

The Tarot Reader

TABI's Quarterly E-zine

Spring 2007

Issue No: 23

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is the time of renewal and new beginnings and it is appropriate that this is the issue that welcomes a new Chairman for TABI.

Phil Croft is an experienced volunteer within the TABI ranks. Not only does he have first-hand experience of our Training programme, but he has also worked as a mentor on the Free Readings programme and read for us at many events – so he comes to the role with bags of TABI experience. Not only that, he has an excellent business head on his shoulders which can only be an asset in the organisation!



Phil takes over from me as from 1 April 2007 as Chairman and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him every success in his new role. I am confident that under his leadership, TABI will go from strength to strength.

This quarter's e-zine is packed with Tarot goodies. Not only do we have an extract from The Watkins Tarot Handbook by Naomi Ozaniec, we also have details of the reading created by Mary K Greer to celebrate Pamela Colman Smith's birthday bash at Treadwells Bookshop in London. Lon Milo DuQuette has provided us with some superb answers to your questions in We Ask The Questions – so I do hope that there is something for everyone here.

At the end of last year, the Yule edition of the e-zine was sent out on a request basis only – this was to help me gauge the level of interest in this publication that depends so heavily on contributions from members and Tarot authors. I also requested feedback from those who read the magazine and I hope to tackle the points raised to ensure that the e-zine that I deliver to you is the best that it can possibly be.

To kick off with, the appearance has changed slightly. Comments were made that the margins were too broad, making it resemble some kind of school publication – so borders have been dropped to half an inch all round.

Please check out the results of my completely non-scientific poll in this e-zine!

Alison Cross
Editor

How to get the most from the e-zine

Clicking on the page numbers in the contents table will take you directly to the page you want to view. If you want to make the text on a page look larger, please use the magnifier, or go to "View" and set the option to "Fit Visible" or the similar command that appears on your version.

Availability, Notification of Accuracy of TABI News

We do our best to keep the information in TABI News up to date and accurate. If anything needs updating or correcting for future reference, please let us know. TABI News currently appears as a PDF file on the TABI web-site and on the databases of TABI's e-mail discussion lists.

We send out notification of new issues of TABI News to reach a wide and interested audience and for each issue we endeavour to ensure that all contributors are kept informed

of the release date. If you should wish to be removed from our mailing list, however, please email us at newsletter@tabi.org.uk

Submissions

We welcome submissions, but as a non-profit organisation are unable to offer payment. Please send articles, ideas or suggestions to the Editor, contact as above.

We wish to thank all of our writers and volunteers for their input and all of our members for their interest in TABI. Please note that article copyrights remain with the authors. The articles, reviews and information are offered for interest purposes and are not necessarily reflective of the views of or indicative of an endorsement by the Tarot Association of the British Isles.

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Greetings from TABI

THE WHO, WHAT AND WHERE...

WHERE WE WILL BE

TABI's Endorsed Readers will be giving Tarot readings at the following events in 2006/07.

28 April 2007

Witchycon 2007
Wantage Oxfordshire

19 May 2007

Witchfest England
Fairfield Halls
Croydon Surrey

23 June 2007

Witchfest Wales
Cardiff University
Student Union
Cardiff Wales

7 July 2007

Witchfest Scotland
The Arches
Argyle Street Glasgow

5 August 2007

Lammas Games Oxfordshire

10, 11 & 12 August 2007

Artemis Gathering
Horley Camp Site
Wroxton Road
Horley Oxfordshire

25, 26 & 27 August 2007

Herstmonceux Medieval Festival
Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex

31 August 2007 - 2 September 2007

Mercian Gathering (see Days out section for full details)

November 2007

Witchfest International
Fairfield Halls
Croydon Surrey

All TABI's Endorsed readers are welcome to apply to read for TABI at any of these events. Details about how to become an Endorsed Reader are set out on the TABI website. <http://www.tabi.org.uk>

The financial arrangements are that after TABI has recouped the stall or pitch rent, the net profits are divided 10% to TABI and 90% to the readers working at the event.

Brian Stevenson (pw.c.bjs@virgin.net)

WHO WE ARE

The Tarot Association of the British Isles is a primarily online community run by volunteers with a passion for tarot and the esoteric. TABI was formed in January 2001, to provide support, information and resources for UK Tarotists of all levels. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced reader, you are welcome at TABI.

Our aims are to provide a supportive and friendly environment for all those interested in tarot - whether you want to study, play, provide or receive readings, or just chat and network with others of a like mind - and to promote the use of tarot as an ethical tool for guidance and self-development.

MEMBERSHIP

UK Membership of TABI costs £20 per year (overseas is £22.50), and entitles you to the following:

Membership Certificate
Gift
A free in-depth reading
Full version of the downloadable E-Zine TABI Quarterly
Endorsed Reader programme
Access to an online beginners' training, in a mentored study group (please note that waiting lists for Training are temporarily closed).
Participation in fayres and festivals
Social events and regional meetings
Monthly online chat and discussion forums
Discounts on TABI merchandise
Use of TABI logo for personal website/stationery
The chance to practice your skills and meet other like-minded people, in a fun and friendly environment

If you would like to apply, please send a blank email to:
membership@tabi.org.uk

TABI SERVICES

Readings: Our Free 1-3 card reading service is still proving extremely popular. To request a reading, please visit our website: <http://www.tabi.org.uk> A longer, 7 card + reading is also available free of charge to new members. For membership queries, contact membership@tabi.org.uk

Training: (Please note, waiting lists currently closed)
Newcomers to Tarot can take our Beginners Training Course, based on Joan Bunning's book Learn the Tarot. The training is undertaken in an online mentored study group. This course is free and is open to everyone, whether or not they are members of TABI.

Students doing the Beginners Training Course may join TABI at any time before, during or after completing the course. If you are interested in participating in the Training course, email training.admin@tabi.org.uk

See the Endorsement section for information about becoming an endorsed reader.

Endorsement: As there is no central governing body for tarot, and no qualifications, it can be difficult to know how to find a reader. Recognising this, TABI has created a system of Endorsement, whereby our readers agree to adhere to our Code of Ethics and undergo an ongoing process of mentoring to ensure that TABI readings are of a consistently high standard.

For people who would like to become an Endorsed Reader, it is necessary to join TABI before starting the endorsement process. At the start of the endorsement process, we ask you to submit a reading for a scenario that we provide; so that we can get an idea of your reading style and experience, and match you with a suitable mentor.

If your application is successful; to become Endorsed, you will be required to submit a minimum of 25 readings to a Mentor for discussion and approval. The readings are done via email and the questions are from people using our free readings service via the TABI website. If you are interested, please contact readers@tabi.org.uk for further information and the application form.

Discussion Forum

Check out our discussion boards:
<http://p213.ezboard.com/btabi>

CONTACT US

What would you like to see on our website or newsletter? Do you have suggestions, questions or thoughts on the subject of Tarot in general? Please feel free to get in touch with information you think may interest us, or with any questions – we'd love to hear from you!

E-zine: - newsletter@tabi.org.uk

Membership: membership@tabi.org.uk

Training & Endorsement: training.admin@tabi.org.uk

TABI News

Random Raffle Winner!

The winner of the Dec/Jan/Feb free readers random raffle was Gav at manandcards. There were 382 eligible readings in that quarter. Well Done Gav! (Samara)

New chairman for TABI

Phil Croft takes over from Alison Cross as Chairman of TABI as from 1 April 2007. Good luck Phil!

Racing for Life

Long-time TABI member, Mandi Blackburn, is Running for Life again this year. The Race takes place on Wednesday 11th July 2007 in Ipswich to raise money for Cancer Research UK and she needs your support. See Mandi's page at <http://www.raceforlifesporsome.org/mandi75> for how to donate. All donations are secure and sent electronically to Cancer Research UK. If you are a UK taxpayer, Justgiving will add an automatic 28% bonus to your donation at no cost to you. Please join Mandi in supporting Cancer Research UK and a fabulous cause!

Pirated Sheridan Douglas Tarot!

Pirated packs of the Sheridan Douglas Tarot cards are being sold on the Internet. TABI Member Alfred Douglas says: "We have joined eBay's Verified Rights Owners Programme (VeRO) so that as soon as one of these listings appears we can report it and have it removed. I have had seven such listings removed in the last week. Another one has appeared this morning. I have reported it to eBay.

"The illegal decks are easily identified as they are being sold as brand new for as little as £2.50. We can't get them from the printers anything like as cheaply as that. The proper recommended retail price is £19.99 for the legitimate cards which are printed to a very high standard by Carta Mundi.

"The illegal decks are a substandard consignment that was returned to an earlier printer for destruction, then apparently stolen and sold on. As they were not published by us anyone selling them (as well as dealing in stolen goods) is selling an unlicensed and therefore pirated edition - just as if they were selling pirated DVDs of Hollywood movies at a car boot sale.

"The pirated decks can easily be identified by the wording on the box, which we changed before we moved to Carta Mundi. The legitimate decks have the words 'Sheridan Douglas' printed on both sides and on the top and bottom flaps of the box. The stolen decks have the words '78 Tarot Cards in Full Colour' on the sides of the box, and 'Tarot Cards' on the flaps (Like the original decks published in the 1970s).

