



LUND UNIVERSITY

"Most Noble Out-pourings of the Soul"

The Reception of Ancient Egypt in the Works of G.R.S. Mead

Gruffman, Paulina

2022

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Gruffman, P. (2022). "Most Noble Out-pourings of the Soul": The Reception of Ancient Egypt in the Works of G.R.S. Mead. Abstract from International Theosophical History Conference, Naarden, Netherlands.
<https://www.itcnaarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Program-2022-1.pdf#page=10>

Total number of authors:

1

Creative Commons License:

Unspecified

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

10:30

OCTOBER 06
THURSDAY

“Most Noble Out-pourings of the Soul”: The Reception of Ancient Egypt in the Works of G.R.S. Mead

Paulina Gruffman, PhD Candidate

Ancient Egypt played an important but perhaps understated role in early Theosophy, with frequent references to Egyptian Cabala in Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and George Henry Felt's early papers. Significantly, Blavatsky planned for the early Theosophical Society (TS) to be “composed of learned occultists and cabbalists, of *philosophes hermétiques* of the nineteenth century, and of antiquaries and Egyptologists generally ... following literally the instructions of the old Cabalas, both Jewish and Egyptian (Hanegraaff 2021:37). While TS clearly made a shift in favor of Indian philosophy and religiosity in the 1880s, (the imagined) ancient Egypt remained an important source for some later Theosophists. G.R.S. Mead, who regarded much of the Western esoteric tradition, including astrology and the hermetic corpus to originate there, is one such Theosophist. This paper aims to give an overview of the theme of ancient Egypt in the early as well as latter Theosophical Society. Additionally, I will analyze some of the leading theoretical concepts that have been used to locate and understand this theme in Theosophy, including Hornung's Egyptosophy (2001), Leirich's magical Ægypt (2007), and Magus' Christian Egyptosophy (2021). Lastly, I will briefly consider the reception of Mead's Egypt in C.G. Jung's psychoanalysis and spirituality.