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**Finding aid for the Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts,  
1500-1825**

Finding aid prepared by Trevor Bond.

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts

**Date (inclusive):** 1500-1825

**Number:** 950053

**Creator/Collector:** Hall, Manly P. (Manly Palmer), 1901-1990

**Physical Description:** 7.5 linear feet(243 vols.)

### Repository:

The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688

(310) 440-7390

**Abstract:** A collection of 243 manuscripts detailing the arts of Alchemy, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism, and Masonry, gathered by Manly Palmer Hall, author and researcher in the realms of mysticism and the occult.

**Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).

**Language:** Collection material is in Latin

### Biographical/Historical Note

Manly Hall was born in 1901, in Peterborough, Canada, to William S. and Louise Palmer Hall. The Hall family moved to the United States in 1904 and lived for a time in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Manly Hall settled in Los Angeles in 1919.

As a young man he became interested in occult matters. He subsequently joined a number of societies, among them the Theosophical Society, the Freemasons, the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, and the American Federation of Astrologers.

In 1922 Manly Hall wrote his first book on philosophy/religion, *Initiates of the Flame*. According to Hall, he began collecting works on mysticism and the esoteric sciences: "late in the fall of 1922, the plan for a comprehensive work on the symbolism of western mystical societies began to take shape in my mind. It soon became apparent that research facilities for such a project were not available in Southern California... The only answer was to contact antiquarian book dealers and elicit their cooperation in the search for the items desired." The collection of books and manuscripts which Hall purchased, primarily in the 1920s and 1930s, became the basis for his own research and the cornerstone of the Philosophical Research Society's holdings.

Ordained to the ministry in 1923, Hall became minister to an occult/metaphysical congregation. As the leader of the Church of the People, Hall started a magazine titled the *All Seeing Eye*. In 1928 Hall published his extensive work *An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic, and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy*.

In 1934 Hall founded the Philosophical Research Society, a research institute modeled on the ancient school of Pythagoras. 1935 marked the ground breaking for the first building of the complex. Major additions to the Philosophical Research Society came in 1950 and 1959. Hall delivered weekly lectures and continued writing on mystical topics. By 1940, Hall is said to have delivered over 7,000 lectures.

1944 was the year of the first printing of Hall's book, *Secret Destiny of America*, apparently an expansion of a lecture he gave in 1942. The Philosophical Library edition of *Secret Destiny of America* was published in 1958. And in 1986 Hall completed his book the *Rosicrucians and Magister Christoph Schlegel: Hermetic Roots of America*.

Manly Hall died in California. During his life he wrote over 50 books and hundreds of shorter works.

### Access

Open for use by qualified researchers; original Ripley scroll, and Ms. 209, and Ms. 210 are restricted; surrogate photographic copies available.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts, 1500-1825, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 950053.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa950053>

### Acquisition Information

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Acquired in 1995.

#### **Processing History**

Trevor Bond processed the collection January 1998 and wrote the finding aid March 1998

#### **Digitized Collection Materials**

Selected items from the collection were digitized in 2010 and are [available online](#).

#### **Separated Material**

224 printed books were transferred to the library on June 6, 1995.

#### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection contains 243 manuscripts, some only a few pages, bound in 68 volumes which detail the arts of Alchemy, Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism, and Masonry. Highlights of this collection include: a twenty-one foot long Ripley Scroll, a heavily illustrated manuscript that records an alchemical poem by Ripley (George Ripley d. 1490); a 17th-century French manuscript copy of Michael Maier's "Atalanta Fugiens" with emblematic and mystical drawings and illuminations after Jacob Böhme; an 18th-century Pennsylvania Dutch manuscript of Rosicrucian cosmological charts and symbolic images; two triangular masonic manuscripts; two independent collections, the first named for Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom, who gathered together an assortment of manuscripts from the 16th to the early 19th century, many of which he translated into English, the second collection, attributed to Count Cagliostro, contains thirty manuscripts bound in one volume.

#### **Arrangement note**

Arranged in one series according to Hall's inventory list and using the manuscript numbering from Hogart's bibliography of the Manly P. Hall collection of books and manuscripts.

Numbers in brackets following item descriptions refer to the numbering in Hogart's bibliography of the Manly P. Hall collection of books and manuscripts

#### **Subjects - Topics**

Alchemy  
Hermetism  
Masonry  
Occultism  
Rosicrucians

#### **Subjects - Titles**

*Atalanta fugiens Ripley scroll*

#### **Genres and Forms of Material**

Scroll (information artifact)

#### **Contributors**

Bacstrom, Sigismond  
Böhme, Jakob, 1575-1624  
Cagliostro, Alessandro, conte di, 1743-1795  
Hall, Manly P. (Manly Palmer), 1901-1990  
Maier, Michael, 1568?-1622  
Ripley, George, d. 1490?

