The Count of St. Germain has been variously described as a courtier, adventurer, charlatan, inventor, alchemist, pianist, violinist and amateur composer, but is best known as a recurring figure in the stories of several strands of occultism – particularly those connected to Theosophy and the White Eagle Lodge, where he is also referred to as the Master Rakoczi or the Master R and as one of the Masters of the Ancient Wisdom, is credited with near god-like powers and longevity. Some sources write that his name is not familial, but was invented by him as a French version of the Latin Sanctus Germanus, meaning "Holy Brother." [1][2][3][4]

The scarcity of contemporary biographical detail about St. Germain (alongside his own apparent self-mythologising) has supported the construction of many versions of his origins and ancestry, including that he was:

- The son of Francis II Rákóczi, the Prince of Transylvania, by Rákóczi's first wife.[4] Originally his name was Rákóczi Lipót Lajos György József Antal.
- Francis Bacon, true heir to the Throne of England, born to Queen Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley. He was given to the Bacon family who raised him and this secret was kept (Dr. Raymond Bernard, The Great Secret – St. Germain).
- The illegitimate son of Maria Anna of Pfalz-Neuburg, the widow of Charles II of Spain.
- The son of the king of Portugal (presumably John V) by unknown mother.

In a letter of 1745, Horace Walpole mentions a Count St. Germain as being arrested in London on suspicion of espionage (this was during the Jacobite rebellion) but released without charge:

> The other day they seized an odd man, who goes by the name of Count St. Germain. He has been here these two years, and will not tell who he is, or whence, but professes [two wonderful things, the first] that he does not go by his right name; [and the second that he never had any dealings with any woman - nay, nor with any succedaneum (this was censored by Walpole's editors until 1954)] He sings, plays on the violin wonderfully, composes, is mad, and not very sensible. He is called an Italian, a Spaniard, a Pole; a somebody that married a great fortune in Mexico, and ran away with her jewels to Constantinople; a priest, a fiddler, a vast nobleman. The Prince of Wales has had unsatisfied curiosity about him, but in vain. However, nothing has been made out against him; he is released; and, what convinces me that he is not a gentleman, stays here, and talks of his being taken up for a spy.[5]

One Pierre-Renault de Saint-Germain was Governor of Chengalput, in India, in 1752,[6] and a Robert-François Quesnay de St-Germain was active in several secret societies. Stories of the Count in India and at Masonic meetings can be traced to them. A mime and English comedian known as Milord Gower also impersonated St-Germain in Paris salons. His stories were wilder than the real Count's — he had advised Jesus, for example. Inevitably, hearsay of his routine got confused with the original.

Giacomo Casanova describes in his memoirs several meetings with the "celebrated and learned impostor." Of his first meeting, in Paris in 1757, he writes:

> The most enjoyable dinner I had was with Madame de Robert Gergi, who came with the famous adventurer, known by the name of the Count de St. Germain. This individual, instead of eating, talked from the beginning of the meal...
to the end, and I followed his example in one respect as I did not eat, but listened to him with the greatest attention. It may safely be said that as a conversationalist he was unequalled.

St. Germain gave himself out for a marvel and always aimed at exciting amazement, which he often succeeded in doing. He was scholar, linguist, musician, and chemist, good-looking, and a perfect ladies' man. For awhile he gave them paints and cosmetics; he flattered them, not that he would make them young again (which he modestly confessed was beyond him) but that their beauty would be preserved by means of a wash which, he said, cost him a lot of money, but which he gave away freely.

He had contrived to gain the favour of Madame de Pompadour, who had spoken about him to the king, for whom he had made a laboratory, in which the monarch — a martyr to boredom — tried to find a little pleasure or distraction, at all events, by making dyes. The king had given him a suite of rooms at Chambord, and a hundred thousand francs for the construction of a laboratory, and according to St. Germain the dyes discovered by the king would have a materially beneficial influence on the quality of French fabrics.

