

# A Facsimile Rosicrucian Alchemical Manuscript On the Philosophers Stone

Attributed to Edward Kelley 1592-97,  
the companion of Dr. John Dee,

(from a handwritten notebook circa 1860).

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Finely bound in an edition of 500 copies, each copy in full black niger with dark non-pareil marbled endpapers chosen to match the original manuscript notebook.

To the front of each copy is a gilt talisman designed after a Rosicrucian emblem found in the manuscript.

The body of the text is an exact reproduction of the handwritten original, reproduced by offset lithography onto 120gsm oyster wove paper and displaying all the features of the manuscript pages in full.



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The original notebook appeared in the collection of a practising alchemist, now deceased. It has never been part of a large collection, never publicly viewed, nor its contents printed.

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“..Manuscriptial Compendium  
During  
1592-1597 ...”

This unique document opens with a curious history relating to the Emperor Rudolf II and his court physician Sennert, who were involved in the discovery of the alchemist ‘Kallnuss’, his eventual imprisonment and attempted escape, which lead to his ‘..breaking four ribs..’ and dying ‘soon after..’. This legend of Edward Kelleys (here Kallnuss) demise is a variant of the famous story found in Barrett and in Elias Ashmoles account, and the manuscript itself contains much material not found in any of the surviving Kelley material (either the ‘Tractatus de Lapide Philosophorum’ or in the collection of texts which survived through the agency of Sigismund Bacstrom).

Prefixed to the treatise is a chapter ‘Magnalia’ which exhorts the aspiring alchemist in highly religious language to be ‘...as cunning as the Serpent and candid like the Dove..for who, not possessing these qualities in this sedimental earth, will be attacked by men and beasts, even devoured by dogs..’. The path of Initiation in the Western Mysteries is clearly alluded to here, and the work herein described contains many deep allusions to the esoteric mysteries for those who ‘know, and well consider..’.

A most curious and dark passage on

### **‘..The Hand of the Philosophers..’**

follows, wherein is mentioned a ‘Philosophical Club’ to which the aspiring student must swear and bind himself as a servant and ‘truly as an alchemist’, to learn the secrets of the ‘Hand’ which contains the secrets of the masters of the art.



This strange anonymous ‘Philosophical Club’ with its religious language, its sacred oaths, is this the invisible college of the Rosicrucian Fraternity?

Immediately following the previous passage is a lesson on the Four Lettered Name of God and the ten qualities or ‘Image’ of the true alchemist, an elevation to god-like status for the natural man, the ‘..true footsteps of the Image..’, a work of prayer which leads to the Heart of the Father, ‘by which he extracted, cleansed us, reconciled, and made us lovely to God..’

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Following is a fulsome account of the

### **V.I.T.R.I.O.L.U.M.**

from which the ‘Philosophi Adepti’ prepared their ‘First Stone’, their starry regulae and ‘sap of the wise’, a substance both solid, powder, and limpid liquid, quick in its agency and startling transformations!

An extended rehearsal of its names and attributes follow, taken from Valentine, hosellanus, Romanus, Erbinacus, Hollandus &c &c..

This same ‘Vitriol of the Wise’ spreads as a vapour, and our author likens it well to the potency ‘..thrown into the large Vessel of nature..’ at the time of the incarnation of the deity, ‘..opened with the menstruum which closes the whole world..’ a Rosicrucian mystical cipher for the enlivening of the natural elements by the spirit.

A careful instruction on preparing this flower ‘..in a glasse, in the balneum..’ which then is purified, the crystals dried and ‘..you will receive in your eye and hand an liquorum unctuosum which the Philosophers give different names..’ encompassing the dry, wet, and middle passages to the ‘Golden Fleece’..

Our Manuscript details both the processes of the ‘Dry’ and ‘Wet’ alchemical paths, both the processes and the various secret names by which they are known, followed by a disquisition on the Red Philosophical Egg and its procedures given in terse language and each page bristling with alchemical signs and symbols of the work, a hidden language of the Adeptus.

Next comes the largest and most significant section of the manuscript:

### **‘..To prepare The Red Elixir..’**

Being the actual recipe for the projecting powder used by Edward Kelley in Bohemia in the 1590’s.

For more details of this publication visit: <http://www.hellfireclubbooks.co.uk>