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## The golden dawn

Be opened unto the Higher, may thy heart be a centre of Light, and may thy body be a Temple of the Rose Cross. Whether thou considerest thyself a novice, an aspiring student or an adept in thy own specialist field, we hope thou findest something within our pages that aids thy progressive journey towards the Light. Founded upon the discovery of a cipher manuscript in 1887, this secret order attracted some of the most interesting and talented personalities of its time, including poet William Butler Yeats, Annie Horniman, Florence Farr, S.L. MacGregor Mathers, Aleister Crowley, Israel Regardie, A.E. Waite, Algernon Blackwood, Arthur Machen, Violet Firth, and many others. The order's origins date back to the discovery of a cipher manuscript by William Wynn Westcott in 1887. He was a coroner and a member of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia (Rosicrucian Society of Freemasons). Westcott deciphered the manuscript, which contained a series of mystical rituals. With the aid of his occultist friend MacGregor Mathers, these rituals were expanded and systematized. The Isis-Urania Temple of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was established in London in 1888, with Westcott, Mathers, and W.R. Woodman as chiefs. Between 1888 and 1896, other temples were formed at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset; Bradford, Yorkshire; Edinburgh, Scotland; and Paris. The Golden Dawn consisted of ten main grades, associated with the symbolism of the Kabala: zelator 10°=100°, theoricus 20°=90°, practicus 30°=80°, philosophus 40°=70°, adeptus minor 50°=60°, adeptus major 60°=50°, adeptus exemptus 70°=40°, magister templi 80°=30°, magus 90°=20°, and ipsissimus 100°=10°. Selected candidates who passed the adeptus minor grade might qualify for admission to a secret second order—the Ordo Rosae Rubaeae et Aureae Crucis (Order of the Red Rose and Cross of Gold). The complex rituals of the order were partially revealed in the journal The Equinox by Aleister Crowley, who joined the Golden Dawn in November 1898 and left early in 1900. A more detailed record of the teaching, rites, and ceremonies was later published by Israel Regardie in four volumes (1937-40). Although the rituals of the Golden Dawn were little more than a rather complicated Freemasonry embroidered with occult symbolism, the special studies related to them developed the individual's insight into occultism and mysticism. The poet W.B. Yeats placed a high value on his magic studies with the order and once wrote, "If I had not made magic my..." Study-wise, I couldn't have penned a single word about my Blake book, nor would Countess Kathleen have ever materialized. Yeats played a significant role in a conflict with Aleister Crowley, who attempted to take over the London lodge in 1900. Crowley was subsequently expelled from the Golden Dawn, and Yeats took charge of Rosae Rubaeae et Aureae Crucis and became Emperor of Isis-Urania Temple Outer Order. Crowley eventually founded his own order (A.'.A.'.) in 1905, using material first encountered in the Golden Dawn. The Golden Dawn continued to fragment as leadership of various branches changed hands and new orders emerged. Several offshoots are still in existence; possibly the most substantial is the Los Angeles-based Builders of the Adytum. Additionally, several new groups have formed, partly to offer an alternative to magic practiced by those deriving from Aleister Crowley. Sources: The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn (HOGD) was revived in 1982 with Regardie's blessing, followed by the establishment of the Osiris Khenti Amenit Temple. The order exists in two divisions: the Golden Dawn and the Ordo Rosae Rubaeae et Aureae. Over time, various groups with lineages and charters from the original HOGD, including the Stella Matutina and Holy Order of the Golden Dawn, have been brought together under the United Confederation of Independent and Autonomous Temples. The new HOGD has taken a stance against revival groups offering self-initiations or "astral" initiations, instead opting for physical presence of leaders. The order's headquarters is located at 270 N. Canon Dr., Ste. 1302, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. The website can be found at . According to Regardie, the Golden Dawn has had a profound influence on Occultism since its revival in the late 19th century. Its membership drew from various circles, including dignified professions and arts and sciences. Despite some similarities with ancient texts, the Order's synthesis of knowledge is considered unique. The heart of the Rituals' system lies in unseen roots, stemming from unrecorded sources that have never been documented. This depth is rooted in the collective knowledge and trials of numerous adept adepts and true initiators, whose expertise has been passed down through many eras.