
Builders of the Adytum

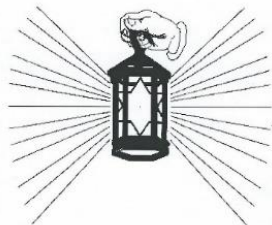
New Zealand

The Formation of an Esoteric Mystery

School in America

1922 - 2022





The Qabalah means to receive. The Qabalah is not handed down from generation to generation but is something that requires receptivity from those who are initiated into the mysteries - Dr. Paul Foster Case



Resources:

- Wikipedia: Paul Foster Case and Ann Davies.
- *A Brief History of B.O.T.A.* – Reverend Ann Davies – recorded lecture.
- *An Adept changed my Life* – Reverend Ann Davies – 1961.
- *B.O.T.A. 50th Anniversary* booklet.
- B.O.T.A. America historical file images.

The founding of the Builders of the Adytum as an Esoteric Mystery School begins with the statement: *No other philosophy have we than that which was received by Adam after his fall, and in which Moses, David and Solomon did excel*¹. That philosophy is called the Ageless Wisdom. This Wisdom is also called the Tradition and is a continuous line of pure teachings, which reveals the truth of man's essential unity and relationship with God, and has existed from the beginning of time. Another example of this Tradition is written: *The Kabbalah was first taught by God Himself to a select company of angels who formed a theosophic school in Paradise*².

During each age, the Ageless Wisdom teachings are presented in the most accessible form that the present level of humanity can absorb and understand. The Builders of the Adytum is a custodian through which these teachings are disseminated to humanity.

At the beginning of the last century Dr. Case was given the task of reintroducing Ancient Wisdom to humanity. He was presented with the opportunity to undertake work of such magnitude that it is hard to comprehend how he managed to take up and fulfil this challenge, and yet he did, and the results are the treasures of the Tarot, Qabalah and Tree of Life in symbolic and modern written formats that we have the most profound privilege to study. His scholarship, understanding of his subject, and guidance from a Higher Source are obvious in every sentence he wrote. We are the fortunate recipients of this vast profound body of Qabalistic teachings.

When we go back to the beginning of Dr. Case's life, we find that he was born on October 3, 1884, in Fairport New York. His father was a librarian and his mother died when he was 13. His father remarried when he was 29 and he lived with his father and brother Warren until the age of 23.

As his father was a librarian, this meant that he had access to a wide range of books, so he became very self-educated at an early age.

Around 1901 Dr. Case was performing at a charity luncheon in Rochester where he met Claude Fayette Bragdon (*right*) (1 August 1866 – 1946), an architect, publisher and writer with a serious interest in occult ideas. Claude asked, "Case, where do you suppose playing cards came from?" This question sparked an interest for Dr. Case to investigate, and from this point he discovered the Tarot.

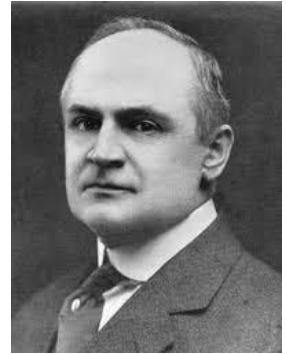


Dr. Case was able to converge all the deeply felt ideas he cared about, and thus began his writing for occult journals. His earliest article appeared in *The New Thought Magazine* published in late 1908.

During the years from 1905 – 1908, Dr. Case worked, read, studied and researched. This included an interest and practice in yoga which resulted in an unfavourable experience which left him with a lifelong concern that all occult practice be done with proper guidance and training.

1. Fama Fraternitatis.
2. True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order pg.31.
3. Tarot Fundamentals Lesson 1.

In 1907 Dr. Case corresponded with William Walker Aitkinson (*right*) who published *The Kybalion* (1908). Whether this book was a collaboration between the two is not known. *The Kybalion* is a commentary on Hermetic Wisdom that has been in print consistently for over a century and even today continues to attract new readers.



Dr. Case continued to study and write.

