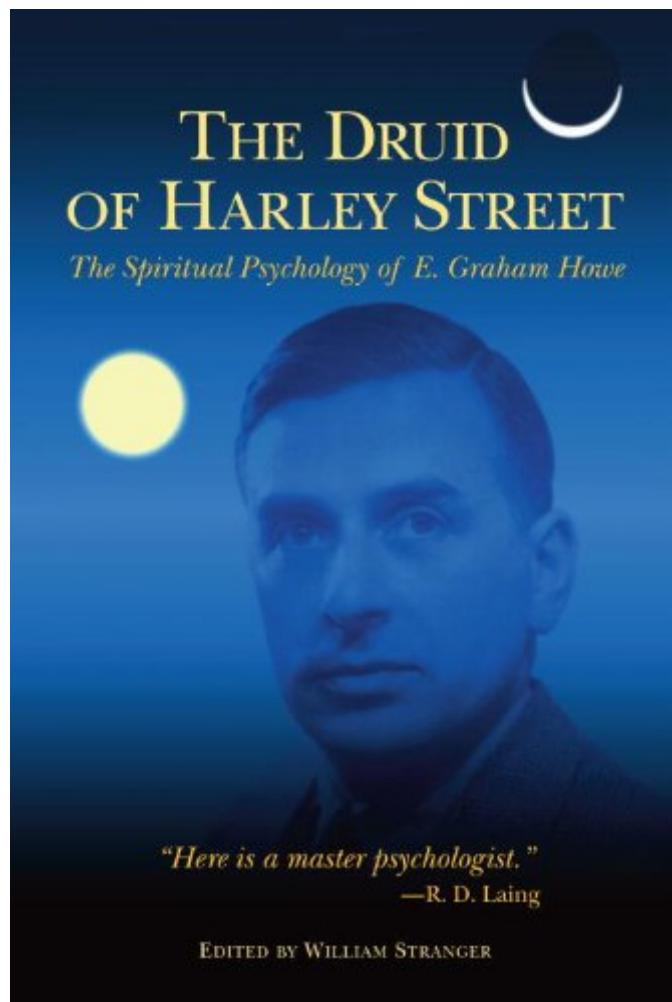


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The Druid Of Harley Street: The Spiritual Psychology Of E. Graham Howe



Synopsis

In early 20th-century Britain, interest in psychoanalysis was high, leading to the formation of the famous Tavistock Clinic in 1920. E. Graham Howe was one of the clinic's founders and the first to publish articles on psychotherapy. At the same time, he was attacked by the psychiatric and psychoanalysis communities because he took concepts derived from spiritual practice and existential phenomenology and applied them to an understanding of psychotherapy. Howe's writings included more than a dozen books and countless articles on a broad range of subjects from schizophrenia to Asian spiritual practices. Through these works he exerted a profound influence on intellectuals such as R. D. Laing, Alan Watts, and Henry Miller, to name a few. Howe also wrote in a simple and clear style, making his work accessible to the general public. The *Druid of Harley Street* samples the best of his essays, offering timely insights for followers of Jung, Roberto Assagioli, and Mark Epstein; students of somatic therapies; and spiritual and meditation practitioners. The book also offers a fascinating glimpse of a great mind, the notable people in his life, and the heady times in which he lived. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

If you've ever wondered why western psychology has so many schools and theories without a well-formed center, and how that lack can be remedied in a stroke, you will want to read this extraordinary and deeply engaging book. Although the new discipline of transpersonal psychology is attempting to import the "spiritual" aspects of existence into human psychology, one gets the feeling that such efforts are often a kind of "add on" that doesn't quite reach the core. In the numerous well-written chapters of the masterful anthology "The Druid of Harley Street: The Spiritual Psychology of E. Graham Howe", we quickly see how a near contemporary of Freud, Jung and Adler has already provided us with a much smoother and more depthful way of "riding" the living spirit into western psychology--a better road once not taken but now being slowly rebuilt. Although he was once the United Kingdom's most famous psychiatrist, Howe's introduction of Eastern philosophy into psychotherapy in the early and middle twentieth century is not discussed in the history of western psychology. In editor William Stranger's lucid introduction, however, we see how Howe picks up where William James' own Gifford lectures left off. With the wobble of western psychology now belatedly looking for the "mind" in the brain, Stranger shows us that Howe had already established a profound foundation for a truly East-West psychology based upon Consciousness long before the efforts to find this took off in earnest back in the sixties. Many associate that latter moment with R.D. Laing, who was an iconic figure of that period. But it turns out that Laing, like the Zen popularizer Alan Watts, was mentored by Howe, whose influence on both becomes obvious when we read this book.

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