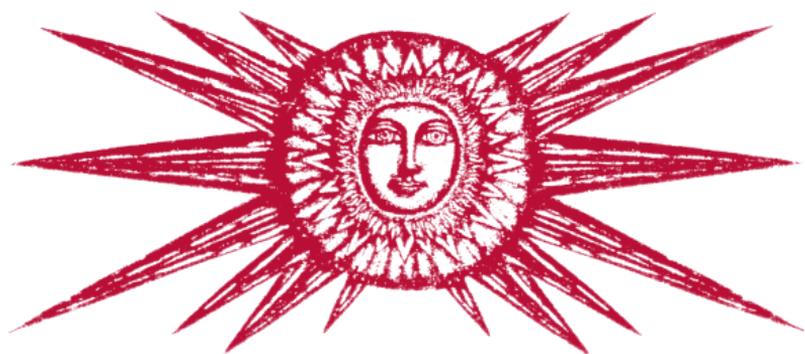


TEMENOS ACADEMY

PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



MICHAELMAS TERM

2017

The Temenos Academy

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Dr Jeremy Naydler

MICHAELMAS TERM 2017 *5 September – 12 December*

Office closed 23 – 27 October

The Temenos Academy (a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2994834) is a Registered Charity (No. 1043015) which offers education in philosophy and the arts in the light of the sacred traditions of East and West

www.temenosacademy.org

The Temenos Academy is pleased to announce its Programme for the Michaelmas Term 2017. Our lectures and seminars are open to all. The addresses of the venues and instructions for booking appear on page 2.

Students in full-time education may attend lectures for free and should bring their student card with them. If using the booking form they must include their student card number.

The programme includes lectures by Dr Margaret Barker, Julia Cleave, Dr Stephen Cross, Colin Duriez, James Harpur, Dr Joseph Milne, Dr N. M. Nandakumara, Dr Jeremy Naydler, Dr Jeremy Reed and Christopher P. Wood.

The practical workshop ‘The Head, the Heart and the Hand: Geometry, Philosophy and the Music of the Spheres’, postponed from March, will take place at Cowdray Park in Sussex over the weekend of 7–8 October.

The Reading Essential Texts seminars will study the poetry of Henry Vaughan and Thomas Traherne, with Hilary Davies, Plato’s *Republic*, with Valentin Gerlier, and Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost* with Dr Joseph Milne.

For information about becoming a Member of the Temenos Academy please see page 3.

The Venues

The Art Workers Guild

6 Queen Square

Bloomsbury

London WC1N 3AT

Nearest Underground *Russell Square*

Cowdray Park (The Tower Room)

Cowdray Heritage Site

River Ground Stables

Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9AL

Nearest British Rail Station *Haslemere*

The Essex Unitarian Church

112 Palace Gardens Terrace

London W8 4RT

Nearest Underground *Notting Hill Gate*

The Lincoln Centre

18 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London WC2A 3ED

Nearest Underground *Holborn*

The Royal Asiatic Society

14 Stephenson Way

London NW1 2HD

Nearest Underground *Euston / Euston Square*

The School of Economic Science

11 Mandeville Place

London W1U 3AJ

Nearest Underground *Bond Street*

Booking

Please book in advance by post using the booking form. Places may also be reserved by telephone and email but PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVATION.

Please note that a seminar course may be cancelled if there are insufficient bookings.

Membership

Please support the Temenos Academy by becoming a Member or Friend. On joining, new Members or Friends are sent the current issue of the *Temenos Academy Review*, and three other publications, *Lighting a Candle – Kathleen Raine and Temenos*, a collection of tributes to Kathleen Raine which also includes many examples of her own writing on the purpose and aims of Temenos, *Ten Basic Principles That Inspire the Work of Temenos* by John Carey and *A Human Approach to World Peace, the 2004 L M Singhvi-Temenos Lecture* by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. The other Member or Friend benefits are:

- the concessionary admission rate to lectures and seminars
- free copies of all new Temenos Academy publications as they are issued

To join, please complete the Membership section of the Booking Form at the back of this programme.

Thank you!

Mailing List

To join the free postal mailing list, and/or the free monthly email newsletter list, please complete and return the name and address section of the Booking Form, or contact us by email or telephone.