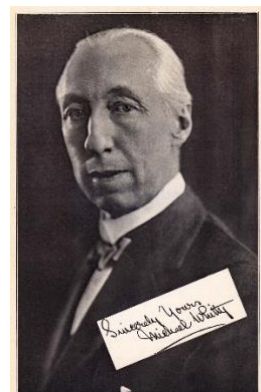
As he was an extremely accomplished musician, he had an understanding of vibration and octave correlation combined with a talent for math. He knew how musical notes and vibration relate to number. He applied colours and musical tone to each of the major trumps in a practical way. He also had an innate understanding and mastery of the Hebrew alphabet. He believed that for an idea to be valid there must be the correspondence, which was very original thinking at that time. He went further with corresponding the Tarot deck with colour and sound due to his ability to look at things in a broad perspective.

His constant concentration on the Tarot provided his consciousness with such a stimulus that he began hearing a 'Voice'. He found this Voice very peculiar as it invariably helped to him to discover what he needed to know about the Tarot. The Voice would guide him to find the right information for his studies.

When Dr. Case was 25, he was approached by a well-dressed, cultured gentleman in the street, where they talked. During his conversation with this stranger to his surprise, Dr. Case was told private details about what he knew, thought and felt.

This gentleman then proceeded to give Dr. Case a message: two paths would be open to him, one path in the musical field where he would be successful and comfortable. The other path would give a great deal of hardship, many problems and disturbances, but he would not go hungry. He was told he would be a channel in which untold thousands of people would be helped along the spiritual pathway. There was no question as to which path Dr. Case chose, because here we are.

In 1918 Dr. Case met Michael Whitty (*right*) and after a time Dr. Case was initiated into the Thoth Hermes Temple, where he very quickly rose to the position of sub-Praemonstrator. After his initiation he discovered that what he knew from the Voice was identical to the teachings. Dr. Case and Michael Whitty worked on the foundation of *The Book of Tokens* during 1919-1920. After Michael Whitty's death, Dr. Case took over as editor of *Azoth Magazine*.



In June 1921 Dr. Case received a phone call and heard: *I presume you recognise my Voice ... would you like to meet?* Dr. Case knew this Voice – indeed he had been listening to this Voice for many years, so he arranged to meet the physical embodiment of the Voice (Master R) at the Old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Their meeting took place over a 3-week period and involved instruction for the next reincarnation of the Mystery Schools. Dr. Case said that during his 3 weeks training, his consciousness was so heightened that everything he was taught remained as bright, new and vivid as from the moment it was given to him. Dr. Case's consciousness was inundated with the relevant information so he could remember it later verbatim. Thus, another reincarnation of the Mystery Teachings began with this meeting.

The birth of the Builders of the Adytum occurred at the Vernal Equinox, March 1922.

Dr. Case's work involved the reinterpretation of the Tarot and Qabalah, along with the rebirth of the Mystery Teachings, into a modern idiom for a new century.

He decided to disseminate the occult teachings via correspondence. Here were the great secrets of European occultism now being given out to the public, and he understood that this had to be done very responsibly. It was a time when the occult material would have died, if not started to be disseminated. This time between the two World Wars saw an upsurge of interest in spiritual teachings. It was a time when people were hungry for education, improvement and spiritual understanding, and Dr. Case was an agent of that yearning.

Dr. Case made the occult information available to people on the basis that they wanted to learn. It is a great testament to Dr. Case and his achievement of making these courses available for a relatively modest fee.

It was done in a reliable, practicable, modest way and these are reflections of Dr. Case himself.

The material that is offered via correspondence in the B.O.T.A. curriculum contains great purity and truth, it is of a very high quality and, as Dr. Case stated: *that this Work will continue, so long as the purity remains.*

In 1928 Dr. Case also offered Six Lectures (right).

BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM.
Free lectures on Constructive Psychology.
Practical application on everyday life.
PAUL F. CASE, Hotel Astor, 11 A. M.

SIX LECTURES



BY
PAUL CASE
ON
TAROT

The Key to
Practical Occultism,
Alchemy, Magic,
Healing by Color
and Sound, the
Hidden Wisdom
of the
Ancient Mysteries

THE PLAYHOUSE
1814 N Street Northwest

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY - MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

January 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th

EVERY EVENING AT 8.15 O'CLOCK

The advertisement (above) is for lectures offered by Dr. Case in June 1922.

