



Death

Death from the Sylph Tarot, Tyran Grillo

[http://www.alchemywebsite.com/tarot/art\\_tarot04.html](http://www.alchemywebsite.com/tarot/art_tarot04.html)

# The Tarot Reader

TABI's Quarterly E-zine

**Autumn 2006**

**Issue No: 21**

**TABI Poll**  
**Compiled by Mandi Blackburn**

**In my seemingly never ending quest to find a pink-backed Tarot deck with artwork that I like, I thought that for this edition's poll I would ask the members of TABI what their ultimate fantasy deck would be. Here they are:**

I would love a Dr Who deck but designed by someone who knows Dr Who and ALL his original adventures, acquaintances and foes.

The backing would be in blues with a Tardis design ;)

*Hel*

Some years ago I actually saw a Warner Bros. deck, featuring such greats as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd, Yosemite Sam and all their pals. I haven't seen it since, but that would be a good one.

I would certainly love to see a deck based on Terry Pratchett's writings, although it would be tough to know which character to have for which card in the major arcana. Apart from Bill Door of course. :D

*Lynne*

I would kill for a decent Buffy/Angel deck, being a huge fan - I've seen a few online and they're just not quite right, so I suppose I'd be better off making my own!

*Caroline*

A star wars deck that was illustrated by an extremely talented artist done in extreme fantasy style.. well, that and even a star wars deck with movie shots :\$ \*swoons\*

*Chanel*

My dream Tarot deck would feature Chihuahua dogs! I have two and endlessly imagine how they could be featured within a Tarot deck!

*Barbara*

My ideal deck would be issued by Walt Disney and featuring all the old favourite cartoon characters - Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Chip 'n' Dale, Pluto etc.

There is already one called Disney Afternoon, but it doesn't have the instantly recognisable characters that you would expect from an official WD product. I wouldn't want it too sugary - all the best decks have a dark element. Perhaps it would make a better deck if the darker Warner Bros characters were involved too? Can you imagine the Chariot - Mickey in some kind of ramshackle contraption trying to marshal Donald and Daffy forwards?! One studio could do the Majors, the other the Minors and Courts.

\*sigh\* it would be fabulous :-D

*AX*

A deck where, if the querents are not responding or refusing to accept the cards, the cards pick this up and speak to them. The cards would only scold a bit, not take over our role as readers!

*Lucy*

My dream deck would have some great astrological associations on it. Instead of the Fool, maybe we'd see Uranus in his loopy, backward orbit or Venus, the jewel of the sky, as the Empress. It would be great to have the solar system on the backs of the cards--my dream like yours of pink cardbacks. The pips would be their astrological associations; for example, in the 2 of Wands we would see Mars from the major Arcana in an Aries setting; in the 6 of Wands, we'd see Jupiter (Wheel) in a Leo setting. The characters would repeat in different situations on the minor cards.

*CJ*

Oooh, well as the lovely Ed Buryn has created one of my dream decks with the William Blake set it would have to be a gorgeous, beautiful, stunning, . . . .pre-Raphaelite deck with paintings from Edward Burne-Jones. He produces SO much beautiful art work that I think his catalogue could easily cover all of the cards. If we had to have a few "friends" in then perhaps a few contributions from Rossetti, or Simeon Solomon.

Card backs would have to be something beautiful by William Morris or by Burne-Jones himself. I went to a fantastic art exhibition a few years ago in Birmingham featuring the work of Burne-Jones and I couldn't believe how gorgeous the paintings were - nor how HUGE the canvases were. I should have realised as I have seen photographs of him up a ladder, creating!

Now that would be one to stay in and drool over, for me.

Fantastic . . . you've got me thinking about it . . . now where is my wine and my Burne-Jones Exhibition Book?

*Mary C*

## **TABI's Annual Conference Report**

**Birmingham 28-30 July 2006**

By attendee, Lucy Voss

### **Friday 28 July**

#### ***Evening Session – Ania Marczyk***

Your correspondent was not present at this session but reports over the weekend indicate that the session on face to face readings was informative and illuminating, if sometimes a little scary. Remarks of the “I'd only been speaking for five minutes. I thought I'd kept going for at least 15” variety were quite common. There was role-play involved for the delegates – the querent who “knows all about tarot”, the one who thinks any sort of reaction is inappropriate, and others in between. By the end of the session some of the “scary” had left the participants who said they were feeling more confident about doing face to face readings.

