

SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHIES

For biographies of Theosophical Leaders see Reading List on “Theosophical History”.

Advaita Ashrama, *Life of Sri Ramakrishna*, 1964, 619 pages.

Compiled from various authentic sources, describes the life of this famous mystic who is considered an avatar or incarnation of God by many of his devotees even today, and who had great influence in the Hindu renaissance during 19th and 20th century.

H922.23 Ram LSR

AE (George W. Russell), *The Candle of Vision*, [1974], 175 pages.

An autobiographical account by this mystical writer who was also an Irish nationalist, editor, critic, poet, and painter. The book is mainly concerned with his mystic life and an important phase of higher consciousness.

B R913 Rus CV

Armstrong, Karen, *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*, [2001?], 290 pages.

A vivid and detailed biography of this charismatic spiritual and politic leader that strips away centuries of distortion and myth, and presents a balanced view of the man whose religion continues to dramatically affect the course of history.

I922.21 Arm M

Bernard, Hélène, *Great Women Initiates, or, The Feminine Mystic*, 1984, 151 pages.

The lives and work of women that had an important influence in the mystical and initiatory world, including Jeanne Guesdon (Rosicrucian leader), Helena Blavastky (Founder of the Theosophical Society), Maria Deraismes (first female Freemason), among others.

B B456 GWI

Chawla, Navin, *Mother Teresa: The Authorized Biography*, 1996, 231 pages.

Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, which has grown to a worldwide religious order caring for the destitute, the dying, and the victims of disease, famine and disaster. This biography sets out to capture the humanity and mystery in her.

B T272 Cha MT

Cheney, Sheldon, *Men who have walked with God*, 1945, 395 pages.

The story of mysticism through the ages, told in the biographies of seers and saints like Lao-Tse, the Buddha, Pythagoras and Plato, Plotinus, Eckhart, Boehme, Brother Lawrence, and others, with excerpts from their writings and sayings.

149.3 Che MWW

Clements, Jonathan, *Confucius: A Biography*, 2004, 136 pages.

Reveals many unexpected sides of this venerable Chinese thinker and social philosopher, exploring the world he lived in and his teachings, which have deeply influenced Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese and Vietnamese thought and life.

C922.21 Con Cle

Cooper-Oakley, Isabel, *The Comte de St. Germain: The Secret of Kings*, 1985, 249 pages.

The Count of St. Germain remains today one of the paramount enigmas of the 18th century. He was known as a great occultist, the leading spirit of Rosicrucianism, and due to his counsel was sought after and respected by kings of Europe.

B Sa23 CoO CSG 1985

Dalai Lama XIV, *Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama*, c1990, 288 pages.

A full, frank and stirring autobiography of the religious and secular head of Tibet (winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize) describing his unusual childhood and training, his forced exile, and his political and religious life.

T922.23 DalXIV FE

Drayer, Ruth, *Nicholas & Helena Roerich: The Spiritual Journey of Two Great Artists and Peacemakers*, 2005, 357 pages.

Co-founders of the Agni Yoga Society, Nicholas was a Russian painter and philosopher and Helena a gifted healer and teacher. This biography reveals how intimately the Roerich's beliefs directed their lives and actions.

B R628 Dra NHR

Evans-Wentz, W.Y., *Tibet's Great Yogi, Milarepa*, 1969, 315 pages.

A biography, translated from the original Tibetan, of one of Tibet's most famous yogis and poets, highly esteemed by all schools of Tibetan Buddhism but a major figure in the history of the Kagyu school.

B M589 Daw TGYM

Furlong, Monica, *Merton: A Biography*, c1980, 342 pages.

Drawing from Merton's writings, interviews, and voluminous correspondence, the author traces the stages of growth of this Trappist monk, poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion, who was the author of numerous works on spirituality.

B M558 Fur MB

Gandhi, Mahatma, *An Autobiography, or, The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, c1927, 404 pages.

The autobiography of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, covering his life from early childhood through to 1920, as a way of conveying his "numerous experiments with truth", including non-violence, celibacy and other principles of conduct.

B G151 Gan A

Gibran, Jean, *Kahlil Gibran, His Life and World*, 1991, 456 pages.

A comprehensive biography of this Lebanese American artist, poet, writer, philosopher and theologian—author of *The Prophet* and several other works—whose vision helped shape the philosophy of the New Age.

B G356 Gib KG

Hall, Manly P., *Sages and Seers*, [1979], 316 pages.

