

Between Skepticism and Mysticism: An Introduction to the Occult Philosophy of Cornelius Agrippa

The Three Books of Occult Philosophy (De Occulta Philosophia - DOP) is rightly lauded by both academics and practitioners as the cornerstone of all modern occultism. Despite this, the DOP goes tremendously understudied, making it much more celebrated than understood. By extension, the totality of Agrippa's occult philosophy - represented by his other theological, philosophical and hermetic writings - suffers all the more from lack of modern editions and translations. Finally, understanding Agrippa's thought overall is greatly complicated by his infamous turn toward radical skepticism and fideism, seemingly his mature philosophical and theological position. This series of lectures aims to provide a systematic and comprehensive introduction to the occult philosophy of Cornelius Agrippa.

Texts

Three Books of Occult Philosophy (trans. Purdue)

<https://amzn.to/44ebzt8>

Nauert - Agrippa and the Crisis of Renaissance Thought

 Agrippa and the crisis of Renaissance thought -- Nauert, Charles Garfield -- 1...

Van Der Poel - Cornelius Agrippa, The Humanist Theologian and His Declamations

<https://brill.com/display/title/2474?language=en>

De occulta philosophia, libri tres (ed. Compagni)

<https://brill.com/edcollbook/title/1024?language=en>

Agrippa - Opera Omnia

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Henrici_Cornelii_Agrippae_ab_Nettesheym/7_ZIAAAAcAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

Lecture Arc¹

Life and Outline of Major Works

Influences on Agrippa

Setting the Stage - the Juvenile Draft of the DOP

Development of Agrippa's Thought

The DOP

 The Natural World

 The Celestial World

 The Divine World

The Skeptical Turn(?)

Impact

Final Analysis

Timeline of Agrippa's Key Hermetic/Occult Works

1509 - Dole Lectures on Reuchlin's De Verbo

1509 - Declamatio de Nobilitate et Praecellentia Foeminei Sexus

1510 - Juv. Draft De Magia / DOP

1515 - Pavia lectures on the Hermetic Pimander

1515/6 - Oratio in Praelectione Convivii Platonis

1515/6 - Dialogus de Homine

1515/16 - De Triplici Ratione Cognoscendi Deum

1518 - In Artem Brevem Raymundi Lulli Commentaria

1518 - De Originali Peccato

1523 - Astrological Almanac

1526 - De Sacramento Matrimonii

1526 - De Incertitudine et Vanitate Scientiarum

1526 - Dehoratio Gentilis Theologiae

1529 - In Geomanticam Disciplinam Lectura

1531 - DOP, bk 1

1533 - DOP, complete

1600 - Opera Omnia / Posthuma

¹ Some topics will likely require several lectures