

Aries Book Series Texts and Studies in Western Esotericism / 12

Athanasius Kircher, a German Jesuit in 17th-century Rome, was an enigma. Intensely pious and a prolific author, he was also a polymath fascinated with everything from Egyptian hieroglyphs to the tiny creatures in his microscope. His correspondence with popes, princes and priests was a window into the restless energy of the period. It showed first-hand the seventeenth-century's struggle for knowledge in astronomy, microscopy, geology, chemistry, musicology, Egyptology, horology... The list goes on.

Kircher's books reflect the mind-set of 17th-century scholars - endless curiosity and a substantial larding of naivete: Kircher scorned alchemy as the wishful thinking of charlatans, yet believed in dragons.

His life and correspondence provide a key to the transition from the Middle Ages to a new scientific age.

This book, though unpublished, has been long quoted and referred to. Awaited by scholars and specialists of Kircher, it is finally available with this edition.

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