The lives of eight sages and seers from sixteenth to twentieth century (Nostradamus, Francis Bacon, Jacob Boehme, Johann A. Comenius, Comte de St. Germain, William Blake, Thomas Taylor and Ghandi) who made important and lasting contributions to spirituality.

922 Hal SS

Hartmann, Franz, *The Life of Paracelsus, and the Substance of His Teachings*, 1985, 267 pages.

An account of the life of one the greatest occultists of medieval times, as well as of his teachings on cosmology, anthropology, pneumatology, magic and sorcery, medicine, alchemy and astrology, and philosophy and theosophy.

B P210 Har LP

Heehs, Peter, *The Lives of Sri Aurobindo*, c2008, 496 pages.

After a short political career as one of the leaders of the early movement for Indian independence from British rule, Sri Aurobindo became a yogi and philosopher of spiritual evolution, developing a spiritual system which he termed Integral Yoga.

H922.23 Gho LSA

House, Adrian, *Francis of Assisi*, c2001, 336 pages.

An account of the least dogmatic of saints who considered himself as God's troubadour. He devoted his life to the poorest and the sick, and through his universal love he had influenced the whole world for nearly eight centuries.

B F847 Hou FA

Iamblichus, *Iamblichus' Life of Pythagoras, or, Pythagoric Life*, 1986, 252 pages.

The famous biography of the father of philosophy and geometry written by this renowned Neo-Platonist philosopher, accompanied by fragments of the ethical writings of Pythagoreans and a collection of Pythagoric sentences from Stobaeus and others.

182.2 Iam LP

Iqbal, Afzal, *The Life and Work of Jalaluddin Rumi*, 1999, 330 pages.

A comprehensive study of the life and thought of this great 13th-century Persian poet and mystic, Sunni Islamic jurist, and theologian, considered an example of the "Perfect Man", the perfected or completed human being.

I298.1 Rum zIqb LWJR

Irwin, Louis Two Ravens, *Two Ravens: The Life and Teachings of a Spiritual Warrior*, c1996, 164 pages.

Offers personal insights into the life story of a remarkable Native American who through his own life struggles learned to unite the paths of warrior and healer. He worked with the American Indian Movement to ensure that his people might live in peace and with respect.

B Ir9 Irw TR

Jensen, Ann Oden, **Franz Anton Mesmer : physician extraordinaire**, [1967], 253 pages.

A readable and dramatic account of the life of this German physician and astrologist, who discovered what he called animal magnetism (often called mesmerism). The evolution of his ideas and practices led later to the development of hypnosis as a medical tool.

B M561 Jen FAM

Jung, C. G., *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, [1963], 398 pages.

This book is essentially a record of the inner experiences “which alone seemed worth the telling,” including unforgettable dreams that began with earliest childhood, visions when near to death and overwhelming bouts with the unconscious.

B J954 Jun MDR

Kirkpatrick, Sidney, *Edgar Cayce: an American Prophet*, 2000, 564 pages.

This biography offers an entirely new perspective of the life and legacy of this famous American psychic. An inspiring portrait of a humble man who used his abilities to offering medical and spiritual guidance to those in need.

B C317 Kir EC

Landau, Rom, *God is My Adventure: A Book on Modern Mystics, Masters and Teachers*, [c1936], 407 pages.

Deals with some of the great founders of our modern spiritual view—Ouspensky, Gurdjieff, Krishnamurti, Steiner, Count Ketserling, Stefan George, George Jeffreys, Frank Buchman and Shri Meher Baba.

922 Lan GIA

Laramie, Moon, *Spirit of Garbo*, 2018, 193 pages.

Greta Garbo described once as “rather a crazy mystic Swede” managed to remain a very independent spiritual thinker in the image conscious world of Hollywood. She was known for her eccentricities and privacy but this book explores her interest in self-actualization, reincarnation and the ideas of Theosophy.

B G163 Lar SG

McIntosh, Christopher, *Eliphas Lévi and the French Occult Revival*, 1975, 238 pages.

The first full study in English on the life and writings of one of the key figures of Western occultism. It also analyses the importance of his time in the history of occultism, giving detailed information of other little known magical orders.

B L578 McI EL

Mead, G. R. S., *Apollonius of Tyana: The Philosopher-Reformer of the First Century A.D.*, [1966], 168 pages.