"Our distributor, Counter Culture, reports that sales have dropped off after a good start, as customers are reporting that they can get our cards elsewhere a lot cheaper. We are trying to find out who is distributing these cards so we can take legal action to have it stopped.

"If you are offered a pirated deck or know where they are on sale, please let me know. You can contact me via our website, www.sheridandouglas.co.uk, or by email to [contact\(at\)sheridandouglas.co.uk](mailto:contact(at)sheridandouglas.co.uk)."

TABI and Comic Relief

TABI members donated over £100 to Comic Relief in March 2007. In line with our promise to you, TABI made this amount up to a round £200. Well done everyone who contributed!

TABI 2007 Conference Sell Out News!

Although residential places are sold out at the Conference for this year, there ARE day delegate places available. Charged at the rate of £50 per day, all you need to do is find yourself some accommodation nearby (eg Radstock Hotel) and you can tailor your Conference experience to your budget. Please contact Ania on admin.ania@tabi.org.uk for full details. Day rate includes lunch, tea and coffee.

TABI's Aims and Ethics

TABI's Aims

- To promote the highest standards of ethics in teaching and reading Tarot
- To offer mentoring of a high standard
- To promote Tarot as a force for good and development in a person's life
- To provide a network of fellow Tarot readers and enthusiasts for mutual support, discussion and experience
- To provide information and inspiration via a website and regular e-magazine

Members of TABI adhere to the following Code of Ethics

TABI Readers' Ethics

- All readings remain confidential between the querent and the reader and, if appropriate the readers mentor.
- All readings will aim to empower the client.
- All querents are equal and will be treated with respect.
- As a reader I will be open minded, honest and remain non-judgmental.
- I will suggest the querent contact a qualified professional if appropriate e.g. health or legal professional.
- Any payment will be discussed prior to the reading, will be reasonable and within the clients means.
- If at any time I feel unable to continue the reading I will withdraw tactfully
- I will use Tarot responsibly e.g. I will not offer to remove or place curses
- I will not knowingly give an e-mail reading to anyone under 18 years of age and will not knowingly give a face-to-face reading for anyone under 18 years of age without permission from his or her parent or guardian.
- I will not undertake reading for anyone other than the querent, i.e. third parties.

POEM

I put out a request for some poetry or quizzes to keep your creative juices flowing and Arcane kindly sent us this spring themed poem: -

Where Snowdrops Sleep

By Kristina (Arcane)

Walking through a woodland glade,
On a hazy summers day.
Unaware beneath your feet
Is where snowdrops sleep.

As Autumn leaves begin to fall
From the trees, onto the ground beneath
This is an early wake up call
To awaken snowdrops from there sleep.

Winter's here you sleepy things,
Pop up and taste the air
Up to brave the winter you go
Come on snowdrops, its nearly time to sing.

In late winter, early spring
They realise it is time to sing.
Upwards towards the cloudy sky
No longer do snowdrops sleep

Time to sing and shine
The snowdrops catch your eye
Pure white against the blackest sky
Snowdrops neither bold nor shy

Now warmer sun has come,
Their show is done
So under you go down beneath
Where snowdrops sleep

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Does the Knight of Wands send your pulse soaring? Does the 5 of Cups stir your soul? Could you write a poem using Tarot as your theme? If so, please send your submission to me at admin.alison@tabi.org.uk .



*Tarot Association
of the British Isles*

Do you know that you can use our TABI logo on your stationery or website to show your clients that you are a member of the organisation? Find it in the Files section of the Yahoo! TABI list and download your copy!

There is also a logo for readers who work under our Endorsed scheme too! See the Files section on the Yahoo! Free Reading list to download!

Birthday Celebration for Pamela Colman Smith

Report by Lucy Voss



**Led by Caroline Wise and Friends,
Friday 16 February 2007 at Treadwells
Bookshop, Covent Garden**

Pamela Colman Smith (1878–1951) painted the famous, standard, Rider-Waite tarot deck; yet she is obscure compared to her more famous teacher in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn (A.E. Waite), whose name is on the deck she created. She was an extraordinary woman: an occultist, artist, African-American, traditional storyteller, social hostess, lesbian and magician. Pamela Colman Smith died penniless; her body of work broken up and scattered against her wishes. On this, the night of her birthday, Caroline Wise and

friends lead a celebration in her honour. As it is her birthday, there will of course be birthday cake and wine.

The above was the publicity blurb, but it sums up what we learned about “Pixie” as she was sometimes known.

Caroline Wise told us how she had acquired the picture of a submerged cathedral (for which she had been the only bidder) painted by Pamela Colman Smith. Pamela often painted what she heard and said that many of her works were based on music. Caroline said that Pamela had been listening to Debussy’s *La Mer* while painting the submerged cathedral, but Debussy actually wrote a piece called “*La Cathedrale Engloutie*” so I am wondering which came first. Some samples of PCS’s work were shown on screen. If you “google” Pamela Colman Smith you can find websites which show some of her paintings; look out particularly for the Annancy stories and the “Lair of the White Worm” (illustrated for Bram Stoker). Some of the other pictures we saw echo parts of the tarot (I haven’t found any of those on line yet, but will keep looking). If you think of the Moon card, without the Moon and the dogs, just see the empty

landscape with the little towers, you see a characteristic feature of some of her work. One painting had a Japanese feel, pale colours, a Mt Fuji shape in the background. There was a nice connection with the neighbourhood of the venue as the Lyceum Theatre where PCS worked with Henry Irving and Ellen Terry was close by. One of the websites shows drawings she did to illustrate a ballet book written by Ellen Terry.

Mary Greer sent a reading which was read out at the beginning. The reading accompanies this article.

The meeting concluded by saying that Pamela Colman Smith had dared to be herself in her work and her lifestyle in an age when women were expected to conform to others’ expectations.

After the talk we resumed our drinks (from which you will infer we had had drinks *before* as well) and had some birthday cake.

There was a tarot card on each seat, and someone to do an on the spot quick reading. He was only able to do a few so some of us read for each other.

Pixie’s 129th Birthday Reading

A Tarot Reading by Mary K. Greer
for her birthday celebration at Treadwell’s Bookshop in 2007.

“Note: Pamela Colman Smith was born on 16 February 1878 in Pimlico, Middlesex (London). She died in 1951 at the age of 73.

Happy 129th Birthday, Pixie.

In honour of this occasion I’ve drawn three tarot cards from your deck as published by Rider & Co in the early 70s.

The first card answers “What is your greatest gift to the world for which we should thank you?”
And the card is JUSTICE Reversed. As a gift this can’t refer to the injustice in not having your cards called by your name. Therefore, it could stand for your humility. Perhaps it represents a kind of ironical “poetic justice” that your fame has become well-established through a “big job for very little cash.” However, I prefer to think that your gift is nonjudgmentalness.

You never wrote a word about the tarot. You didn’t define meanings or explain symbols. You didn’t tell us how to interpret or think about your images but let them speak for themselves—from eyes to heart. They are not rational or part of a system, but overturn all the rules and laws that some try to impose upon them. You left us your only directions for interpreting the cards in an article you wrote in *The Craftsman* entitled “Should the Art Student Think?”

“Note the dress, the type of face; see if you can trace the character in the face; note the pose. . . . First watch the simple forms of joy, of fear, of sorrow; look at the position taken by the whole body. . . . After you have found how to tell a simple story, put in more details. . . . Learn from everything, see everything, and above all *feel* everything! . . . Find eyes within, look for the door into the unknown country.”

The second card answers “What do we give you in return?”

This is our birthday present to you and the card is THE SUN. I see this our feeling joy and happiness on your birthday. We should play with your tarot cards, approaching them with the fresh innocence and delight of a child. We are here to celebrate your life: to have fun.

The third card answers “What do you want us to know?”

The card is the PAGE OF CUPS. To me, this confirms the other two cards. Yours is a work of love, born of a direct communion with Spirit. You ask us, likewise, to listen to our intuition, to open our hearts in

innocence and trust, and to appreciate the wonders of life and the magic in our communications with the cards. I propose that, like the Page of Cups, we lift our own cups in a toast in loving memory of you, and acknowledge how all here present have been drawn together out of love and appreciation for your work and your life and all you have given to the world.

Happy Birthday and many more to come.”

Mary K. Greer

Practise, Practise – The Tarot Journal column

Diana McMahon-Collis

Greetings, tarot journal fans! Or should that be tarot journal-ists?! Either way, I have an admission to make. The words I wrote in the last column “a fundamental belief that divination is a growing-living practice and . . .there is always something new to learn” came back to haunt me. I was giving readings at a very elegant public event and, as is often the case, various cards repeated throughout the evening. Fifteen readings on I was still amused by the sheer regularity of the appearance of the Wheel of Fortune and 6 of Pentacles. As for the “haunting”, it was just that I realised I’d gone onto autopilot with my interpretations of the 6 of Pentacles – up until that evening. When a card comes up so many times, reading after reading like that, you have to take note – after all, the context is different for each and every person. Or is it? Well, clearly it did have different meanings for different people. I usually see it as saying something about the power in a relationship. More often than not it has shown up, in the past, in readings for people who felt they were not being paid enough in their work, or were being bullied at home or otherwise rather put upon in some area of life. Not so for most of my clients that evening, though. The light dawned, the penny dropped – they were mostly people of some stature, in one way and another and the card was talking either about charitable donations or an element of control in decisions concerning younger family members. We got there in the end with those interpretations – and of course they are fairly stock meanings for the 6 of Pentacles, but it was interesting to see how context called for something different from me.