### **Saturday 29 July**

#### ***Morning Session: Tarot and Astrology – Michael Frankel***

This session began with sharing information on what we knew about the qualities of the different planets, working with the planets as they were known at the time of Ptolemy, when the outermost planet was Saturn. On our papers we put Saturn in the bottom right corner, and worked our way in an arch to the bottom left. In Ptolemy's time it was thought the sun went round the earth, so the order of planets was Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury and the Moon.

As well as discussing characteristics of people ruled by the different planets we were asked if we knew their atomic weights, the metal linked with them and the chemical formulae! The star turn at this last was our New Member Readings Monitor. We finally linked the planets in order of weight (starting with the Moon) to produce a star shape, linking the planets to the days of the week. Mick then took us through the astrological wheel, which is divided into twelve sections (so-called houses) of 30 degrees each. Each section can then be divided into a further three. Using the pip cards two to ten of the tarot you can then assign the cards to a specific time of the year. First sign of the zodiac is Aries (21 March to 22 April approx - fire); the cards here are 2, 3, 4 wands. Second sign of the zodiac is Taurus (earth): 5,6,7 pentacles; third sign is Gemini (air) so 8, 9, 10 swords. Cancer (water) follows, so 2, 3, 4 cups, then it is back to fire again, and pick up the next lot of wands at number 5. The cards used this way can give very precise timings, e.g. 2 wands would indicate the first 10 days of Aries, so late March; 8 swords would indicate the first ten days of Gemini, so late May. Some delegates filled in their charts beautifully with great care and attention and use of distinguishing colours. Your correspondent's chart was scruffy (but usable). This session got the conference off to a stimulating start, and introduced many delegates to something really new. It is interesting (and useful) to blend two esoteric fields in this way.

### ***Afternoon Session 1: The Fool's Journey – Anna Franklin***

This session is always difficult as it is just after lunch, never the best time of the day for alertness, and for those who may have made a very early start it is the time when it is easy to succumb to lack of sleep. The speaker took us through her history with the tarot and how she came to devise the Sacred Circle tarot. Some of the Majors had been moved in what seemed an arbitrary way and the explanation was not completely convincing. There were no supporting illustrations of the cards which would have given us something to look at. Your correspondent was fortunate to be sitting next to someone who had the deck so we shared it around our table. The artwork is computer generated and some of the faces seem too modern to fit with the rest of the picture, although the overall effect is generally pleasant. This presentation of what is becoming a much-worked theme at tarot workshops was not particularly dynamic or interactive, and disappointing after the lively morning session. In the light of what the first and the later speakers did, this session could almost be rated unpleasing. And your correspondent was distracted by the speaker's wearing fur boots on a very warm day.

### ***Afternoon Session 2: Court Cards and reversals – Mary K Greer***

Mary's list of card messages:

Who? (me, you, him over there) – Court Cards	
What?	- Pips 2-10
Why?	- Majors
Where?	- Aces

Mary invited us to visualise a beach barbecue where we met different court cards, the one who came to meet us (not necessarily the obvious Court messenger, it could be whoever we imagined first), the philosopher, the one we wanted to avoid (a thought: isn't that one our shadow?). Then she went on to the court card who welcomed us, the one we didn't like (a fair number did not like the Queen of Swords but she had her supporters within the group). Which one of the guests did we see playing, which one of the guests at the party was the confidant or good friend. Which court card represented us? The hosts were the King and Queen of Pentacles and we differentiated the ways they each played host. We then assigned court cards to people we knew. This short account barely does justice to a packed and energetically led ninety minutes, and we covered a great deal more than this brief paragraph suggests.

***Evening session: launch of Mary's book, "21 Ways to Read a Tarot Card"***

Your correspondent missed this as she was having a reading done.

We repaired to the bar downstairs where the raffle was held with some outstanding prizes going to the lucky winners: e.g. tutorial with Mary Greer; books by Cassandra Eason.

While we are on the topic of "goodies", we were each given a bag with magazines and a tarot deck from Lo Scarabeo. Our Chairman is especially grateful to them as other "goodies" promised for the occasion failed to arrive. What was even more impressive, the decks were signed limited editions, (well, mine was) original price £75. No, you have not misread that. £75. The decks are beautifully crafted and while I am not sure if I could work with mine (Tarot of the Gnomes) I can certainly admire the skill that went into drawing the images and the texture of the card.