A religious teacher of the early years of the Christian era who insisted that divinity was not to be found on an altar but inside oneself. A vegetarian and celibate, able to heal the sick and perform “miracles”, was frequently considered as a “satanic” figure by Christians.

B Ap43 Mea AT

Mead, G. R. S., *Simon Magus*, 1985, 91 pages.

An account based on ancient sources of the life, philosophy, and teachings of this early Gnostic, founder of Simonianism, whose followers revered as “the Great Power of God” and Christians labeled as a demon in human form, due to his fame as a magician.

T M461 SM

Mitchell, Robert A., *The Buddha: His Life Retold*, 1991, 274 pages.

In a non-scholarly and poetical language this affectionate and analytical biography captures the spiritual importance and challenges of the Buddha’s life and decisions, bringing this historical person to life in all his humanness.

B922.21 Mit B

Moore, James, *Gurdjieff: The Anatomy of a Myth: A Biography*, 1991, 415 pages.

Drawing information from published and unpublished sources, this book is the first major biography of this Greek-Armenian mystic and spiritual teacher, developer of the spiritual system now called the Fourth Way.

B G962 Mor GA

Nikhilananda, Swami, *Vivekananda*, 1989, 216 pages.

A biography of this Indian reformer, missionary, and spiritual leader who promulgated Indian religious and philosophical values in Europe, England, and the United States, founding the Vedanta Society and the Ramakrishna mission.

H922.23 Viv Nik

Prem Lata, *Shankaracharya*, 1982, 191 pages.

Narrates the wonderful life of one of the greatest of all philosophers, who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. The book gives an account of his work and explains the *advaita* doctrine in an easy to understand way.

H922.22 San Pre

Ribadeau Dumas, F., *Cagliostro*, 1967, 308 pages.

The life of the mysterious Count Cagliostro who, thanks to his exceptional gifts as a clairvoyant, healer, and magus-like charm, became one of the most influential figures of the late eighteenth century, to be tried and condemned by the Inquisition in 1795.

B C117 Dum C

Scriabin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich, *The Notebooks of Alexander Skryabin*, 2018, 263 pages.

Born in 1872 and dying very young in 1915, Alexander lived in the romantic era. His musical concepts were informed by poets, philosophers and dramatists of the Silver age. He referred to music in terms of spatial shapes and color and others commented that he was a “magus” of

sound. This newly translated volume of the composer's writings and letters allows the reader to understand Skryabin's worldview and personality. In a time of atheism he became fascinated by esoteric spiritualism and an apocalyptic vision of transformation. He was influenced by ancient Greeks, German idealists, Indian culture and the Theosophical writings of H.P. Blavatsky.

786.2092 Scr N

Sedgwick, Henry Dwight, *Marcus Aurelius*, 1921, 309 pages.

An account about the life, character, and religion of the last of the "Five Good Emperors" of Rome, who is also considered one of the most important Stoic philosophers. It also offers an exposition of the Stoic philosophy.

B Au64 Sed LMA (STACKS)

Standing, E. M., *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*, 1959, 354 pages.

An introduction to the work of this Italian educator, philosopher and humanitarian, who developed the Montessori method of education of children in use today in a number of public as well as private schools throughout the world.

B M765 Sta MML

Steiner, Rudolf, *Autobiography: Chapters in the Course of My Life, 1861-1907*, c1999, 415 pages.

The founder of Anthroposophy recalls the first thirty-five years of his life, offering a rare glimpse into some of the most intimate aspects of his inner life, his personal relationships, and significant events that helped to shape the philosopher, seer, and teacher he became.

B St35 Ste A

Stewart, C. Nelson, *Bulwer Lytton as Occultist*, 1927, 64 pages.

Lord Lytton was an English novelist, poet, and politician, who wrote the occult novel *Zanoni* and was member of the English Rosicrucian society. This book gathers biographical details that provide some background for the statement that he was an "occultist".

B L999 Ste BLO

Stoudt, John J., *Jacob Boehme: His Life and Thought*, 1968, 317 pages.

A fresh study of the life and writings of one of the most original and least understood seminal writers of the Baroque world, the German mystic Jacob Boehme, who had an astounding influence on the history of Western philosophy.

189.5 Boe zSto JB

Teresa of Avila, Saint, *The Life of Teresa of Jesus: The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, 1960, 399 pages.