More centrally, this event was one that occurred around the period for which I drew the last card of the column – for the 20th December New Moon in Sagittarius, which was Temperance, XIV in the Major Arcana. The messages of that card also came through loud and clear for me as I had some issues with my health at the time. The sudden onset of a stomach bug the day before meant that I needed to concentrate on keeping very calm that evening, so as to avoid copious sudden trips to the Ladies! I felt more in touch with the alchemical feel of the card, even, since maintaining this calm meant working on transforming any negative feelings into positive on the spot. I don’t know if it’s the same for you but, whenever I am under par health-wise, my feelings are intensified. Given that clairsentience – powerful physical feelings linked to the querent and their cards - has been my primary “psychic” signifier for many years, I was having a very intense time of it on the feelings front that night! The only way to manage was to think my way into another feeling and focus on giving out the most loving and positive energy possible. Although I have read in various group and public settings quite a bit over the years, it was a new challenge to read at a private function where just about everyone knew everyone else, with a brief to keep it light-hearted. The deck used last time was the Pagan tarot, but the images for card XIV that stick in my mind are from the RWS and Thoth tarot decks, where a figure is pouring fluid from one vessel into another. Somehow this feels like the need to carefully measure how much can be imparted and aptly reflects the pressure I felt to keep some of the information that came into my head when giving a reading firmly to myself. Overall, a need for Temperance, indeed!

In writing this now we’re into the new year and about to experience the 3rd January full Moon at 12 degrees of Cancer. Thoth is my deck of choice this time as I’m having a bit of a “fling” with it at the moment after discussion with Emma Sunerton-Burl about her new Thoth course has rekindled my interest in Crowley’s deck. And so, with no more ado, the card drawn for this period is 8 of Wands, Swiftess. Well I have to say it’s very apt for a full Moon, that being traditionally a “full” time, literally. I always feel that my plate’s about to be very full when I see the 8 of Wands coming along in a reading. In Crowley’s card (or Lady Frieda Harris’s painting, to be fair) there is a rainbow arc of colour above a pair of stacked pyramids on top of which sit zigzag red arrows. These are reminiscent of lightning bolts or electric currents.



The whole card seems to be tingling with energy and I have to say that the symbolism is massively apt for my current work situation – and I find Wands are often linked to one’s work, not least of all for anyone working in the spiritual/esoteric field. I have had lots of new enquiries this week, with requests for readings and information about the astrology course I’m teaching. I have also needed to get a mail shot together as well as a lot of printing of new brochures and flyers, plus the paperwork needed for welcoming the first candidate onto the pilot Nutrition programme that I’m leading from the start of next week. I had been feeling a bit sluggish after Christmas and having had a virus, but this new spate of interest and the general need for information to be imparted has catapulted me into motion again!

As for the title Swiftness, well actually yes, it has all needed to be managed very quickly. The card carries the zodiac symbols for planet Mercury – for communication - and the sign of Sagittarius, which is associated with “broadcasting” and generally getting one’s message out there. This and the zigzag arrows also seem fitting for the ambitious, somewhat trailblazing quality of the Nutrition programme, as it’s all about a mind-body-spirit approach to addressing weight problems and I’m really excited about its success potential! Perhaps the rainbow is like the Sagittarian spirit of chasing those coloured things. Yet I find the symbolism oddly relevant just now as I’ve been making a closer connection with the angelic realm of late and especially Archangel Uriel, who is associated with rainbows. Phew, it’s all feeling a bit overwhelming with the 8 of Wands!

Two weeks on and I can confirm that life has been full on in a typical 8 of Wands way, requiring more meetings, conversations and emails than usual. I have also been very busy with giving tarot readings from home. Mind you, that last full Moon was conjunct Mars, the go-get-’em planet in my birth chart, in the 9th house which is linked with spiritual endeavours and anything ambitious. Rather apt for the spirit of rainbow-chasing mentioned above, as Sagittarius’s natural home in the astrological chart is the 9th house.

Now the January 19th new Moon is imminent, though, and I want to draw the card for that new Moon. I’m keeping with Thoth! The new Moon will be at 28 degrees and 41 minutes of Capricorn and the card drawn is the 2 of Swords, subtitled Peace. Of course this card does not normally signify true peace – it’s more the idea of “peace at any price”. But the person seeking this outer truce is usually experiencing a great deal of inner conflict. It’s been an apt card with regard to a recent reading for a client – came up in their reading and related to the issue of whether or not to say something important to someone whose response they feel afraid of. I get that lip-biting feel when I look at the card. The Thoth version is very abstract compared with the 2 of Swords from other decks. The LWB details it as signifying a “stalemate” or “standstill”. Things are hanging in the balance. I can’t say that I’m overly happy about seeing this card. There are a number of projects I would like to move forward on and yet keeping my focus on them all sufficiently to achieve any progress feels difficult! There is definitely a feeling of putting up or shutting up in my work life; arrangements that were entirely comfortable have been changed and although I’m not completely happy about them I don’t feel that saying much about this will help. Are there any links astrologically? Well, 28 degrees of Capricorn falls within the 3rd house of my horoscope, which happens to rule communication. And, of course, Capricorn is known for being reserved and reserving judgement, in particular. As I have Mercury, the communications planet, in the silent/secretive 12th house in the sign of Libra keeping my thoughts to myself is nothing new. And it does create an uneasy “truce” at times.

A few days on with the new Moon now very close, I have had several situations of feeling the need to “say something” with it feeling very difficult and risky to actually go ahead. In each case the issue has needed to be addressed somehow. Yet patience seemed wise – the 2 of Swords seems so much like a smaller version of the High Priestess at times. What was really interesting was to find that certain situations did actually resolve themselves, without me having to say or do very much at all! All that was needed was some diplomacy, clarity and understanding. This has put a new light on the 2 of Swords. Maybe sometimes those swords uncross themselves because nobody can stand tension for too long.



The 2nd February full Moon in Leo is here. Its angle is close to the point in my own birth chart that links with career and reputation and I can immediately recognise how it reflects the busy time that I am having in establishing two new angles in my career. But what of the tarot card for the full Moon period? Again, the trusty Thoth is at the ready and I am asking for illumination regarding the flavour of this period – what is the spiritual message and/or what is required as the human response to it? The card turned up is the 3 of Cups, entitled Abundance. From the inner vaults of my tarot consciousness this card always signifies to me social times and the importance of group efforts, no matter what the deck. It seems very apt at the moment because the program that I am developing to help people naturally heal their weight issues is called the 3Ns (the Ns stand for nature, nutrition and nurture) and, including myself, there are three practitioners involved in carrying out the work of the program. In some of my other decks the 3 of Cups shows three women dancing together and this is very descriptive of my colleagues and I as we are all female! In the Thoth card, though, there are no human figures. Instead, there are three red chalices which have a “bejewelled” quality in the way that they are designed. They balance on yellow lotus blossoms (clever that – lotus blossoms don’t look so strong!) and above them are rays of light, with further blossoms connecting into them. The link between nature and matter is strong in this card with the wiry stems of the blossoms forming a structure that is almost like a candelabra in design. The whole image has the feel of a spiritual artefact – something that you might find in an elaborate church setting, perhaps. I don’t know enough about Crowley’s early spiritual background to know if there might be a Catholic church influence here. I did notice the other day, from his birth data, that he was born in Leamington Spa, but that doesn’t really help!

What I can say for sure is that in the 1989 Aquarius Press book featuring this deck, “Tarot, Mirror of the Soul” Gerd Ziegler says that the three cups are made of pomegranates, symbolising “the vital treasures inherent in uncommon love”. The beams of light (or streams of pomegranate juice) symbolise love pouring out with overflowing joy, with the love being of “the highest order” and “available to be shared by only a small circle of people”.



What a reassuring, feel-good factor this card has! Ziegler emphasises that this is about an intimate exchange of precious and exquisite feelings and there is a focus on great care, respect and gratitude. The card perfectly sums up for me the exchanges going on in the nutrition work, including the one to one coaching-with-nutritional-therapy stand-alone version that I am developing alongside the three-practitioner program which mixes this with physical complementary therapies focusing on detoxing and rebalancing the body. In both cases, the role that I perform in counselling, coaching and mentoring clients feels like something very special. It is the quality of the professional relationship formed that is special – I feel greatly honoured to be working with people at such a deep and meaningful level. It also feels deeply nurturing to be focusing on what will help them to create positive changes in this area of their lives.

