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This Volume's cover image is the one primarily associated with the 1616 Rosicrucian Manifesto, [*The Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz*](#), whose 400th Anniversary we commemorated this year with the publication of [*The New Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz*](#).

This is an Alchemical Emblem of the *Hieros Gamos* or *Hierogamia* (ἱερός γάμος, ἱερογαμία). This Sacred Marriage of the Logos and Sophia is a goal of the Great Work in both Physical and Spiritual Alchemy.

We see the Red King (the Sun) and the White Queen (the Moon) in conjunction by holding hands and exchanging flowers. Descending from above is the Dove of the Spirit, with the Six-Pointed Star.

As Dennis William Hauck says of this alchemical stage of Conjunction:

“The goal is to marry the opposing qualities ... to create something new. On the personal level, it is the formation of an integrated personality by merging our masculine and feminine sides.”¹

From Jungian psychology and Spiritual Alchemy, it is this conjunction of opposites of the *anima* and *animus* in each of us that results in individuation.

In *The Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz*, the protagonist is invited to the wedding of a King and Queen. He and the other guests conduct many Alchemical operations, including on the King and Queen, who are restored from death to life.

For a summary and analysis, please see [Christian Rebisse's article](#) in the first Rosicrucian Digest of 2016.

It is this royal couple who are depicted on our cover this year.

¹ Dennis William Hauck, “Azoth of the Philosophers,” Rosicrucian Digest 4:1 (2016): 17.