**Sunday 29 July**

***Morning session: Intuitive tarot – Cilla Conway***

Cilla discussed intuition, what it is, how it can work, what happens if someone has the two halves of their brains completely separated – there is no exchange of logic or intuition. She also talked about using intuition to produce a creative work: focusing on it too much could mean nothing resulted. She recounted how she had been doodling with her left hand while watching television and The Fool in her Intuitive Tarot emerged. Cilla then had us marking paper rhythmically – staccato taps, more sweeping movements and so on. We then worked in pairs with Cilla's Devas of Creation cards. These had been the outcome after she attended an angel workshop. Cilla had felt the images of the angels were too saccharine; told by the workshop presenter to go away and see if she could do better, she went away, and she did better. We worked in pairs, interpreting the cards for each other. Since the images on the cards do not necessarily represent anything in particular, though some have a slightly nature-ish feel, you can let your intuition and imagination run riot. Mary and your correspondent were paired for this exercise. No particular skill on my part, but the card Mary had chosen for herself seemed to have very strong links to the country and nature, which she said at the time were not much part of her life. There was an interesting post-script to this exercise, which Cilla reported on the list. After the workshop Cilla went to a Druid meet in Wiltshire which Mary later attended, sleeping in a tent. Getting in touch with nature, the card had said it all .....

***Afternoon session: Mary Greer***

**RITE Readings**

For this session we again worked in pairs, again energetically led by Mary, just the right thing for an early afternoon session. We each drew a card and first talked through it in the conventional way. Then we had to describe what we as our card were wearing in great detail, then how we got to be in the card, talking through the card, listening to what is happening. We had to tell the story of our card, e.g. in my case how I found myself on a beach, found a golden cup, how the fish got into it. My partner for this session was unlucky enough to pick a card with no people in it, but it is amazing what you can do when you let your imagination and intuition take over. We also had to help each other to formulate a message from our card, something we could take away with us. The last thing was to find a space and **be** your card, and hold that pose in silence for a few minutes. Doing this produced, at least for your correspondent, a powerful effect.

This short account may give the impression the session was quite brief, but it was an intense and energetic two hours with a lot going on for all of us.

Then it was time for farewells, thanks and good wishes for safe journeys, time for the TABI organisers who had worked very hard all through the weekend – indeed for many months before - to pack up the caravan and wend their weary way home. Until next time.

## DECK REVIEW - Winged Spirit Tarot

Created by David Sexton.

Published by U.S. Games Systems Inc

ISBN 1-57281-121-8

Review by Di Sandland



The stated purpose of this deck is to form a bridge between angels and tarot; I have to say that at first I was a little doubtful that such a bridge existed. In fact, I felt so unconvinced of this premise that the cards lay forgotten in a drawer for some time. Aware that I had promised Alison I would write a review for the e-zine, I eventually half-heartedly removed them from their hiding place and started to use them. When will I learn not to make snap judgments? These cards provide remarkably powerful and accurate readings.

The rather wishy-washy box belies the beauty and quality of the cards inside. The sturdy, good quality card is finished with a high gloss and, even though they are slightly wider than the standard at 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " they are a joy to shuffle and handle.

The majors are particularly striking and feature archangels, Gnostic angels and other higher beings. I'm sure we all have a particular card we look at when assessing whether a deck moves us and, for me, that card is The Moon. In the Winged Spirit, The Moon is symbolized by Lilith, mother of demons, whose role is to tempt the righteous with sin and debauchery. The card simply shrieks confusion and uncertainty and Lilith herself is scary in her beauty.

Of the suits the only one with a name change is Pentacles, which becomes Spheres. The cards in this suit have an almost comedic look to them but I found it a very easy suit to read with angels illustrating the meanings of the cards by the way they hold, and sometimes drop, their spheres. The suit of Wands, as you would imagine, is populated by fiery, dynamic beings; the meanings of the Cups are depicted by a cartoon-like couple and Cupid with the couple demonstrating the state of their partnership by the way they stand in relation to each other. The characters in the Swords cards are quite forbidding and are populated with avenging angels, making one home in more on the negative aspects of the suit.

The reverse of the cards are decorated with a mirror-image WS design embellished with angels' wings and symbols of the four suits. As the design is completely symmetrical the deck can be used for reversals.

Far from being the purely decorative and fluffy deck that I first imagined I found this deck easy to read and I have received good feedback on all the readings I have used it for. If I have any complaints it is that the LWB does not give enough detail and, as I'm not an 'angelic' aficionado and have never had any interest in the angels fad, I could have done with some more information on the 'higher beings' to help me understand their stories and how they are applied to the cards. Having said that, compared to most LWB's, its not too bad! At the time of writing there is no book of the deck, although I'd love to see one.



To sum up then? Well, it certainly won't be going back into that drawer for a while!