

By a chance that could only have happened in the era of the Internet, I came across a joint application by Thurston and Dudley for a U.S. patent.²³

Patent application filed April 15, 1913. Serial no. 761,151. Book cover. Charles W. Thurston and Sarah Emery Dudley, United States Citizens residing at London. Patent issued by the United States Patent Office, July 14, 1914, no. 1,103,102.

The application is for a book cover incorporating a slot on the inside into which a card can be inserted. The invention is trivial, but the technical drawing accompanying it (figure 4) shows the unmistakable emblem of The Brothers, just as it appears on the front paste-down of the 1913 edition of *Comte de Gabalis*. And there are the signatures of Charles W. Thurston and Sarah Emery Dudley. Simultaneously with the first edition, they had planted this clue to The Brothers' identity where no one would think of looking for it. It also revealed Thurston's first name, making it possible to track him down.²⁴ In 2021 I acquired sixteen letters written in the 1920s and 1930s to Hurwitz from Brunton, Thurston, and Thurston's wife, which supplied further biographical information on all of them.²⁵

Charles Willis Thurston (1872-1937) was born near Boston into an inventor's family. As a boy he "gathered mushrooms in Emerson's front yard"²⁶ and frequented the local Native Americans. He left a faint trail in the Boston art scene.²⁷ By 1908 he was among the host of American artists exhibiting in Paris. Thus he was almost certainly the unnamed illustrator of our edition. I do not know whether there were any other Brothers, nor who was Thurston's own master. His teachings partly resemble those of Thomas Lake Harris (1823-1906), founder of the Brotherhood of the New Life, who consorted with fairies and claimed to be married to a queen in their realm.

A tentative conclusion emerges from this: that Sarah or Lotus Dudley met Thurston in London after her husband's death. He instructed her in psychic and esoteric matters, and they collaborated on the *Comte de Gabalis*. While the occult material was Thurston's, by page-count it is in small proportion to the excerpts from classical works, quotations, summaries, supplements, and comparisons that fill out the 377 pages, not to mention the translation itself. Dudley, with her Bryn Mawr education and the British Museum at hand, was easily capable of such work. She probably financed the 1913 London edition and the New York edition of the following year. In 1922, with the earlier editions impossible to find,

23. The patent application was revealed in a YouTube talk of May 25, 2021, entitled "Who Wrote the Dayspring of Youth?" I am grateful to the presenter, identified only as "MtalksX," for this vital piece of information.

24. On his ancestry, see the Frost Genealogy (https://archive.org/stream/frostgenealogyinoofros/frostgenealogyinoofros_djvu.txt) and *Thurston Genealogies*, compiled by Brown Thurston (Portland, Maine: Compiler, 1880), 232.

25. Charles Thurston married Aileen Winifred Cook (1889 or 1890-1953) on April 30, 1921. The marriage certificate describes both as "Artist and decorator." The letters to Hurwitz will be made accessible on the website of the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation. See <https://www.paulbrunton.org/index.php>.

26. *The Lord God of Truth Within*, 198.

27. *The Boston Arts Club: Exhibition Record, 1873-1909*, compiled and edited Janice H. Chadbourne et al. (Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1991), 375.