Administration

Stephen & Genevieve Overy
The Temenos Academy
P O Box 203
Ashford
Kent TN25 5ZT

Telephone 01233 813663

Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

Audio Archive

The Temenos Academy website includes an archive of audio or video recordings of lectures, freely available to view or listen to. Please refer to:

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_audio_archive.html

Temenos Academy Review and *Temenos Academy Papers*

The Temenos Academy publishes an annual journal, the *Temenos Academy Review*, the successor to *Temenos* (founded by Keith Critchlow, Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Philip Sherrard), published in thirteen issues between 1981 and 1992. The *Review* contains papers given at the Academy and new work, including translations, poetry, art and reviews. The editors are John Carey, James Harpur and Valentin Gerlier.

The current issue of the *Review*, no. 19, may be ordered using the Booking Form; a list of its contents appears on page 28.

Thirty-nine Temenos Academy Papers have been published. They are usually single lectures or lecture series that have been given as part of the Academy's programme. The most recent to appear is *Temenos – An Index 1981–1992*.

A Publications Catalogue – a descriptive list of all Temenos publications – can be viewed on the Temenos Academy website.

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_journal.html

Temenos Academy Young Scholars

For the benefit of young students who are attracted to the Temenos Academy's approach to learning *from*, and not merely *about*, the great religious and philosophical traditions, we run the Temenos Academy Young Scholars scheme, a special free membership of the Academy for people aged 18–35 years.

Applicants are asked to submit an *original* paper on a topic of their choice written in a way that emulates the first five of the 'Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos':

- Acknowledgement of Divinity
- Love of Wisdom, as the essential basis of civilization
- Spiritual vision as the life-breath of civilization
- Maintenance of the revered traditions of mankind
- Understanding of tradition as continual renewal

The subject may be drawn from the Humanities in general – art, philosophy, poetry, religion. For guidance we suggest you look at the work of the numerous contributors to the *Temenos Academy Review* over the last 18 years. The essay should be at least 2,000 words in length.

Essays will be appraised by the Temenos Academy Academic Board or a Temenos Academy Fellow.

Membership is by invitation and based upon the essay.

Temenos Academy Young Scholars will be full Members of the Academy until the age of 35. They will receive the *Temenos Academy Review* every year.

Some Young Scholars essays may be read on the website; those of exceptional merit will be considered for publication in the *Review*.

For further information and an application form please refer to

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_young_scholars.html

or contact the Administrators

Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy

A Two Year Part-Time Diploma Course

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the universal tradition that is our spiritual heritage, through direct engagement with key texts of philosophy, poetry and mysticism. By exploring perennial teachings, which for centuries have renewed and sustained our culture, it offers a vital counterbalance to prevailing assumptions and values. The expertise of the tutors is devoted to providing the most direct encounter possible with the teachings themselves, which, springing from the love of wisdom and the quest for truth, open up infinite riches for study and contemplation. The authors and texts studied will be: in the first year, Plato and Plotinus, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, St Bernard of Clairvaux and Meister Eckhart; in the second year, the Upanishads and *Bhagavad Gita*, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu and the *Huai Nan Tzu*, Ibn 'Arabi, and Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*.

The course is divided into six modules, or three per year, with weekly meetings in Central London led by the module tutor on Tuesday evenings from 7–9pm. Students will be expected to read approximately 30–40 pages of text each week. Tuition will be conducted by lectures and guided discussions of the content of the previous week's reading.

The next Part 1 commences in October 2017.

Please contact Emma Clark, the Registrar, for further information

Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_foundation_course.html

Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship

The Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is an award made in memory of the artist Thetis Blacker to further the study of the art of batik. The award is administered by the Temenos Academy in association with the Batik Guild, a UK-based non-profit organization, which exists to encourage a wider appreciation and understanding of batik as a centuries-old craft which continues to meet the needs of creative artists working today. Thetis Blacker was a member of the Batik Guild. More information about its work can be found on its website <http://www.batikguild.org.uk>

The award, which is made every 2 years, is open to members of the Batik Guild, and other batik artists.

The winners of the 2017 Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship are Nia and Agus Ismoyo (Jakarta, Indonesia) for their project 'The Teaching and Recording of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Batik'.

