



Chadwick Library Edition



Selected Written Works of Rudolf Steiner

The Chadwick Library Edition is an endeavor to republish—mostly in new or thoroughly revised English translations—a number of the written works of Rudolf Steiner. The Edition is named after the late horticulturist Alan Chadwick, whose life and work has served as inspiration to the small group from whence the idea originated.

There are several goals to this Edition:

- to publish hardcover English translations in a form that enables the books to become family keepsakes, worthy of being passed from generation to generation;
- to create books that are comfortable in the hand and to the eye;
- to arrange the pagination and typography in a way that facilitates ease of reading and encourages the words to lift off the page to the reader;
- to provide translations that achieve a balance between literal faithfulness and fluidity in the interpretation from German to English;
- to publish three books at a time, in several intervals over the course of the next two years, for a total of 12 to 15 titles by the end of 2019.

The first three volumes of the series are available now: *The Case for Anthroposophy*, fragments of *Riddles of the Soul*, translated and introduced by Owen Barfield (cw 21); *Goethean Science: Introductions to Goethe's Natural-Scientific Writings*, translated by William Lindeman (cw 1); and *Mystics at the Dawn of the Modern Age and Their Relation to the Natural-Scientific Paradigm*,



Martino Mardersteig, Jyll Johnstone, Christopher Bamford, and Michael Arlen Davis at the offices of Opero, Verona, Italy, June 2015

translated by Karl E. Zimmer, revised by Jon McAlice and Thomas O'Keefe (cw 7).

Proposed future volumes include: *A Path to Self-Knowledge*; *The Riddles of Philosophy* (in two volumes); *The Threshold of the Spiritual World*; *How Does One Attain Cognitions of the Higher Worlds?*; *Theosophy*; *Christianity as Mystical Fact and the Mysteries of Antiquity*; *An Outline of Esoteric Science* (in three volumes); and two additional books, most likely *The Philosophy of Freedom* and *A Theory of Knowledge Implicit in the Goethean Worldview*.

Our Approach to Translation in the Chadwick Edition

Thomas O'Keefe, Editorial Director

The task of translation challenges those involved to strive continually to hold a balance between two poles of one-sidedness—on the one hand, interpreting the text from an overly literal perspective, and on the other, interpreting too loosely.

Translations that adhere too closely to strict definitions of words and their sequence risk obscuring the essence of the message for which the words were employed as transmitting vessels. One



Unnumbered, cloth-bound, leather-spine edition of
Goethean Science

risks placing unnecessary obstacles in the way of the reader's effort to understand, as well as misplacing the reader's patience. When words become transparent—not requiring undue effort to “decode”—the message may shine through with enhanced clarity. The message itself often requires considerable engagement, and so a translation imbued with flexibility allows one to read for comprehension rather than decoding meaning from a sequence of words arranged in a way that may not be intuitive to the English ear, or that might retain aspects relating purely to the laws of German grammar. With this goal in mind, our work on this edition seeks to avoid the one-sidedness that results from translations that become too narrowly literal.

On the other hand, with renderings that place too high a priority on simplifying the essential message of the text in the service of accessibility, a second potential one-sidedness emerges. This is because, in many passages of the written work, the author's essential message requires an extraordinary effort on the part of the reader. As Rudolf Steiner

wrote in a preface to *An Outline of Esoteric Science*:

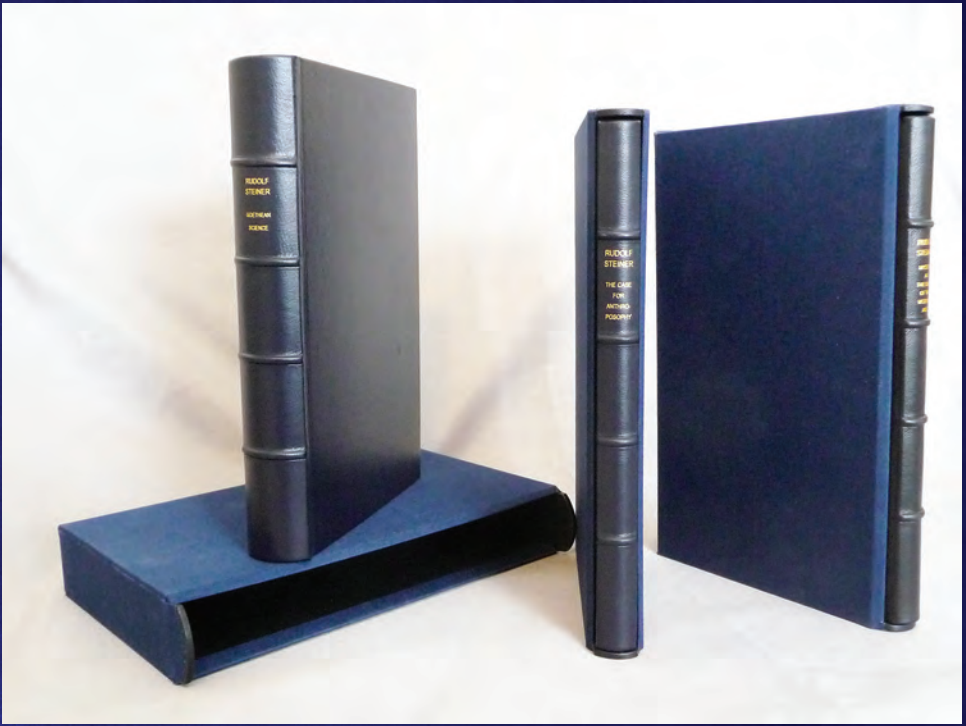
I have quite consciously endeavored not to offer a ‘popular’ exposition, but rather an exposition that makes it necessary for the reader to study the content with strict effort of thought. . . . For the calm, conscious effort of thought that this reading makes necessary strengthens the forces of the soul and through this makes them capable of approaching the spiritual world.*

