchemy workshop and initiation that took place shortly before the summer solstice in the centre of Utrecht. It was attended by the Brn. Ibn Hamda, Hydrargyrum, E, S, and Moreh. Under the inspiring lead of Br. E the first act of one of the Classic Wet Ways to the Stone was carried out. The path is called the **Priestly Way** and can be compared with that of Mary the Jew. It is said that this path, together with a few similar ancients paths, has been around since time immemorial. This ancient knowledge found its way through different continents and cultures to our present day. One of the more commonly known routes via which this ancient knowledge was passed on traced its way via Egypt.

This brief account of unwritten history may be anathema to trained historians but alas, as alchemists we are sufficiently numbed to ridicule. Parallel to the above mentioned journey of knowledge via Egypt there have been a number of initiates in the Occident who trace their knowledge back as far as nine thousand years ago. At its roots lies an indigenous knowledge. The keepers of this knowledge have been called **Druids**, Sorcerers, Witches, and Shamans. They were found in western parts of Europe and their knowledge, in part, found abode in the druidic and celtic philosophy in Galicia, Wales and the west of France. In the previous two millennia their knowledge gradually merged with the Egyptian knowledge that was carried in by the Arabs and, among others, a small group of Templars. The ancient source of the knowledge was recognized to be similar if not the same.

No Order can be identified as the single heir of this knowledge. The few initiates who had intimate knowledge of the Stone kept to themselves and preferred to keep a low profile. They had friendly but informal relationships with their fellow sages and generally felt no need to join established Orders, although sometimes circles of like-minded individuals developed certain bonds. They found each other through the work and aided each other along the Path. This way this underground stream, this **Invisible Order** of perennial philosophy of traditionalists, passed on their secrets to the Hidden by means of their 'Language of the Birds'; or as it was expressed by the medieval initiates, the 'Green language' — an initiate's language, a kind of multi-lingual word play that was applied to reveal meaningful associations between ideas.

To be able to participate in this incredible tradition and discovery of nature has filled us with gratitude. This truly is a lifetime journey and we are excited to take part in it. The following page presents a small testament to the work carried out during this year's workshop.



Br. E. has been a patron to Inner Garden ever since our official founding in 2010. In the approach of the summer solstice, as a token of appreciation for our dear teacher and his charitable patronage, we presented a first commemoration ribbon.



This “Lustrum Primus” ribbon is available to all Gardeners who joined our group in the first five years after its founding — that is those who submitted a signed NDA before June 21, 2015. This includes among others the following:



In addition to the workshop prior to solstice, 2015 was a good year as far as the release of articles and research notes is concerned. An article worth special mention is that on the Book of Lambspring by Br. Ib Ilumamah. This book is traditionally interpreted to depict various stages in laboratory alchemy but Ib Ilumamah approaches it as a description of stages of the process of **Initiation**.

Stage 6.