#### **Bibliography**

Publications consulted by the cataloger. Hogart, Ron Charles, 1958- *Alchemy, a comprehensive bibliography of the Manly P. Hall Collection of books and manuscripts: including related material on Rosicrucianism and the writings of Jacob Böhme; introduction by Manly P. Hall* . Los Angeles, Calif.: Philosophical Research Society, 1986. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. *Alchemy and the occult: a catalogue of books and manuscripts from the collection of Paul and Mary Mellon given to Yale University Library*. New Haven, Yale University Library, 1968-77.

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### **Manly Palmer Hall collection of alchemical manuscripts**

Box 1

... Livre des figures... ca. 1800

#### **Scope and Content Note**

Abraham Juif. 22.5 x 16.3 cm. 139 leaves. Illustrations ink, some pastel-colored. [3]

- Box 2                    **Explication et figure, hieroglyphique du livre d'or des divins secrets d'abraham le Juif prince et prestre des Levites astrologue et philosophe de la nation des Juifs disperèe par l'Ire de dieu parmy les gaules, salut ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Abraham Juif. 15.5 x 9.9 cm. 86 leaves. Illustration opposite title page. [4]
- Box 3                    **... De Arte divina & sacra, sine Aenigmate tradita & del praxin conscripta ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 33.5 x 22 cm. 49 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [14]
- Box 4                    **Das Buch mit Sieben Siegeln ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 25.4 x 20.8 cm. 5 volumes. 296 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. Some plates missing. Originally in one volume. Hall had the manuscript disbound and separated into its present 5 volumes. [19]
- Box 5                    **F. de La Rose-croix ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 32.4 x 21.6 cm. 11 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [24]
- Box 6                    **flambeaux des vrais rosecroix, ou des Sages ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 37.2 x 24.8 cm. 57 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. [26]
- Box 7                    **Le Grand Livre des Pantacles ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 26.3 x 20.5 cm. 27 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. Written in Rosicrucian characters. [29]
- Box 8                    **De Mirabilibus naturae arcanis. Traduit du Latin en francais par Gobreau 1773**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. Translation by Gobreau. 16 x 10.3 cm. 16 leaves. [36]
- Box 9                    **Occulta Philosophia Von den verborgenen Philosophischen Geheimnüssen, und Lapidis Philosophorum... ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 20.3 x 16.3 cm. In two sections: first 128 pages, second 67 pages. Illustrations, ink. [39]
- Box 10                   **Operation sur le Zinc selon l'intention de Respours et de Delogues, pour en tirer l'esprit mineral et en fair le sujet du grand ouvre, Combinée at Commantée pour M... Anonime ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 23.2 x 17.9 cm. 48 leaves. [40]
- Box 11                   **Rozaire des Philosophes ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 23.3 x 17.7 cm. 168 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [49]
- Box 12                   **Sapientia Veterum ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 34.5 x 26.7 cm. 14 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [50]
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- Box 13                    **Traité de CHymie ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 8 leaves. Illustrations, ink, watercolor. Bound with "Anatomia Magica Vocabuli Mercurio," (Ms 11) and "Abbé de Galifet Secretz," (Ms 143). Written in symbolic characters. [57]
- Box 14                    **Les Vaisseaux D'Hermes ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 27.1 x 19.3 cm. 5 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [58]
- Box 15                    **Veritables Adeptes, Illuminées et Initiés de l'Hermétisme ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 21.7 x 17.9 cm. 72 leaves. Blue paper. [60]
- Box 16                    **Untitled ca. 1600**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 25.8 x 19.2 cm. 15 leaves. Illustrations, ink, watercolor. [69]
- Box 17                    **"Cabala" ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 34.5 x 26.5 cm. 9 leaves. No text. Illustrations, watercolor. [71]
- Box 18                    **Bacstrom Collection of Manuscripts ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Most manuscripts copied and translated in English from earlier works between 1790-1808 by Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom. 21.4 x 17.7 cm. 19 volumes. Some volumes contain illustrations, ink, watercolor. All volumes are uniformly bound. Following is a brief listing of the contents of each volume, including author information, when known. [102]
