Henricus Cornelius Agrippa Encyclopedia Article

Henricus Cornelius Agrippa

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Contents

Henricus Cornelius Agrippa Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Henricus Cornelius Agrippa.....3

Henricus Cornelius Agrippa

1486-1535

German lawyer and physician, also known as Agrippa of Nettesheim, who in the sixteenth century was a leading early proponent of the serious inspection of occult philosophies as a means of understanding nature beyond conventional science. Along with talents as diplomat and historiographer, he successfully defended a woman accused of witchcraft. His *The Occult Philosophy* (c. 1510) became a major influence in central European intellectual circles and along with *The Uncertainty and Vanity of Science* (1527) focused on the logic of the occult alternative.