

**COLLECTANEA HERMETICA,
VOL. IX. NUMBERS, THEIR
OCCULT POWER AND
MYSTIC VIRTUES**

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Collectanea Hermetica, Vol. IX. Numbers, Their Occult Power and Mystic Virtues by W. Wynn Westcott

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W. WYNN WESTCOTT

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To my frater F. L. Gardner
ll. ll. ll.

COLLECTANEA HERMETICA 9/

VOL. IX.

(1902)

NUMBERS

THEIR

OCCULT POWER AND MYSTIC VIRTUES

BY

W. WYNN WESTCOTT

S. MAGUS SOC. ROSÆ CRUCIS IN ANGLIA

AUTHOR OF

"THE ISAC TABLET," "NICHOLAS FLAMEL," "EVERBURNING LAMPS,"
"FREEMASONRY AND THE KABBALAH," "THE SEPHIR VETZIRAH,"
"THE SANCTUM REGNUM OF THE TAROT-TRUMPS"

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION, 1890.

SEVEN years have passed since this essay was written, and the MSS. pages have been lent to many friends and students of mystic lore and occult meanings. It is only at the earnest request of these kindly critics that I have consented to publish this volume. The contents are necessarily of a fragmentary character, and have been collected from an immense number of sources; the original matter has been intentionally reduced to the least possible quantity, so as to obtain space for the inclusion of the utmost amount of ancient, quaint and occult learning. It is impossible to give even an approximate list of works which have been consulted; direct quotations have been acknowledged in numerous instances, and (perhaps naturally) many a statement might have been equally well quoted from the book of a contemporary author, a mediæval monk, a Roman historian, a Greek poet, or a Hindoo Adept: to give the credit to the modern author would not be fair to the ancient sage, to refer the reader to a Sanskrit tome would be in most cases only loss of time and waste of paper. My great difficulty has been to supply information mystic enough to match the ideal of the work, and yet not so esoteric as to convey truths which Adepts have still concealed.

I must apologise for the barbarous appearance of foreign words, but it was not found practicable to supply Sanskrit, Coptic, Chaldee and Greek type, so the words have had

to be transliterated. Hebrew and Chaldee should of course be read from right to left, and it was at first intended so to print them in their converted form, but the appearance of Hebrew in English letters reversed was too grotesque; ADNI is a representation of the Aleph, daleth, nun, yod, of "Adonai," but INDA would have been sheer barbarity: in the case of Hebrew words I have often added the pronunciation.

The "Secret Doctrine" of Mme. Blavatsky, a work of erudition containing a vast fund of archaic doctrine, has supplied me with valuable quotations. If any readers desire a deeper insight into the analogies between numbers and ideas, I refer them in addition to the works of Eliphaz Lévi, Athanasius Kircher, Godfrey Higgins, Michael Maier, and John Heydon; I have quoted from each of these authorities, and Thomas Taylor's "Theoretic Arithmetic" has supplied me with a great part of the purely arithmetical notions of the Pythagoreans, the elucidation of which was mainly due to him. In conclusion, I request my readers,—

*Aut perlege et recte intellige,
Aut abstine a censura.*

W. WYNN WESTCOTT,
396 Camden Road, London, N.

The author will be pleased to receive additions and suggestions from earnest students.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of this little book has been long out of print, and for several years I have been asked to enlarge it, but until the present time sufficient leisure has not been found to collect the additional matter which seemed desirable.

This essay on Numbers now appears as Volume IX. of my Series entitled "Collectanea Hermetica," of which it seems to form a suitable part, and I am hopeful that it may be as well received by students of mystic philosophy as the previous volumes which treated of Alchemy, in the Hermetic Arcanum, Hermetic Art, Euphrates and Aesch Metzareph; the Dream of Scipio and the Golden verses of the Pythagoreans, the Pymander of Hermes and Egyptian Magic.

I have added in this edition many notes on the notions of the Rabbis of Israel, both from those who contributed to the Mishnah and Gemara of the Talmuds of Jerusalem and of Babylon, and from the Rabbis who made a special study of the Kabbalah. Only a few Talmudic treatises have as yet appeared in the English language, and hardly any Kabbalistic tracts, except three from the Zohar or Book of Splendour, viz., the Siphra Dtzenioutha, the Idra Rabba and the Idra Suta. A few others are to be read in German and French translations. Many Talmudic and Kabbalistic quotations may, however, be found in J. P. Stehelin's Rabbinical Literature of 1748; in Allen's Modern Judaism,