

## 8.) Traditional Metaphysics, Art and Symbolism

This is to announce that Fons Vitae (which began as the Islamic Texts Society and Quinta Essentia in England in 1979 and continues now as Fons Vitae in the USA as an interfaith publishing house including its Islamic specialization) has just achieved 501C3 charitable Status and is now a refereed publishing house. Members of its editorial board of scholars and referees include the following: Huston Smith, Jacob Needleman, Robert Thurman, Annemarie Schimmel, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Martin Lings, William Chittick, Satchicko Murata and Ewert Cousins. A complete list of referees and their biographies can be found in the attachment included with this document.

### A. Available and Forthcoming

1. ***Underneath Which Rivers Flow: The Symbolism of the Islamic Garden***
2. ***Doors of the Kingdom***
3. ***Beads of Faith (the book)***
4. ***Beads of Faith (the video)***
5. ***The Sacred Unconscious***
6. ***Cairo 1001 Years of Islamic Art and Architecture (video series in four parts)***
7. ***The Titus Burckhardt Series***
  - a. ***Sacred Art East and West***
  - b. ***Mirror of the Intellect***
  - c. ***Mystical Astrology According to Ibn 'Arabi***
  - d. ***Moorish Culture in Spain***
8. ***The Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Series***
  - a. ***Guardians of the Sundoor***
  - b. ***The BugBear of Literacy***
  - c. ***Figures of Speech, Figures of Thought***
  - d. ***ThySelf The Logos The Iconography of the Cherubim in 4,000 Years of Sacred Art***
9. ***The Rene Guenon Series***
  - a. ***Available-Fundamental Symbols***
  - b. ***various other works listed soon to be published***
10. ***The Sword of Gnosis***
11. ***The Universal Meaning of the Kabbalah***

### B. Forthcoming Archetype Titles

12. ***Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions***
13. ***The Eleventh Hour: The Spiritual Crisis of the Modern World in the Light of Tradition and Prophecy***
14. ***Collected Poems*** *collected by Martin Lings*

***\*Additional Titles from Archetype and Golgonooza to be found on the Fons Vitae Website***

### 8a) ***Underneath Which Rivers Flow: The Symbolism of the Islamic Garden***

Emma Clark  
\$12.50  
Illustrated in Full Color

The idea of Paradise being a garden is a very ancient one. In the Qur'an the phrase most frequently used to describe the Gardens of Paradise (jannat al-firdaws) is "Underneath Which Rivers Flow" (*tajri min tahtiha al-anhar*).

In this monograph the author aims to demonstrate, not only that these gardens are the archetype on which all Islamic gardens are based, but also to explain their profound sacred symbolism. Like the medieval garden in Christendom, the Islamic garden represents a kind of sacred art, the aim of which is to draw the visitor closer to God.

The Islamic gardens on earth are like shadows of the true Paradise Gardens and serve as reminders to mankind of the heavenly abode to which the righteous will return.

8b) ***Doors of the Kingdom***

Photography by Haajar Gouverneur

Calligraphy by Mohamed Zakariya

Essay by Sultan Ghalib al Qu'aiti

Foreward by Khaled Azzam

96 pp. hardcover, 80 color images

\$29.95

This impressive volume contains photographs by Haajar Gouverneur of a magnificent variety of traditional doors found throughout the four regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These photographs were exhibited at the Nahda Society's Heritage Center in Riyadh in 1995. Beautiful calligraphy of relevant hadith and Quranic passages by the renowned artist Mohamad Zakariya appear throughout the work.

8c) ***Beads of Faith*** (the book)

By Gray Henry and Susannah Marriott

Hardback 120 pp. color illustrations on every page \$18.95

"Using beads in prayer is archetypal—it is common to all the great faiths from the oldest, Hinduism, to modern Christianity. Here, for the first time, an accessible anthology introduces a mainstream readership to the rosary and prayer-bead traditions of the world's great religions. Medieval manuscripts, icons, Persian miniatures, sculpture and temple carvings, as well as evocative contemporary photographs, are used to illuminate the beads in all their glory. Key rituals and practices are presented alongside each rosary, with quotes from great past and present religious figures. The book also contains simple meditation and mindfulness techniques for everyday life based on spiritual teachings. For readers of all faiths and none, who seek inner peace and an understanding of the Divine, this is the perfect book."  
-Anna Amari, Carroll and Brown.

