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An overview of Western esoteric currents from late antiquity, with an emphasis on the last six centuries. Widely received in France, this brief, comprehensive introduction to the Western esoterics of the founder of the area is finally available in English. Historical and pedagogical guidebook, the book is written primarily for students and beginners. In a clear, precise language, author Antoine Faivre provides an overview of Western esoteric currents from late antiquity. The main part of the book is laid out in chronological order, from ancient and medieval sources (Alexandrian hermetism, Gnosticism, neoplatonism), in the Renaissance to our time. Its scope includes spiritual alchemy, Jewish and Christian Kabbalah, Christian theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Illuminati, Mystical Freemasonry, Occultist current, theosophical and anthroposophical societies, traditionalist school and esotericism in modern initiating societies and in new religious movements. Faivre explores how these currents are related, and refers to where they appear in art and literature. The book concludes with an annotated bibliography, which makes it an important resource for both beginners and scholars. Characteristically erudite, radical brief overview of the area of Western esotericism, immediately accessible and bristling with details. This is a valuable overview, from the inimitable point of view of the founder of the area, for those who want to delve into this fascinating and prosperous field of modern science. Arthur Versluis, author of *The Restoration of Paradise, Wisdom of Children, and the Magic and Mystics Classic* review of western esotericism the most knowledgeable and influential scholar of his generation is now finally available to English readers, in an updated edition that takes into account current events. This small but precious volume will be indispensable to all who want to be well informed about the historical background and development of esoteric currents from antiquity to our time. Wouter J. Hanegraaff, University of Amsterdam with back cover: Widely received in France, this brief, comprehensive introduction to the Western esoterics of the founder of the area is finally available in English. Historical and pedagogical guidebook, the book is written primarily for students and beginners. In a clear, precise language, author Antoine Faivre provides an overview of Western esoteric currents from late antiquity. The main part of the book is laid out in chronological order, from ancient and medieval sources (Alexandrian hermetism, Gnosticism, neoplatonism), in the Renaissance to our time. Its coverage includes spiritual alchemy, Jewish and Christian Kabbalah, Christian theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Illuminati, Mystical Freemasonry, Occultist, Theophysical and Anthroposophical Societies, Traditionalist School and in modern societies and in new religious movements. Faivre explores how these currents are related, and refers to where they appear in art and literature. The book concludes with an annotated bibliography, which makes it an important resource for both beginners and scholars. About the author: Antoine Faivre is Professor Emeritus at the School of Pratik de Upper Utudes (religious studies), Sorbonne. He has published extensively, including access to Western esoterics and Golden Fleece and Alchemy, as also published by SUNY Press. Christine Rhone has translated numerous books, including Theosophy Faivre, Imagination, Tradition: Research in Western Esoterics, also published by SUNY Press. This name may belong to another edition of this name. Start your review of Western esoterics: A Brief History of J'ai peut-Etre Cru et tort que la collection ke sais-je? Atait plus y moins vulgaris'e, clairement il n'en n'est rien vu ce livre, qui est plus une bibliographie comment'e, bourr'e d'acronymes et de renvois, sans traduction du latin ou de l'allemand, et qui de'bute sur 30-40 pages de d'fin. Si na surmonte tout cela, effectivement, il contient des information interessantes sur l'occultisme en Europe, et beaucoup de r'ferens. A short and dizzying journey through various spheres and false starts and the enduring appeal of various esoteric currents in Western history, from Corpus Hermeticum to more modern theosophical and esoteric currents, and running from parallel to orthogonal trains of rational/empirical thought. Useful as timing and history check out various airtight claims, and as a reading list for strange new things, but somewhat dry overall. The best (and satirical) introduction to all the short and dizzying journeys through various different spheres and false starts and the enduring appeal of the various esoteric currents in Western history, from Corpus Hermeticum to more modern theozoic and esoteric currents operating anywhere from parallel to orthogonal to trains of rational/empirical thought. Useful as timing and history check out various airtight claims, and as a reading list for strange new things, but somewhat dry overall. A better (and satirical) introduction to all the airtight things can be found in *The Pendulum of Foucault Umberto...* more rather well read, although it narrows the area of western esotericism. In my opinion, that is why it misses vital areas in this area. The English translation is also not perfect, and too much attention is paid to names and dates rather than explanatory content. However, interesting information. 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This small but precious volume will be indispensable for all who want to be well informed about the historical background and development of esoteric currents from antiquity to our time. - Wouter J. Hanegraaff, University of AmsterdamAntan Faivre is Professor Emeritus at the Pratique des Hautes Tudes (Religious Studies) School of Sorbonne. It has published extensively, including access to Western esoterics and Golden Fleece and Alchemy, as also published by SUNY Press. Christina Rona has translated numerous books, including Theosophy Faivre, Imagination, Tradition: Research in Western Esoterics, also published by SUNY Press. Click. western esotericism a concise history pdf

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