THETIS BLACKER (1927–2006) made a remarkable contribution to Temenos as an artist and lecturer. Her work was first featured in *Temenos 4*, and her 'Phoenix Egg', designed especially for the journal, appeared on the covers of issues 6–9. During her life-time she was regarded as the pre-eminent batik artist in the West. Her brilliantly colourful and masterfully executed dye paintings were commissioned for and exhibited in cathedrals and churches in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. She was also a writer and the author of *A Pilgrimage of Dreams* (1973), an account of her own vivid dreams.

As a Churchill Fellow, Thetis Blacker studied the craft of batik in South East Asia. The purpose of the Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is primarily, but not exclusively, to support overseas research, study and travel in the field of batik creation.

For further information, and to request an application form, please write to

heather.gatt@yahoo.co.uk

BLUE COLUMBINES

For Jeremy

ALIGHT with dark
Fire, mystery
Kindled from seed to seed,
Garden to garden, spring to spring
Indigo
Darkness illuminate
Flaring at noon, colour of night-sky
Of the seven rays deepest
Solemnity of blue cathedral glory
Of womb, secret of shade,
Ablaze in my last garden, profound
Sounding of the afar, the beyond.

KATHLEEN RAINE

From The Collected Poems of Kathleen Raine
(Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 2000)

Reading Essential Texts and the Art of Study

One of the principal aims of the Temenos Academy is to rediscover the art of study. It is commonly thought that learning is simply the acquisition of facts, of committing information to memory or, in the arts, making a critical judgement. But this conception of learning leaves out of account its true purpose, which is to come to a new level of understanding and a new order of being.

Here the Temenos Academy Reading Essential Texts seminars have a special place. In them we are engaged in exploring seminal texts which embody the finest thought, reflection and insight of mankind. Works that bear the spiritual and cultural inheritance of mankind require a special quality of study which can penetrate their essence and engage directly with the source of wisdom from whence they came. This special quality of study aims at learning from these works, not simply about them.

Therefore, the first aim of study in these seminars is to apprehend and understand texts accurately. This is the first discipline of learning. The simple discipline of accurate reading is necessary because it brings precision to the mind and opens the way to deeper reading. Without this initial precision, no deeper understanding is possible, because no contact is made with the inner order and working of the text. The mind remains outside the world of the text.

This precise and accurate reading is greatly facilitated by carefully reading aloud. Language is a spoken medium and the printed word comes fully alive and reveals all its subtleties only when spoken. Until a text begins to render up its own inherent meaning, until it begins to speak directly to us, it will only call to mind associative ideas and opinions – meanings imposed upon the text from outside. All too easily this can pass for interpretation.

Ideally, a seminar is an exploration between students in a common search for new understanding and insight. The seminar leader has the task of focussing and guiding the study towards this object. Working together in harmony is the second discipline of learning. A seminar works at its finest when it works with one mind.

Unity of purpose and unity of mind go together and

create a propitious atmosphere for study. This unity arises quite naturally through the love of the work being studied and through the common quest for understanding. In true study the heart and the reason work together. Through love of a great work the heart embraces its fineness and beauty, and this fineness and beauty is an aspect of its truth, while through careful exploration the intellect discerns its wisdom. Love moves naturally to the essence of the text, while intellect naturally discerns its parts, coherence and implications. These two actions of heart and intellect are mutually reciprocal and sustain one another. Together they lead to deeper engagement with the text, and open the way to insight.

When this deeper engagement is established significant questions spontaneously emerge from the text, and these are the appropriate questions to pursue. Such questions always illuminate the text being studied. These questions lead, in turn, to a contemplative reading in which the text comes alive and its meaning becomes actually present in itself; this contemplative reading represents a higher order reading than 'critical' or 'comparative' readings.

Given this process of full engagement with the text being studied, of learning directly from the text, scholarship then finds its natural place. Learning and research may then be called upon to facilitate penetration of the text. This is the rightful place for previously acquired knowledge. Temenos seminars are not concerned with disputations between different schools of thought about the work being studied. These are matters for lectures or private study. Yet seminars ought to lay the foundations for good scholarship. For it is only through a deeper reading of the text being studied that useful and pertinent scholarly questions arise.

In summary, true study arises by three stages: accurate reading, reflective engagement, and contemplative insight.