Plate 6 from the 1556 version
of the Book of Lambspring

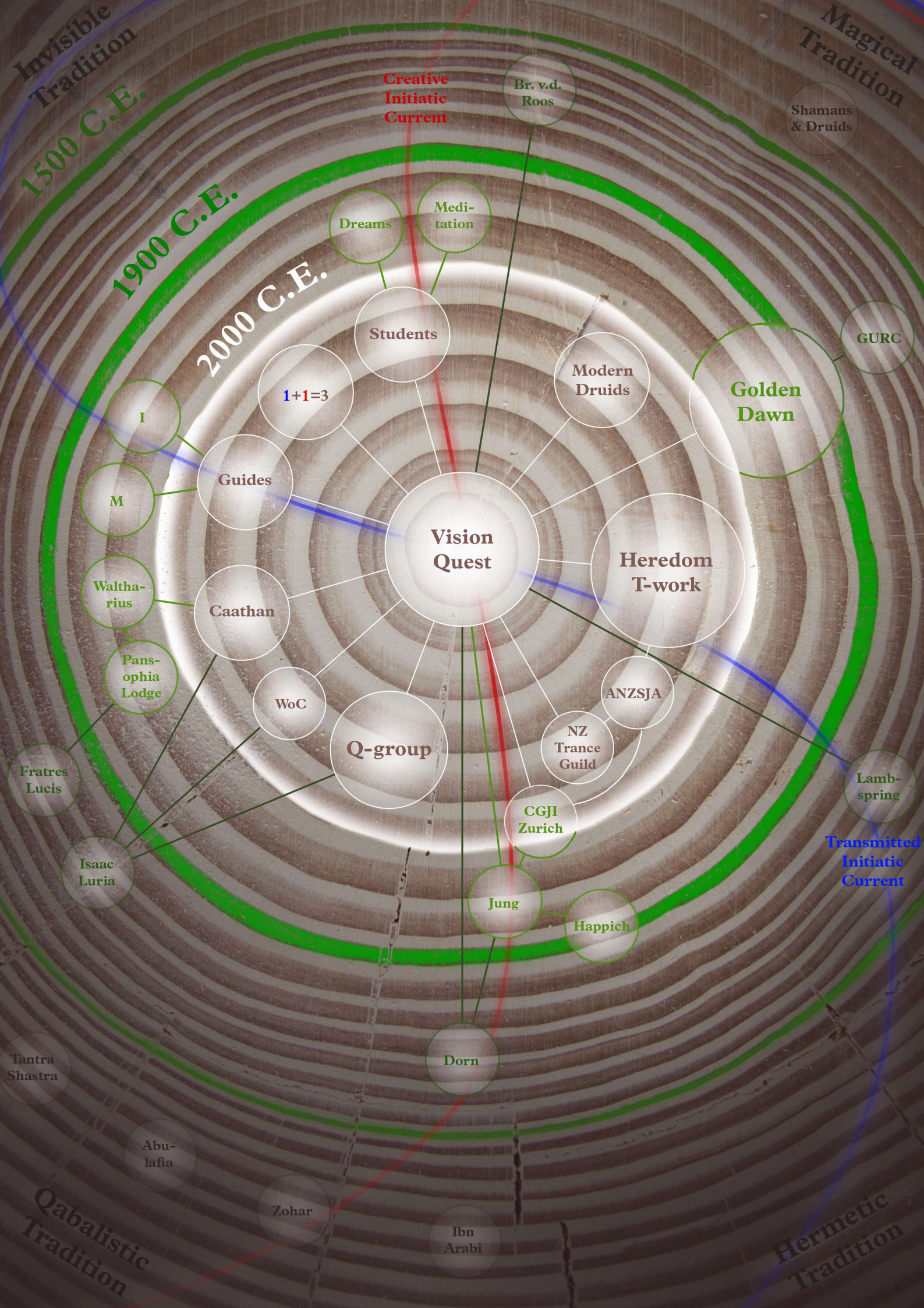
The work of VQ is not for everyone but all students, regardless of where this league in their journey took them, submitted positive evaluations afterwards. It is a journey worth embarking upon. In answer to some of the inquiries about the history of Vision Quest we have drafted the rough chronographic or existential influence diagram which is shown on the following page. A closer dendrochromatic examination of the growth rings near the heartwood may be of interest.

The following notes were released for the Partner section:

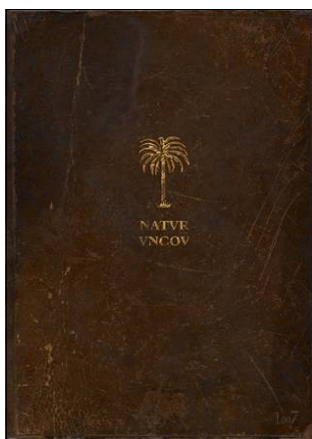
Note	Subject	Author
N205	Low Cost Overhead Stirrer	Ibn Hamda
N206	Low Cost Fume Hood	Ethekarius, Moreh
A502	The Green Mantle	Moreh

[illegible]

Parts of the note on the Green Mantle have also been published on our website. The imagery section of our website has been augmented. To further facilitate online access to the alchemical **heritage** for the general benefit a start has been made with an online library of books in the field of alchemy.



PUBLICATIONS



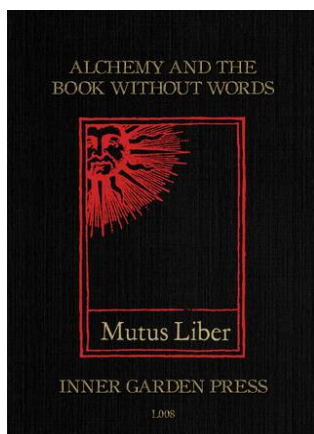
Nature Uncovered, E-book

This rare French work by an anonymous knight contains an explanation of the Wet Path to the Stone and a clear and explicit distinction between the medicinal and the transmutational Stone. At its time of appearance in 1669, this book was immediately recognised for its value. Minister Paulmy d'Argenson was assigned to uncover the true name of this unknown knight. Yet however wide and far reaching the minister's intelligence organisation was, the nameless master remained invisible. This fascinating manuscript was found in Fulcanelli's library.