The work is so much about nurture and needing to develop a more loving relationship with the self. It is the aspect of human living that gets overlooked all too often, or distorted into other processes, including addiction and various habitual behaviours that may even be the opposite of self-nurturing. The support aspect of the card is also strongly reflected in the exchange of energies with my two colleagues; somehow we help to keep one another balanced and, through our commitment to a mind-body-spirit approach, can understand the issues and needs of our clients all the better for perceiving their situations from this three-pronged, holistic perspective. I feel that a similar three-armed energy is developing in my one-to-one work, where the relationship is not only between myself and the client but also with a third party – Spirit. Or angelic help, Source, the collective unconscious, deities or other invisible forces that I may call upon and recognise to assist in the understanding and healing process. In working with coaching, spiritual counselling and nutritional therapy tools together, there is a fine balance that has to be struck between imparting specialised knowledge and allowing the client’s own insights to develop. I am strongly aware that, in incorporating *the body* in this work focus – which I knew I would be starting to do on beginning to include nutrition in my work arena – there is truly an added dimension. When working as a tarot reader or astrologer, I am making the link between mind and spirit, for/with myself and others. In focussing on healing issues that relate to the body – albeit in an entirely “hands off” format – I sense the work is being extended to include the tangible element of Earth. But the portal in this case is the mouth – both in terms of what clients consume in their daily diet – and in relation to what we discuss. This area of holistic health is very much about the dynamics of input and output at every level. And what is fascinating is that although there is no apparent link directly to the body in the work, the translation of knowledge, self-understanding and realisation into action relating to feeding, taking exercise and consciously using affirmations can then link into body changes in a powerful and evident way.

Well it is now time to choose the next card, for the new Moon at 28 Aquarius on 17th February. Before doing so I shall add that I recently joined a Psychic Development circle, which seems apt for the 3 of Cups, too! I am currently working with three spirit guides, as it happens.... Reaching for the trusty Thoth, the card that emerges for the new Moon phase is XIII Death from the Major Arcana. I am actually choosing the card a day or two later than the new Moon (tut tut) which means that I cannot help but notice the inner changes developing at TABI – mostly our chairman resigning early – because this card does so often represent shifts that we knew were coming.



With this card I always get the feeling that whatever it refers to, the person knows that change cannot be put off any longer. It reminds me of a message that “came through” at the psychic circle, too – “the time is now”. It was a personal message for me to get on with more of the aspects of the work I’ve been doing that relates to taking matters forward at a spiritual level. On the one hand this is about bringing more of the spiritual into the work relating to healing the body (the nutrition program) – my guides in our guided meditation gave me a crystal ball, a scalpel and a stethoscope, which I have taken to indicate working with psychic surgery. At the same time I am about to embark on teaching the first of the astrology courses that have been in the pipeline for a while. If I’m honest I will admit that I’ve put this off for a very long time. I could always think of a good reason not to do it.

Probably just fear at the bottom of it all, as usual! But I knew a while back that I must pay attention, when Bev, a good friend from the TABI days of old (Ye Olde TABIe!) sent me a box of astrology books by courier. Why me to be the recipient of such an abundant gift of this nature? I suppose you could put it down to the law of attraction; my extant astrology texts constitute a veritable library. But then surely someone else deserved the box of goodies? However, it had actually been quite some time since I’d treated myself to an astrology book splurge; tarot decks and various new age paraphernalia (crystals etc) had been the shopping mainstays for a good few years. So I was ready for an update and found that of the books on offer very few had I read or already in my possession. I had seen the signs in other ways too; the signs saying that I must truly change my ways. And change my ways I have done, or at least begun to do. Several bad habits that were affecting my health have gone out the window. A couple of old issues that needed to be let go of have been released, together with the two stones worth of excess weight that were evidence they were being held on to! I know that, in seeing this card, the Death card, before me now, I am on that path fully and firmly. There is no going back – to the old habits, the outmoded ways of being, nor the unhappy side of the psyche that had had to put up with them. In heading forward into a different future I am happy to notice new friends in my midst; people I could not have envisaged being around me under the old regime. Some (positive) old habits die hard though and I feel an urge to check the card at the base of the deck before wrapping up the diary for this round (as the deadline is looming). The card is the 3 of Disks, subtitled Works. Of course it confirms the situation perfectly; it’s all about work. But also about “doing what works” - and understanding how spiritual energy can work through me if I will allow it some space. The disks are like wheels in this card and I do have that feeling of wheels turning – and a heart that’s beating in a more “alive” way. It is of course a card relating to money as well and I feel that this is an area in which I am also making improvements, not least after reading about and acting on some of the ideas of *Cosmic Ordering*. The concepts are familiar; the techniques have been around in various guises for a long time. But I also remember the message that came through earlier: the time is now!

The final card for this diary is being drawn towards the end of February and relates to the eclipsed full Moon at 13 Virgo on 3rd March. It is the 5 of Swords, entitled “Defeat”. For a card with a fairly dismal theme, it’s got some pretty colours going for it! There’s a pentacle at the centre and the swords all turn inward, joining at its centre. I feel the card is talking about holistic qualities and the problem of fighting because it means that, ultimately, our relationships mirror our inner connections and we are simply experiencing conflict internally. In fighting others we hurt ourselves. Yet, if we don’t pierce through to the heart of what bothers us, that can hurt us, too.

Interestingly, this sums up the essential nature of the issues the client was struggling with. Because there was a lot of resistance to the interpretations that I offered in the session, I was in touch with that fear myself, too! The card is associated with Venus in Aquarius and Ziegler says “the challenge is to make room for your own objectivity and clarity (blue border) despite the fear of defeat. The white in the centre of the painting represents the bright spirit attempting to break through the power of fear”. Anyone who has ever been in a similar reading situation will probably relate to the feelings involved. It is difficult when a client seeks a specific set of meanings or answers and gets something different, which the cards or astrological symbols insist on repeating over and over again. The unmissable repetition suggests that the message is the “truth” but it is clear from the client’s reaction that this is painful. As for the personal message, Ziegler says: “If you are afraid to see control slipping out of your hands, remember, the feeling that you are in control is an illusion! Seeing, understanding, accepting and letting go of your fear will set you free.” He then asks an interesting question: What do you associate with the idea of defeat? I have to say that this brings up a lot of things for me, in the context of reading for others: some of the key facets include not managing to convey the meanings of some of the more challenging components of a birth chart or tarot card spread (even though if a client is blocking aspects of the reading it may become quite impossible to do so) and feeling that one has been unable to help the client towards the greater sense of personal power that they were hoping for. I realise that’s a complex issue, though. I do usually emphasise the power of choice for individual people but those people may see “empowerment” as meaning “being in control” when, in reality, it might be more to do with letting go and allowing greater self-realisation. Defeat is ... an unhappy client? More often than not clients will leave a reading situation feeling clearer, happier and more optimistic about the future. On the odd occasion that this doesn’t happen, it is usually because some difficult realisation or other painful episode needs to surface. The reading will have tapped into this painful or fear-filled area and will have identified it as the block that the client has been hoping to identify and move – but which has probably eluded them so far because some instinct has ensured that they’ve been doing their hardest to avoid it. And who wouldn’t? The 5 of Swords here does seem very apt. I feel I have seen enough of what happens to people who attempt to repress, submerge, deny or avoid painful emotions over the long-term to be convinced it’s not the best

way forward. Yet I also want to see clear signs of hope in this card and would suggest it has to be there in the colours – the green and pink of the heart chakra (green outside, pink inside). A quick check on the symbolism of the pomegranate seeds that form the pentacle shape, at www.beliefnet.com, offers: hope that (from Judaism) the new cycle will be fruitful and, also, the belief (from Christianity) that from the blood of martyrs flow the seeds of faith. Until next time, then, could someone please pass the fruit bowl.....!



So maybe this is the double-edged sword of truth and conflict, which can equate to pain and yet also freedom. The Ziegler book says “fear of painful situations or experiences; equilibrium is lost; old wounds have been touched and bleed anew”. The card brings to mind a recent reading where a client was carrying a lot of pain that was being avoided. In Ziegler’s book the swords in the card are described as injured and out of harmony (they are curved or have sections missing). “Each sword’s grip indicates a different aspect of this situation”. The various symbols represent different factors:

Fish = the past

Ram’s horn = new impulses lacking; nothing will be set in motion

Sleeping snake = no renewal happening

Seashell = need for protection.

“Fear of defeat dominates the moment”.

E-zine Survey

By Alison Cross, Editor

In December last year, I decided to carry out a completely unscientific survey into the uptake of this free-zine amongst the membership.

Instead of loading the pdf document up to the Yahoo! Files section, the Yule 2006 issue was to be available solely from me on request. This would give me an indication as to the popularity of the e-zine.

In addition, those who requested the e-zine were also sent a brief questionnaire and invited to comment as to the content and appearance of the magazine.

Given the amount of effort that goes into the e-zine – by members who gladly write original copy and authors who give me permission to take excerpts from their work to use and abuse on your behalf – the uptake was, frankly, dismal.

From a membership of over 350, the total number of requests for the Yule e-zine was 81. This means that only 23% of the membership requested the Yule magazine.

Of those 81 people, a grand total of 15 bothered to send me any kind of feedback about the magazine – for which I am extremely grateful.

The opinions offered were pretty much split down the middle – for everyone who didn’t bother with the statistics, someone else thought that they were very interesting; some loathed the book reviews, others found them extremely helpful! The most consistent opinion was that the e-zine was too long – obviously most folks print them out and having anything between 40-odd and 70-odd pages was proving a bit of a problem!

In response to those who replied – I have altered the margins and will keep the font a consistent size; pages will be kept to under 40 whenever possible; colour images will be kept small; book and deck reviews will be retained, but with fewer per issue; there will be articles supplied by members and authors; occasional poetry and quizzes; TABI news; hopefully some more polls. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to contribute in any way.