DR JOSEPH MILNE

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

Love's Labour's Lost

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Leader Dr Joseph Milne

Text the Arden edition

6 September – 22 November

Wednesdays, 12 weekly sessions

Time 3 – 4.30pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue The School of Economic Science

Three young men dedicate themselves to a life of study and contemplation in the hope of winning honour and fame. Leaving behind all worldly desires, they forget the power of love, and that love is the great teacher of the life of honour and virtue. And so their plans are undermined when each falls in love, and their true education begins. This most delightful early play gives us a glimpse of Shakespeare's philosophy of transformative love, developed in the later comedies as heroic and sacrificial love.

JOSEPH MILNE has made a significant contribution to the Temenos Academy by giving numerous lectures and seminars over the past 26 years. He is a trustee of The Eckhart Society and of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and editor of the Foundation's journal *Land & Liberty*; he is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism*, *Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

Course cost

£120 or £90 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

My Soul a Spirit Infinite!

The Poetry of Henry Vaughan and Thomas Traherne

Leader Hilary Davies

Texts *Thomas Traherne – Poetry & Prose* ed. Denise Inge
(ISBN 978 0281054688)

Henry Vaughan – Selected Writings ed. Anne
Cluysenaar (ISBN 978 0281055425)

5 September – 3 October

Tuesdays, 5 weekly sessions

Time 7 – 8.30pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue The Art Workers Guild (Gradidge Room)

In this course we will examine how the 17th century contemporaries and fellow poets, Henry Vaughan and Thomas Traherne, understood the relationship between man and his God, between the Creator and the created world. Through a close reading of chosen poetic texts, we will explore the way they speak about the natural world; childhood; sin and redemption; the microcosm of man and the macrocosm of the universe; and visionary experience.

HILARY DAVIES read French and German at Oxford. She was Head of the Modern Languages Department at St Paul's Girls' School, London for nineteen years. From 2012–16 she was Royal Literary Fund Fellow at King's College, London. She reviews regularly for the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Tablet* and other literary publications. Hilary Davies is the author of five collections of poetry, the most recent being *Exile and the Kingdom* (Enitharmon, 2016).

Course cost

£45 or £40 Members of the Temenos Academy /
Concessions

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

The Republic

by PLATO

Leader Valentin Gerlier

Text *Republic*. Translated by Joe Sachs

(Focus Publishing, ISBN 978-1585102617)

25 September – 27 November

Mondays, 10 weekly sessions

Time 6.45 – 8.15pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue in London SW10; full address on booking

A dialogue devoted to the founding of ‘a just city in speech’, the *Republic* is a universal work, somehow familiar yet deeply mysterious, an exploration of the human condition through the fundamental question of the relationship between soul, *polis*, and cosmos. But the *Republic* is also an inexhaustible literary treasure, at once poetic and philosophical, humorous and tragic, playful and mythic. These text seminars will study the *Republic* as an adventure into philosophy, a way of approaching the deep and enduring questions of life through Socrates’ teaching: a mode of enquiry that can guide us to the edge of wonder, where philosophy begins.

Those attending are asked to obtain their own copies of the recommended text.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician. He is currently engaged in doctoral research on Shakespeare and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge.

Course cost

£75 or £60 Members of the Temenos Academy /

Concessions

Limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

*The Tavener Foundation supported by
The Temenos Academy*

Sir John Tavener's Last Completed Works

The Tavener Foundation is seeking to raise funds to create a recording of Sir John Tavener's last works. Sir John, who died in 2013, was a Fellow of the Temenos Academy. The Temenos Academy is helping the Tavener Foundation by publicising this special concert.

Thursday 7 September 2017

The Chapel, Balliol College, Oxford

A Fundraising Recital by Steven Isserlis and Friends

Steven Isserlis and seven other cellists will play Steven's new arrangement of Sir John Tavener's very last completed work (originally for voices), 'Preces and Responses' (2013), plus an arrangement of one of Tavener's settings of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, 'No Longer Mourn For Me', first performed a few days after Sir John's death, and dedicated to his wife Maryanna. This will be preceded by a performance of a Bach cello suite by Steven Isserlis.

