

CURRICULUM OF THE COMPANIONS OF THE STONE

(A preliminary and tentative draft)

The requirements given are those which are to be met before the next level is granted. The Council of the Stone may waive specific requirements in unusual cases, but will generally impose additional requirements in place of those waived.

Associate

Formal Requirements:

- Completion of correspondence course
- Passing score on general examination

Skills To Be Learned:

- Core somatic and awareness skills
- Lesser Pentagram ritual
- Middle Pillar exercise
- Basic discursive meditation
- Basic Tarot divination

Required Reading:

Fortune, Mystical Qabalah

First Degree

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of First Degree meditation sequence
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Full set of Pentagram, Hexagram, and Rose Cross rituals
- Advanced Middle Pillar exercise
- First Degree opening and closing formula for solo rituals
- Knowledge of procedures and functions in outer lodge
- Basic mastery of outer lodge mechanics (movement, signs)
- Elementary aspects of inner lodge work
- Extension of Associate skills

Required Reading:

Butler, The Magician: His Training and Work
Carter, Principles of Astrology
Fortune, Psychic Self-Defence
Regardie, Foundations of Practical Magic

Szanto, Marriage of Heaven and Earth

Wang, Qabalistic Tarot

Golden Dawn material:

- Outer Order knowledge lectures
- Pentagram, Hexagram, and Rose Cross ritual papers

Grade of Earth

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Grade of Earth meditation sequence
- Performance of scrying sequence for Earth
- Design, construction and consecration of Pentacle
- Participation in at least one inner lodge ritual
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Working of consecration ritual from provided script
- Techniques of scrying in the spirit vision
- Methods of geomantic divination
- Basic inner lodge somatic work
- Extension of First Degree skills

Required Reading:

Crowley, Book Four

Fortune, Sane Occultism

Michell, Earth Spirit

Pennick, Geomancy

Regardie, Tree of Life

Golden Dawn material:

- Geomancy papers
- Scrying papers
- Elemental weapon paper

Grade of Air

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Grade of Air meditation sequence
- Performance of scrying sequence for Air
- Design, construction, and consecration of Dagger
- Participation in at least one additional inner lodge ritual
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Tarot divination

- Basic inner lodge imaginal work
- Elements of informal logic and critical thinking
- Extension of Grade of Earth skills

Required Reading:

(books on logic and critical thinking, to be determined)

Case, The Tarot

Knight, Magical World of the Tarot

Knight, Tarot Magic

Ouspensky, Tarot Symbolism

Wirth, Tarot of the Magicians

Golden Dawn material:

- Tarot papers

Grade of Water

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Grade of Water meditation sequence
- Performance of scrying sequence for Water
- Design, construction and consecration of Cup
- Participation as an officer in at least one additional inner lodge ritual
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Divination by horary astrology
- Basic inner lodge structural work
- Elements of abstract numerical and geometrical thought
- Extension of Grade of Air skills

Required Reading:

(books on horary astrology, and astrology in general, to be determined)

Albinus, Platonic Doctrines

Lawlor, Sacred Geometry

Plato, Symposium

Waterfield, Theology of Arithmetic

Grade of Fire

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Grade of Fire meditation sequence
- Performance of scrying sequence for Fire
- Performance of Pentagram pathworking sequence
- Design, construction and consecration of Wand
- Participation as an officer in at least one additional

inner lodge ritual

- Service as an appointed officer in the outer lodge
- Direction of an instructional exercise in the lodge
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Design and performance of simple composite rituals (e.g., consecration of talismans)
- Elementary Pathworking technique
- Basic inner lodge affective work
- General competence in a lodge setting
- Extension of Grade of Water skills

Required Reading:

(a decent introduction to alchemy)

Aurea Catena

Crowley, Magick Without Tears

Regardie, Ceremonial Magic

Regardie, Middle Pillar

Splendor Solis

Golden Dawn material:

- Miscellaneous ritual papers

Second Degree

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Second Degree meditation sequence
- Performance of scrying sequence on Tree of Life
- Design, construction and consecration of Lotus Wand, Sword, and Lamén
- Performance of at least two different First Degree formula rituals
- Presentation of an original instructional program in lodge
- Service as an appointed officer in at least two different offices in the outer lodge
- Participation as an officer in each of the rituals performed in a COTS subordinate lodge
- Passing score in a comprehensive examination
- Selection and thorough study of at least one specialization
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at lodge meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Use of First Degree formula for solo ritual
- Leadership in a lodge setting
- Competence in inner lodge work
- Self-direction in esoteric study and practice

- Extension of Grade of Fire skills

Required Reading:

Magical Theory

Agrippa, Occult Philosophy
Crowley, Book of Thoth
Crowley, Magic in Theory and Practice
Fortune, Cosmic Doctrine
Knight, Practical Guide to Qabalistic Symbolism
Papus, Tarot of the Bohemians
Regardie, Garden of Pomegranates
Sadhu, The Tarot
Sepher Yetzirah
Golden Dawn material:
- Z Documents

The Rosicrucian Tradition

Andreae, Chemical Wedding
Anonymous, Confessio Fraternitatis
Anonymous, Fama Fraternitatis
Case, True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order
Maier, Laws of the Fraternity of the Rosy Cross
McIntosh, The Rosicrucians

(Other reading will be assigned depending on personal specialization. The Council will establish recommended reading lists for various topics within the tradition: for example, alchemy, astrology, earth energy ("Green Ray") work, Enochiana, Golden Dawn studies, healing, Neoplatonism, Pythagorean studies, Tarot, and so on. At least two such additional lists will be read by each Companion who aspires to the Third Degree.)