Voyages in Kaleidoscope, multiple book formats

This little dadaist style book undeniably reveals the Great Work. It is a must for all those journeymen who seek the uncharted realms, the maze with its own order and images in kaleidoscope, explored through our Vision Quest, through Heredom, Splendor Lucis, or some other profound journey towards the centre. The book was originally published in French in the autumn of 1919. Shortly after publication in Paris, all copies of the book were confiscated and pulped but a few copies were overlooked and thus survived.

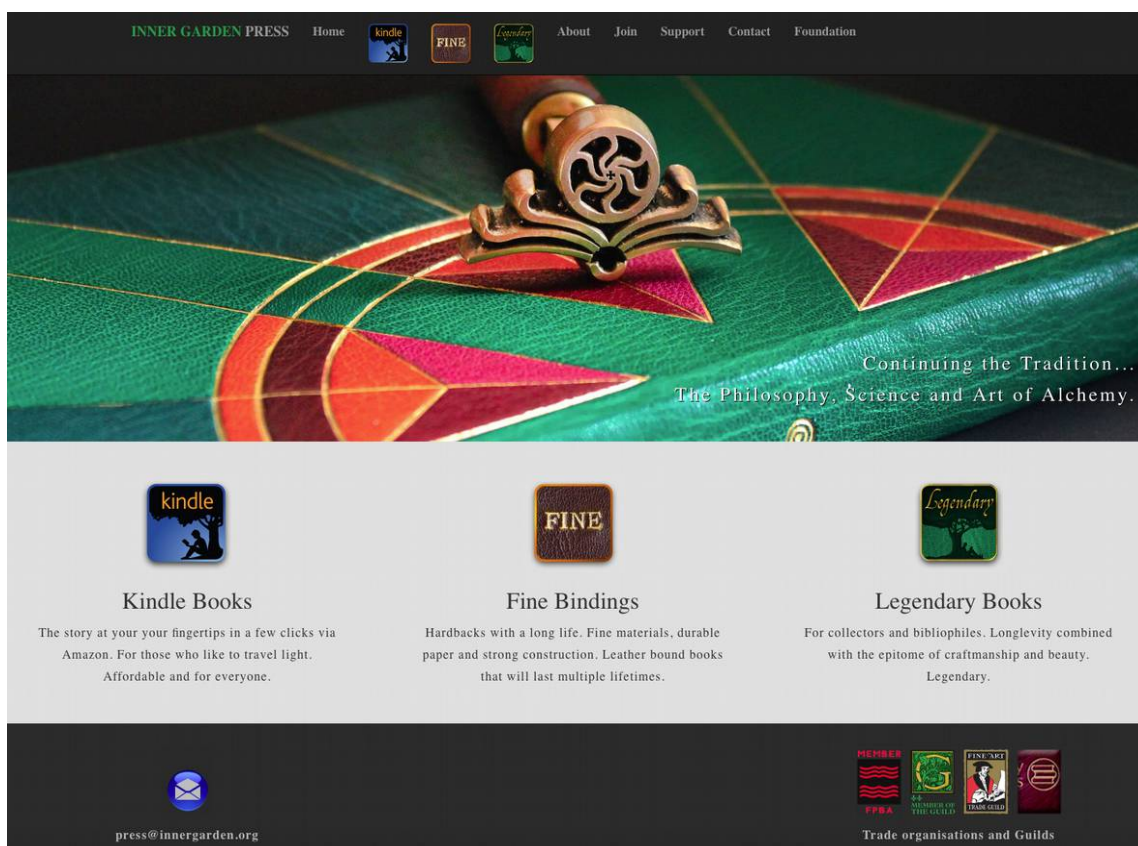


Alchemy and its Mute Book, E-book

In the year of foundation in 2010, we published Br. Magaphon's commentary on the *Mutus Liber* — the Book Without Words. This year we offer a commentary on the *Mutus Liber* from a close successor in the art: Eugène Canseliet. Canseliet had a most pivotal role in the transmission of the alchemical tradition in Europe in the 20th century. Canseliet may perhaps only brush upon the innermost secrets of the book but still this book offers a most formidable insight into the Visual Language of the Alchemists of old.