7.30pm Recital in the Chapel

8.15pm Dinner

10pm Ends

Dinner & Recital £170 per person

For further information please email info@tavener.org or telephone 01962 827212

The Lead Books Found in Jordan

DR MARGARET BARKER

Wednesday 20 September

In the chair Julia Cleave

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Ten years ago, the world became aware that a number of lead books had been found, it was said, in Jordan. This lecture will relate the story of the lead books and then offer a detailed study and translation of one page, which seems to be a form of Kabbalah.

MARGARET BARKER is an Old Testament scholar, co-founder of the Temple Studies Group and Chairman of the London-based Centre for the Study of the Jordanian Lead Books. Her many books include *The Great Priest – Temple Roots of Christian Liturgy* (T & T Clark, 2003); *Temple Theology – An Introduction* (SPCK, 2004); *The Mother of the Lord* (T & T Clark, 2012); and *King of the Jews – Temple Theology in John’s Gospel* (SPCK, 2014).

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

C. S. Lewis: the ‘imaginative man’, the self and the Other

COLIN DURIEZ

Wednesday 27 September

In the chair Professor Grevel Lindop

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

C. S. Lewis wrote in 1954 of the ‘imaginative man’ as being more fundamental in him than ‘either the religious writer or the critic’. According to his friend Owen Barfield, imagination was the integrating factor in Lewis’s thought and writings. Lewis’s developed views of imagination, myth and incarnation were part of his quest to grasp the real, and to achieve a surrender of the self to the Other. This quest explains the course of his imaginative writing, from his early allegory, *The Pilgrim’s Regress*, through his science-fiction, his theological fiction such as *The Screwtape Letters*, and the Narnian Chronicles, to his retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche in his novel *Till We Have Faces*. It also explains his deliberate change in strategy in the 1950s when he moved in emphasis from abstract or heavily reasoned Christian apologetics such as *The Problem of Pain* and *Miracles* to a more concrete and poetic style of communication that he had developed in his imaginative writings.

COLIN DURIEZ is a book editor and has appeared as a commentator on television documentaries for the BBC, and on film and video. His most recent publications are *The Oxford Inklings: Lewis, Tolkien and Their Circle* (Lion Books, 2015), and *Bedevelled: Lewis, Tolkien and the Shadow of Evil* (InterVarsity Press, 2015).

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Temenos Academy at Cowdray Park

The Head, the Heart and the Hand: Geometry, Philosophy and the Music of the Spheres

A weekend workshop of sacred geometry
combining philosophy and practice

TOM BREE, DANIEL DOCHERTY,
VALENTIN GERLIER

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 October

10.30am – 5.30pm Saturday; 9.30am – 5pm Sunday

In the chair Dr David Cranswick & Emma Clark

Venue The Tower Room, Cowdray Heritage Site

INTRODUCTION

This collaboration between the Temenos Academy and Cowdray Heritage will unite philosophy with its practical expression through craft practice. After the success of the first workshop (October 2016) this second one is also dedicated to exploring how the perennial philosophy may be understood first theoretically by the intelligence, then absorbed and known by the heart and finally expressed and embodied through the hands. The value of harmoniously combining activity of the head, the heart and the hand is one of the central tenets of the teaching of Professor Keith Critchlow, the guiding light of this joint endeavour and one of the principal founders of the Temenos Academy.

The practice of sacred geometry and the traditional arts and crafts requires not only full engagement of head and heart, but crucially a close relationship with hands and craft tools – for example, the compasses and ruler used for geometry, which symbolize the celestial and terrestrial realms. In the words of Titus Burckhardt, ‘The tools used to shape the crude materials ... symbolize the divine “instruments” which “fashion” the cosmos out of the undifferentiated and amorphous *materia prima*.’ This method of integrating an outward process with an inner transformation of the soul lies at the heart of all true traditional and sacred arts.

GEOMETRY, PHILOSOPHY AND THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

In the ancient world, the Music of the Spheres, or *musica universalis*, expressed the principle of cosmic unity, referring to the movement of the stars, but also to the rhythm, harmony, proportions and relationships between all things in the universe. The cosmos was thereby understood to be a dynamic whole, held together by a unifying principle that wove and tied all things together in mutually nourishing relationships. Whether expressed in terms of a great harmony, a chain of being or a cosmic dance, this rich metaphysical idea inspired tremendous creativity and vision in philosophy, poetry, music, geometry and mathematics.

