

New Age Retailer Review (Summer, 2005)

***In Search of P. D. Ouspensky: The Genius in the Shadow of Gurdjieff* By Gary Lachman**

The title of this important book biography is a play on P. D. Ouspensky's opus *In Search of the Miraculous*, first published in 1949, a book that played an important part in informing seekers about G. I. Gurdjieff's teachings. Ouspensky, a philosopher, journalist, and mathematician, often lived in the shadow of his mentor, Gurdjieff. Gary Lachman's exceptionally thorough portrait brings readers intimately close to Ouspensky, his initiates, and his teachings. The narrative is filled with images of the peculiar world of diverse and unique personalities that surrounded Ouspensky and Gurdjieff.

Readers sample the eclectic philosophical and mystical beliefs and practices of Ouspensky in considerable depth. More importantly, in this rich, vivid narrative Lachman describes the revealing group dynamics of Ouspensky and his followers in the social context of the early 1900s—and how the time informed its metaphysicians. This very fine biography is an absolute must for serious seekers looking to place these important thinkers—Ouspensky and Gurdjieff—in context.

Reviewed by Thomas Peter von Bahr, Pacific Northwest Group, Lopez Island, Wash.