

## Merrick Rees Hamer

### (General Biography)

Merrick Rees Hamer, born 29 August, 1950, is a native Californian who has spent much of his creative life as a dramatic and musical storyteller. With a certain introspective nature, Mr. Hamer discovered an early fascination with legend and with ideas that "were not," but that "could be." This fascination, combined with a formal study in music, occupied him with performing legends and literature before juvenile and adult audiences. He is indebted to his creative parents, Ernest and Virginia Hamer for their support of his educational and musical endeavours. Further appreciation acknowledges the contributions of Nina Motta, for early piano lessons; James McMullin, for oboe, bassoon and flute mentoring; Lois Williams (Bordner), for pipe organ instruction; Nancy Bricard (USC) for later piano studies; and Anthony Vazzana (USC) for compositional instruction. Musically trained, both privately and at the University of Southern California, Mr. Hamer still enjoys performing and composing. He has also spent years of employment in public libraries where his talents as dramatic and musical storyteller have blended with his pursuit of culture and literature and his promotion of public access to knowledge and information.

Furthermore, Mr. enjoys interpreting classic poetry, which he enacts before mature audiences. Such productions include holiday favorites and interpretations of Yeats, Goethe and Poe. With his penchant for music and the arts, he sees imagination as the beginning in the ascent to the higher realms of human endeavour, and lest dreams be unfulfilled, there remains the duty to pay homage to the high offices of imagination and creativity.

The introspective qualities that turned him toward legend and creativity eventually exposed Mr. Hamer to metaphysical doctrine and the Western Esoteric Tradition. He has an eclectic appreciation for many religions and philosophical doctrines, but particularly embraces esoteric Christianity. In 1971 he became a Freemason in Culver City-Foshay Lodge, No. 467, F.& A.M., a lodge which finds appeal in the esoteric tradition of the craft; and in that lodge he served several years as its Master. Other activities have included membership in a Rosicrucian College and in both the York and Scottish Rites of American Freemasonry. In 1997, the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction in the United States coronated him with the Thirty Third Degree of Inspector General. Mr. Hamer is a considered a friend of several esoteric societies in Southern California, and his particular involvement, outside the body of Freemasonry, is with Rosicrucianism, especially as it has manifested in the classical Golden Dawn tradition. He owes a debt of gratitude to Cris Monnastre for her mentorship of more than twenty years within this tradition.

Mr. Hamer has been involved also with small films, and one rather esoteric film in particular, *Beyond Lemuria*, produced by Poke Runyon and the Church of the Hermetic Sciences, taps on a legend surrounding Mt. Shasta in Northern California. In this he brings a cultured, classical interpretation to the portrayals of the mystic masters of good and evil. Brother Hamer deeply appreciates Brother Runyon for his artistic endeavours and social benevolence. Mr. Hamer an active member of the church body and has entered into official service.

In 2007, Merrick Hamer revealed his ideas about creative light when he was invited to speak at an international conclave of the Fraternity of Hidden Light, hosted by Paul Clark, the Steward of that venerated order. Subsequently his work was published by Newman University in a journal entitled *Archaeopteryx*, under the encouragement of Poet Laureate, Bryan Dietrich of Newman University and Professor, Curtis Shumaker, two of his Masonic associates. Often, he has been a guest lecturer or orator at events in which this and other metaphysical and esoteric subjects have been treated. Most recently, he has taken a closer look at the esoteric nature of Music, including a study of the music of the Count of Saint Germain, and is currently treating the subject of the confluence of divine forces that pervade nature, which will be launched later this year.

