

Aleister Crowley on drugs

Partridge, Christopher Hugh (2016) *Aleister Crowley on drugs*. International Journal for the Study of N pp. 125-151. ISSN 2041-9511



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Abstract

While much has been written about the life, work and influence of Aleister Crowley, relatively little has been directed to his drug use. This is a little surprising because, not only did he become addicted to heroin, he incorporated psychoactive substances into his occult work, discussed their psychological effects, connected related social issues, critiqued contemporary drug legislation, published drug literature, and even translated Baudelaire's 'Poem of Hashish'. This article discusses his thought on drugs and religious experience, and suggests that they were, largely because of his addiction, a more important force in his life than has been acknowledged.

Item Type: Journal Article

Journal or Publication Title: International Journal for the Study of New Religions

Subjects:

Departments: [Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences > Politics & International Relations \(Merrill\)](#) (2010-08-01)

ID Code: 84818

Deposited By: [ep_importer_pure](#)

Deposited On: 22 Feb 2017 11:58

Refereed?: Yes

Published?: Published

Last Modified: 22 Jul 2018 01:02

Identification Number:

URI: <http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/id/eprint/84818>



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