

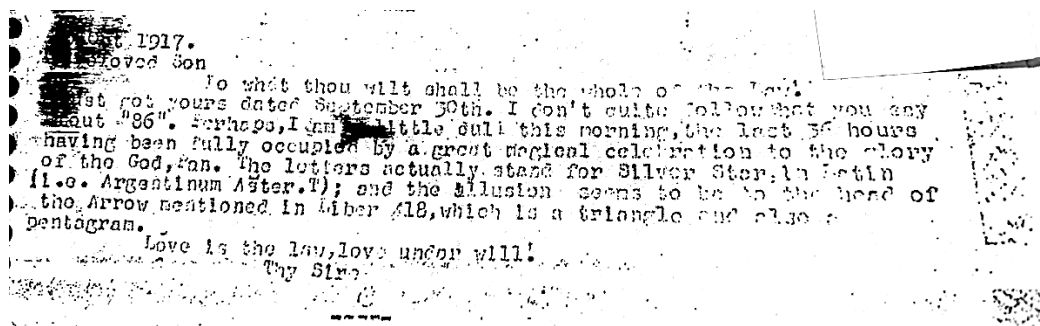
What is the True Meaning of the Initials A.:A.:?

Given that both new Probationers of our Order and others on social media have inquired into our use of “Argentium Aster” as being the meaning behind the initials A.:A.:, I decided to post a response on my Substack to why we use this name.

The real name of the Order has been hidden from noninitiates for over 100 years: “The Name of The Order and those of its three divisions are not disclosed to the profane. Certain swindlers [Achad] have recently stolen the initials A.:A.: in order to profit by its reputation” (*MTP*, p. 230 footnote 1).

Nevertheless, our new Caliph—Hymenaeus Epsilon—decided it was time to release the true meaning behind the A.:A.: initials after the death of J. Edward Cornelius. (Although Jerry mentions it in *Approaching the Desert of Sand: The True Meaning Behind the Abyss* (p. 24) and in the *Aleister Crowley Primer* (p. 30) as “*Argentium Aster*,” meaning one of two possible scenarios: (1) he either mistyped it (and we didn’t catch it in our first round of edits) or (2) he purposely obfuscated it.)

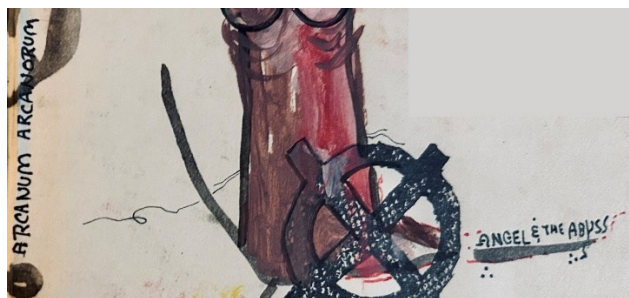
“Argentium Aster” is mentioned once in all of Crowley’s letters and documents—specifically, in a letter Crowley wrote to Frater Achad in October of 1917. Here’s a screenshot of the letter for reference:



A closeup of the line in the letter above:

I. e. Argentium Aster. T)

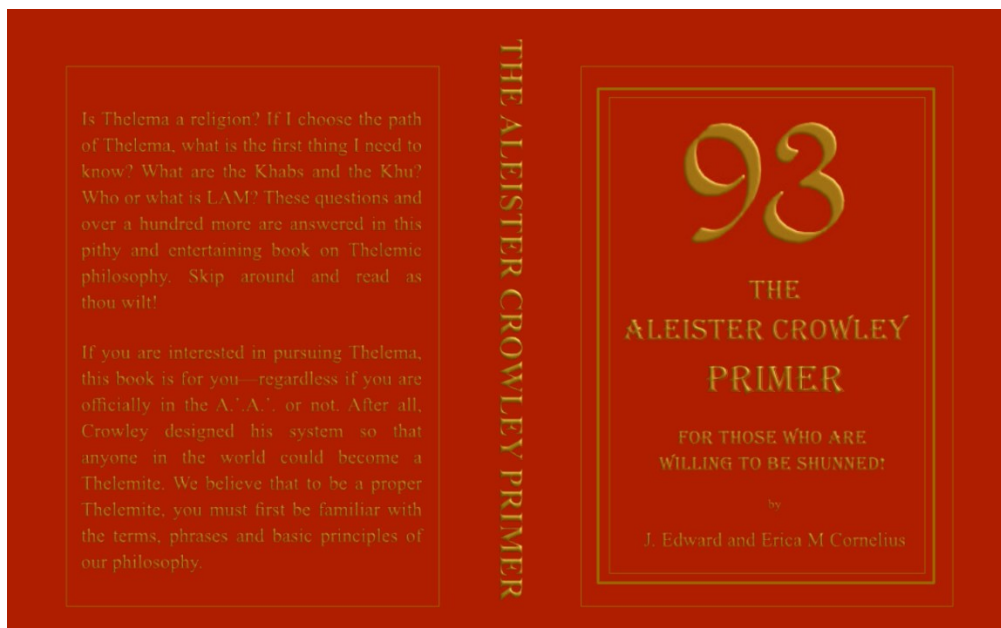
In his annotated version of *Magick in Theory and Practice*, Jerry alternatively lists it as being “*Arcanum Arcanorum*” (AA) with the three dots (:.) standing for “the Angel and the Abyss,” as opposed to the usual meaning for the latter—i.e., a symbolic representation of the Supernals.



In the *Aleister Crowley Primer*, Jerry also addresses this question, among more than 100 others. He writes:

Contrary to what many believe, during his lifetime Crowley *never* openly identifies their meaning. In *One Star in Sight* he acknowledges the “Name of The Order and those of its three divisions are not disclosed to the profane” and then he simply refers to the Third Order as “S.S.” Since these letters refer to “Silver Star,” for decades historians have attempted to determine numerous possible Greek and Latin phrases that might use the letters A.:A.:. Most branches of the Order today use *Argentium Astrum* (Latin) or *Astron Argon* (Greek) for Silver Star, but neither of these was used during Crowley’s lifetime. (p. 30)

Because this introductory text to Thelema written by Jerry and Erica M Cornelius (Erica Johnson) has been out of print for so long, we have decided to release a revised and edited second edition, along with a second edition of *Essays #3*, by the Spring Equinox (preorders for both will be open on 2/20/26).



Interestingly, in the CEQBL (Cornelius English Qabalah), “*Argentinum Aster*” equals 649, which is also the value of “Aleister Crowley” – similar to how “Aiwass” is a homophone of “I was” – as well as “Chariot + Devil + Hanged Man + Judgement”.¹

In the Latin Qabalah Simplex, it is 167 (a Temurah of 617), which is the value of *Fedes-Spes-Charitas* (Faith-Hope-Charity). In Hebrew, 167 is the value of *IAO ALHIM* (Binah of Atziluth).

¹ VII + XV + XII + VIII = 42 = The Supernal Mother, Eloah, Terror/Calamity, Confusion, Loss/Destruction, To cease, Transience, and My Glory; in Greek, Law, Ill-treatment, Assembly, Together, and Troubles.