

Curriculum
COMPANIONS OF THE STONE
Grade of Earth Curriculum

(draft for Council review)

The following requirements have been established by the Council of the Stone for advancement to the Grade of Air. They include readings, individual magical practices, participation in lodge work, the making of a working tool, and an examination.

Readings

Dion Fortune, Sane Occultism

John Michael Greer, Circles Of Power, part 1

John Michell, The Earth Spirit

Nigel Pennick, The Ancient Science of Geomancy

Plotinus, The Enneads, selections:

Porphyry's biography of Plotinus, and 2.9 (Against the Gnostics)

Golden Dawn material (from Israel Regardie's The Golden Dawn):

Ritual of the Pentagram (Vol. 3, pp. 9-19)

Elemental Weapons paper (Vol. 3, pp. 66-78)

Material on scrying (Vol. 4, pp. 11-46)

Geomancy material (Vol. 4, pp. 112-136)

A written response to each of the readings should be prepared and submitted to the Lecturer of your lodge. This is not a book report, but simply a personal comment about what you learned from the book and how you responded to it; it may be as long as you wish, but a few paragraphs are normally sufficient to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

Please check with your lodge's librarian to see if the books on the reading list are available from the lodge library. All books by John Michael Greer can also be obtained from the author at 60% of cover price, plus a small shipping and handling charge.

Magical Practice

Continued personal work with discursive meditation and the practice of the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram and Middle Pillar exercise are the foundations of the COTS curriculum, and should be continued throughout your work in the Grade of Earth. Both meditation and ritual should be done daily, preferably at the same time each day, and recorded in your magical journal. A set of themes for meditation based on the Grade of Earth ritual is included in the instructional letters for this Grade.

The following additional practices, which are also covered in the assigned readings or in instructional letters and papers, should be learned and practiced regularly at this point in your training:

- the Greater Ritual of the Pentagram
- the First Degree Opening and Closing for individual ritual

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- Scrying in the Spirit Vision, using Pentacle court cards to explore the sub-elements of Earth
- geomantic divination
- the Work of Earth (the Grade somatic work)
- basic practical methods of sacred geometry

Any of these practices will be demonstrated to you by senior members of your lodge on request, and personal instruction is readily available. Talk to the Lecturer of your lodge to arrange for this.

Companions of the Grade of Earth should also plan on continuing to work with the practices of the preceding Grade to retain a basic level of competence therein, as they will be expected to assist Companions of the First Degree in learning their work.

Lodge Work

Companions of the Grade of Earth will be expected to show a thorough mastery of the procedures of a lodge open in the Outer, and should expect to take an active part in the work of their lodge. Regular attendance at lodge meetings is of the highest importance, and may be considered the single most important requirement for advancement in the Order.

Working Tool

The working tool of a Companion of the Grade of Earth is the Pentacle. Each Companion will be expected to provide himself or herself with a pentacle of a personally chosen size and pattern, and to consecrate it ritually, before advancing to the Grade of Air. The ritual to be used may be either that given in Regardie's The Golden Dawn, Vol. 3, or the variant from John Michael Greer's Circles of Power, ch. 9. Companions who wish to use different ritual forms for consecrating their elemental working tools may seek a waiver from the Council, presenting the proposed ritual and their reasons for choosing it; such waivers will be granted in most cases. In all cases, a full report on the ritual of consecration will be an important part of the examination for the next Grade, and the Pentacle itself must be shown to the examining committee, although it is not to be touched by anyone but its owner..

Examination

A Companion of the Grade of Earth may apply for examination at any time after three months have passed since his or her Grade of Earth initiation. The Examination of the Grade of Earth will comprise:

- demonstration by the candidate of perfect knowledge of the Sign, word and symbols of the Grade of Earth;
- demonstration by the candidate of one or more of the techniques of practical magic taught in the Grade of Earth;
- demonstration of basic skill in the practice of geomantic divination and sacred geometry;
- review of the candidate's reading and practice.

The Lecturer of your lodge should be contacted for examination. Once this is completed, the candidate may apply to the lodge for advancement to the Grade of Air.