The *Mutus Liber* contains a wealth of information that can fill years of study and discovery — to be read and reread. As the adagium of the *Mutus Liber* recommends at the end of the book:

Pray
Read, Read, Read, Reread
Work and Discover

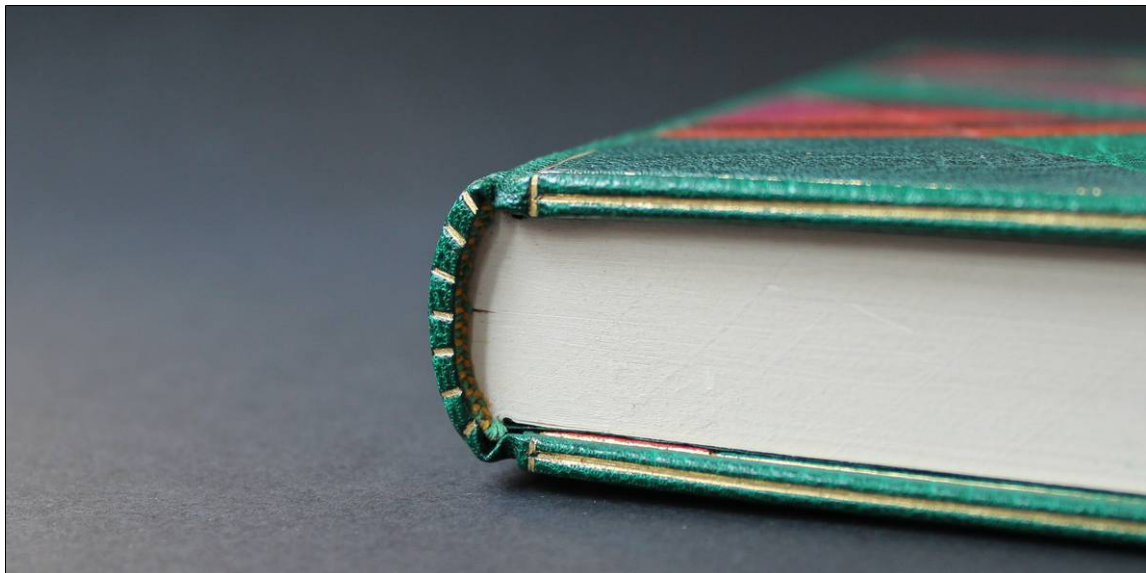


A more responsive upgrade of the webpage for our publications section has been launched together with a dedicated website section for the **Green Guild**. The latter is part of the pursuit of our supplemental objective “g” (AoA Art. 2.2 sub g.) as aspiring custodians of the Green Language and the Art of Alchemy.



As far as our website for the Inner Garden Press is concerned, the late author of this year's release *Voyages* would have been amused to see her book presented on such a Haute-Retina-Ready webpage.

It should be noted that Inner Garden Press stands apart from the non-profit Foundation of Inner Garden as a separate commercial entity. Our kindle books make the stories of our liking available for everyone; yet for those who prefer something solid and tangible, the Fine Binding Edition could be of interest. The publication of hardbacks is not the Press' primary focus, but we are happy to make some books of excellent quality available. These fine books are hand-bound French style bindings and are printed on 100% cotton paper. These books are far from cheap but we hope its longevity will eventually make up for that. The first hardback that has been made available is *Voyages* which is released in the extremely limited print run of only 23 pieces (like the original in French, a century ago) of which 18 as Fine Bindings and of which 5 will be made available in the so called **Legendary** Edition.



The Legendary Edition honours its name in that it is legendary both in content, in the quality of materials used and in the unparalleled craftsmanship invested in its making. For *Voyages in Kaleidoscope* it has been foremost the contribution of the Master bookbinder Geert van Daal. Its price is unfriendly and the delivery time is long. For those who are nevertheless inclined to invest:





In 2015, the Foundation admitted 10 Candidate Partners. Sr. Orenda, who has been with us since 2010, has been admitted as Partner on the basis of her valuable contributions to the group. Ib Iluemah has accepted the position of Board Member. Ethekearius and Origotti have stepped down as Board members. Origotti remains with the group as Partner.



A copy of our Balance Sheet is available on request for donors to 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, and those who supported our aims with financial donations. Thank you Br. JML!

In honour of our first five-year anniversary, Inner Garden has made a small donation: a discrete stone monument. This single stone is part of a larger stone clock that at the same time composes a poem that runs through the city of Utrecht — our city of founding. This **Endless Poem** of hand-carved stones is continuously in the process of creation. Every week one letter is added to the poem. Each stone is hand carved by stonecutters. The poem unfolds slowly, a letter a week, a word a month, a sentence a year.

We have donated the first letter “G” in the poem, in this stone statue of time,

namely in the word “ERGENS” (SOMEWHERE):



You will have to start somewhere
To put the past in perspective,
To relativize the present.
The further you are, the better.
Continue now,

Leave your mark.
Forget the flash in which you may exist.
The world is your roadmap.
Was there a time you were another:
It has passed.

You already are that other.
You are, as you know,
The pivot of this story.
This is eternity.
Which lasts. Which has time.
Engross yourself in your story and revel.



