



THE INTERESTING DR. JOHN DEE

Born July 13, 1527 Tower Ward, London, England

Died 1608 Mortlake, Surrey, England

Religious association: Anglican

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Education

John Dee was an Educated Man

(<http://www.johndee.org/charlotte/> Charlotte Fell-Smith & <http://galileo.rice.edu/Catalog/NewFiles/dee.html> The Galileo Project)

- Early education: Chantry School at Chelmsford in Essex (1537 - 1542), learning Latin
- St. John's College, Cambridge (1542-1546) B.A.
- Selected as a Fellow member of Trinity College upon its formation in 1546, appointed under-reader in Greek, teacher in classics 1547.
- St. John's College, Cambridge (1548) M.A.
- Studied at Louvain University in Grenoble, France (1548-1551) with Gemma Frisius and Mercator. Louvain, where Henry Cornelius Agrippa spent his last years and died in 1535. There is speculation Dee went to Louvain to study the magicks of Agrippa.
- Declined both a professorship at the University of Paris in 1551, and a position as lecturer on mathematics at Oxford in 1554.
- Tutor to the Northumberland children, including Robert Dudley, the future Earl of Leicester (1551-1555), who was lifelong friend to Elizabeth I after meeting her at the age of 8. (<http://www.elizabethi.org/us/queensmen/robertdudley.htm>)

Intro

Dr. John Dee's world of spirits and spies, queens and courts, astrology, numerology, cryptography and cartography leaves much to the imagination. And the more one learns of Dr. Dee, the more interesting it gets. Most magical folks know of his Enochian Magical system used by himself and his assistant Edward Kelly to

communicate with the spirits. This complex system of symbols on tablets is in use today by many skilled in the more ceremonial of magical arts. What is less known in magical circles is Dr. Dee's love of cryptography and his use of cartography.

Cryptography

Dee taught cryptography to both Walsingham and Sir Francis Bacon (an EGC Saint). It has been asserted by modern cryptologists that Dee's Enochian system is merely a cipher used to send messages as Dee was the head of Queen Elizabeth I's spy network. Walsingham was the public face and enforcer, while Dee was the private face. Dee taught Walsingham the ciphers so that he and Walsingham could communicate. What is even more interesting is how Dee and Elizabeth signed their correspondence. Dee signed his with a pair of eyes that look like two astrological symbols of the sun next to each other. While Elizabeth signed hers as empty eyes with a hand covering them as if to see far into the distance. The empty eyes, arm and hand appear as the number 007. It has been said that this was the inspiration for Ian Fleming's 007 spy novels.

Grille Method

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | H | J | T | K |
| D | P | A | Q | U | 2 |
| N | 3 | U | N | 9 | G |
| F | E | O | I | I | S |
| V | E | A | O | 7 | T |
| O | M | R | 6 | S | L |

Aside: It has also been asserted that one can with similar methods (namely the Grille Method or variations thereof) decipher Shakespeare, and that Shakespeare is actually Sir Francis Bacon. - wiki Grille (cryptography)

Voynich Manuscript

The more fantastical assertions link Dee to the yet undeciphered Voynich Manuscript with illustrations of astrology, cosmology, and herbalism, written in an unknown alphabet or symbol-system. Some say it was written by Roger Bacon (an EGC Saint), and sold by Dr. Dee (known owner of many of Roger Bacon's manuscripts) to Rudolph II, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia. Baconian scholars vehemently deny his authorship, making the sale by Dee unlikely. - wiki Voynich Manuscript

The Start of an Empire through Cartography

Coined the term 'Brittannia'. Envisioned England as an Empire, not just a country. Aided plan to make it such through his cartography and plans for colonization.

Dee was an accomplished cartographer. He studied

under Gerardus Mercator, creator of the cylindrical map projection which became the standard map projection for nautical purposes. Dee applied Euclidean geometry to navigation. And through his consultantship with the Muscovy Company, advised and trained many navigators including but not limited to Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh. Dee developed a plan for the British Navy and established the legal foundation for colonizing North America. (www.johndee.org & <http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-age-of-exploration.htm>)

Astrologer

As the court astrologer, Dee would have access to just about anyone who wanted a natal chart cast, and would therefore be able to cleverly hide in plain sight. Most scientific minded or religious minded might think Dee a fop, or worse, a heretic. I do not know how Elizabeth kept the Catholics from beheading Dee as a heretic, but somehow she managed to. That was nothing short of political; and which also gave her more impetus to distance herself from both Catholic Spain and the Pope's reach from Rome.

Coronation & the Globus Cruciger

Dee was consulted for the selection of Queen Elizabeth's coronation date. The selection of a beneficial or auspicious date for events is called Electional Astrology.

The coronation arrangements were coordinated by Sir Robert Dudley.