This extraordinary man, intended by nature to be the king of impostors and quacks, would say in an easy, assured manner that he was three hundred years old, that he knew the secret of the Universal Medicine, that he possessed a mystery over nature, that he could melt diamonds, professing himself capable of forming, out of ten or twelve small diamonds, one large one of the finest water without any loss of weight. All this, he said, was a mere trifle to him. Notwithstanding his boastsings, his bare-faced lies, and his manifold eccentricities, I cannot say I thought him offensive. In spite of my knowledge of what he was and in spite of my own feelings, I thought him an astonishing man as he was always astonishing me.[7]

Myths, legends and speculations about St. Germain began to be widespread in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and continue today. They include beliefs that he is immortal, the Wandering Jew, an alchemist with the "Elixir of Life", a Rosicrucian, and that he prophesied the French Revolution. He is said to have met the forger Giuseppe Balsamo (alias Cagliostro) in London and the composer Rameau in Venice.

Literature about St. Germain [edit]

Biographies [edit]

There are several "authoritative" biographers who usually do not agree with one another. Probably the two best-known biographies are Isabel Cooper-Oakley's The Count of St. Germain (1912) and Jean Oerton-Fuller's The Comte de Saint-Germain: Last Scion of the House of Rakoczy (1988). The former is a compilation of letters, diaries and private records written about the Count by members of the French aristocracy who knew him in the 18th century. Dr. Raymond Bernard's book The Great Secret – St. Germain is biographical and covers many aspects of the Counts' life including his conflation with Sir Francis Bacon and the author of the Shakespearean opus. Manly Palmer Hall in his The Secret Teachings of All Ages, describes some of the same attributes as Dr. Bernard, including the attribution of the writings of Shakespeare to a great adept like Francis Bacon, who could be amalgamated with the Count of St. Germain.

There have also been numerous French and German biographies, among them Der Wiedergänger: Das zeitlose Leben des Grafen von Saint-Germain by Peter Kreska, Le Comte de Saint-Germain by Marie-Raymonde Delorme and L'inénigmatique Comte De Saint-Germain by Pierre Ceria and François Ethuin.

Occult biography [edit]

A book titled The Great Secret, Count St. Germain, by Dr. Raymond Bernard purports that St. Germain was actually Francis Bacon by birth, and later authored the complete Plays attributed to Shakespeare. He also contends, as does the Saint Germain Foundation in Chicago, IL, that Francis Bacon was the child of Queen Elizabeth and Lord Dudley but that it was kept quiet. According to the theory, Francis was raised by the Bacon family.

Book attributed to St. Germain [edit]

One book attributed to Saint Germain himself is "The Most Holy Triosophia of the Comte de St. Germain." There are also two triangular books in the Manly Palmer Hall Collection of Alchemical Manuscripts at the Getty Research Library which are attributed to Saint Germain.[1] There is an additional book at the Getty Research Library entitled "Americas Herelidica" attributed to the author "Saint-Germain, C. de.", although it was published in New York in 1886. [2] Michael Scott and his books have noted facts in The Magician, and other related books later in the series.

Books dictated by Saint Germain to Guy Ballard [edit]

Saint Germain is the central figure in the Saint Germain Series of Books published by the Saint Germain Press. The first two volumes, Unveiled Mysteries and The Magic Presence, written by Godfre Ray King, describe Saint Germain as an Ascended Master, like Jesus, who is assisting humanity. Godfre Ray King is the pen-name for Guy Warren Ballard. In these first two books, he discusses his personal experiences with Saint Germain and reveals many teachings that are in harmony with Theosophy and some other works referenced above. The third volume, The I AM Discourses, contains material that is foundational to the sacred scriptures of the I AM Activity.

There are 20 Volumes in the Saint Germain Series of Books, which are also referred to as the "Green Books." Another work of great importance, the Comte de Gabalis, is said to be from the hand of Sir Francis Bacon before he Ascended and returned as Sanctus Germanus, the "Holy Brother," or Saint Germain. First printed in 1670, the book includes a picture of the Polish Rider, a famous painting at the Frick Collection in New York City, which is said to be of Sir Francis Bacon, a.k.a. the Comte de Gabalis, or the Count of the Cabala, Lotus Ray King (Edna Ballard's pen name), wife of Guy Ballard, talked about this book having been authored by the Ascended Master Saint Germain in the Round Table Talks of the I AM Activity.