Third Degree

The Adept Companions of the Stone are expected to pursue their personal magical training according to a personal sense of the appropriate direction for such work. Each Adept will present the fruits of these labors to the Order as a whole, in keeping with the Chesed clause of the Adept Obligation.

The Third Degree has two grades, Outer Adept and Inner Adept. The Council will establish specific requirements for the grade of Inner Adept, which will include progress in personal magical training, participation in the work of the Order, and contribution to the Order's fund of knowledge through independent research.

CURRICULUM OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF CARBONEK

(A preliminary and tentative draft)

The Fellowship of Carbonek is a secondary Order within the Companions of the Stone. While the COTS works primarily within the Hermetic and Rosicrucian aspects of the Western Mysteries, the Fellowship is concerned with the mysteries of the Grail and the traditions of chivalry.

Membership in the Fellowship is open to any Initiate Companion of the Stone in good standing who has been advanced to the Second Degree. Because the work of the Fellowship involves meditative and other disciplines similar to those of other grades of the Order, it is recommended that those who are interested in the Fellowship's work finish the meditations assigned to the Second Degree before applying for membership.

Grade of Postulant

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Postulant meditation sequence
- Performance of assigned Earth energy awareness work
- Performance of "Work of Earth" martial energy work
- Participation in assigned guided visualization sequence
- Demonstration of competence in unarmed combat drill
- Demonstration of basic skill with sword, spear, and shield
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at Fellowship meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- Elements of armed and unarmed combat
- Sensitivity to earth energies/effects of place
- Basic facility with martial energy work
- Knowledge of Fellowship procedures and functions
- Application of prior training to differing Rites

Required Reading:

Texts

Malory, Morte d'Arthur

Romance of Perceval in Prose

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival

(Others? These are my favorites, that's all)

Modern Works

Knight, Secret Tradition in Arthurian Legend

Matthews, At the Table of the Grail

Matthews & Green, Grail Seeker's Companion
Weston, From Ritual to Romance

Grade of Knight

Formal Requirements:

- Performance of Knight of the Grail meditation sequence
- Performance of advanced earth energy awareness work
- Performance of advanced martial energy work
- Completion of sequence of Four Vigils
- Direction of guided visualization sequence for postulants
- Service as an officer within the Fellowship
- Participation in at least one Grail Working
- Demonstration of competence in armed and unarmed combat
- Completion of required reading
- Regular attendance at Fellowship meetings

Skills To Be Learned:

- General competence in armed and unarmed combat
- Personal experience of contact with earth energies
- Leadership in a lodge setting
- Extension of skills from previous levels in the Order

Required Reading:

(more extensive readings in Arthurian romance)
(materials on theory, strategy and philosophy of combat)
(materials on earth energies and traditional rites)

Grade of Keeper of the Grail

This Grade is held by those who have served in the role of Seeker of the Grail in the annual Grail Working. It is partly a courtesy title, partly a recognition of the initiatory nature of the Grail Working itself. Like the Degree of Adept Companion, it has no specifically assigned work.

Note on the Fellowship

My current conception is that the annual Grail Working (on Twelfth Night?) will be the primary activity of this part of the Order -- over and above the training, of course. This will be a reenactment of the winning of the Grail, and the healing of the Fisher King and the land. It will also install the presiding officer (Keeper of the Grail) for a one year term -- the Perceval of one Working is the Fisher King of the next, and serves as presiding officer in the intervening year.

The Fellowship's work needs to combine the martial-chivalric aspects so thoroughly neglected in the Western tradition with the earth energy/"Green Ray" element that also plays such an important role in the Grail symbolism. The critical link here is none other than the "Work of Earth" exercise, and the perspectives and disciplines which develop from it. Anyone who has ever spent time standing in horse stance has at least some grasp of the role of "groundedness" in a martial context.

We will be creating -- or, at any rate, attempting to create -- earth-warriors, masters of a martial way that derives its strength from the soil and the stone. (Less solar Gawain than Antaeus, in a way...) That might argue for a certain amount of work in wilderness-living technique, or things of that nature. Is Myrddin Wyllt lurking about in this context? Certainly something of that level seems to be linked to it; and I think there may be something of the berserker running through this vein as well.

The rituals as currently envisioned are as follows. The Postulant initiation is a fairly basic one, involving mostly a pledge given upon a sword. (It would be nice if it could be done in a nunderground setting, nicer if the setting could be a natural cave.) The Knight of the Grail initiation is the full rite of medieval knighthood, including the vigil, the dubbing, the demonstration of prowess and all. The Keeper of the Grail initiation, of course, is the Grail Working itself.

The Four Vigils referred to in the Knight curriculum are derived from a certain amount of schematizing of Arthurian legend; they represent the various guardings of fords, springs, bridges, etc. which play such an important part in the legends. There will be one for each element; they will be somewhat ritualized, as no doubt the originals were, but will also involve some form of combat or at least contention. Possibly a schema can be devised in which these happen in rotation during the year, and all active knights take part together in them.

Of course we will need to devise or borrow some sort of martial system, compatible both with the COTS system and with the Grail legends, to serve as the center of this...and that may be easier said than done. The two obvious pitfalls are a) borrowing some established martial art, because of its familiarity to one or more members, without being sure of its compatibility at a deep level, and b) putting together some kind of hodgepodge or new system without having the training or experience to make it effective in actual combat. There are no doubt other pitfalls as well. Very tentatively, I might suggest that some of the basic elements common to Chinese wushu styles -- particularly those with Shaolin somewhere in their ancestry -- might be one place to look for a foundation; and surviving European weapons arts might be checked out for applicability. There are dozens of other options, of course.