The following years involved much work and travel around America for Dr. Case, establishing B.O.T.A. centres, lecturing, writing books and enhancing the correspondence courses.

Bishop Hampton and Dr. Case at his LCC ordination on July 5, 1937 (right).

It was De Landas University that issued Paul Case with an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1940, thus making him 'Dr. Case'.



QUESTION MARKS

THE MEANING OF B. O. T. A.

These initials stand for *Builders of the Adytum*, the name of an organization founded in New York City at the Vernal Equinox, 1922. Its first public announcement, issued in August, 1922, described the B. O. T. A. as:

"A society devoted to the practical investigation of the principles of cosmic law, and to the study of the literatures, rites and symbols whereby knowledge of these principles has been transmitted through the ages."

The *adytum* of a temple is the Holy of Holies, or shrine of the god. In the human body, the adytum is a brain center, rudimentary in most persons, which may be brought into full function by the right sort of practice. This practice "builds the adytum" because it perfects the structure of the brain center just mentioned. When that center functions properly, one

Above: image from the *Wheel of Life* magazine in 1936.

It is the first page of an article titled *The Meaning of B.O.T.A.*, which mentions the founding of our Order on the Vernal Equinox in 1922 (March). This image is from the original article in the Autumnal Equinox 1936 issue of *Wheel of Life*.

On August 29, 1946, Dr. Case married Harriet (*right* - 1971).

Previously, in 1943 Dr. Case gave a lecture where Reverend Ann Davies was in the audience. She describes their feelings of 'great recognition', and this began their Great Adventure together.



They both intuitively knew they had been brought together, not by chance, and that a profound and meaningful destiny lay behind their meeting. Dr. Case took Reverend Ann under his wing, and she became his personal disciple.

Reverend Ann never left the side of Dr. Case. As soon as a few of the serious subconscious patterns were transmuted, Dr. Case proceeded to train Reverend Ann so that she would make her own direct contact with the Inner School.

Reverend Ann had been chosen by the Inner School and had been in training from childhood to receive the Qabalistic training in order to take on the role of Prolocutor General for B.O.T.A.

Dr. Case taught Reverend Ann that laughter is an important ingredient in love and acceptance of oneself and others. He kept testing her developmental perceptions as the years went on, and little by little, she discovered that Dr. Case was putting ever more of the responsibilities of B.O.T.A. into her hands. They worked and lived together with Harriet Case. When Dr. Case and Harriet went off on lecture tours, Reverend Ann took care of the Work by herself. This included printing and mailing the weekly lessons of the correspondence courses to members all over the world.

Reverend Ann said she felt profoundly humble when Dr. Case informed her that she had been under special training in order to have the spiritual qualifications to carry on and complete their spiritual mission. Two years before Dr. Case left his physical vehicle, Reverend Ann started giving lectures and conducting classes. This was the last thread he wove into the fabric of her destiny. He then placed the final responsibility of B.O.T.A. into her hands.

Dr. Case made his transition to the Inner Planes on March 2, 1954 quietly while on holiday with Harriet. He had aspired and worked from a very young age and gave 32 years to the forming and development of Builders of the Adytum.

Dr. Case spent much of his life studying, questioning and always seeking the Truth.

The body of work he produced is a testament to his dedication to spread this Light of Truth.

Understanding of the Tarot requires a lifetime of practice and learning, and those of us who care about occultism could endeavour to emulate Dr. Case by being a student who keeps asking and questioning and studying. Dr. Case did this all his life and his books have survived, and his ideas have survived because they are the fruits of a real student who did a lifetime of study.



Above: Dr. Case and Reverend Ann with their pets.

It behooves all of us to follow Dr. Case's example. We can take our ideas and demonstrate, by the quality of our words and works, that occultism deserves to be taken seriously as a strain of profound religious thought that exists with all the other branches of religious thought throughout the ages. Dr. Case's life shows how this can be done.

Although Dr. Case left his physical vehicle, he has never left the work of the Builders of the Adytum. Along with Reverend Ann's contact with the Inner School, she stated that she has continued guidance and love from Dr. Case, who serves even more effectively now from the Inner Planes.