8d) ***Beads of Faith*** *The Sacred Name and the Heart's Celestial Garden: The Universal Use of the Rosary* (the video)

35 minutes

\$ 24.95

This video presentation first seeks to answer such questions as: In the various world religions what are the different forms the rosary has taken? What is actually said while using them and what do these spiritual practices sound like? What gives the repetition of a Divine Name or *mantra* the power to be efficacious and how does it activate the heart? How does the symbolism of the rose and the meaning of the Sacred, or rather Secret, Garden or *rosarium*, relate to attaining one's own "Kingdom of Heaven within?"

The viewer is then treated to stunning imagery in art and photography as this practice in the various faiths is chronologically presented—each tradition made clearer through wisdom found in the others.

8e) ***Cairo, 1001 Years of Islamic Art and Architecture*** (video series in four parts)

text by Caroline Williams

produced and narrated by Gray Henry

1 hour, 50 minutes

\$39.95

Too often the, the Islamic architecture of Cairo which embodies an unbroken tradition from the early days of Islam, is viewed merely in slide form. This video series takes the viewer into the environs and actual space and sound of this great heritage. Previewed at the annual MESA Convention is this wonderful scholarly overview and experience of medieval Cairo which is accompanied by three sections of extensive history and artistic detail, suitable for art history, related coursework, and academic research of individual mosques and buildings.

1. Part 1-The Grandeur of Cairo
2. Part 2-The Word, the Vine, and the Star: Spiritual Dimensions of Islamic Art in Cairo
3. Part 3-Survivors in Stone: 1001 Years of Islamic Architecture in Cairo
4. Part 4-Some Saints of Cairo and Counsels of Ibn Ata'Allah al-Iskandari (d.1309)

8f) ***The Sacred Unconscious***

by: Huston Smith

50 minute video

\$14.95

With anecdotes, humor, radiance and a twinkle in his eye, a giant in the field of world religions shares profoundly personal experiences which have changed his life. Speaking at Kentucky's Cathedral Heritage Foundations' Festival of Faiths 2000, Professor Smith observes the Festival's theme, Healing Mind, Body, and Soul "comes down to who we "are"—the recovery of the original divine station."

**\*See Archetype and Gogonooza titles subsection of website for more related works.**

***The Fons Vitae Titus Burckhardt Series***

Fons Vitae is dedicated to preserving in print for future generations the extraordinarily important work of Titus Burckhardt, who devoted his life to the exposition of Universal Truth, that wisdom "uncreate" in the realm of metaphysics, cosmology and sacred art.

An eminent Swiss metaphysician and scholar of oriental languages, Burckhardt devoted his life to the timeless and universal wisdom present in Sufism, Vedanta, Taoism, Platonism, and other great esoteric and Sapiential traditions. Though an art historian like his great uncle, the renowned Jacob Burckhardt, his main interest was the ***spiritual use and meaning*** to be found in Eastern and Western art and architecture and the expression of the sacred in the lives of the saints.

8g) ***Sacred Art East and West***

by: Titus Burckhardt

160 pp, 16 b/w illustrations, 25 line drawings, 6x9

perfectbound, 2d ed., \$19.95

Wide in scope, covering Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Taoist art, this work—unlike other books in its field—can help readers accomplish in themselves the very goals of sacred art (i.e. spiritual transfiguration). In his final chapter, Burckhardt outlines his hopes for a revival of sacred art in its Christian form and the conditions indispensable thereto.

8h) ***Mirror of the Intellect Essays on Traditional Science and Sacred Art***

by: Titus Burckhardt

translated by William Stoddart

268pp, 4 line drawings, 6x9, perfectbound, 2d ed.  
\$21.95

This is a virtually complete collection of Burckhardt's essays, originally published throughout his long life in a variety of German and French journals. Their range is tremendous—from sacred cosmology and modern science through Christianity and Islam to symbolism and mythology. The chief virtue of the collection is precisely its comprehensiveness; both quantitatively and qualitatively it is extremely rich.

8i) ***Mystical Astrology According to Ibn 'Arabi***

by: Titus Burckhardt  
forward by Keith Critchlow, professor emeritus  
67 pp, 12 illustrations, 2 line drawings, 1 chart  
6x9, perfectbound  
\$11.95

A unique work, providing the underlying spiritual principles (from the point of view of one of the greatest Sufi masters who ever lived) lacking in most modern books of astrology. It will complement and deepen anyone's personal library or collection of works on astrology.

8j) ***Moorish Culture in Spain***

Titus Burckhardt  
227 pp, paper, fully illustrated  
\$35.00

A unique study of the Moors' arrival to the Iberian peninsula in 711 until the Renaissance, examining the manner of life and the achievements in architecture, poetry, philosophy, religion, and music that developed in Andalusia, the center of the North African Arab empire on the European continent.

