

## SYMMETRY FROM KABBALAH

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This paper summarizes a forthcoming book that presents an alternative history of the influence of symmetry in logic. Descartes used the logical algebra of a little appreciated scientist, Thomas Harriot. We will note that Descartes implemented this algebra imperfectly as a matter of convenience, and there is a call (Devlin: "Soft Mathematics," Goranson: "BASTII") to restore some of that original structure. We only touch on this point, and several others in this overview. Harriot's logic was based on symmetries from the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, a primary scaffold for science to that time.

We'll give a brief history of the Tree of Life to that point. Three stages of Kabbalah are presented: the Jewish Kabbalah (and its Persian origin); the merger of Kabbalah with the Hermetic tradition which enforced the idea of Kabbalah as a scientific cosmology; and also the occult Kabbalah which dates from Victoriana and is well after Harriot.

We'll outline the superficial internal symmetries and the deeper ones that Harriot codified in an algebraic lexicon.

Then, we'll give a quick review of common art where this symmetric structure is found: Alice in Wonderland, Gauguin's work, The Beatles' White Album, Monopoly, etc.