

A PYTHAGOREAN BOOKSHELF

Rosicrucian Research Library Staff

The study of Pythagoras, his teachings, and those who have come after him is a fascinating and engaging study that illumines much of esoteric history. Fortunately, many resources are in print today. These are some initial suggested references for continuing the journey you have begun with this issue of the Rosicrucian Digest.

ANCIENT SOURCES AND STUDIES

Godwin, Joscelyn. *The Harmony of the Spheres: A Sourcebook of the Pythagorean Tradition in Music*. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions, 1992.

Dr. Godwin, one of the best-known scholars of esotericism today, gives readers a thorough introduction to the way the Pythagorean Tradition has been conveyed in the musical realm.

Guthrie, Kenneth Sylvan. *The Pythagorean Sourcebook and Library: An Anthology of Ancient Writings Which Relate to Pythagoras and Pythagorean Philosophy*. Newburyport, MA: Red Wheel Weiser, 1987.

This convenient new paperback edition of Guthrie's classic by Phanes Press founder David R. Fideler has a wealth of ancient sources, well presented for the modern reader. Anyone interested in Pythagorean studies will need this compendium.

Iamblichus. *The Theology of Arithmetic*. Newburyport, MA: Red Wheel Weiser, 1988.

A classic work of Pythagorean thought by the fourth-century CE Neoplatonist. It is the longest and most comprehensive treatise on number symbolism from the ancient world.

Joost-Gaugier, Christiane L. *Pythagoras and Renaissance Europe: Finding Heaven*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

This is the first systematic study of Pythagoras and his influence on mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, religion, medicine, music, esotericism, social life, architecture, and art in the late medieval and early modern eras. The author argues that many of the origins of modernity stem from this ancient Pythagorean inspiration.

Kingsley, Peter. *Ancient Philosophy, Mystery, and Magic: Empedocles and the Pythagorean Tradition*. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press, 1995.

Dr. Kingsley's work is essential to understanding Pythagorean philosophy and spirituality in its ancient context and then in the ways in which it has come down to us today.

Nicomachus of Gerasa. *The Manual of Harmonics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Phanes Press, 1994.

This is the first complete translation of the work of one of the Neopythagorean founders, Nicomachus of Gerasa, with extensive commentary by translator Flora Levin, providing an insight into Pythagorean Harmonics.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC WORKS

Kahn, Charles H. *Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans: A Brief History*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing, 2001.

This relatively brief volume on Pythagorean history is one of the best from a traditional academic source, by a leading scholar of Greek thought.

Riedweg, Christoph. *Pythagoras: His Life, Teaching, and Influence*. 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008.

This work offers a thorough and exhaustive treatment of Pythagoras in historical, philosophical, and mythic contexts.