Reverend Ann stated that she came to scoff, she stayed to praise, and then it was her glorious privilege to represent a system of spiritual training which is, without question, a gift to humanity from on High. The thousands of human beings who have been able to build a new heaven on earth are a living attestation to Tarot and Qabalah, the incredible occult training system which gives you the Key to the Mysteries.

Reverend Ann Davies was born on October 28, 1912 in Cleveland, Ohio. Ann's early life in the New York ghetto was tumultuous. She was estranged from her difficult mother, and her serious illness, at age 21, left her lame for the rest of her life. Despite this challenging childhood she would experience higher states of consciousness as she sat on the fire escape of her tenement block.

She and Dr. Case came into each other's auric fields on at least one occasion before they actually met physically, and from that time onwards, they were inseparable. Reverend Ann (*right*) had been trained from birth to take over the work of B.O.T.A., and explained that she had a series of five incarnations that were very close together, the most recent being in the suffragette era, all in preparation for her to lead B.O.T.A.



Reverend Ann travelled to New Zealand on three occasions in the 1960s in order to establish the linkages for B.O.T.A. to exist in New Zealand.

New Zealand and Los Angeles are the same distance from the Equator, and as Reverend Ann explained, both countries serve as 'psychic spouts' for the influx of energies from the Inner School to enter the Earth's atmosphere. In New Zealand, public meetings and Pronaoi were established in Auckland and Wellington in the 1960s, Dunedin Pronaos in 1985 and Sydney public meetings in 1993 and Pronaos in 2004. The B.O.T.A. work continues to thrive and expand throughout the world.

Reverend Ann (*right in the Auckland Higher Thought Temple*) left behind a treasure of enhanced work.

She established Pronaos as a practice ground for aspirants to become familiar with group ritual work as the forerunner to the deeper, esoteric work of the Order.

Hundreds of taped lectures, single recordings, and series of recordings on specific topics are available to members, with certain lectures available to the public via the B.O.T.A. website. Also given to the Order is the beautiful Qabalistic Service and Vibratory Attunement Ritual, which are held at centres world-wide.



Reverend Ann's legacy to B.O.T.A., like Dr. Case's legacy, is a priceless treasure. She also gave 32 years of her life to elaborate and extend the curriculum, often under extremely trying circumstances.

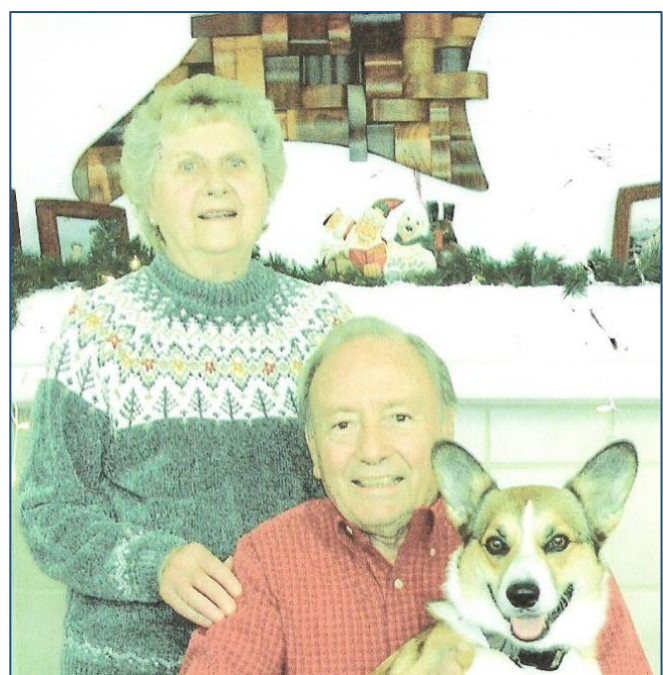
Reverend Ann made her transition to the Inner Planes on June 9, 1975.