This title gives an accurate and detailed account of the spiritual experience and progress, as well as the spiritual trials, of this prominent Spanish mystic, Carmelite reformer, and writer of the Counter Reformation.

B T272 Ter LTJ

Tillery, Gary, *The Cynical Idealist: a Spiritual Biography of John Lennon*, 2009, 202 pages.

This biography traces the spiritual odyssey of a remarkable artist, John Lennon, from his troubled working class childhood to influential musician, artist and social activist. At the height of the Beatles fame he rejected the labels that others tried to put on him and began to actively advocate for honesty and pacifist solutions. Through his music and interviews he encouraged others to recognize their value in the universe. He believed in “life as a work of art” and tried to discourage people from idolizing cultural icons like he was.

B L548 Til CI

Tillery, Gary, *The Seeker King: A Spiritual Biography of Elvis Presley*, 2013, 230 pages.

Elvis was raised with a strong Christian outlook but later in life had a personal epiphany that led him to become intensely interested in Hindu practices. While making movies that left him unhappy with his career, he read thousands of books on religion including Gurdjieff, Krishnamurti and Helena Blavatsky. His life was filled with legendary excesses as well as generosity but he characterized himself as a seeker. He said about himself “All I want is to know and experience God. I'm a searcher, that's what I'm all about.”

B P926 Til SK

Tillery, Gary, *Working Class Mystic: A Spiritual Biography of George Harrison*, 2011, 201 pages.

George Harrison, the “quiet Beatle” went on a spiritual journey from famous musician to experimentation with LSD to becoming a devout Hindu and practitioner of yoga. Because of his early interest in meditation, gurus and yoga, he led the Beatles to explore Eastern philosophy. George made it hip and then mainstream to be a spiritual being in the new age.

B H246 Til WCM

Trobridge, George, *Emanuel Swedenborg, His Life, Teachings and Influence*, [1928], 247 pages.

A scientist, philosopher, Christian mystic, and theologian; Swedenborg had a prolific career as an inventor and scientist until in 1744 he experienced dreams and visions, culminating in a spiritual awakening and the revealing of doctrine to reform Christianity.

B Sw33 Tro ES (STACKS)

Yates, Frances A., *Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition*, 1979, 466 pages.

A study that places Bruno’s complex personality, mind and mission, in the history of one of the numerous traditions to which he was heir—the Renaissance Hermetic tradition—providing extensive documentation.

B B836 Yat GBHT

Yogananda, P., *Autobiography of a Yogi*, 1967, 514 pages

Describes the experiences of Yogananda's remarkable childhood, his search for a guru, and his encounters with leading spiritual figures which had a profound influence on his life. It also provides an introduction to the ancient science of yoga and meditation.

H922.23 Yog AY

Waite, Arthur E., *The Unknown Philosopher; The Life of Louis Claude de Saint-Martin and the Substance of His Transcendental Doctrine*, 1970, 464 pages.

About one of the most enlightened and liberal of the later Christian transcendentalists of the last decades of the 18th century, whose fame is based on being a true mystic, his ability to express his theosophical system, and his passionate search for higher wisdom.

B Sa24 Wai UP

Watts, Alan, *In My Own Way: An Autobiography, 1915-1965*, [1972], 400 pages.

Tracks his spiritual and philosophical evolution from a child of religious conservatives in rural England to freewheeling spiritual teacher who challenged Westerners to defy convention and think for themselves.

B W349 Wat IMO

Sound Recordings

Brooks, Richard W., *The Wonderful Life of Gautama the Buddha*, AR 4894

Hoeller, Stephan A., *Alan Watts: The Man, the Mystic, the Magician*, AR 5055

Hoeller, Stephan A., *G.I. Gurdjieff and His Fourth Way*, AR 4787

Smith, Huston, *Huston Smith, A Life of Exploring Religious Frontiers*, AR 5165

Yogananda, Paramahansa, *Autobiography of a Yogi*, AR 5137-12 tapes 1-12

Video Recordings

Drayer, Ruth, *Wayfarers: The Spiritual Journeys of Nicholas & Helena Roerich*, VR 1245

Lemle, Mickey, *Ram Dass: Fierce Grace*, DVD 0005

Patterson, W. Patrick, *Gurdjieff in Egypt: The Origin of Esoteric Knowledge*, VR 1136 pt.1

Price, Penny, *Splendors of the Spirit: Swedenborg's Quest for Insight*, VR 1173

Scorsese, Martin, *Kundun*, VR 1122