
INVENTORY OF THE MANLY PALMER HALL COLLECTION OF ALCHEMICAL MANUSCRIPTS, 1500-1825

Finding aid prepared by Trevor Bond

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INVENTORY OF THE MANLY PALMER HALL COLLECTION OF ALCHEMICAL MANUSCRIPTS, 1500-1825

Accession no. 950053

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Processed by:

Trevor Bond

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Trevor Bond, revised by Julio Vera

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts

Date (inclusive): 1500-1825

Collection number: 950053

Collector: Hall, Manly Palmer, 1901-

Extent: 7.5 linear ft. (243 vols.)

Repository: Getty Research Institute

Research Library

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1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

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Abstract: A collection of 243 manuscripts detailing the arts of Alchemy, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism, and Masonry, gathered by Manly Palmer Hall, author and researcher in the realms of mysticism and the occult.

Request Materials: To access physical materials on site, go to the [library catalog record](#) for this collection and click "Request an Item." Click here for [access policy](#).

Language: Collection material in Latin

Access

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Preferred Citation

Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts, 1500-1825, Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Accession no. 950053.

Acquisition Information

Acquired in 1995.

Processing History

Trevor Bond processed the collection January 1998 and wrote the finding aid March 1998

Separated Material

224 printed books were transferred to the library on June 6, 1995.

Biographical/Historical Note

Manly Hall was born in 1901, in Peterborough, Canada, to William S. and Louise Palmer Hall. The Hall family moved to the United States in 1904 and lived for a time in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Manly Hall settled in Los Angeles in 1919.

As a young man he became interested in occult matters. He subsequently joined a number of societies, among them the Theosophical Society, the Freemasons, the Societas Rosacruziana in Civitatibus Foederatis, and the American Federation of Astrologers.

In 1922 Manly Hall wrote his first book on philosophy/religion, *Initiates of the Flame*. According to Hall, he began collecting works on mysticism and the esoteric sciences: "late in the fall of 1922, the plan for a comprehensive work on the symbolism of western mystical societies began to take shape in my mind. It soon became apparent that research facilities for such a project were not available in Southern California... The only answer was to contact antiquarian book dealers and elicit their cooperation in the search for the items desired." The collection of books and manuscripts which Hall purchased, primarily in the 1920s and 1930s, became the basis for his own research and the cornerstone of the Philosophical Research Society's holdings.

Ordained to the ministry in 1923, Hall became minister to an occult/metaphysical congregation. As the leader of the Church of the People, Hall started a magazine titled the *All Seeing Eye*. In 1928 Hall published his extensive work *An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic, and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy*.

In 1934 Hall founded the Philosophical Research Society, a research institute modeled on the ancient school of Pythagoras. 1935 marked the ground breaking for the first building of the complex. Major additions to the Philosophical Research Society came in 1950 and 1959. Hall delivered weekly lectures and continued writing on mystical topics. By 1940, Hall is said to have delivered over 7,000 lectures.

1944 was the year of the first printing of Hall's book, *Secret Destiny of America*, apparently an expansion of a lecture he gave in 1942. The Philosophical Library edition of *Secret Destiny of America* was published in 1958. And in 1986 Hall completed his book the *Rosicrucians and Magister Christoph Schlegel: Hermetic Roots of America*.

Manly Hall died in California. During his life he wrote over 50 books and hundreds of shorter works.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains 243 manuscripts, some only a few pages, bound in 68 volumes which detail the arts of Alchemy, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism, and Masonry. Highlights of this collection include: a twenty-one foot long Ripley Scroll, a heavily illustrated manuscript that records an alchemical poem by Ripley (George Ripley d. 1490); a 17th-century French manuscript copy of Michael Maier's "Atalanta Fugiens" with emblematic and mystical drawings and illuminations after Jacob Böhme; an 18th-century Pennsylvania Dutch manuscript of Rosicrucian cosmological charts and symbolic images; two triangular masonic manuscripts; two independent collections, the first named for Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom, who gathered together an assortment of manuscripts from the 16th to the early 19th century, many of which he translated into English, the second collection, attributed to Count Cagliostro, contains thirty manuscripts bound in one volume.

Arrangement

Arranged in one series according to Hall's inventory list and using the manuscript numbering from Hogart's bibliography of the Manly P. Hall collection of books and manuscripts.

Numbers in brackets following item descriptions refer to the numbering in Hogart's bibliography of the Manly P. Hall collection of books and manuscripts

Topics

Alchemy

Hermetism

Masonry

Occultism

Rosicrucians

Genres and Forms of Material

Scroll (information artifact)

Contributors

Böhme, Jakob, 1575-1624

Bacstrom, Sigismund

Cagliostro, Alessandro, conte di, 1743-1795

Maier, Michael, 1568?-1622

Ripley, George, d. 1490?