Though inaudible to human ears, the Music of the Spheres expressed this idea of a fundamental harmony, a cosmic order which philosophy and poetry attempt to express and sacred geometry to make visible. This cosmic order is what Shakespeare called 'the harmony in immortal souls' which unites the human being as a microcosm to the universe's macrocosm.

This workshop will be grounded in the spoken word as well as the artistic drawing process and will combine philosophical talks and discussion with slideshow presentations and the practice of drawing geometric patterns with compasses and ruler. The talks will draw upon the philosophy of Pythagoras, Plato and Boethius and show how the idea of cosmic harmony became expressed in the poetry of Dante, Spenser and Shakespeare. The drawing classes will elaborate these themes, relating these ideas to geometry and music; and by using pencil, ruler and the orientation of the compasses, participants will become attuned to the inner silence of the heart from whence all harmony is revealed.

TOM BREE is a geometer-artist, teacher and writer who specialises in the use of geometry in sacred art and philosophy. He teaches at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London as well as on his own teaching projects in the United Kingdom and abroad. He is currently researching the underlying geometric design of Wells Cathedral.

DANIEL DOCHERTY received his MA from The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in 2004. He has since undertaken extensive research into how the philosophy and practice of sacred geometry and the other 'quadrivial' arts/sciences inform the cultural traditions of the world. He currently lives and works at Tablehurst Farm and regularly teaches for 'Sacred Art of Geometry'.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a writer, novelist and musician, a tutor for the Temenos Academy and member of its Academic Board, and has lectured for the Temenos Academy, the William Blake Society and The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. He is currently completing a PhD thesis on Shakespeare, Poetry and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge.

Admission

The cost of the weekend workshop is £225 inclusive of tools and materials and coffee/tea. A non-refundable deposit of £70 will be required by 31 July 2017 and the remainder of the fee (£155) must be paid by 30 September 2017.

Places are limited to 14 students. Full details of the workshop will be forwarded to participants in advance of the weekend.

For enquiries and bookings please contact
cranswickart@gmail.com Telephone 07801 430194
or call the Cowdray Estate office 01730 812423

Drinking at the Fountains – An Exploration of the Poetic Imagination

JAMES HARPUR

Tuesday 10 October

In the chair Hilary Davies

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

This talk will explore the origins and development of the poetic imagination, from prehistoric shamanism and the Songlines of Aboriginal communities to the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, Homer, Sappho, Horace, Old English riddle poems and the Romantic poets.

The idea of being touched by the divine, of waiting for a supra-personal source of inspiration was traditionally expressed as the Muse. The Romantic poets claimed the Muse as their own – Coleridge, for example, in ‘To the Muse’, says that it was a conduit to his inner feelings. But then the cold winds of modernism swept in and T.S. Eliot referred to it as a ‘hackneyed metaphor’. Yet do poets ignore the reality of the Muse at their peril? Does it provide a link to our prehistoric shamanic ancestors, and a way of accessing what Yeats called ‘the universal mind’ or what Ted Hughes called ‘the elemental power circuit of the universe’?

The talk will argue that the Muse is central to the poetic imagination, and that waiting rather than willing is the key to the creative process.

JAMES HARPUR read English Literature at Cambridge and is the author of five books of poetry, the most recent *Angels and Harvesters* (Anvil Press, 2012). He is a member of Aosdána, the Irish academy of the arts, and Poetry Editor of the *Temenos Academy Review*.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

The Lost Vision of Nature

DR JOSEPH MILNE

Wednesday 11 October

In the chair Ian Skelly

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

How did our age become alienated from Nature? In this lecture we will trace the history of thought that eventually led to the present materialist world-view. This means enquiring into how the traditional holistic vision of the heavens, the earth and man gradually became fragmented and lost, depriving reality of a unitive purpose and meaning. Beginning with the rise of nominalism and deism in the fourteenth century, we shall demonstrate how these led to the demise of the natural law tradition, the emergence of individualism, and the tyranny of technology over Nature. By the seventeenth century the nominalist world-view was already established, and from it arose the dualistic metaphysics of Descartes, the reductionist science of Francis Bacon, the brutish conception of human nature of Thomas Hobbes, and the birth of economics as the commercialised interpretation of society.

