

ELIPHAS LEVI

Translated by A.E. WAITE



# The History of Magic



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# *The History of Magic*

INCLUDING A CLEAR AND PRECISE EXPOSITION  
OF ITS PROCEDURE, ITS RITES AND ITS MYSTERIES

*Éliphas Lévi*

(ALPHONSE LOUIS CONSTANT)

*Translated, with a Preface and Notes, by  
Arthur Edward Waite*

RIDER & COMPANY LONDON

Eliphas Lévi (Alphonse Louis Constant) became a priest and a teacher at a Paris seminary, from which he was later forced to leave. Renouncing the Church, he led a precarious existence, punctuated by a disastrous marriage to a much younger girl, who finally deserted him.

His occult works were published between 1855-65, and his contradictory life closed in 1875 amidst the last offices of the Church which had almost expelled him.

When Dr. Waite, the translator, said of *The History of Magic* that 'there is nothing in the occult literature to compare with it', he meant that every aspect of esoteric doctrine and practice is exhaustively dealt with and every authority cited.

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