Titles

Ripley scroll Atalanta fugiens

Bibliography

Publications consulted by the cataloger.

Hogart, Ron Charles, 1958- *Alchemy, a comprehensive bibliography of the Manly P. Hall Collection of books and manuscripts: including related material on Rosicrucianism and the writings of Jacob Böhme; introduction by Manly P. Hall* . Los Angeles, Calif.: Philosophical Research Society, 1986.

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. *Alchemy and the occult: a catalogue of books and manuscripts from the collection of Paul and Mary Mellon given to Yale University Library*. New Haven, Yale University Library, 1968-77.

- Box 1 **... Livre des figures... ca. 1800**
 Scope and Content Note
 Abraham Juif. 22.5 x 16.3 cm. 139 leaves. Illustrations ink, some pastel-colored. [3]
- Box 2 **Explication et figure, hieroglyphique du livre d'or des divins secrets d'abraham le Juif prince et prestre des Levites astrologue et philosophe de la nation des Juifs disperèe par l'Ire de dieu parmy les gaules, salut ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Abraham Juif. 15.5 x 9.9 cm. 86 leaves. Illustration opposite title page. [4]
- Box 3 **... De Arte divina & sacra, sine Aenigmate tradita & del praxin conscripta ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 33.5 x 22 cm. 49 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [14]
- Box 4 **Das Buch mit Sieben Siegeln ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 25.4 x 20.8 cm. 5 volumes. 296 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. Some plates missing. Originally in one volume. Hall had the manuscript disbound and separated into its present 5 volumes. [19]
- Box 5 **F. de La Rose-croix ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 32.4 x 21.6 cm. 11 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [24]
- Box 6 **flambeaux des vrais rosecroix, ou des Sages ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 37.2 x 24.8 cm. 57 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. [26]
- Box 7 **Le Grand Livre des Pantacles ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 26.3 x 20.5 cm. 27 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. Written in Rosicrucian characters. [29]
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- Box 8 **De Mirabilibus naturae arcanis. Traduit du Latin en francais par Gobreau 1773**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. Translation by Gobreau. 16 x 10.3 cm. 16 leaves. [36]
- Box 9 **Occulta Philosophia Von den verborgenen Philosophischen Geheimnüssen, und Lapidis Philosophorum... ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 20.3 x 16.3 cm. In two sections: first 128 pages, second 67 pages. Illustrations, ink. [39]
- Box 10 **Operation sur le Zinc selon l'intention de Respours et de Delogues, pour en tirer l'esprit mineral et en fair le sujet du grand ouvre, Combinée at Commantée pour M... Anonime ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 23.2 x 17.9 cm. 48 leaves. [40]
- Box 11 **Rozaire des Philosophes ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 23.3 x 17.7 cm. 168 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [49]
- Box 12 **Sapientia Veterum ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 34.5 x 26.7 cm. 14 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [50]
- Box 13 **Traité de CHymie ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 8 leaves. Illustrations, ink, watercolor. Bound with "Anatomia Magica Vocabuli Mercurio," (Ms 11) and "Abbé de Galifet Secretz," (Ms 143). Written in symbolic characters. [57]
- Box 14 **Les Vaisseaux D'Hermes ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 27.1 x 19.3 cm. 5 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [58]
- Box 15 **Veritables Adeptes, Illuminées et Initiés de l'Hermétisme ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 21.7 x 17.9 cm. 72 leaves. Blue paper. [60]
- Box 16 **Untitled ca. 1600**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 25.8 x 19.2 cm. 15 leaves. Illustrations, ink, watercolor. [69]
- Box 17 **"Cabala" ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 34.5 x 26.5 cm. 9 leaves. No text. Illustrations, watercolor. [71]
- Box 18 **Bacstrom Collection of Manuscripts ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Most manuscripts copied and translated in English from earlier works between 1790-1808 by Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom. 21.4 x 17.7 cm. 19 volumes. Some volumes contain illustrations, ink, watercolor. All volumes are uniformly bound. Following is a brief listing of the contents of each volume, including author information, when known. [102]
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- Box 18 **Vol. 1: 9 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by W. De Cones and George Ripley. Illustrated, watercolor
 frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 2: 10 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one by H. Nollius and four by S. Bacstrom. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 3: 7 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including two by E. Gobineau de Montluisant, one each by D. J. Wallachin, and W.
 Blomefeeld. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 4: 1 work 1791**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letters to the Rosey Crucian Society attributed to M. Sendivogius. Translated by Dr.
 Sibly. Illustrations, ink, watercolor.
- Box 18 **Vol. 5: 9 works 1723**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one by J. de Monte Raphaim.
- Box 18 **Vol. 6: 19 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by Paracelsus, Alexis Piemontese, Baro Urbigerus, Ford, S. Trismosin,
 and Abraham Eleazar.
- Box 18 **Vol. 7: 10 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by J. Langelott, Paracelsus, J. Helvetius and three by von Suchten.
 Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 8: 16 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by J. G. Jugel, Neuman, K. Digby, and Abbé Rousseau, H. von
 Batsdorff, J. J. Beccher, W. von Schroeder and Leona Constantia, and two by Trismosin.
- Box 18 **Vol. 9: 8 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by G. von Welling, and Paracelsus. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 10: 7 works 1577**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by M. Fachsen, D. Beuther, J. Sternhals, and S. Norton. Illustrated,
 watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18 **Vol. 11: 9 works**
 Scope and Content Note
 Including one each by S. Norton, V. Koffsky, G. von Welling, Ali Puli, and C. F. de Sabor.
 Illustrated, ink frontispiece.
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| Box 18 | <p>Vol 12: 9 works</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.</p> |
| Box 18 | <p>Vol 13: 5 works</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Including two by P. Poney, and one by Neptis. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.</p> |
| Box 18 | <p>Vol 14: 20 works</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Including one each by J. Yardley, St. Dunstan, J. Gier, C. Horn, C. Stella, Dippelius, Chrysogonus, J. d'Espagnet, and Eirenaeus Philaethes. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.</p> |
| Box 18 | <p>Vol 15: 1 work</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.</p> |
| Box 18 | <p>Vol 16: 3 works by Bernard of Treves</p> <p>Vol 17: 6 works</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Including one each by A. Beyer, and Leona Constantia. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.</p> |
| Box 18 | |
| Box 18 | <p>Vol 18: 3 works</p> <p>Vol 19: 1 work: <i>Diploma Bacstrom</i></p> <p>Basilii Valentini Via Veritatis ex MSCP to 1500... ca. 1700</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Basil Valentine. 37.6 x 24 cm. 53 leaves. [107]</p> |
| Box 18 | |
| Box 19 | |
| Box 20 | <p>Collection of manuscripts in Cagliostro's library ca. 1775</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Conti de Alessandron Cagliostro, pseud. Guiseppe Balsamo. 23 x 20.2 cm. 927 leaves. Illustrations, ink. Engravings. The collection contains 30 manuscripts listed in a table of contents, including works by Basil Valentine, J. Colleson, Antoine Joseph Pernety, de Vallemont, Bernard Carictheres, Rhomaeus Agricola, Nicholas Flamel, Jean d'Espagnet, David L'Agneau, Quesnot, and a translation by Michael Maier. [119]</p> |
| Box 21 | <p>La Boussole Des Argonautes faite avec l'acier et l'aymant Des Sages Pourfaicement Despéinte, sous loedipe Hermetique Dans Les Deux Entretiens D'Artiste avec Lupin Par fratriss Canino fait coppie a Marseille Le quatre Janvier 1715</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Fr. Canino. 22.8 x 16.8 cm. 44 leaves. [120]</p> |
| Box 22 | <p>"Prima Medicina nostra ex Natura est composita" ca. 1700</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Claudio de Dominico Celentano. 29.5 x 21.9 cm. 52 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [123]</p> |
| Box 23 | <p>La nature à découvert par le Chevalier inconnu ca. 1700</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>P. Fabre. 16.2 x 11.8 cm. 81 leaves. [134]</p> |
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- Box 24 **Science D'alchymie ou Secret de la pierre des Philosophes Expliqué dans Les Lavures de Nicolas flamel Ecrivain de la paroisse Saint Jacques de La Boucherie à Paris 1767**
 Scope and Content Note
 Nicolas Flamel. 22.6 x 17.2 cm. 65 leaves. [139]
- Box 25 **Premier Traitté De Nicolas Grosparmy De Normandie Fait le 29 decembre en l'année 1449**
 Scope and Content Note
 Copié a Paris au mois de May 1736. Nicolas Grosparmy. 23.2 x 18.4 cm. 55 leaves. [149]