- Box 18                    **Vol. 1: 9 works**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Including one each by W. De Cones and George Ripley. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 2: 10 works**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Including one by H. Nollius and four by S. Bacstrom. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 3: 7 works**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Including two by E. Gobineau de Montluisant, one each by D. J. Wallachin, and W. Blomefeeld. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 4: 1 work 1791**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Letters to the Rosey Crucian Society attributed to M. Sendivogius. Translated by Dr. Sibly. Illustrations, ink, watercolor.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 5: 9 works 1723**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Including one by J. de Monte Raphaim.
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- Box 18                    **Vol. 6: 19 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by Paracelsus, Alexis Piemontese, Baro Urbigerus, Ford, S. Trismosin, and Abraham Eleazar.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 7: 10 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by J. Langelott, Paracelsus, J. Helvetius and three by von Suchten. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 8: 16 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by J. G. Jugel, Neuman, K. Digby, and Abbé Rousseau, H. von Batsdorff, J. J. Beccher, W. von Schroeder and Leona Constantia, and two by Trismosin.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 9: 8 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by G. von Welling, and Paracelsus. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 10: 7 works 1577**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by M. Fachsen, D. Beuther, J. Sternhals, and S. Norton. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol. 11: 9 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by S. Norton, V. Koffsky, G. von Welling, Ali Puli, and C. F. de Sabor. Illustrated, ink frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol 12: 9 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol 13: 5 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including two by P. Poney, and one by Neptis. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol 14: 20 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by J. Yardley, St. Dunstan, J. Gier, C. Horn, C. Stella, Dippelius, Chrysogonus, J. d'Espagnet, and Eirenaeus Philaethes. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol 15: 1 work**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
- Box 18                    **Vol 16: 3 works by Bernard of Treves**  
Box 18                    **Vol 17: 6 works**  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Including one each by A. Beyer, and Leona Constantia. Illustrated, watercolor frontispiece.
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- Box 18                    **Vol 18: 3 works**
- Box 18                    **Vol 19: 1 work: *Diploma Bacstrom***
- Box 19                    **Basilii Valentini Via Veritatis ex MSCP to 1500... ca. 1700**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Basil Valentine. 37.6 x 24 cm. 53 leaves. [107]
- Box 20                    **Collection of manuscripts in Cagliostro's library ca. 1775**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Conti de Alessandron Cagliostro, pseud. Guiseppe Balsamo. 23 x 20.2 cm. 927 leaves. Illustrations, ink. Engravings. The collection contains 30 manuscripts listed in a table of contents, including works by Basil Valentine, J. Colleson, Antoine Joseph Pernety, de Vallemont, Bernard Carictheres, Rhomaeus Agricola, Nicholas Flamel, Jean d'Espagnet, David L'Agneau, Quesnot, and a translation by Michael Maier. [119]
- Box 21                    **La Boussole Des Argonautes faite avec l'acier et l'aymant Des Sages Pourfaicement Despéinte, sous loedipe Hermetique Dans Les Deux Entretiens D'Artiste avec Lupin Par fratrís Canino fait coppie a Marseille Le quatre Janvier 1715**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Fr. Canino. 22.8 x 16.8 cm. 44 leaves. [120]
- Box 22                    **"Prima medicina nostra ex natura est composita" 1606**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Claudio de Dominico Celentano. 29.5 x 21.9 cm. 52 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [123]  
For the date of the manuscript, see the note by the author: Finished at Naples on the 21st day of the month of November, 1606. Edited by me, Claudio de Dominico Celentano di Valle Nove.
- Box 23                    **La nature à découvert par le Chevalier inconnu ca. 1700**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
P. Fabre. 16.2 x 11.8 cm. 81 leaves. [134]
- Box 24                    **Science D'alchymie ou Secret de la pierre des Philosophes Expliqué dans Les Lavures de Nicolas flamel Ecrivain de la parroisse Saint Jacques de La Boucherie à Paris 1767**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Nicolas Flamel. 22.6 x 17.2 cm. 65 leaves. [139]
- Box 25                    **Premier Traitté De Nicolas Grosparmy De Normandie Fait le 29 decembre en l'année 1449**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Copié a Paris au mois de May 1736. Nicolas Grosparmy. 23.2 x 18.4 cm. 55 leaves. [149]
- Box 26                    **Die Leiter der Weisen oder Die Philosophie der Alten... ca. 1700**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
B. C. van Helpen. Translated by H. von Kossel. 32.8 x 21.5 cm. 114 leaves. [153]
- Box 27                    **Atalanta Fugiens ca. 1600**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Michael Maier. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 48 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [170]