Claimed encounters with Saint Germain [edit]
Several Theosophists and practitioners of alternate esoteric traditions have claimed to have met Saint Germain in the late 19th or early 20th centuries:

- Annie Besant said that she met the Count in 1896.
- C. W. Leadbeater claimed to have met him in Rome in 1926 and gave a physical description of him as having brown eyes, olive colored skin, and a pointed beard; according to Leadbeater, "the splendour of his Presence impels men to make obeisance". Leadbeater said that Saint Germain showed him a robe that had been previously owned by a Roman Emperor and that Saint Germain told him that one of his residences was a castle in Transylvania. According to Leadbeater, when performing magical rituals in his castle in Transylvania, Saint Germain wears "a suit of golden chain-mail which once belonged to a Roman Emperor; over it is thrown a magnificent cloak of Syrian purple, with on its clasp a seven-pointed star in diamond and amethyst, and sometimes he wears a glorious robe of violet."
- Guy Ballard, founder of the "I AM" Activity, claimed that he met Saint Germain on Mount Shasta in California in August 1930, and that this initiated his "training" and experiences with other Ascended Masters in various parts of the world.
- Edgar Cayce, the "Sleeping Prophet", was asked while in trance if Saint Germain was present. Cayce's reply was: "When needed." (From reading # 254-83 on 2/14/1935.)
- Dorothy Leon, living author, has claimed to have had several encounters with Saint Germain and is an avowed disciple of his.

Esoteric activities

Many groups honor Saint Germain as a supernatural being called an Ascended Master. He is referred to in Theosophy as the Master Rakoczi or the Master R. In the Ascended Master Teachings he is referred to simply as Saint Germain, or as the Ascended Master Saint Germain.[3][6]. As an Ascended Master, Saint Germain is believed to have many magical powers such as the ability to teleport, levitate, walk through walls, and to inspire people telepathically, among others.

Theosophists consider him to be a Mahatma, Master or Adept. Helena Blavatsky said that he was one of her Masters of Wisdom and hinted that he had given her secret documents. Some esoteric groups credit him with inspiring the Founders of the Theosophical Society, including Thomas H. Huxley and Joseph Henry, as well as providing them with the knowledge that would form the basis of their teachings.

In Alice A. Bailey's books, Saint Germain is referred to as the Master Rakoczi or the Master R.[13] A. Bailey's book The Externalisation of the Hierarchy (a compilation of earlier revelations published posthumously in 1957) gives the most information about his reputed role as a spiritual Master. His title is said to be the Lord of Civilization and his task is the establishment of the new civilization of the Age of Aquarius.[14] He is said to telepathically influence people who are seen by him as being instrumental in bringing about the new civilization of the Age of Aquarius. Alice A. Bailey stated that "sometime after AD 2025," the Master Jesus, the Master Rakoczi (Saint Germain), Kuthumi, and others in the Spiritual Hierarchy would "externalise", i.e., descend from the spiritual worlds, and interact in visible tangible bodies on the Earth in ashrams, surrounded by their disciples.[15] Alice A. Bailey said that St. Germain is the "manager of the executive council of the Christ"[16]. Theosophists regard "the Master Jesus" and "Christ" as two separate and distinct beings. They believe in the Nestorian/Gnostic Christology that Christ incarnated in Jesus during the three years of the Ministry of Jesus. "Christ" is identified as being a highly developed spiritual entity known as the Maitreya. "Jesus" is identified as being the Master Jesus. Those adherent to the Ascended Master Teachings believe in the existence of the Maitreya but adhere to the traditional identification of Christ as being the same being as Jesus. This executive council is a specific group of Masters of the Ancient Wisdom charged with preparing the way for the Second Coming of Christ and the consequent inauguration of the Age of Aquarius.

