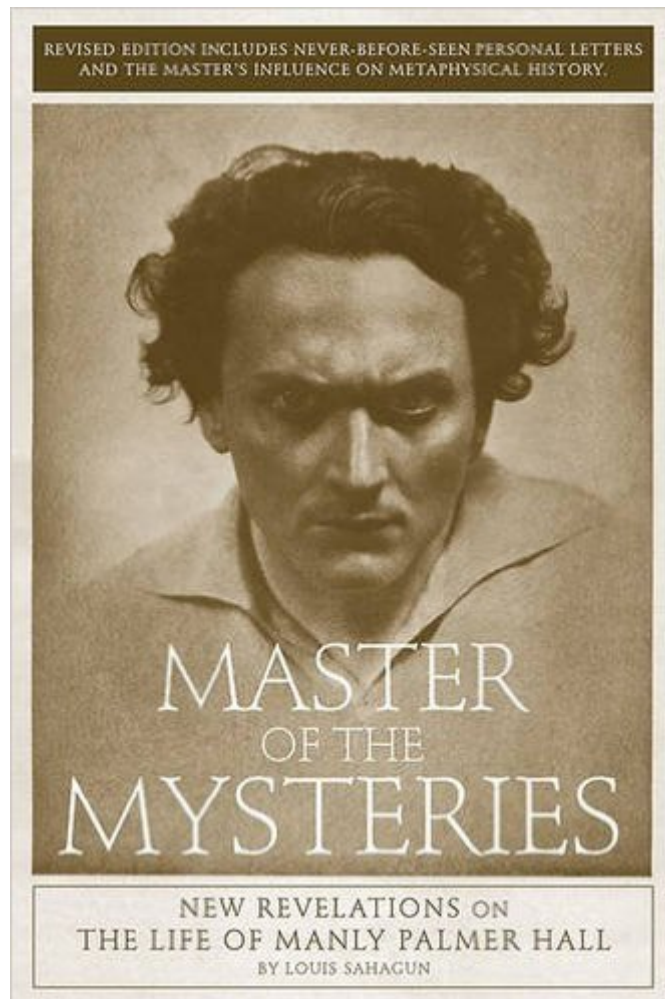


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Master Of The Mysteries: New Revelations On The Life Of Manly Palmer Hall



Synopsis

"Louis Sahagun's gripping biography is an insightful look at the life and times of one of the last century's most important mystical thinkers."#151;The Fortean TimesIn 1919, a Canadian teenager with a sixth grade education arrived by train to the wilds of Los Angeles. Within a decade he had transformed himself into a world-renowned occult scholar. His name was Manly Palmer Hall, author of the landmark publication *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, widely regarded as the best introduction to Western esoteric ideas, and the founder of the Philosophical Research Society, which housed one of the biggest occult libraries in the United States. Hall became the twentieth century's most prolific writer and speaker on ancient philosophies, mysticism, and magic, and a confidant of Hollywood celebrities and politicians. In 1990, he died due to "suspicious circumstances," which remains an open homicide case at the Los Angeles Police Department. This new edition contains dozens of previously unknown love letters from his wife Marie Bauer. They are the closest we will come to an autobiographical portrait of these Los Angeles mystics in love. Author Louis Sahagun is an award-winning journalist for the Los Angeles Times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Master of the Mysteries is an expertly researched and tightly written biography of spiritualist Manly Palmer Hall whose death in 1990 remains shrouded in a mystery of its own. Louis Sahagun entertains the reader with seven decades of occultism in Los Angeles where Hall settled at the time the City of Angels was emerging onto America's cultural landscape. Manly Hall's story is

steeped in Freemasonry, the mystical (Hall's Philosophical Research Society dominates the entire narrative), ancient mythologies, and reincarnation, not to mention a healthy dose of high-end hokum. His popularity among the menagerie of truth seekers, mystics, and believers who hung on his every word, written or spoken, is impressive. Hollywood's rich and famous are among them (Cecil B. DeMille, Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Glen Ford to name a few), as are the various spiritualists of his day. For the reader who knows little about occultism in America, *Master of the Mysteries* is a must have education. What is particularly engaging is Sahagun's refusal to minimize the realities of Manly Hall. He was not formally educated, his first wife committed suicide, and he was often too reticent to challenge those around him. Plagued with obesity (emphasized by his tremendous physical stature), a crippling thyroid problem, and failing eyesight, Hall lived long enough to end his days on oxygen under the control of his personal secretary. And, there is his addiction to sweets, unhealthy considering his insistence on a forward-looking lifestyle for his followers. The best chapters in the book are on the psychedelic sixties, Hall's romance with Marie Bauer, who is possessed by her own version of the loony, and his mysterious death abetted by regular colonic treatments (think enemas).

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