This is YOUR e-zine – help me make it exactly as you want it!

The Minor Arcana – The Watkins Tarot Handbook

By Naomi Ozaniec

Author Naomi Ozaniec has kindly given permission for TABI to take an excerpt from her book, The Watkins Tarot Handbook. This section on the Minor Arcana appears in Chapter 1: Names and Titles just after the Majors have been discussed.

Crowley also attributed titles to the Minor Arcana. These evocative titles express the essential nature on the pip cards more powerfully than mere description. For instance ‘Two Wands’, conveys little, yet its title ‘Dominion’ instantly tells us something more. The Aces are described as the ‘Roots of all Powers’ of each suit. We may think of them as the seeds of the elements. In the Aces, we find elemental beginnings. In the Tens we find the final concretion of the elemental powers. We find a gradual descent of energy from the purest spiritual form represented by the Ace to the most dense form represented by the Ten in accordance with the concept of Maya.

The Suit of Wands

1	The Root of the Powers of Fire	6	Victory
2	Dominion	7	Valour
3	Virtue	8	Swiftness
4	Completion	9	Strength
5	Strife	10	Oppression

The Suit of Cups

1	The Root of the Powers of Water	6	Pleasure
2	Love	7	Debauch
3	Abundance	8	Indolence
4	Luxury	9	Happiness
5	Disappointment	10	Satiety

The Suit of Swords

1	The Root of the Powers of Air	6	Science
2	Peace	7	Futility
3	Sorrow	8	Interference
4	Truce	9	Cruelty
5	Defeat	10	Ruin

The Suit of Discs

1	The Root of the Powers of Earth	6	Success
2	Change	7	Failure
3	Work	8	Prudence
4	Power	9	Gain
5	Worry	10	Wealth

Exercise

Take the names of the Minor Arcana in turn. Write down all the free associations that spring to mind. For example – Work – labour, struggle, effort: Ruin – disaster, failure, catastrophe, loss, upheaval, trauma.

In a later chapter, Ozaniec discusses the symbolism found in the cards. Here Angels are the topic under consideration.

The Tarot, like the Bible, contains several angelic figures. Angels traditionally act as divine messengers. The angel Gabriel acted as enunciator to Mary. The Koran was traditionally received from Gabriel too. The name Gabriel means ‘The Strong One of God’. According to tradition, Qabalah was also received through angelic revelation. The angelic presence represents a higher form of consciousness originating outside the human mind. We find that angels are represented on Trump VI, Trump XX and Trump XIV.

If we are to understand the full meanings of these particular Trumps, we need to become familiar with the functions traditionally assigned to certain angels. Qabalah recognises a complex hierarchy of angelic beings and attributes.

The four elements are also associated with a different angelic presence.

The Archangels and the elements

The Element of Earth
The Element of Air

Uriel
Raphael

The Element of Fire
The Element of Water

Michael
Gabriel

Identifying the angels depicted on the three Trumps is not as straightforward as this basic table of correspondences might indicate. Different authorities prefer different interpretations. This is an object lesson in itself. The flexibility presented through a symbol system does not preclude various interpretations. For instance, according to William Gray, respected twentieth-century Qabalist, the angel depicted on Trump XX is Gabriel whose sign is the Horn of the Annunciation and the element of Water. On the other hand, it is more common to see this force as being Michael, archangel of Fire. This corresponds to the esoteric title of this Trump, the Spirit of Primal Fire. Gareth Knight treats the angel depicted on Trump XIV as Raphael. Paul Foster Case, another celebrated twentieth-century teacher, regards this angel as Michael. Do not let these apparent contradictions confuse you. You need to come to your own understanding and make your own choice when you have internalised the relevant symbol connections

My Lenormand

By Eliza Khapatnyukovskya

Russian member, Eliza, shares with us her view on this intriguing deck.



The Lenormand deck has its roots firmly in the writings of Etteilla, but was developed by French fortunetellers of 19th century who continued to develop the traditions of modern French cartomancy.

In the Tarot world this area doesn't look like *terra incognita*, but the deck is not well known because of a lack of literature and because of the non-traditional sights of the deck's developers themselves.

That aside, the most important fact to consider here is that these decks were made by practicing Fortune tellers. Etteilla and Lenormand were not just theorists, but earned their livings from the art of fortune-telling and so highly regarded were they that there were queues for their consultations in Paris.

So, any professional will appreciate this deck in much the same way as a violinist would appreciate Paganini's violin.

The Small Lenormand deck is what I wish to talk about today. It consists of 36 cards. It is not necessary to compare it with Tarot for each of these systems has its own special charm. It doesn't mean "each of them has merits and demerits of it's own", it should be regarded as something like the tastes of various kitchens!

Each card corresponds to a traditional playing card and is numbered from 1 up to 36, and has a suit theme which is reflected in a figure on each card. These names are simple, for example, the Horseman, the Cross, the Fishes, the Clover. The first layer of their interpretation is straightforward and quite easy to work with.

The Horseman is more often any news which is not bearing too serious consequences. The Fishes means execution of hopes, success in the enterprises, money and is "many" different good events. Growing near a road Clover reflects small successes, small pleasures. The severe Cross means "a way is closed", heavy tests or even death.



In cartomancy special value is given to combinations of cards, on two and on three. Sometimes such combination obviously follows from the pair, for example, the Fishes + the Cross signifies material losses. Sometimes this consequence at once is not obvious, for example, the Lilies + the Bear means high protection.

Another feature of Lenormand system is active use of numerology. Numerology forms the basis of many useful spreads. As well as this, by using the numbers appropriated to each card it is possible to learn "sum" and sense of the received combination of cards.



For example, in a simple numerical spread (let's assume we are asking advice about whether it is wise to enter a certain enterprise) we take three cards: the Lily (30), the Letter (27) and the Bear (15). Their sum is 36 (72 – 36), i.e. the Cross. The Lilies (cleanliness, innocence), the Letter (official documents) and the Bear (owner) can be treated as "correctly legalized papers give the control over a situation" and as "naivety in the formal party of business will lead to dependence on the owner". Since as the sum we have received Cross, which does not recommend entering the enterprise, we understand that the second interpretation is true.

Most of published Lenormand decks have simple figures which do not distract attention at work and are very lovely, unostentatious and unpretentious. As a rule, these figures are not plots, and are close to single symbols. However, for fans there are also much more elaborate decks, for example, " Les cartes mystiques de Mlle Lenormand " publishing by AG Muller.

The understanding of simplicity of this deck will lead studying of another, more deep, layers of understanding. With it one can do extremely exact psychological portraits, study events of a public life, and investigate karmic problems. Here again this simplicity will help to fortuneteller to use concrete, instead of indistinct formulations.

The expert in astrology, undoubtedly, will establish planet-card correspondences, and experts on psychology will note archetypes in many of symbols. And the combination in one spread Tarot and Lenormand cards till now amazes me with the effectiveness.

The Lenormand deck is simple to work and is able to create a good mood. More importantly, the Lenormand gives a great deal to both the beginner and the experienced reader.

Sacred Circle Tarot – 1 The High Priest

By Emma Sunerton-Burl



This Month's Card is the High Priest. In other decks he is often called the Magician or Magus. Have a look at your own deck and see what comes to mind when you look at the card and then put yourself in light and go into the card. See what he has to say to you. (Details of how to do this on my website www.seeds-of-light.co.uk.)

This is my journey.... He is standing upright in a lush field reading a sacred document. I feel he is centered and calm, and concentrating very easily. He is wearing golden robes that seem to be very rich as well as simple. He has the sun as his third eye point and I feel he has a strong sense of who he is, clear and penetrating in his insight into things. There is a sun up in a purple sky which kind of gives it an otherworldly appearance. Around the card are flowers, meadow flowers which seem to feel both fragile and beautiful, dancing freely in the breeze – there seems to be a feeling of happy freedom going on here yet grounded in the earth and not getting carried away.

Going into the card..... The orange flowers say – "We are here to give of ourselves to the bees; they love our nectar. We are good for mental processes in a healing sense, use us well. It is our service that we offer you this healing." I feel they might be calendula but they don't look like marigolds. "We are many petaled flowers that tell of many things that you can do, we have so many different ways of seeing the world depending on our perspective." The sun above - framed by two fern leaves- is the old sun: the center of your soul, the core of who you are. This is who the High Priest is calling to the Self within as well as the sun on the outer being the reflection of his true spiritual nature.

"Excuse me kind sir may I talk with you for a while?" I ask the High Priest. "Yes" he replies "What are you reading?" "I am reading the Akashic records, the spiritual records of all time, everything that is, was and will be is contained here. I wish to learn and learn and learn. I want to know the universe and all that is in it. I honour the natural world both in nature and within us humans. I wish to know how we can best work together and serve the highest potential of all things. I want to create here on earth, but I do not wish to destroy what is around me. Sometimes I get so lost in my learning I forget to look up and see what is creating around me all the time. I can be so focused I need to be reminded of the bigger picture. On any topic I can find the answer, though my purpose is not to help you, but to learn and grow and make connections to the higher places so that others may learn how to do this for themselves. I am not a teacher but the conduit to knowledge. I wear these robes so that I am both otherworldly and this worldly the golden colour is the colour of protection and of spirit. "

"What do you represent as a card?" – I can be the man of knowledge, the one with training, the one who connects you to others, consultant type person. I also am a scholar and student in the study sense, create what you want by using knowledge to do it. "

He shows me his book and I ask how I would find out something - he said he would take me into the book - I was to ask the questions I needed to know about and the book with him would show me the answers I needed at this time.

