



The Soldier and the Seer

J.F.C. Fuller, Aleister Crowley and the British Occult Revival ♦ A Colloquium

**Monday, June 23 2014 • 9:30 – 5:30 • Pane Room, Alexander Library
169 College Avenue • Rutgers University • New Brunswick Campus**

For parking information please contact Fernanda Perrone at hperrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu

Major General John Frederick Charles Fuller, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. was born on September 1, 1878 in Chichester, England, and educated at Malvern, Sandhurst and British Army Staff College, taking his Army commission in 1898 with the Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry. He served in the Boer War, with later postings in India and Europe. He was highly decorated, holding the Distinguished Service Order, Légion d'Honneur and the Order of Leopold of Belgium; he was also the recipient, with his friend and colleague General Sir Basil Liddell Hart, of the Chesney Memorial Medal of the Royal United Service Institution for 1963. He became one of the major military theorists of all time, studied alongside Clausewitz in military academies around the world. He was an early advocate of armored warfare and involved in the development and deployment of the earliest tanks; his most influential theoretical work, *Lectures on FSR III* (1932), advocated the use of armor for rapid deep penetration behind enemy lines to seize command and control. In this and other works, he predicted many changes in the future conduct of war. The British Army did not embrace his theories, but they were closely studied by both the Soviet Union and the German Army, and the theoretical basis for the German *blitzkrieg* tactics of WWII. In the 1930s Fuller became an outspoken supporter of the British Fascist movement, which, with his open criticism of the Army, led to his retirement with half pay in 1933. Fuller produced over forty books—on strategy, politics and the history of war, as well as books on yoga and the Kabbalah. Even in retirement he remained a capable analyst, and retrospective appraisals of his numerous articles and papers on war and foreign policy have remarked on how often his views were vindicated by events.

Fuller discovered Aleister Crowley's poetical and philosophical writings while stationed in India, and was the only known entrant in a competition for an essay on Crowley's works. His winning essay led to his first book, *The Star in the West: A Critical Essay upon the Works of Aleister Crowley* (1907). Crowley played a pivotal role in his future career by introducing him to Clausewitz's English translator, and appointing him co-editor of the literary and occult journal *The Equinox* from 1909–1910. Crowley left an

indelible mark on Fuller by nurturing and criticizing his early writing, and empowering him as a thinker in his own right. Fuller was also a contributor to *The Equinox*, most notably producing the first four installments of Crowley's serialized spiritual biography *The Temple of Solomon the King*. He was also its principal illustrator, proving himself to be an unusually gifted draftsman and artist.

Fuller was the founding Chancellor of the A.∴A.∴, the spiritual order Crowley co-founded to reform the British occult sodality the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Two of his paintings illustrative of the spiritual system of the A.∴A.∴ are included in the "Unheard of Curiosities" exhibition at Rutgers. Fuller's mottos in the order were *Frater Per Ardua* ("through difficulties") and *Frater Non Sine Fulmine* ("not/nothing without a thunderbolt"), and these proved prophetic, as he had an abrupt falling-out with Crowley in 1911. In the end he chose not to become the evangelizing "St. Paul" that Crowley had hoped for, but he had already been instrumental in helping Crowley launch his spiritual movement, Thelema. He died on February 10, 1966.

PROGRAM

Times are approximate
A brief Q&A will follow each paper

9:30 – 9:45	ERIKA GORDER, M.A., M.L.I.S. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries	Inadvertently Occult: Rutgers University, the Fairweather Rare Book Collection and the J.F.C. Fuller Papers
9:45 – 10:00	GORDAN DJURDJEVIC, PH.D. <i>President, Academia Ordo Templi Orientis</i>	Introductory Remarks
10:00 – 10:45	HENRIK BOGDAN, PH.D. University of Gothenburg	The J.F.C. Fuller and Aleister Crowley Correspondence: A Story of an Unlikely Friendship
10:45 – 11:00		<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	GORDAN DJURDJEVIC, PH.D. Simon Fraser University; University of British Columbia	Yoga and Buddhism in <i>The Temple of Solomon the King</i>: J.F.C. Fuller's Account of Aleister Crowley's Engagement with Asian Spirituality
11:45 – 12:30	RICHARD KACZYNSKI, PH.D. Yale University; University of Detroit Mercy	J. F. C. Fuller's Continuing Interest in the Occult after 1911
12:30 – 1:15		<i>Lunch</i>
1:15 – 2:00	CHRIS GIUDICE, M.A. University of Gothenburg	The Beast and the Black Shirt: J.F.C. Fuller's Ties to the British Union of Fascists and the German N.S.D.A.P.
2:00 – 2:45	ROBERT C. STEIN, PH.D. SUNY Buffalo (<i>emeritus</i>)	Crowley, the Alphabet and the Significance of "Liber 231"
2:45 – 3:00		<i>Break</i>
3:00 – 3:45	WILLIAM BREEZE Ordo Templi Orientis Archives	The Beast in the Academy: The Relegitimization of Aleister Crowley and the Importance of his Manuscripts as Primary Sources
4:30 – 5:25		<i>Panel Q&A</i>
5:25 – 5:30	GORDAN DJURDJEVIC, PH.D.	Closing