- Box 28                    **Livre de frere Michel, Adolphus Jacobin du convent de Troyes ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Michael Adolphus. 32.4 x 21.2 cm. 17 leaves. Illustrations. Bound with "Les Aventures du philosophe," (Ms 16); "Douz Clefs" by Basil Valentine, (Ms 104); "L'explication des figures," (Ms 137); "Thresor de Philosophie," (Ms 140); "Tresor de Tresors" by Christofle de Gamon, (Ms 144); "Petit commentaire" by Hortulanus, (Ms 158); and "Exposition particulaire" by Salomon Trismosin, (Ms 228). [172]
- Box 29                    **Le Manuscrit de Marie La Prophétesse Traitant de la Secrète Préparation de la Matière de la Pierre des Philosophes ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Mariam the Prophetess. 21.6 x 14.1 cm. 10 leaves. Contains translation. [173]
- Box 30                    **Universal P. & Augment ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Ignatius Adolphus de Mussy. 15.6 x 20 cm. 16 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, gilt. Contains translation. [175]
- Box 31                    **...Collectaneorum et Propriarum quarundam Inventionum Joannis Jacobi Olben Inchoatus Anno Salutis humanae 1669**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Johannes Jacob Olben. 30.4 x 20.4. 97 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [181]
- Box 32                    **La Prophetie du Docteur Philipe Theophraste Paracelse Touchant Le Lion Septentrional**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Paracelsus. 20.4 x 15.4 cm. 3 leaves. Contains translation. [187]
- Box 33\*                    **The Ripley Scroll ca. 1600**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              George Ripley. 18 in. x 20 ft. Illustrations, watercolor. [205]. Original restricted.
- Box 34                    **"No. Soixante & Seize" De la collection maconnique du F... Ex Dono Sapientissimi Comitis St. Germain Qui Orben Terrarum Per Cucurrit ca. 1775**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Comte St. Germain. 28.4 x 23.9 cm. 31 leaves. Illustrations, ink, gilt. Contains translation of Masonic symbols. Triangular book. [209]. Original restricted.
- Box 35                    **Ex Dono Sapientissimi Comitis St. Germain Qui Orben Terrarum Per Cucurrit ca. 1750**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Comte St. Germain. 28.4 x 22 cm. 24 leaves. Illustrations, ink, gilt. Contains translation of Masonic symbols. Triangular book. [210]. Original restricted.
- Box 36                    **Nouvelle lumiere de Medecine du Mistere ... De Joachim Soleman, Traduit du Latin 1721**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Joachim Soleman. 22.1 x 14.4 cm. 30 leaves. Lavender paper. [215]
- Box 37                    **La Philosophie Solidonius Le premier qui a sceu accorder les quatre elemens, favorise de Dieu et chéri de la Nature ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Albert Poisson. Translated by Solidonius. 23.2 x 18.9 cm. 84 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. Contains translation. Bound with "La Philosophie Solidonius," (Ms 216). [216]
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- Box 38                    **In Cruce cum Sphaera. En! venit sapientia vera. Post Cruces Luces, post Nubila Jubila surgunt ca. 1600**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Salomon Trismosin. 23.2 x 1 8.9 cm. 28 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. Contains translation. [230]
- Box 39                    **La Toyson D'or. L. J., Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem ca. 1600**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Salomon Trismosin. 32.3 x 21.2 cm. 49 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [232]
- Box 40                    **Hebdomas hebdomadam kabalistarum, Magorum Brachmarum Antiquorumque omnium sapientium, secreta misteria continens 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Nicolas de Valois. 20 x 16.1 cm. 52 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [237]
- Box 41                    **Sophismes des adeptes composez par ces mêmes adeptes pour cacher la veritable medicine universelle ou la pierre philosophale... 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Jean Lucas de Vipalta. 23.3 x 18 cm. 32 leaves. [239]
- Box 42                    **Travail des femmes ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 15.9 x 9.6 cm. 65 leaves. Bound with "Petit traité," (Ms 76); "Avant propos," by Barile (Ms 103); "L'oeuvre universel," by Basil Valentine (Ms. 105); "Poème philosophique," by Hesteau (Ms 156); "Vadé mécum," (Ms 169). [56]
- Box 43\*                    **"The Böhme Manuscripts"**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 52 x 37.4 cm. 19 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor, ink. [17]
- Box 44\*                    **Physica Metaphysica et Hyperphysica ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 54.1 x 30.6 cm. 16 leaves. Illustrations, ink. [45]
- Box 45\*                    **Untitled ca. 1700**  
                              **Scope and Content Note**  
                              Anonymous. 33.5 x 24.6 cm. 15 leaves. Illustrations, watercolor. [70]