Previous incarnations

According to Theosophy and the Ascended Master Teachings, Saint Germain was incarnated as: (see notes 1, 2, and 3 for sources): (Note: Not all Theosophical and Ascended Master Teaching groups accept all of these incarnations as valid. St. Germain's incarnations as St. Alban, Proclus, Roger Bacon and Sir Francis Bacon are universally accepted.)

- Ruler of a Golden Age civilization in the area of the Sahara Desert 70,000 years ago, originally a colony sent out from Atlantis.
- High priest in the civilization of Atlantis 13,000 years ago, serving in the Order of Lord Zadkiel in the Temple of Purification, located in an Atlantean colony that had been sent out from the main island of Atlantis that had been established on the island now called Cuba.
- Samuel, eleventh century B.C. Religious leader in Israel who served as prophet, priest, and last of the Hebrew judges.
- Hesiod, Greek poet whose writings serve as a major source of insight into Greek mythology and cosmology (circa 700 B.C.).
- Plato, Philosopher who studied with students of Pythagoras and scholars in Egypt. He established his own school of philosophy at the Academy in Athens. (427 - 347 B.C.).
- Saint Alban, late third or early fourth century, town of Verulamium, renamed St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. First British martyr — he had sheltered a fugitive priest, became a devout convert, and was put to death for disguising himself as the priest so that he could die in his place.
**Proclus**, c. 410 - 485 A.D. Athens. The last major Greek Neoplatonic philosopher. He headed the Platonic Academy and wrote extensively on philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, and grammar.

**Merlin**, c. fifth or sixth century. Britain. Magician and counselor at King Arthur's Camelot who inspired the establishment of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table.


**Christopher Columbus**, 1451–1506 A.D. Believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy and settled in Portugal. Landed in America in 1492 during the first of four voyages to the New World sponsored by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain.

**Francis Bacon**, 1561–1626, England. Philosopher, statesman, essayist and literary master, author of the Shakespearean plays (according to Manly P. Hall, Alfred Dodd, Helene Armstrong, and the Ascended Master Teachings), father of inductive science, and herald of the scientific revolution.

### Ascension into masterhood

According to the Ascended Master Teachings, Francis Bacon made it appear that he died on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1626, and he even attended his own "funeral" in disguise. It is believed by the adherents of the Ascended Master Teachings that he then traveled secretly to Transylvania (then part of Hungary, now part of Romania) to the Rakoczy Mansion of the royal family of Hungary. Finally on May 1, 1684 he is believed to have attained (by his knowledge of alchemy) his physical Ascension (attaining immortality, eternal youth and attainment of supernatural abilities [the sixth level of Initiation]) at which time Francis Bacon adopted the name "Saint Germain."[18]

### St. Germain in popular culture

This "in popular culture" section may contain minor or trivial references. Please restructure this content to explain the subject's impact on popular culture rather than simply listing appearances, and remove trivial references. (July 2009)

#### Anime

In Baccano!, the Vice-President of the Daily Days newspaper company is called Gustave St. Germain and as the plot revolves around immortal, it may be possible he is Count of St. Germain, being based on him, and also the possibility of him being the true main character, as noted in the first episode's title.

The Earl of the Millennium is stated by the author to be based on this person. From the Manga/anime D. Gray Man.

A vampiric, eternally-living villain named Count Sangermaine figures heavily in the anime series Master of Mosquiton.

#### Comic Books

St. Germain(e) appears in the graphic novel The Bam Owl’s Wondrous Capers written by Samath Banerjee.

An unnamed figure who is implied to be the Count St. Germain(e) appears in the graphic novel The Invisibles by Grant Morrison.

St. Germain(e) appears in the graphic novel The Sandman (written by Neil Gaiman) spin-off The Dead Boy Detectives, written by Ed Brubaker. St. Germain(e) here is the name/identity taken by Gilles de Rais.

St. Germain(e) is the villain of the limited comic book series Shaung-Chi: Master of Kung Fu: Hellfire Apocalypse (2002–2003) by Doug Moench and Paul Gulacy, wherein St. Germain(e) is revealed to be actually Fu Manchu in disguise.

Saint Germain(e) appears in the Buffyverse comics miniseries Spike vs. Dracula.