Coronation ceremonies are the highest of ceremonial magical rituals. They are a rite of initiation now defunct, having been replaced by enthronement and inauguration ceremonies. In this ceremony Elizabeth holds the Globus Cruciger or "Sovereign's Orb", symbolizing the world ruled by the cross of Christ, held in the dominion of an earthly ruler. Carrying this heavy object is the sacrifice made by the initiate during the ceremony, and represents the weight of her duty. Dropping the globe would indicate extremely bad luck during the monarch's reign. Astrologically, a circle surmounted by a cross means matter over spirit. Or, spirit impregnated into matter. This indicates the ruling spirit of the land or domain being impregnated into the human ruler during the course of the rite, at which time the human vessel is said to have gained the 'weight' of this spirit. And whenever a coronated monarch is in her own land, she is considered more powerful than when she is outside the land of her dominion. This further signifies any insult to the domain is an insult to the queen, and visa versa.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation_of_the_British_monarch +)

Hyroglyphic Monad

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dee

Intriguing is Dee's Hyroglyphic Monad, in the symbolism of astrology. A composite of the personal planets. Mars being represented by its ruling sign Aries the Ram.



And being the foundation symbol indicates Mars is the force for bringing in the sun. The Greek mythology of Apollo (Mars) carrying the sun across the sky represents this force of Mars heralding the Sun.

Knowing that astrology is the symbol system used for alchemy, and knowing that the Monad is a term frequently used by Kaballists, this glyph appears to be a synthesis of the two, possibly in Daath - and perhaps the final answer of the two, the meaning of which is hidden and evasive. A novice astrologer who knows some esoteric applications of astrology can only go so far in interpreting the glyph for him or herself. A deeper knowledge of alchemy is necessary for further translation.

Written Works

Dee's writings (some still available) include but are not limited to:

- Perfect Art of Navigation
- Mathematicall Praeface to the Elements of Geometrie of Euclid of Megara
- Hieroglyphic Monad by John Dee and J. W. Hamilton-Jones
- The Private Diary Of Dr. John Dee: And The Catalogue Of His Library Of Manuscripts, From The Original Manuscripts In The Ashmolean Museum At Oxford, And Trinity College Library, Cambridge by John Dee
- Autobiographical Tracts and Diary for the Years 1595-1601 of Dr. John Dee by John Dee
- A True and Faithful Relation of What Passed for Many Years Between Dr. John Dee and Some Spirits by John Dee
- Five Books of Mystery (Mysteriorum Libri Quinque)
- Mysteriorum Liber Sextus et Sanctus (Liber Loagaeth)
- De Heptarchia Mystica (and Compendium Heptarchiae Mysticae)
- Tuba Veneris ('The Trumpet of Venus')
- Tabula bonorum angelorum invocationes
- The Rosie Crucian Secrets: their excellent method of making medicines of metals, also their lawes and mysteries by John Dee

Library

Dee advocated a national library. However, lack of royal enthusiasm left him creating and expanding his own personal collection which culminated in the largest private library in Elizabethan England. It included but was not limited to topics of:

"Alchemy, the Americas and the Indies, Astrology, Astronomy, Botany, Cabbala, the Fine Arts, Geography, Hebrew texts, History, Language and Literature

(especially Continental literature), Logic, Magic, Mathematics, Medicine, Mining, Natural Philosophy, Navigation and Discovery, and Neo-Platonist texts." - (Renaissance Man: The Reconstructed Libraries of European Scholars, 1450-1700 Series One: The Books and Manuscripts of John Dee, 1527-1608 http://www.adam-matthew-publications.co.uk/digital_guides/ren_man_series_one_part_2/Publishers-Note.aspx)

Some of Dee's library ended up in the Ashmolean Library in Oxford, England. (Elias Ashmole, another EGC Saint)

Other possibilities for Dee's library

Friend, chronicler and antiquary, John Stow.

Robert Cotton who purchased land around Dee's house after his death and who seeking Dee's manuscripts, discovered some. Cotton's son later gave said manuscripts to a Meric Casaubon who published them in 1659. (http://wapedia.mobi/en/John_Dee?t=3.)

John Dee was survived by a son, Arthur Dee, who was an alchemical writer and who bequeathed his library to a Sir Thomas Browne. Browne's large library was later auctioned. A list of books contained therein can be found upon a search of "1711 Sales Auction Catalogue of the Library of Sir Thomas Browne".

Artifacts of Dee

Of interest is a shew stone used for scrying. This item was further explained by Nicholas Culpeper. It remains in the Science Museum in London

-(<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/objects/display.aspx?id=10709>)

Dee in Fiction

Dee is an important character in Umberto Eco's book "Foucault's Pendulum",
He appears as a character in the Doctor Who audio drama "A Storm of Angels".

Notable Influence

Dr. John Dee was an important influence on the formation of the Rosicrucian Order.