As we come back out of the book I lie down on the grass meadow and look up at the sun allowing its rays of warm light to penetrate and heal me to my core – I feel my inner self warm and fill with love. The High Priest goes back to his book and I am allowed my own clear space to receive love from spirit. I feel the tension I have carried with my slip away as I bath in the light. Over the next few days I contemplated this card and the journey I experienced into it - I feel he is about mental healing and understanding of situations as well as the messenger from spirit. Giving you hints and guidelines to the way for you to go without actually doing it for you. He is a bit wrapped up in himself too in a way. But it's as if he has a part to play and if it was him alone then things would be learned about but nothing much actually done with the knowledge but, as he is in connection with cards around him in a reading, he is an aid usually.

As reversed card - I feel he would be indicating someone not looking at the knowledge they already have or the abilities they already have. Perhaps even being a bit of a perpetual student. Not using the available resources, sitting back in the sun too much, wanting others to give them knowledge. I feel the sun part could also represent the self, in the upright position, knowing thyself and communicating this to the outside world, and reversed that there was a need to bring the self into awareness and expression.

It feels a very different card to the Magicians I know from the Thoth deck I use. He seems much more isolated in his skills, and has need of another to create something, whereas in Thoth, the Magicians seem to do the creating and are much more active and less studious somehow.

There is a more detailed account of the light visualisation on my website for going into your cards as well as more on this journey into The High Priest. I welcome any comments on this article or the visualisations you do following this method. Email me on emma@seeds-of-light.co.uk. See Emma's advert in The Tarot High Street for full contact details.

The Queen of Swords' Lunch

By Lucy Voss

Lucy shares her vision of lunch with the Swords family with us – does it help you with your Court Cards?!

The Queen of Swords was holding a small lunch party. She wasn't renowned for her hospitality but she "owed" a few people. She looked at the dining table where each place was set precisely with its cutlery and plates. The King was not pleased. "I will be disturbed," he said, coming in to the dining room. "You know I have to finish that treatise on whether the Trojan Women used tarot cards, and my deadline is Monday." "It will only be lunchtime, dear," replied the Queen, "and we won't be drinking much alcohol." "We will if you've asked those dratted Challis triplets," said the King. "Well, I haven't, so you can go back to your Trojan Women, and leave me to finish off here. And there will be no skulking in your study. Aunt Justitia won't like it." "Oh, you've asked her, have you?" said the King. "Well at least there will be someone like-minded for me to talk to."

The Queen ground her teeth. Rex sometimes had an overly high opinion of his intellectual capacities.

The Queen went into the kitchen where one of the Pentacle cousins was busy doing things with vegetables and one of the Queen's extra sharp kitchen knives. The cousin was at catering college, and the Queen thought it was most convenient that she could give the lad some practice in catering for a small party and herself have some unpaid help with the tricky bits, like making the food look pretty and having it all ready at the same time, something she had never quite understood how to do.

The doorbell rang. Decimus and Decima Pentacle arrived. "You haven't brought Decimus junior, then?" said the Queen. "No," said Decima, "he's at home with Grandpa and the dogs. I thought this might be rather a grown up lunch, and I know you and Rex find Junior a bit shy. It's Rex, really, he looks so fixedly at the child, it makes him nervous." The Queen refrained from comment, but she thought that Decimus junior was a rather nervous child in any case, and that the "fixed looks" were an excuse.

The doorbell rang again. Aunt Justitia stood there. She was wearing one of her becoming red dresses and a gold brooch shaped like the astrological glyph for Libra. Related though they were, the Queen and her aunt were not on kissing terms. They inclined their heads to each other in greeting and the Queen pointed her aunt in the direction of the sitting room and the Pentacles. Aunt Justitia shook hands with the Pentacles and sat on an upright chair. "Where is Decimus Junior?" she asked. The Pentacles repeated what they had said to the Queen of Swords. Aunt Justitia fixed a look on them (probably worse than one of Rex's looks, but one did not voice such thoughts in the presence of Aunt Justitia). "And what are you doing at the moment?" she asked, turning to Decimus. Decimus talked about various financial schemes he was involved in, some of which he thought would improve the family's portfolio. "And we've been doing some work on the family tree, too."

The Queen of Swords put her head round the door and said that lunch was ready. "Is this all we are?" asked Aunt Justitia. "No," said the Queen of Swords, "I invited Gaia as well but she isn't here yet. She must be finishing something off." Rex joined them at table and they helped themselves to chilled summer soup. The Queen collected the used bowls and was about to

remove the soup tureen when she heard a commotion in the garden. A young man had tied his little dog to the gatepost and then climbed over the wall ("Why on earth?" the Queen asked herself, for the gate was not locked.) The door burst open and the young man in a flowery shirt bounded in, leaving his patterned rucksack in the hall. "Hi, everyone," he said. "Gaia couldn't come, she says sorry, only she wasn't able to finish what she was doing just now, so she sent me instead. Oh, and here's a white rose I picked from someone's garden as I came along."

"And who are you?", said Rex and Aunt Justitia together, both looking sternly at the young man. "Oh, I am Zero," he replied, at the same time removing the soup tureen from the Queen's grasp, and helping himself generously. He couldn't see a clean spoon so he proceeded to drink straight from the bowl. Decimus and Decima looked shocked. Zero had obviously not had the sort of upbringing they were planning for Junior, such spontaneous, not to say untoward, behaviour! Rex looked disapproving, but that was something he did rather well in any case. The Queen felt her lunch was getting a little out of hand.

The Pentacle cousin came in with various cold cuts, a quiche or two and a selection of prettily arranged salads. The Queen of Swords proceeded to hack at the quiches whose pastry was really quite tough. She had made them herself to try and counter the impression she couldn't cook, but she hadn't really succeeded. "You should have let young Pentacle thingy in the kitchen make those," said Rex. The Queen looked rather pink. "Here," said Aunt Justitia, and seizing the pastry cutter she proceeded to cut both quiches into exactly even portions. "No, you don't," she said as Zero made to take most of one bowl of salad, and producing a small set of scales from her handbag, she weighed out fair portions for everyone. "There's one over," said Decima. "Yes," said Justitia, I am inviting young Pentacle to join us. It is not very fair of you, Regina, to expect him to work like this and not feed him or pay him." So young Pentacle joined them and talked to Zero about the latter's gap year, which seemed to have been going on for a long time.

"Coffee" said the Queen. "I'll have mine in the study," said Rex. The others repaired to the sitting room, and young Pentacle to the kitchen to make the coffee. Just as young Pentacle came in with the tray there was an outbreak of barking in the garden. Rex emerged from his study and looked over the top of his glasses at everyone. "I am trying to work!"

Everyone went to the garden to see what was going on. Zero's little dog was barking loudly and jumping at the end of his string. "Here, boy," said Zero, "why all the barking?" He slipped through the gate and untied his dog. "Doggie" said a voice Decimus and Decima recognised. They looked at each other questioningly. Decimus junior followed Zero and his dog into the garden. His parents peered round the gate. "Good gracious, what are you doing here?" exclaimed Decima. Grandpa and his two dogs were sitting on a low wall outside the garden. "We thought we'd go for a walk," said Grandpa. "But you brought the dogs with you, and you know Junior is afraid of them, and anyway they have fleas and all kinds of things." The King of Swords surprised everyone. "Why don't you come in?" he said. "It's a long time since we had a decent conversation." "Do you know grandpa, then?" asked Decimus. "Why of course, he was my Philosophy tutor when I was at university."

"Doggie" said Junior again. He began to play with Zero's dog. Decima thought of fleas and all kinds of other unpleasantness but she was not in her own home so she could not really say anything. Grandpa's dogs settled in Rex's study (what were a few dog hairs when there were intellectual matters to pursue?). "Time for me to go," said Zero collecting his rucksack. Decimus junior stuck his bottom lip out. "It's all right, little chap, you can keep my dog. I can easily get another one from somewhere." Before anyone could say anything, Zero heaved himself up the garden wall, pulling at the ivy as he did so, and disappeared. "It looks as if you have now acquired that dog," said Aunt Justitia. "It wouldn't be fair on Junior to make him give it up now." "Well, really," said Decima, how am I going to manage with a dog? It will chew the Aubusson, and cock its leg against the Family Tree and scratch the furniture, which has been handed down over generations." "It won't if you don't let it," said the Queen of Swords and looked at her watch. The Pentacles and Junior (plus dog on string) took the hint and walked back to their house. Aunt Justitia went off in a taxi. The Queen went into her kitchen. Young Pentacle had left it far cleaner than he had found it and tidied everything away. There was a murmur of voices from the study but otherwise she really had the house back to herself again. Bliss. She picked up the little vase into which young Pentacle had put Zero's white rose.

All the petals fell off.

