

LIVES OF ALCHEMYSTICAL PHILOSOPHERS.

L I V E S
OF
ALCHEMYSTICAL PHILOSOPHERS

BASED ON MATERIALS COLLECTED IN 1815
AND
SUPPLEMENTED BY RECENT RESEARCHES

WITH A PHILOSOPHICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE TRUE
PRINCIPLES OF THE MAGNUM OPUS, OR GREAT WORK
OF ALCHEMICAL RE-CONSTRUCTION, AND SOME
ACCOUNT OF THE SPIRITUAL CHEMISTRY

BY

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"THE REAL HISTORY OF THE ROSICRUCIANS;" "THE MYSTERIES OF MAGIC:
A DIGEST OF THE WRITINGS OF ÉLIPHAS LÉVI," ETC.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

*A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ALCHEMY AND
HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY*

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P R E F A C E.

THE foundation of this work will be found in "The Lives of Alchemystical Philosophers; with a Critical Catalogue of Books in Occult Chemistry, and a Selection of the most celebrated Treatises on the Theory and Practice of the Hermetic Art," which was published in the year 1815 by Lackington, Allen, & Company, of Finsbury Square, London. This anonymous book has been attributed by certain collectors to Francis Barrett, author of the notorious treatise entitled "The Magus, or Celestial Intelligencer;" but it may be safely affirmed that, alike in matter and treatment, it far transcends the extremely meagre capacities of that credulous amateur in occultism. It is indeed a work of much sense and unpretentious discrimination, and is now a bibliographical rarity which is highly prized by its possessors.

The independent researches which have supplemented the biographical materials of the original compilation have produced in the present volume what is practically a new work under an old title; those lives which have been left substantially untouched as to facts have been more or less rewritten with a view to the compression of prolixities and the elimination of archaic forms, which would be incongruous in a work so extensively modified by the addition of new details. The "Alphabetical Catalogue of Works