

# The Secret Stream: Christian Rosenkreutz and Rosicrucianism

By Rudolf Steiner

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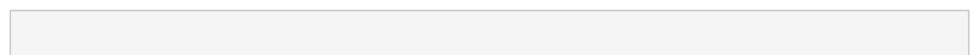
During the early seventeenth century, Europe was suddenly embroiled in controversy after the publication of the first Rosicrucian texts. Ever since, Rosicrucianism has been at the center of Western Christian esotericism. Forced underground by the Thirty Years War, it was secretly handed down by alchemists, hermeticists, and Masons to the nineteenth century, when it inspired new spiritual movements such as Theosophy, the Order of Golden Dawn, and Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science.

*The Secret Stream* collects all of Steiner's discussions of the Rosicrucians, answering questions such as Who are the Rosicrucians? What is Alchemy? What is the Rosicrucian path? What is the difference between Rosicrucianism and mysticism? And what does it mean for today? The topics include the Tao and the Rose Cross; the history and mission of Christian Rosenkreutz; the nature of Rosicrucian practice and experience; the meaning of "The Chymical Wedding," and Goethe's Rosicrucian poem, "The Mysteries."

Rosicrucian meditation is also discussed, including how to meditate the Rose Cross itself. This important collection goes to the spiritual heart of Anthroposophy, whose essence is the Rosicrucian path. Edited and introduced by Christopher Bamford, *The Secret Stream* brings to light the hidden fraternity that has lived and worked since the fourteenth century. It reveals the Rosicrucian path that is Christian, alchemical, and profoundly modern.

### Contents:

- Rosicrucianism
- The Mission of Christian Rosenkreutz
- The Rosicrucian Path of Alchemy
- Rosicrucianism and Modern Initiation
- Rosicrucian Meditation



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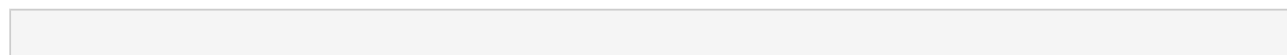
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### Editorial Review

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Text: English (translation)

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About the Author

**Rudolf Steiner** (1861–1925) was born in the small village of Kraljevec, Austro-Hungarian Empire (now in Croatia), where he grew up. As a young man, he lived in Weimar and Berlin, where he became a well-published scientific, literary, and philosophical scholar, known especially for his work with Goethe's scientific writings. At the beginning of the twentieth century, he began to develop his early philosophical principles into an approach to systematic research into psychological and spiritual phenomena. Formally beginning his spiritual teaching career under the auspices of the Theosophical Society, Steiner came to use the term Anthroposophy (and spiritual science) for his philosophy, spiritual research, and findings. The influence of Steiner's multifaceted genius has led to innovative and holistic approaches in medicine, various therapies, philosophy, religious renewal, Waldorf education, education for special needs, threefold economics, biodynamic agriculture, Goethean science, architecture, and the arts of drama, speech, and eurythmy. In 1924, Rudolf Steiner founded the General Anthroposophical Society, which today has branches throughout the world. He died in Dornach, Switzerland.

**Christopher Bamford** is Editor in Chief for SteinerBooks and its imprints. A Fellow of the Lindisfarne Association, he has lectured, taught, and written widely on Western spiritual and esoteric traditions. He is the author of *The Voice of the Eagle: The Heart of Celtic Christianity* (1990) and *An Endless Trace: The Passionate Pursuit of Wisdom in the West* (2003). He has also translated and edited numerous books, including *Celtic Christianity: Ecology and Holiness* (1982); *Homage to Pythagoras: Rediscovering Sacred Science*; and *The Noble Traveller: The Life and Writings of O. V. de L. Milosz* (all published by Lindisfarne Books). HarperSanFrancisco included an essay by Mr. Bamford in its anthology *Best Spiritual Writing 2000*.

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