The Arab contribution to human progress—astronomy, mathematics, cosmology, the variety and magnificent wealth of architectural form—is a remarkable legacy of a people who entered the land as conquerors and became peaceful masters. From the establishment of the first mosque in Cordova in 785 until the time of their expulsion by the Catholic kings in 1492, the Moors dominated the intellectual life of the area and had a profound impact on European civilization, which assimilated many of their ideas.

## **The Fons Vitae AK Coomaraswamy Series**

### **The Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Series**

Fons Vitae is honored to have been given the rights for the incomparable body of works by A.K. Coomaraswamy (1877-1947), "a cardinal figure in Twentieth-century art history and in the cultural confrontation between East and West," (Princeton University Press Bollingen Series LXXXIX Vol. I Coomaraswamy: Traditional Art and Symbolism, Vol. II Coomaraswamy: Metaphysics, Vol. III Coomaraswamy: His Life and Work). He was described by Heinrich Zimmer as "that noble scholar upon whose shoulder we are still standing."

Born in Ceylon, educated in his mother's homeland England, he became one of the world's greatest art historians and scholars of traditional iconography. He served as curator in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts until his death, having been the first Oriental to make the *meaning* of oriental art understood in the West. He played an important role in the collection of Persian Art for the Freer in Washington, D.C. and the Boston Museum of Fine Art as well.

What made him one of the most qualified and gifted interpreters of traditional symbolism to have ever lived was his extensive knowledge, love, and understanding of our world's diverse cultures, sacred

scriptures, and languages. Coomaraswamy knew thirty-six languages, which meant for him that he had no need of a dictionary and knew that culture's literature, poetry, and music. He once admitted, " I actually think in both Eastern and Christian terms—Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Pali, and to some extent Persian and Chinese." For this reason, he had access to the deepest levels of meaning to be found in language which made it possible for him to truly be able to interpret symbols and mythologies within the context of the literature and where they are found.

8k) ***Guardians of the Sundoor Late Iconographic Essays***

By Ananda K. Coomaraswamy

Including numerous illustrations by Coomaraswamy's own hand

Summer 2003

Coomaraswamy's final un-published essays including: *The Iconography of Sagittarius, Philo's Doctrine of the Cherubim, Concerning Sphinxes, and The Concept of Ether in Greek and Indian Cosmology.*

8l) ***The BugBear of Literacy***

Spring 2003

*The BugBear of Literacy* was first published in England in 1949, and has been out-of-print and scarce for many years. In the U.S.A. and Canada it was published under the title *Am I my Brother's Keeper*, in 1947.

This new, enlarged edition includes an article only recently found among the author's papers, entitled "The Bugbear of Democracy, Freedom and Equality", hitherto unpublished in book form. His later books and essays form some of the most remarkable and enlightening works in the English language.

8m) ***Figures of Speech, Figures of Thought***

(The Re-issue of the above 2 works in Summer 2003 will include all of AK C's notes and corrections found in his personal copies of these works. The new editions will include photography and art work from Coomaraswamy's own personal collection and hand.)

8n) ***ThySelf The Logos The Iconography of the Cherubim in 4,000 Years of Sacred Art***

Gray Henry

400 Illustrations

Spring 2004

This work fleshes out from the art and architecture of all the world's great and spiritual traditions, the conclusions reached by AK Coomaraswamy recorded in his final soon to be published essays. (Guardians of the Sundoor)

8o) ***The Rene Guenon Series***

**Available**

Fundamental Symbols

**Forthcoming**

*Hermes and the Kabbalah*

*Guenon's Biography*

*Initiation and Spiritual Realization*

*Dante and Christian Esoterism*

*Islamic Esoterism and Taoism*

*Perspectives on Initiation*

*Traditional Forms and Cosmic Cycles*

*Hermes and the Kabbalah*

*Crisis in the Modern World*

*The Reign of Quantity*

The above titles among others may appear as a Guenon Reader or a multi volume set.

8p) ***The Sword of Gnosis*** Revised Edition  
Jacob Needleman  
Fall 2004

8q) ***The Universal Meaning of the Kabbalah***  
Translated by Leo Shaya  
Spring 2004

The original French edition first appeared in English as part of the Penguin Metaphysical library in 1971. The Kabbalah is considered to be the “doctrinal essence of the Torah...the repository in the heart of Judaism of the mysteries hidden since the beginning of time.

