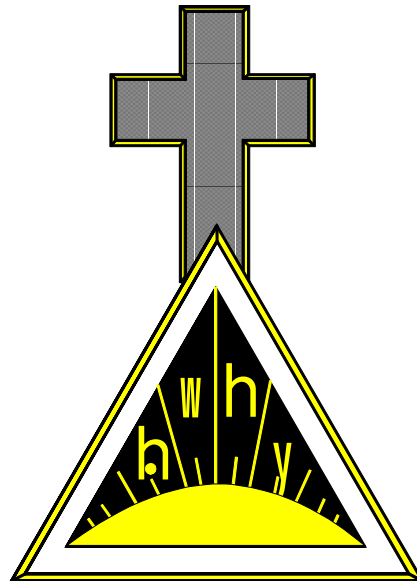
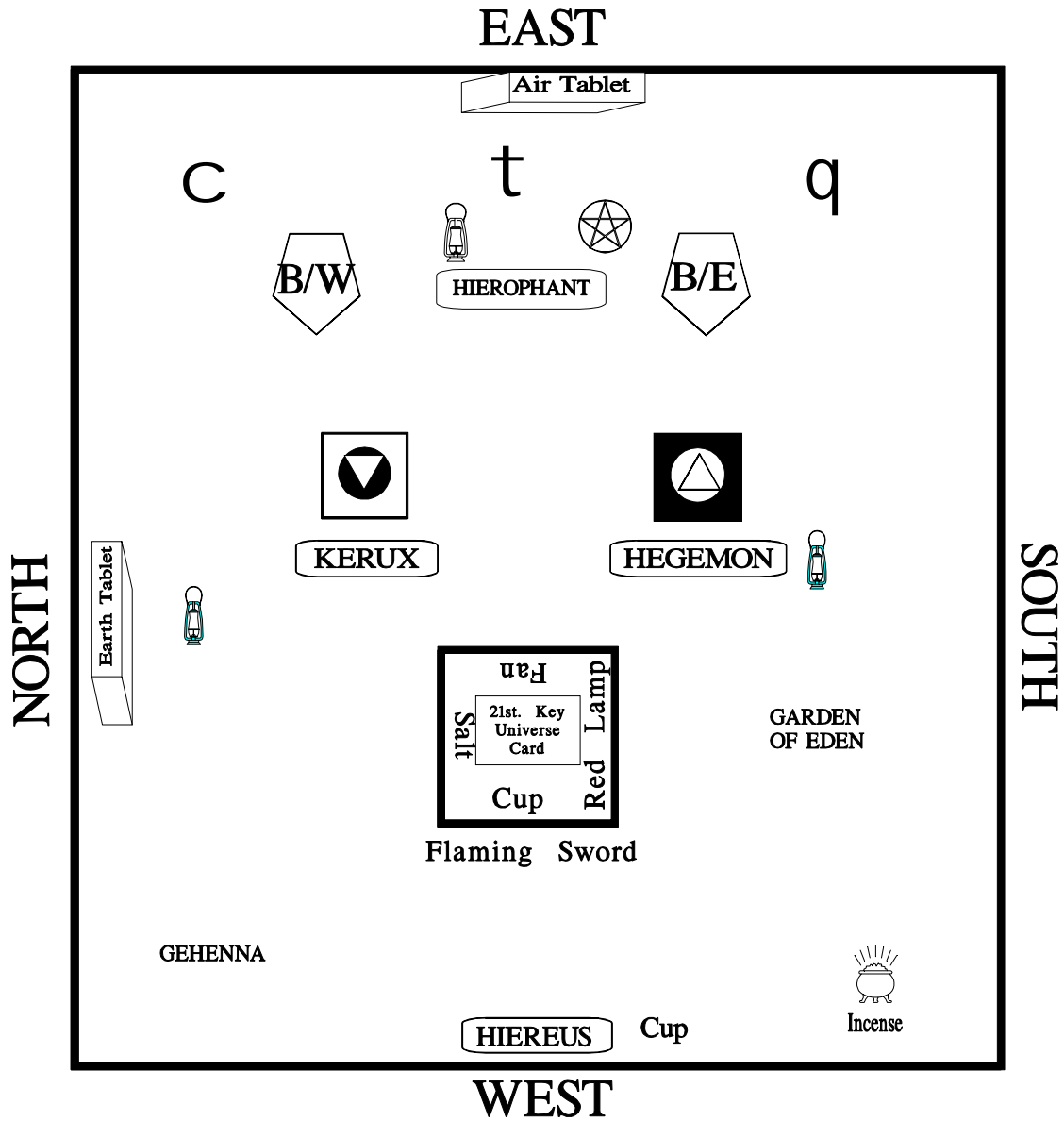