© Lucy Voss

We Ask The Questions To.....Lon Milo DuQuette

Lon is one of our headline speakers at this year's Conference (6,7,8 July – Ammerdown Centre, Radstock – day delegate places still available!). I hope that you enjoy Lon's responses to your questions!

Q: First of all, can you set the scene for us, Lon. Describe your surroundings of where you are right now as you answer these questions.

A: I'm sitting in my office here at my home in Costa Mesa California, sipping a cup of tea (English Breakfast with lemon). It's 8:00 am and the sun is rising over our garden wall through my partially open window illuminating my bookcases and a wall of Ganesha posters and Masonic emblems. My desk is cluttered as always – with books and files and notes piled high in every direction. Constance in the adjacent bedroom doing her morning yoga with a Ravi Shankar CD filling the whole house with the soundtrack of our old hippie life. Yes. Incense is burning.

It's a little chilly this morning, around 60 f. I'm wearing black sweat pants, a black OTO tee shirt and a baseball cap with the eye in the triangle on it. I've been up since about 5:30 am answering my mail and trying to work on the drawings for a new book on Enochian magick.

Q: What role does tarot play in your own life? Do you use it for decision making, meditation etc?

A: Tarot plays a central role in my life. It is my constant companion. I take it with me everywhere. Its construction is a constant source of meditation and I view the streaming events of my ever-changing daily life as the shuffling, spreading, and reshuffling of the cards. But this process has long ago transcended the "Oh my! The damned Prince of Cups is beating me with the 3 of Disks again..." stage. The cards have ceased to be the metaphoric cartoons of my intellect and reasoning process (or as the Qabalists would say...my 'Ruach'), and have literally now become the communicating 'angels' of my intuitional life (or as the Qabalists would say...my Neshamah). In the language of tarot I am moving from the world of Swords to the world of Cups. I hope that makes sense.

That being said, I can honestly say that I have never consciously made an important decision based upon information I've received from a tarot reading or any other form of divination. This is not because I don't have confidence in the wisdom and efficacy of oracles, but because I am a self-centred, self-involved, bull-headed old fool who seldom takes wise advice from any of his friends or family, let alone from a pack of cards or the role of the dice.

Q: How do you view the working of the Tarot? For example, as "Magick"? Synchronicity? Dependant entirely on the development of the reader?

A: Please don't think that I'm making light of your question, or that I'm trying to be flippantly profound. But in truth, everything in LIFE is Magick. Everything in LIFE is Synchronicity. Everything in LIFE depends entirely on the development of the individual. Why should it be different with tarot?

The tarot 'works' because it is perfect. Truth reveals itself in perfection. It can come from the 'truth' of a perfect rose, or the 'truth' of a perfect sunset, or the 'truth' of a perfect act of love. The tarot's truth ultimately is based on the perfection of numbers and the mystical mathematics of the Qabalah ... this perfection is the source of the Magick, the Synchronicity, and the spiritual evolution and development of the reader.

Q: Is there one particular tarot card with which you identify, and if there is, why?

A: The Fool. Isn't it obvious? ☺

Q: We know that you did a great interview for The Tarot Connection . . . which is available as a Podcast, how can we view it?

A: Thank you. I love doing interviews because it gives me a chance to find out what I think about things. I think you can get to The Tarot Connection interview by going to:

<http://www.tarotconnection.net/>

Last month I recorded another interview for the Tarot-to-Go folks. I think you can find it at:

<http://www.tarot-to-go.net/Home.html>

I've got an old dial-up computer set up so I haven't actually heard any of my pod-cast interviews. (For that matter, because we don't have cable I've never seen any of my television interviews either.)

Q: As the song says, “You say Kabbalah, I say Qabalah, QBLH”why are there all these different spellings of the same word? Don't the different spellings denote the same thing?

A: Actually, in Hebrew the word Qabalah (I'll explain why I use that spelling in a moment) is simply spelled, Qoph, Beth, Lamed (QBL). Qoph (Q) obviously has a 'K' sound and when texts started to get translated into the various European languages (in this case German) it was determined that the closest phonetic rendering in German would have the word spelled “Kabbalah” and that is the classic European Jewish Kabbalists' way to spell it. Today, it Kabbalah with a K and two Bs refers most often to the branch of the study that is extremely Jewish and is entwined in Jewish life-styles and traditions and the study of the Torah and other classic texts.

Cabala with a C was taken up (mostly during the Renaissance) by Christian mystics who were fascinated with the Holy Science. Today it is probably the least used of the spellings but is still popular among Rosicrucianists and other Christian mystics.

Qabalah with a Q was adopted by European Hermeticists and ceremonial magicians to designate the aspect of the study that focuses on the mystical techniques that spring from qabalistic thought.

To quickly recap, it's mostly a matter of:

Kabbalah, for orthodox Jews

Cabala, for Christian Mystics

Qabalah for the rest of us.

Q: What looms largest in your life at the moment, Tarot or Kabbalah?

A: Actually both in the form of Enochian magick. I'm finishing up a new book on the subject that breaks new territory using more of the original Dee and Kelley material.

Q: In your opinion, is there is really a connection between Kabbalah and the Tarot or is it an artificial link?

A: See my comments above. Yes, there is a connection between the Kabbalah and Tarot:

22 Trumps = 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, 22 paths on the Tree of Life

3 Elemental Trumps = 3 Mother letters of the Hebrew alphabet representing Fire, Water, Air

7 Planetary Trumps = 7 Double letters of the Hebrew alphabet representing the 7 ancient planets

12 Zodiacal Trumps = 7 Simple letters of the Hebrew alphabet representing the 12 signs of the Zodiac

4 Suits, 4 Court Cards per Suit – 4 letters in YHVH

10 pips – 10 Sephiroth of the Tree of life.

This perfect Qabalistic construction of the tarot makes it perfect and tarot works because it is perfect.

Q: Which are the simplest ways for someone to start with linking Tarot and Kabbalah?

A: See my comments above and PLEASE buy and read my book, THE CHICKEN QABALAH OF RABBI LAMED BEN CLIFFORD. (I never said I wouldn't shamelessly promote!)

Q: How do other disciplines such as angels, astrology, etc fit in with Tarot and Kabbalah?

A: They fit in along clean qabalistic lines and order. I've written extensively on this and have created a tarot deck, (and book) TAROT OF CEREMONIAL MAGICK, that has much of the spirit and angelic information on the cards themselves. (There I go again.) Besides the astrological attributes of the Trumps, the lesser arcane teem with astrological and angelic life. Twelve of the Court Cards (the Kings, Queens, and Knights) rule 20 degrees of one zodiac sign to 20 of the next; each of the 36 pips (2-10 of each suit) rule the 36 decans (periods of 10 degrees) of the zodiacal year. The 36 pips also house (in pairs) the qabalistic 72 angels of the Shemhamphorash, and the 72 spirits of the Goetia.

Q: Presumably your study of symbolism began with the Kabbalah; what drew you particularly to Tarot, and why to Crowley's work?

A: Nope. My study of symbolism began with tarot ... then tarot got me involved with Aleister Crowley .. and then Aleister Crowley got me involved with Qabalah ... and then Qabalah got me seriously involved with tarot again ... then tarot got me seriously involved with the work of Aleister Crowley ... You get the picture.

Q: The Thoth deck provokes a strange reaction of fear in some people, possibly because of its association with that "very naughty man" (in their eyes), Aleister Crowley. Do you think that a deck does become imbued with the "vibrations" of its creator and as a result can interact negatively or positively with the user, depending on the user's make up?

A: Any work of art is imbued with the "vibrations" of its creator. And great art is often disturbing to some people, especially those who are unsophisticated or undereducated. For example, many conservative Christians view the classic Waite deck with mindless fear and loathing. They 'sense' the evil in it by virtue of it merely being a 'tarot' deck, and they've been told that tarot decks are evil. We know this stems from their ignorance and superstition. Crowley's personal reputation was horrible, and at times he was a nasty fellow. But so was Beethoven, Wagner, and Rabelais. Do sophisticated and educated people view their works with fear and loathing?

Those who are truly familiar with Crowley's body of work (something that unfortunately takes a considerable amount of time and a good collateral esoteric education to achieve) realise that there were few people in the 20th century more qualified to comment upon the tarot. Like a Beethoven symphony or a Wagnerian opera they appreciate the Thoth Tarot without allowing their distaste for the creator (deserved or not) to cloud their artistic judgement.

That being said, no one should use (or be forced to appreciate) a deck with which he or she 'feels' uncomfortable. Just as no one should be forced to sleep on a bed that is too hard or too soft for their sensitivities. But with all due respect to 'sensitive' tarotists who fear the Thoth deck (or indeed any piece of art) because they believe it is imbued with 'evil' of its creator, I must say that I believe that (like the conservative Christian) their attitude ultimately springs from ignorance and superstition.

Q: In an interview you referred, concerning Crowley, to "the horrifying and ridiculous rumours and accusations that dogged this remarkable man his whole life and continued after his death." Is there no smoke without fire?

A: Of course not. But if Crowley had been born even 25 years later his lifestyle and audacious public persona would have attracted less attention than say that of Timothy Leary or Hugh Hefner. There is a scrape of truth in almost all the terrible rumours about him – scraps that he was many times happy to embellish and amplify for the sake of publicity and the fun of scaring the scorable (is that a word?). But at the end of the day Crowley was never charged with (let alone convicted) of any crime more serious than bankruptcy.