“God, the Universe and Man, their essential unity and fundamental attributes as seen through the eyes of Jewish esoteric tradition, is the subject of Leo Schaya’s masterly study of the Kabbalah. For in the present volume he deals neither with the history of the Kabbalah nor with the Kabbalah as literature, but expounds its universal teachings which relate all things to their supreme archetypes, the ten *Sefiroth* or principal aspects of God.” In addition to the Old Testament and the Talmud, M. Schaya discusses one of the classical sources of Jewish mysticism, the *Zohar* or Book of Splendour.

To rediscover the deepest meaning of the Old Testament is something that could have a most tonic and enlightening effect on the whole of Christian thought today; no clearer interpreters are to be found than the masters of the Kabbalah

### **Forthcoming Archetype Titles**

8r) ***Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions***  
by: Martin Lings  
96 pgs.  
\$13.95

Drawing upon his wide knowledge of world religions, the author of this book strikes at the root of everything that makes it difficult for people today to believe wholeheartedly in religion and in doing so, it shows modern man to be, in his own peculiar twenty-first century way, the embodiment of superstitions in its most dangerous form. We are faced in the modern world with a situation similar to that in the fable of the Emperor’s new clothes. This book aims to speak the truth about the modern outlook especially concerning science and metaphysics, in order to dispel the illusion that prevents that intellect from seeing things as they really are.

8s) ***The Eleventh Hour*** *The Spiritual Crisis of the Modern World in the Light of Tradition and Prophecy*

by: Martin Lings  
160 pgs.  
\$13.95

Martin Lings gives us from the outset powerful reasons for believing that we have now reached a point in time which 'the end'—whatever that may mean—is already in sight without being immediately imminent. The Eleventh Hour has its roots in the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. The following questions run through the book: why did the latecomers receive the same wage as those who had laboured throughout the heat of the day? Why were they first to be paid? And why, did Christ say, "And the last shall be first?" These questions are answered in the light of the concept of the Millennium, which is clearly the equivalent of the new Golden Age of the next cycle of time, and which is found in all three monotheistic religions, bringing into line, in this respect, with Hinduism, Greco-Roman Antiquity and Buddhism.

This new and expanded edition now includes the fascinating "St. Malachy's Prophecy of the Popes", a remarkable twelfth-century prophecy which Lings analyzes in depth, according to which the end of time is predicted and also an appendix concerning the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Garabandal and other places.

8t) **Collected Poems**

Revised and augmented by Martin Lings  
56 pgs.  
\$13.95

In his first book on Sufism, written many years ago, Martin Lings wrote, with reference to the Quranic descriptions of the celestial Gardens: "To speak of the Gardens and the Fountains of Paradise, as also of its Rivers, Fruits and Consorts, is to speak of the Truth, whereas to speak of such blessings in this world is only a manner of speaking, for the Realities are in Heaven and what we see here, below are only the remote shadows of Reality. He adds: "The shadow returns to the Substance and for those with eyes to see, the best things of this world—and that is the criterion of their excellence—are already as it were winged for return to their celestial Source. It is the function of art, in portraying earthly objects, to portray mysteriously at the same time something of their "wings". We take this as the author's avowal of an intention which lies behind his poems, three of which are published here for the first time.

8u) **LETTERS OF A SUFI MASTER**

The Shaikh al-Arabi al Darqawi  
Translated by Titus Burckhart  
Pages: 38  
Price:10.95

A translation of selections from the letters of Shaikh ad-Darqawi, founder of a major branch of the Shadhiliyyah Sufi order in North Africa in the nineteenth century. Each letter is a gem of wisdom. Almost all of the letters concern the method and aspects of the Way based on the central techniques of invocation or dhikr, not usually discussed openly by Sufi masters. They must be considered among the most direct instructions given on the Sufi method to be found in all Sufi literature.

The letters were compiled by al-'Arabī ad-Darqawi himself, copied by his disciples and printed many times in Fez, in lithographed script.

Titus Burkhardt has made this translation on the basis of two nineteenth-century manuscripts as well as the lithographed edition. They belong to a body of teaching which usually remains oral and which might be called 'practical Sufism'.

8v) **MECCA**

by Martin Lings

Pages: 86

Price: \$12.95

Illustrations: duotones

In this his latest work, eminent Islamic scholar Martin Lings discusses the significance of the pilgrimage to Mecca in the light of the tradition of Abraham. Drawing upon his own experience of performing the pilgrimage first in 1946 and then again in 1978, as well referring to the traditional sources he describes how the Hajj, proclaimed and established by Abraham and Ishmael about 4,000 years ago, and renewed by the Prophet Muhammad some fourteen hundred years ago, has continued to be performed without a break until the present day, its spiritual meaning as profound and timeless as ever.