Count Saint-Germain appears in the issue of the Topps comic book series The Frankenstein/Dracula War as a captain in Napoleon’s army who plots to replenish his fading immortality by blackmailing Frankenstein’s Monster into removing Dracula’s heart. Frankenstein’s Monster eventually turns on Saint-Germain and kills him with the aid of Dracula.

#### Film


#### Literature


Alfred Dodd did extensive research which underscores Francis Bacon’s "Hand" as the writer of the Shakespeare Plays, employing other pen names and all as the son of Queen Elizabeth. Francis Bacon’s Personal Life Story by Alfred Dodd. England: Rider & Co.

St. Germain appears in Michael Scott’s Nicholas Flamel series, in the novel The Magician: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel as an immortal alchemyst and "this century", a rock star married to Joan of Arc. This may be a reference to the contemporary musician of the same name.

Alexandre Dumas’ fictional Count of Monte Cristo may have been inspired by Le Comte St. Germain. The two share many characteristics, including intrigue, appearance, wealth, alchemical capabilities, and mysterious origin. One of the characters even remarks to Monte Cristo, "[Y]ou still remain an enigma, do not fear. My mother is only astonished that you remain so long unsolved. I believe, while the Countess G—— takes you for Lord Ruthven, my mother imagines you to be Cagliostro or the
Count Saint-Germain.*

- Umberto Eco's satirical work involving conspiracy theories, *Foucault's Pendulum*, features a putative St. Germain as the antagonist.

- During a darts match in the novel "The Brentford Triangle", Professor Slocombe, a recurring character in the Brentford novels of Robert Rankin, is implied to have been Saint-Germain.

- Diana Gabaldon's novel *Dragonfly in Amber* features St. Germain as a French nobleman and wine merchant dealing in the darker side of Parissian politics and high society in 1745. In her book, the Count is not immortal.

- The author Chelsea Quinn Yarbro has written (as of 2006) two dozen fantasy books (including spin offs) concerning a vampiric character modeled after St. Germain.

- St. Germain appears in Aleksandar Pushkin's short novel *The Queen of Spades*.

- Author Katherine Kurtz featured Saint-Germain as the esoteric Master behind the scenes orchestrating the American Revolution in the novel *Two Crowns for America* (1996).

- Fictional details of St. Germain's journey to Russia form part of the novel *Wheel of Fortune* (Колесо Фортуны) (1970–75) by the Russian writer Nikolay Dubov (Николай Иванович Дубов). In the novel *The Red Lion: The Elixir of Eternal Life* by the Hungarian writer Maria Szepes, St. Germain appears as a companion of the protagonist. He is "the man that never dies".

- The Comte de St. German(e) appears (also called Master Rakoczí) in Traci Harding's novel about magic and metaphysics called *The Cosmic Logos*.

- The Comte is a persona adopted by one of the long-lived mystery characters in Raymond Khoury's 2007 novel *The Sanctuary*.

- St. Germain appears in the head of Billy Ballantine in Tor Åge Bringsværd's "Den som har begge beina på jorda står stille" or *The Cosmic Logos*.

- A plea to St. Germain features in the lyrics of the song "I'm So Free" by Canibus.

- Traci Harding's novel *Traci Harding's novel about magic and metaphysics called The Cosmic Logos*.

- In Act I, scene 1 of Tchaikowsky's penultimate opera, *The Queen of Spades* (1890), based (loosely) on Pushkin's short story, Tomsky attributes the Countess's knowledge of the secret of the Three Cards that always win to a bargain with the Count Saint-Germain, who thus rescued her from bankruptcy at the court of Versailles. (The libretto implies that she spent a night with the Count, and that the secret is of satanic origin - neither of these things being true in Pushkin's story.) This story causes Ghemann to break into the Countess's bedroom to learn the secret; instead, she dies of shock. But her ghost later appears to him and names the cards - only to betray him to Hell in the end.

- French socialist and singer Richard Charfay achieved minor celebrity status in the 1970s by claiming to be the Comte de St. Germain. He was Dalida's lover for several years.