The Hermetic Order Of The
GOLDEN DAWN^{Intl.}

TEMPLE SYMBOLISM



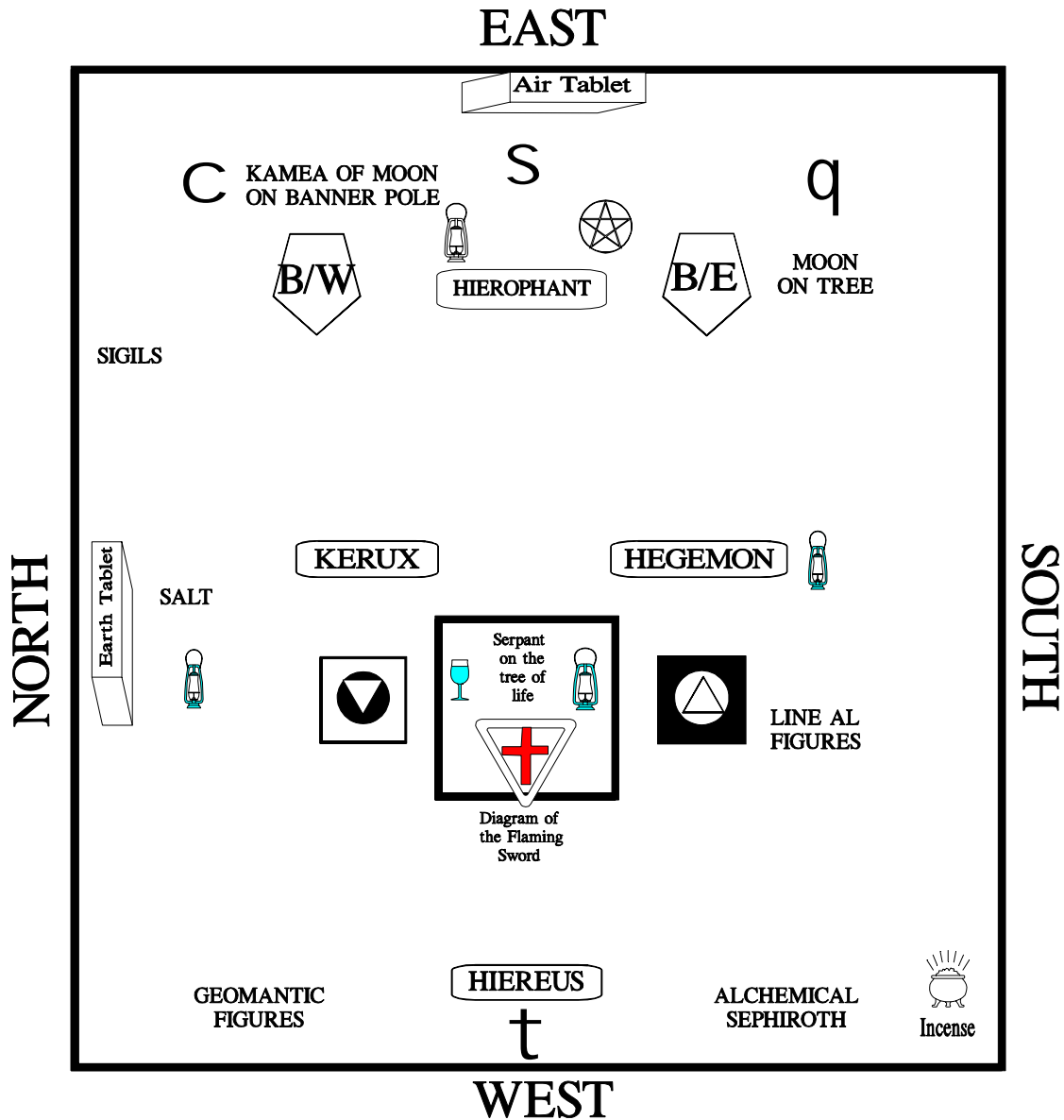
THEORICUS 2=9



Entrance into t

This is the Temple setup for the Theoricus Initiation and the entrance into the path of t. Notice how the pillars are moved back and the Hebrew letters change after the candidate quits the Temple and returns to enter dwsy.

The entrance badge for the path of t is the Greek Cubical Cross.



Entrance into dwsy

The cross within the triangle with the apex pointing downward placed upon the altar, based on the Tree of Life, refers to the four rivers of Paradise. The angles of the triangle represent the three sephiroth of j xn, dwh and dwsy. The two pillars on the right and left of the Tree are symbols of the active and passive, male and female, Adam and Eve. They also refer to the Pillars of Fire and Cloud which guided the Israelites in the wilderness. The hot and moist natures are further marked by the Red Lamp and the cup of water. The pillars further represent the two Kerubim of the Ark, the right being

Metatron, male, and the left is Sandalphon, which is female. (*The Theoricus Ritual of the Golden Dawn*, Lewellyn publications, Volume II, book II). The above is from the initiation of the Theoricus. It gives you a basic idea of the Temple layout in this ceremony. If you are a correspondence member, the Temple is laid out for you in this fashion and the ritual is performed astrally. If you are a Temple member at one of the Golden Dawn Temples, then you have the benefit of going through the initiation physically.

The Theoricus grade is attributed to the sephira dwsy , just as the Zelator grade is associated with the sephira twklm . All of the center sephiroth of the Qabalistic Tree of Life are of the element of Air, except twklm , and thus the element of this grade is Air. It is also the grade of the Moon, for the Moon is attributed to dwsy . We know that Air deals with thought and it is here in the Theoricus grade that the initiate must