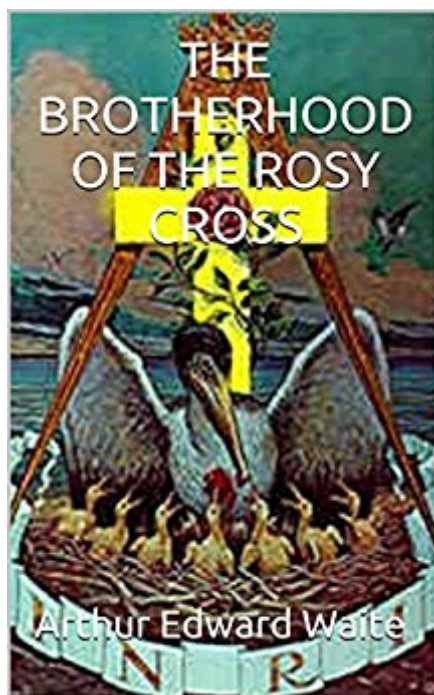


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# THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROSY CROSS (Waite Collection)



## Synopsis

Compared to the Freemasons with whom they are sometimes confused, Rosicrucians seem like explorers at the heart of a mystery. A secret, fraternal order devoted to occult studies, the Brotherhood of the Rosy Cross, as it is sometimes called, may well be both older and more doctrinally complex than its Masonic counterpart. Officially beginning in Germany around 1614, Rosicrucianism may have been several centuries older. Waite discusses the precursors of the movement -- some with legitimate claims, others not -- dating as far back as the first century A.D. Kabbalists, alchemists, and mystics, such as Jacob Boehme, and Raymond Lully, are featured in Waite's discussion of the development of Rosicrucian symbolism, and the evolution of its notions of the origins of life and the substance of the soul. The bulk of the book, however, is devoted to the rising and falling fortunes of the Brotherhood since its formal entry into the world after the appearance of several pamphlets, written by Christian Rosenkruetz (psuedonym of Johan Andrea, and origin of the name of the order) in the early 17th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Waite attempts to trace the history of the Rosicrucians from before the publication of the Fama to his contemporaries. His style is very difficult to read, and the book reads like a doctoral thesis

written in lavish 19th century prose (which is almost exactly what this book is). Almost every page contains footnoted references, which was the style of the times, and they are almost all in Latin and German. If you know German you will do OK, but a cursory knowledge of Latin is recommended if you want to understand any of the references -- translations are not provided by the author. Besides presenting his own theories, Waite examines efforts put forth by other authors. Typical of Waite, he all but calls them blundering idiots. To his credit, he is ruthless in presenting textual evidence and references for all his claims. This is a very dry and scholarly work, and unless you are truly interested in the subject matter, you should pass this one over. However, if you would like a good start to research the Rosicrucians complete with references to base documents, this is definitely the book to get.

Waite is always informative, sometimes frustrating, and always opinionated. This book is no different. Well thought out, full of rigid opinion, and I disagree with the end premise. I am, however, better off for having read it and do recommend it to students of the Rose and Cross. LVX

One of the best histories available on the Rosicrucians! Waite writes in an intellectual non-condescending manner to help the reader fully understand the origins and development of this esoteric fraternity. Will clear up any confusion about different splinter groups and how they relate to each other. A great read!

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