- Canibus makes a reference to the Comte de St. Germaine in the song "Poet Laureate Infinity".

- A plea to St. Germain features in the lyrics of the song "I'm So Free" by Lou Reed on his 1972 album *Transformer*.

- Christmas mention the Comte in "Iron Anniversary" on their 1993 album Vortex.

- The 2008 album Angélifique by the Spanish symphonic metal band Angeldark features the two-part song "Saint-Germain (The Man Who Killed Death)".

- The 2009 songabhängig by the polish musician Stachursky contains the mentioning of Saint Germain.

### Role-Playing Games

- The role-playing game *Unknown Armies* features St. Germain as an immortal yet very human, enigmatic and complex figure also referred to as "The First and Last Man".

### Television


### Video Games

- St. Germain appears in the video game *Castlevania: Curse of Darkness* as an unlikely ally attempting to oppose Death's plans for the resurrection of Dracula, he has the ability to manipulate time, and acts as a mysterious immortal enigma who sides with apparently no one.

- St. Germain appears in the BL game *Animamundi: Dark Alchemist* as the fiancé to the main character's sister.

- St. Germain appears as an NPC in the online game "Shin Megami Tensei: Imagine" who teaches players of occultism, magic control, and blessing.

- A major setting in the browser-based MMORPG *Aion* is St. Germaine Island, almost certainly a reference to the Count, given the game's heavy magical elements.

### Travel

- St. Germain is mentioned on the New Orleans Haunted History Tours: Vampire Tour, and is linked with a mansion on the corner of Rue Royal and Urseline st. under the surname of Jaques St. Germain, who is rumoured to have bought the mansion in the early 1900's and still owns it to this day.
The scholar K. Paul Johnson maintains that the "Masters" that Madame Blavatsky wrote about and produced letters from were actually idealizations of people who were her mentors.[21]

Also see the article "Talking to the Dead and Other Amusements" by Paul Zweig, New York Times October 5, 1980, which maintains that Madame Blavatsky's revelations were fraudulent.

Notes

4. ^ The Comte de St. Germain by Isabel Cooper-Oakley Milan, Italy: Ars Regia, 1912
13. ^ Bailey, Alice A. A Treatise on Cosmic Fire (Section Three - Division A- Certain Basic Statements), 1932, Lucis Trust, 1925, p 1237
17. ^ Although C.W. Leadbeater claims that Roger Bacon was a past incarnation of Saint Germain and the Church Universal and Triumphant (the main Ascended Master Teachings religion) also accepts this, some sources and some Ascended Master Activities believe that Roger Bacon was a past incarnation of the Ascended Master El Morya.
18. ^ "Saint Germain" (claimed by the Church Universal and Triumphant to have been dictated by St. Germain to Mark Prophet) Studies in Alchemy Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA 1974 Summit Lighthouse. See occult biographical sketch of Saint Germain, pages 80-90
19. ^ I'm So Free song lyrics | Lou Reed | Transformer | GoldLyrics.com
20. ^ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrSo_2BGBD0 In Search Of - "The Man Who Wouldn't Die"

Further reading

Adherents' literature

- Alfred Dodd wrote a number of book about Francis Bacon. One is Francis Bacon: Personal Life Story', Volume 2 - The Age of James, England: Rider & Co.
- Prophet, Mark L. and Elizabeth Clare Lords of the Seven Rays Livingston, Montana, U.S.A.:1986 - Summit University Press
- NAVIGATING THE FOURTH DIMENSION: A Discourse from the Ascended Masters ST. GERMAIN and EL MORYA KHAN, by...
The Comte de Saint Germain (French pronunciation: [kɛ̃t dɛ̃ sɛ̃ mɛ̃]; born circa 1691 or 1712 – died 27 February 1784) was a European adventurer, with an interest in science, alchemy and the arts. He achieved prominence in European high society of the mid-1700s. Prince Charles of Hesse-Kassel considered him to be "one of the greatest philosophers who ever lived". St. Germain used a variety of names and titles, an accepted practice amongst royalty and nobility at the time. These include the Marquis