gain control over his thoughts and his fears. This is not always an easy task because the planet of this grade is the Moon, and the Moon is the planet of fluctuation. This grade is also attributed to the four Kerubim, which are associated with the Divine name of YHVH. We know that the Kerubic forces come together in the path of t and thus the candidate must traverse the path of t , the thirty-second path of the Qabalistic Tree of Life, in his journey into dwsy .

There are four officers in the Theoricus grade. All of the officers must be of 2=9 or higher. In the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, the office position of Dadouchos and Stolistes may be held by a Zelator, or someone holding the grade of 1=10. Therefore, these officers are not employed in the Theoricus grade ceremony. In this grade you will notice that the Hierophant, Hegemon, Hieres, and the Kerux are positioned in four equal parts around the Temple. The Hierophant is in the east between the Banner of the East and Banner of the West, the Hegemon in the south, the Hieres in the west and the Kerux in the north. This is a position of balance as required when traversing the path of t . The pillars in this grade are positioned in the east. There is one other interesting piece of symbolism in this particular grade. That is that there are four officers, the four always alluding to the sephira of dsj . dsj is the first sephira of manifestation below the great Abyss of the Qabalistic Tree of Life, thus giving creation a foundation. dwsy is the sephira of foundation prior to manifestation into the Kingdom.

The candidate in this initiation will quit the Temple one time during the ceremony. First the candidate will traverse the thirty-second path. After traversing the thirty-second path on the Qabalistic Tree of Life, the candidate will quit the Temple and the Temple will be rearranged. Then the candidate will be brought back into the Temple for the ceremony of his/her advancement into the grade of Theoricus.