- Box 26 **Die Leiter der Weisen oder Die Philosophie der Alten... ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 B. C. van Helpen. Translated by H. von Kossel. 32.8 x 21.5 cm. 114 leaves. [153]
- Box 27 **Atalanta Fugiens ca. 1600**
 Scope and Content Note
 Michael Maier. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 48 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [170]
- Box 28 **Livre de frere Michel, Adulphus Jacobin du convent de Troyes ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Michael Adolphus. 32.4 x 21.2 cm. 17 leaves. Illustrations. Bound with "Les Aventures du philosophe," (Ms 16); "Douz Clefs" by Basil Valentine, (Ms 104); "L'explication des figures," (Ms 137); "Thresor de Philosophie," (Ms 140); "Tresor de Tresors" by Christofle de Gamon, (Ms 144); "Petit commentaire" by Hortulanus, (Ms 158); and "Exposition particulaire" by Salomon Trismosin, (Ms 228). [172]
- Box 29 **Le Manuscrit de Marie La Prophétesse Traitant de la Secrète Préparation de la Matiere de la Pierre des Philosophes ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Mariam the Prophetess. 21.6 x 14.1 cm. 10 leaves. Contains translation. [173]
- Box 30 **Universal P. & Augment ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Ignatius Adolphus de Mussy. 15.6 x 20 cm. 16 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, gilt. Contains translation. [175]
- Box 31 **...Collectaneorum et Propriarum quarundam Inventionum Joannis Jacobi Olben Inchoatus Anno Salutis humanae 1669**
 Scope and Content Note
 Johannes Jacob Olben. 30.4 x 20.4. 97 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [181]
- Box 32 **La Prophetie du Docteur Philipe Theophraste Paracelse Touchant Le Lion Septentrional**
 Scope and Content Note
 Paracelsus. 20.4 x 15.4 cm. 3 leaves. Contains translation. [187]
- Box 33* **The Ripley Scroll ca. 1600**
 Scope and Content Note
 George Ripley. 18 in. x 20 ft. Illustrations, watercolor. [205]
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- Box 34 **"No. Soixante & Seize" De la collection maconnique du F... Ex Dono Sapientissimi Comitis St. Germain Qui Orbem Terrarum Per Cucurrit ca. 1775**
 Scope and Content Note
 Comte St. Germain. 28.4 x 23.9 cm. 31 leaves. Illustrations, ink, gilt. Contains translation of Masonic symbols. Triangular book. [209]
- Box 35 **Ex Dono Sapientissimi Comitis St. Germain Qoi Orbem Terrarum Per Cucurrit ca. 1750**
 Scope and Content Note
 Comte St. Germain. 28.4 x 22 cm. 24 leaves. Illustrations, ink, gilt. Contains translation of Masonic symbols. Triangular book. [210]
- Box 36 **Nouvelle lumiere de Medecine du Mistere ... De Joachim Soleman, Traduit du Latin 1721**
 Scope and Content Note
 Joachim Soleman. 22.1 x 14.4 cm. 30 leaves. Lavender paper. [215]
- Box 37 **La Philosophe Solidonius Le premier qui a sceu accorder les quatre elemens, favorise de Dieu et chéri de la Nature ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Albert Poisson. Translated by Solidonius. 23.2 x 18.9 cm. 84 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. Contains translation. Bound with "La Philosophe Solidonius," (Ms 216). [216]
- Box 38 **In Cruce cum Sphaera. En! venit sapientia vera. Post Cruces Luces, post Nubila Jubila surgunt ca. 1600**
 Scope and Content Note
 Salomon Trismosin. 23.2 x 1 8.9 cm. 28 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. Contains translation. [230]
- Box 39 **La Toyson D'or. L. J., Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem ca. 1600**
 Scope and Content Note
 Salomon Trismosin. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 49 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [232]
- Box 40 **Hebdomas hebdomadam kabalistarum, Magorum Brachmarum Antiquorumque omnium sapientium, secreta misteria continens 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Nicolas de Valois. 20 x 16.1 cm. 52 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [237]
- Box 41 **Sophismes des adeptes composez par ces mêmes adeptes pour cacher la veritable medicine universelle ou la pierre philosophale... 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Jean Lucas de Vivalta. 23.3 x 18 cm. 32 leaves. [239]
- Box 42 **Trávail des femmes ca. 1700**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 15.9 x 9.6 cm. 65 leaves. Bound with "Petit traité," (Ms 76); "Avant propos," by Barile (Ms 103); "L'oeuvre universel," by Basil Valentine (Ms. 105); "Poème philosophique," by Hesteau (Ms 156); "Vadé mécum," (Ms 169). [56]
- Box 43* **"The Böhme Manuscripts"**
 Scope and Content Note
 Anonymous. 52 x 37.4 cm. 19 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. [17]
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Box 44*

Physica Metaphysica et Hyperphysica ca. 1700

Scope and Content Note

Anonymous. 54.1 x 30.6 cm. 16 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [45]

Box 45*

Untitled ca. 1700

Scope and Content Note

Anonymous. 33.5 x 24.6 cm. 15 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [70]