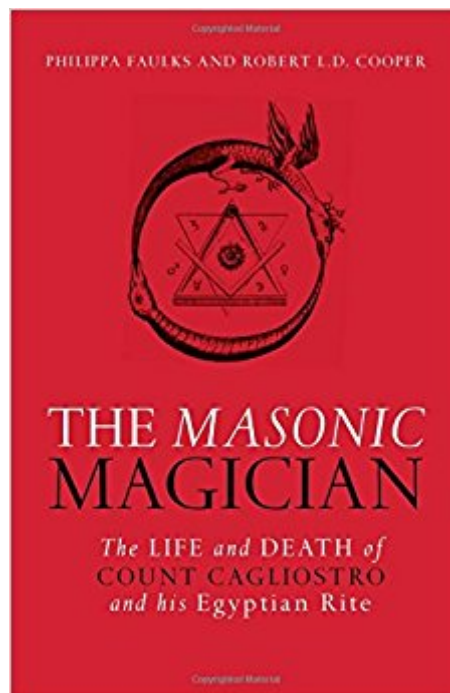




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The Masonic Magician: The Life And Death Of Count Cagliostro And His Egyptian Rite



Synopsis

Tells Cagliostro's extraordinary story, with an English translation of his Egyptian Rite of Freemasonry. This book examines the case made against him, that he was an impostor as well as a heretic, and find that the Roman Church, and history itself, have done him a terrible injustice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

PHILIPPA FAULKES is an author, ghost writer, freelance editor and journalist. She has written eight books, including the best-selling *The Masonic Magician: the Life and Death of Count Cagliostro and his Egyptian Rite* (Watkins Publishing, 2008) *A Handbook for the Freemason's Wife*, *The Secrets of Meditation*, *Henna Magic*, *Modern Mantras* and *The Zen Diet*; also included are several other titles I was a ghost writer for. She has edited many books in the course of her work as Publishing Manager of a medium sized publishing house.

The book presents a nice balance between the biography of Cagliostro and a discussion of the alchemical and arcane lore (particularly that of ancient Egypt) which resulted in the development of his Egyptian Rite of Freemasonry. The book also demonstrates how the thinking of other mystics and Age of Enlightenment philosophers with whom he interacted and studied shaped his own opinions and world view. The book treats the Count with objectivity, leaving it to the reader to form his own opinions as to whether or not the Count was a tragic, misguided charlatan or a

philanthropist who sought to aid men and bring them to a higher state of intellectual and moral purity. The latter part of the book discusses the development of Cagliostro's Egyptian Rite and its Adoptive Grades (for women) and presents a full translation of a manuscript of the three degrees of the Rite held in the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, followed by an analysis of these degrees by the authors and an interpretation of the symbolic devices utilized in them. A well-written and illustrated book on one of the premier thinkers of the latter 18th century that quickly engages the reader's attention and interest and holds it throughout the reading.

This is a very readable book that tells the story of Count Cagliostro, some historical aspects "new age" thinking, and of the formation of modern Freemasonry and its rituals. I highly recommend this book if you are a Freemason and you want to learn more about the early days of Freemasonry in Europe.

Explains both the history and speculations in a clear manner

One of the best books I've read. Recommended to me by my York rite news letter, still find myself looking at the high lights. Brother MM you will love this. MM will love it the best (they will understand it).

This is a good book. It contains various aspects of the life of Balsamo as a real master of freemasonry who had the knowledge of the sacred science of Egypt (Al-Khem, the ancient Real Art of spiritual development) and Magic. He was defamed by the Catholic Church and other (ignorant and malicious) people. Balsamo and Cagliostro were, effectively, the same person. Alchemists used to use a pseudonym. I just missed a more real image of Balsamo, but this can be obtained at the National Gallery of Art (Washington). How can we assure that Balsamo's facial appearance was as depicted in that image? Because of what have saw it someone who are able (not me) to contact and communicate with him.....(my friend, Balsamo is really a timeless human being, a Master).

Excellent

A must have

Departing from the usual biography of Cagliostro, the case for the divorce between Giuseppe

Balsamo and Count Cagliostro is presented and argued soundly, though not thoroughly enough to shake the assertion that both were one-in-the-same. Cagliostro's life and life's work are presented with great charity if not clarity in places. The work is clearly an effort to redeem one of history's more colorful and enigmatic figures. The book will appeal to students of masonry, flim-flam, French history, alchemy, occultism, and medicine. The only caveat that should be provided is that the book's approach to the subject matter is unorthodox; the typical portrayal of Cagliostro as charlatan is dismissed in favor of revision.

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