In 1967, Reverend Will Chesterman was appointed Chief Prolocutor to oversee the Work in New Zealand. Reverend Ann Davies then selected her husband, Jacob Fuss, to serve after her as the next Prolocutor General of B.O.T.A., which he did from 1975 to 1977. Then, around 1990, Reverend Will Chesterman



became the Prolocutor General, serving not just New Zealand, but the whole of B.O.T.A. Reverend Will and Soror Joyce spent many years enhancing the Naenae Temple to the highest standard and ensuring that the Work began in Sydney. Reverend Will made his transition to the Inner Planes on March 11, 2003, and Soror Joyce made her transition to the Inner Planes on June 13, 2019. Reverend Will and Soror Joyce in 2002 (*above*).

The next Prolocutor General was Reverend Diane Rhodes (*right with husband Tom*) who resided in America and further developed the Work. She made her transition to the Inner Planes on June 21, 2019, and has been succeeded by our current Prolocutor General, Reverend Lisa Voisen.



Reverend Ann Davies (*right*)



Dr. Case, at piano, 1941 (*above*)

The philosophy of Builders of the Adytum as a custodian for the Pure Tradition of Ageless Wisdom, comes directly from the Inner School.

Dr. Case's writings and books reflect the purity of that wisdom. He wrote very directly and concisely. He did not try to embellish the Teachings to be anything other than what was given to him from Master R and his own inner knowledge. Reverend Ann was also under the direct supervision and guidance of Master R. She also wrote and spoke very directly, and particularly spoke about the Unity that all humanity shares and the Oneness of All Life.



The Los Angeles Temple (*above*).

As a modern Mystery School, B.O.T.A. has an extremely active curriculum to offer its members – the work with the Qabalah, Tarot, Tree of Life and Hebrew letters along with the public meetings and ceremonial rituals. It contains a lifetime's work for aspirants who are ready to set their feet upon the Path of Return. Its links are with the highest – it gives the privilege to hasten one's evolution and to work steadfastly. Here is the opportunity for the spiritual aspirant to make the B.O.T.A. work, first and before all, with a steady, determined acknowledgment that the Great Work is a labour of personal transmutation that can be made foremost in one's life.

Copious gratitude is given to Dr. Paul Case and Reverend Ann Davies, not only for their consecutive responsibilities of Prolocutor General of B.O.T.A., but for their collective 64 years of dedicated hard work, often under the most demanding, intensive circumstances, so that B.O.T.A. members and others to follow have access to the priceless treasures for true spiritual unfoldment.

The final words come from Dr. Case ...

Dedicate yourself to work with the Tarot techniques in order to transmute your personality. A transformed personality will bring with it the ability to change your environment closer to the heart's desire. A fulfilled life becomes a positive, radiating centre, an effective channel through which the Higher Self can function and be a living example for others.³

Sub Umbra Alarum Tuarum

Under the Shadow of His Wings

יהוה



Written by Dr. Case:

- ✚ Highlights of Tarot
- ✚ The Tarot – Key to Wisdom of the Ages
- ✚ The Book of Tokens
- ✚ The True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order
- ✚ Daniel, Master of Magicians and The Name of Names
- ✚ The Masonic Letter G
- ✚ The Great Seal of the United States
- ✚ Esoteric Keys of Alchemy
- ✚ Multiple courses as given in the B.O.T.A. curriculum

Written by Reverend Ann Davies:

- ✚ Inspirational Thoughts on the Tarot
- ✚ This is Truth about the Self
- ✚ Principles and Health and Diet
- ✚ Multiple courses as given in the B.O.T.A. curriculum

B.O.T.A. Curriculum:

- ✚ The Seven Steps in Practical Occultism
- ✚ Introduction to Tarot
- ✚ Tarot Fundamentals
- ✚ Developing Supersensory Powers
- ✚ Tarot Interpretation
- ✚ Master Pattern
- ✚ Tree of Life
- ✚ 32 Paths of Wisdom
- ✚ Sound and Colour
- ✚ Concentration Course
- ✚ The Great Work
- ✚ Esoteric Astrology
- ✚ Oracle of Tarot
- ✚ Qabalistic Doctrines on Sexual Polarity
- ✚ Vibratory Powers of Qabalah
- ✚ Meditational Ascent on the Tree of Livingness
- ✚ Qabalistic Doctrines on Rebirth and Immortality

builders of the adytum, ltd.

www.bota.org



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