Modern historians know this sequence well enough, but the underlying causes remain unclear. Philosophers such as Kant, Hegel and Marx hailed it as inevitable progress, while others such as Oswald Spengler lamented it as decline, while relativists claimed there was no design in history. In this lecture we shall offer an interpretation that goes back to Plato and Aristotle and their understanding of the conditions of the soul that shape society and its place within the cosmic order. Rather than condemn modernity, we shall seek some understanding of why our age is as it is, and some pointers towards a restoration of a holistic vision of man's place in the cosmos. We are not proposing a 'solution' to the ills of modernity, but rather a way of looking at the present age with more clarity. It follows from Plato that any new understanding brings about change by itself.

JOSEPH MILNE is a trustee of The Eckhart Society and of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and editor of the Foundation's journal *Land & Liberty*; he is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism, Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

The Concepts of Sacrifice (*Yajna*) and Charity (*Daana*) in the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Upanishads*

DR M. N. NANDAKUMARA

Tuesday 17 October

In the chair Vinod B. Tailor

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

The concept of *Yajna* (Sacrifice) is one of the most discussed subjects in the Vedic tradition. *Yajna* is not merely the offering of ghee to the fire – it has far deeper meaning than is generally understood by people, or defined in dictionaries. According to Vedic tradition any selfless action for a greater cause is considered *Yajna*. Examples of *Yajna* from the *Upanishads* and the *Gita* will be discussed in this talk.

DR M. N. NANDAKUMARA belongs to a family of Vedic scholars from Mattur, Karnataka. He was educated at the University of Mysore (MA, 1975) and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (PhD, 1983), and has been Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, London since 1995. A distinguished teacher of Sanskrit, he is Chairman of the UK Sanskrit Association. He is the recipient of numerous awards for services to Indian art, culture and education.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

The Poet's Academy, 47 Paulton's Square

The personal friendship of Kathleen Raine and Jeremy Reed

DR JEREMY REED

Monday 6 November

In the chair Professor Grevel Lindop

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

From their first meeting in 1982 a deep and lasting friendship was established between the two poets, with Jeremy Reed visiting Kathleen Raine regularly every two or three weeks up until the time of her death. In this lecture Jeremy Reed provides a unique and deeply personal insight into their shared loves of the poetry of William Blake, David Gascoyne, Robert Duncan, and the visionary tradition, as well as their love of flowers, alcohol, home-made madeleines, Quentin Crisp, Francis Bacon, and all the special outsiders who looked to Kathleen as their teacher in opening pathways into imagination. This talk offers a revealing and candid account of life at Paulton's Square over the last two decades of Kathleen Raine's life.

JEREMY REED has been called 'British poetry's glam, spangly, shape-shifting answer to David Bowie', something he has always owned to in both his writing and performances of his work. He has published over forty books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, most recently the poetry collections *Piccadilly Bongo*, *Sooner or Later Frank*, *Voodoo Excess* and *Red Light Blues*. His biography of Lou Reed, *Waiting For The Man*, was published in 2014; *I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Asa Benveniste and Trigram Press* appeared in 2016.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

The Metaphysics of Light in the Age of Electricity

DR JEREMY NAYDLER

Wednesday 15 November

In the chair Dr Stephen Cross

Venue The Essex Unitarian Church

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

When Heinrich Hertz declared in 1889 that ‘light of every kind is an electrical phenomenon’ the traditional understanding of light, in which it was seen as the fundamental energy underlying Creation, could no longer have any place within the scientific worldview. In previous ages, reverence for the light as an imago of spirit active in nature was the premise of thinkers as diverse as Dionysius the Areopagite, Thomas Aquinas and Robert Grosseteste. Centuries of metaphysical reflection about light, combined with a spontaneous feeling of religious piety towards it, had helped to sustain the view of light as mediator between the physical and spiritual realms. But as electricity took its place at the heart of the scientific worldview, the old reverence for the light was largely lost. This lecture will argue that the recovery of the traditional metaphysics and theology of light is crucially relevant if we are to restore a spiritual understanding of nature, and answer the neglected yearning of the human soul for a counterbalance to the pervasive influence of electricity and electronic technologies in our lives today.

JEREMY NAYDLER holds a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies, and has written several books on religious life in antiquity and on the history of consciousness, as well as a number of articles and essays on the impact of electronic technologies on the human being and on nature. He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.