When attempting to simplify the message into what one believes to be its basic essence, the translator risks overlooking important nuances that the author actually intended to be read with careful attention and perhaps even repeated contemplative exertion. Without enough attention to the detail of the author's word choices, style, and context, as well as a deep comprehension of the often-subtle processes described, free rendering may be limited by a translator's own incomplete understanding of the essence of the passage. For this reason, we are aiming to maintain a rigorous standard of faithfulness and to reformulate the language of an expression in the text only after careful consideration of what is gained and what is lost by doing so.



Michael Arlen Davis and Martino Mardersteig

* This translation is from *An Outline of Occult Science* (Spring Valley, NY: Anthroposophic Press, 1972), xiii.



Numbered, leather-bound, slipcase editions of Rudolf Steiner's
Goethean Science, Mystics at the Dawn of the Modern Age, and The Case for Anthroposophy

Rudolf Steiner aptly characterized his spiritual-scientific approach as a process of maintaining a balance in steering a ship between the two pillars of natural science on the one hand and mysticism on the other.* Thus, we of the Chadwick Library will attempt to steer our own ship between the twin “Scylla and Charydbis” principles of translation.

Faithfulness to the author’s chosen form of expression also informs our approach to the “gender inclusive” question and the challenge of how to most accurately and fluidly translate pronouns in reference to “the human being,” “the esoteric student,” and so on. We have addressed this matter in more detail in a note at the end of each book. In all aspects of translation, we attempt to find a balance between faithfulness and liberty of style, while at the same time allowing for the judgment and freedom of each translator.

An additional aspect of the Chadwick Edition is that we have tried to organize the texts in a way that is relatively

unadorned, keeping introductions and supplemental notes to a minimum.

Initiating the Project and Production Details

*Martino Mardersteig,
Operto Publishing, Verona, Italy*

In November 2014, Michael Davis and his wife Jyll paid a visit to Verona, Italy, to meet with me and to illustrate an important project they had in mind. Michael had studied the work of Rudolf Steiner for many years and wanted to initiate the publication of a revised and updated English edition of a selection of Dr. Steiner’s writings in a high quality, elegant, and accessible edition. The question they came to ask was if I would undertake the design and oversee the production of this project. It took only one week to consult collaborators and suppliers in order to return a positive answer about this potential engagement.

Samples with various typefaces were prepared, all with the intention of making the books easy to read while using classical fonts.

On May 31, 2015, when we first met with Christopher Bamford (and the next day with Michael and Jyll), we

* See the essay “Philosophy and Anthroposophy” (Spring Valley, NY: Mercury Press, 1988), pp. 1–2.

had to decide on the typeface, paper, and binding. We met in the offices of Opero Publishing—more precisely, with Riccardo Pinali, one of the two partners. This is where the production is based, and where it is followed step by step from the pagination to binding. We quickly agreed on all of the most important decisions, as evidently our tastes came from similar dispositions.

The font we selected was Caslon 540 (used here), derived from the Linotype cut of 1902, in a special version modified by me to increase the legibility in this size and content and to get closer to the original letterpress look.

We believe that the color of the Munken Pure paper (slightly off-white creme) helps with readability and has a more pleasant surface. It will be used in three different weights, depending on the number of pages in each book, so that the spines are all of similar width.

Our extensive experience with special bindings led to the selection, for

the “trade edition” in 750 books, of a leather-spine binding with cloth sides and a light slipcase, whereas, for the hand-numbered edition (100 books), the binding will be in full leather with a hand-gilt top of the pages, and a fine, stiff, cloth-covered slipcase. The leather is blue calfskin, and the title stamping on the spines is in genuine gold leaf. All of this will be carried out by hand at one of the finest binders, Ruggero Rigoldi.

Initially, production was planned to begin at the end of 2015, but the work on the new translations, the editing, and naming an editorial director, Thomas O’Keefe, required us to delay the schedule. Now the production has started, and all collaborators involved are working to punctually deliver the books on the newly proposed schedule.



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