Admission

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Sassetta, a Poor Knight and a Wedding

CHRISTOPHER P. WOOD

Tuesday 21 November

In the chair Ian Skelly

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

In a wide-ranging talk incorporating images from the ancient past to the present day, the speaker will explore the way in which improvements in painting technique, centred on the discovery of oil paint (c. 1410), have both hindered and aided imaginative expression. Two paintings, Sassetta's 'St Francis and the Poor Knight' (1437) and Jan Van Eyck's 'The Arnolfini Portrait' (1434), represent the present and future traditions of their time. How was the artist's imaginative vision transformed through improved technique, if at all? Painter Christopher P. Wood explores his fascination with these two paintings, landmarks in technique hanging just a room apart in the National Gallery.

Born in Leeds in 1961, CHRISTOPHER P. WOOD is a painter and printmaker of atmospheric and enigmatic imagery. He gained a master's degree in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art in 1986 and has consistently had successful exhibitions in the UK and abroad. His work is held in many public and private collections including Harrogate Art Gallery, Leeds City Council and the Unilever Collection. Wood's work features magical, symbolic figures and signs – what the artist calls an exploration of the interior world of the imagination.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

'Thou half-dead Angel' – Jacob Boehme and the Mysteries of the Will

DR STEPHEN CROSS

Tuesday 5 December

In the chair Sir Nick Pearson

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

Jacob Boehme (1575–1624) was both mystic and philosopher. He forms a bridge between the pansophist and alchemical traditions of central Europe and the poets and thinkers of the Romantic era. 'Our whole teaching is nothing else than how man should kindle in himself God's light-world', he writes. Yet his thought moves constantly on the razor's edge. For him, Nature is a process of continual transformation and God, beholding Himself in 'the mirror of imagination' which is the world, is full of dramatic inner life. Good reveals itself through evil and cannot be conceived without it. Men and women are 'half-dead angels', existence 'a stream of fire'. That fire is will, and for Boehme it is will which is both the source of the universe and the means to salvation. Does not manifestation itself imply duality, conflict, tension between differing principles? Could there be a world if there is but one principle to give it birth? Where is the source of evil, does it lie somehow within the very being of God? These are questions with which he wrestles ceaselessly.

STEPHEN CROSS is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and a member of its Academic Board. He is the author of *Schopenhauer's Encounter with Indian Thought* (University of Hawaii, 2013) and joint author (with Jack Herbert) of *Inward Lies the Way: German Thought and the Nature of Mind* (Temenos Academy, 2008).

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

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Seeking the Light – How Solar Mysticism enters the Picture

JULIA CLEAVE

Tuesday 12 December

In the chair Belinda Hunt

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

From the sun cults of antiquity to the advent of the solar logos in Christianity and Renaissance dreams of a City of the Sun, our ancestors have ever sought to orient themselves to the supreme symbol of divine illumination.

Following the principles of sacred architecture, temples and cathedrals have been designed to act as precision instruments for marking the stations of the sun. The choreography of a Sufi whirling Dervish or a Masonic candidate's circumambulations, trace its spiralling and oblique movements. In the *Paradiso* Dante and Beatrice enter the Circle of the Sun by treading the slanted path of the ecliptic.

These varying ways of aligning oneself with the heavens are reflected in the works of certain artists of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries – from Perugino to Poussin, and from Verrocchio to Vermeer. Drawing on traditions of alchemy, astrology and sacred geometry inspired by Platonic metaphysics, they portray a spiritual quest for solarisation.

JULIA CLEAVE is a member of the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy. As an independent scholar, she is concerned with tracing the Hermetic and Neoplatonic traditions in works of art and literature of the Renaissance and seventeenth century.

Admission

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Acknowledgement of Divinity

Love of Wisdom, as the essential
basis of civilization

Spiritual vision as the life-breath of civilization

Maintenance of the revered traditions
of mankind

Understanding of tradition as
continual renewal

The provision of teaching by the best
teachers available in their disciplines and of
publications which set the highest standard
in both content and design

Mindfulness that the purpose of teaching
is to enable students to apply in their own lives
that which they learn

To make Temenos known to all those
who may benefit from its work

Reminding ourselves and those we teach
to look up and not down

Governance of the Temenos Academy itself
in the light of the above principles

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