Q: To what do you attribute Crowley's "collapse" in moral and spiritual terms, particularly in his later life?

A: I have not yet reached that level of spiritual illumination whereby I can judge with certainty another person's moral and spiritual status. However, I am familiar with Crowley's later years and find very little that I could characterise as a "collapse in moral and spiritual terms." In fact, the last few years of his life saw little or no scandalous behaviour, but did produce some of his most profound and exalted spiritual creations: Magick Without Tears; The Book of Thoth; and the Thoth Tarot.

Q: Why is OTO so defensive of the use of the Thoth deck being in the public domain, like say the Waite/Colman Smith deck?

A: It was Crowley's wish that the OTO be the organisation (indeed, the business) that would produce, protect, and perpetuate his work for the centuries to come. In my opinion that is precisely what it is doing. As holders of certain of Crowley's copyrights the OTO would be poor stewards of his intellectual and artistic property if they were to relinquish their legal rights to do just that.

The Thoth Tarot in quality editions is readily available world-wide. It remains one of the most popular decks in the world. The companion book, The Book of Thoth (immaculately edited and annotated to qualify for university libraries around the world) is also readily available worldwide. These and scores of other Crowley works (many never published in Crowley's lifetime) are available in quality editions because of the publishing work and exacting editorial attention of the OTO.

Q: I'm not familiar with the Thoth deck or the viewpoint of the OTO - why is high ritual so important?

A: I'm not sure I know what you mean by "high ritual." I can tell you that the Thoth Tarot plays no role in the rituals of the OTO.

Q: How much did Lady Frieda Harris contribute to the symbolism and content of the Thoth deck, not just the artwork?

A: Crowley pretty much let her know what needed to be in the cards and told her to pull out what he didn't like. I include some of their letters back and forth about this subject in my "Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot"

Q: If you could name a few 'high-lights' on your journey with the Thoth-deck, what would they be?

A: The first is the fact that the Thoth Tarot introduced me to the works Aleister Crowley and the world of the western mystery tradition and magick.

Another is the thrill of being invited to come to Bristol to speak on the Thoth Tarot!

Q: I use the Book T astrological correspondences for the pip cards. I know nothing about Kabbalah but I've been told that these correspondences are based on the Tree of Life. Is this true? If so, do you think that a basic knowledge of Kabbalah would be of practical help in my Tarot readings.

A: Yes. Yes.

Q: You stated (in an interview with Pagan News) that the Book of the Law is, to you, a divine revelation, and that it's holy because it frees you to make it holy. Surely this kind of logic can be used to excuse behaviour of any sort, regardless of the wishes of the recipient of that behaviour. A kind of "If it shocks you out of your normal modes of behaviour, it must be good for you!" Any comments?

A: Boy! Did my words lead you to draw those conclusions?

"...regardless of the wishes of the recipient of that behaviour?"

"...If it shocks you out of your normal modes of behaviour, it must be good for you!"

Where did that come from? I certainly never said anything like that nor do embrace such ideas, and frankly I somewhat resent having such absurd and unThelemic words put in my mouth. One of the reasons I personally consider the Book of the Law a sacred text is that it forbids anyone from interpreting it for another.

Q: In A. Crowley's Thoth deck by arranging the cards as dictated upon the Tree of Life glyph [referencing the spheres as opposed to the twenty-two paths]. There is an alternating and differing pattern showing via the trumps associations on the Spheres as opposed to the paths. In what way would you view this layout and its underpinning arrangements? As it seems that in certain respects that these two card combinations work as gateways or gatekeepers upon the sphere of their alignment?"

A: You're free to lay the cards out in any way makes sense to you. I'm still struggling to make sense of the Golden Dawn or Crowley models. I'm happy to conclude that all sorts of different layouts and schema can be simultaneously correct. Ultimately the tarot is you – it's your Qabalah.

Q: Following on from that, if these card combinations are related to the idea of Gateways or gatekeepers upon the spheres, is this in any way possibly relating to the shadow aspect of the Tree of Life pattern thus connecting with the influences of the Tree of Life through a more instinctual approach?"

A: If you're fascinated with that point of view I encourage you to pursue it.

Q: What was really happening in Israel at the time of the Old Testament. What archaeological evidence is there that the Jews were the original inhabitants of Israel. How old is Jewish history (as opposed to myth? - Ed). I'd be curious to know when it all started. For example, do you think that the story of Moses is a myth?

A: Oh my God! This is a great question. I have been addressing this issue for the last 3 years. Please! Please get and read my new book, "The Key to Solomon's Key – Secrets of Magic and Masonry." The whole book is precisely on this subject.

The Bible is not a reliable history book. There is no archaeological evidence whatsoever to even suggest that ancient Israel, the "children of Israel" or a united Hebrew nation with its capital in Jerusalem ever existed prior to the 6th century BC or earlier. This is not pop archaeology or revisionist history ...this is the consensus of the world's most respected historians. I must give you a quote from Thomas L. Thompson, Professor of Old Testament, University of Copenhagen, who wrote ...

"In writing about the historical developments of Palestine between 1250 and 586 (BCE), all of the traditional answers given for the origins and development of 'Israel' have had to be discarded. The patriarchs of Genesis were not historical. The assertion that 'Israel' was already a people before entering Palestine whether in these stories or in those of Joshua has no historical foundation. No massive military campaign of invading nomadic 'Israelites' ever conquered Palestine. There never was an ethnically distinct 'Canaanite' population whom 'Israelites' displaced. There was no 'period of the Judges' in history. No empire ever ruled a united monarchy' from Jerusalem. No ethnically coherent 'Israelite' nation ever existed at all ... In history, neither Jerusalem nor Judah ever shared an identity with Israel before the rule of the Hasmoneans in the Hellenistic period." (around 250 BC)

This is a very big subject and I'll be happy to talk more about it when we meet for the conference.

Q: You say "I can change only one thing with Magick - myself." How much is this possible as a solo venture, and how much does it require the assistance of others?

A: Oh, I need a lot of help – a lot of looking after. If it weren't for Constance I'd probably be sitting here in my own filth surrounded by old pizza boxes and empty beer cans. But at the end of the day we have to take responsibility for our own realities. Like I tell people when discussing spirit evocation ... You evoke a spirit because you say...desperately need a car. The spirit doesn't go out bring you a car, the spirit evocation sets into motion an adventure which you must survive. Adventures are not always pleasant. In fact, they can be very dangerous and frightening. But if you survive your adventure you will find yourself changed by the adventure... You will have become a different, improved, stronger, wiser person ... a person who deserves and (will eventually receive) a car.

Q: Does Tarot need Magick? Does Magick need Tarot?

A: Tarot works just fine as a fortune telling device whether you think it's magick or not.

Q: You can choose to have dinner with any two people, (alive, dead or fictional) who would you choose?

A: Mark Twain and Isadora Duncan.

Q: Ever have moments when you doubted your own truth regarding Kabbalah?

A: Sure.

Q: Do you think the day will dawn when the general masses accept that Aleister Crowley was a genius?

A: Maybe not the general masses of the world. But in Britain he's starting to catch on. In 2002, the BBC conducted a poll of 30,000 Britons, asking them to vote for the person who was in their opinion the "Greatest Briton of All Time." Named number 73 in the top 100 (sandwiched between King Henry V and Robert Bruce) stands the "famous poet, author and philosopher, Aleister Crowley."

Q: Tell me two things that would surprise people about Lon Milo DuQuette

A: 1. That he is a monogamist heterosexual who enjoys watching (and crying at) Jane Austen videos with his wife.

2. That he doesn't make enough money from writing occult books to raise his family above the official 'U.S. poverty level.'

BOOK/DECK REVIEW **Shining Tribe Tarot: Awakening the Universal Spirit**

By Rachel Pollack

Deck and book published by Llewellyn Publications, 2001

ISBN 1-56718-532-0

Review by Samara



Well, since Rachel Pollack is coming to speak to us at TABI's conference in July, now seemed like a great time to review Rachel's own deck, the Shining Tribe Tarot.

The brightly coloured outer for the book and deck set comes illustrated with one of the Major Arcana cards, giving you a good idea of the style of Rachel's artwork for this pack. The colours are bold, and the style quite primitive, reflecting the native artwork from around the world which inspired the deck.



The cards themselves are vivid; strong images and bright colours combine to create a lasting impression. Their size, 7cm x 11.5cm (that's 2 ¾ x 4 ½ inches in old money) make them easy for smaller hands, although they are quite thin cardstock, so some might find them flimsy. The backs are illustrated with mirror-image figure symbols, making it possible to use reversals if you wish.



I found the deck quite challenging when I first looked at it. There is no obvious colour differentiation between the suits, and they are renamed Trees, Birds, Stones and Rivers. The outside edges of all the cards in the deck are orange along the top edge, fading to almost white by the bottom edge. The Court cards have disappeared in favour of "Place", "Knower", "Gift" and "Speaker", and even the Majors are made unfamiliar by the striking artwork. Several of the Majors have name changes, such as "Tradition" in place of the Hierophant and "Shining Woman" instead of the World, but they still hold some of their familiar meanings.

To take an example from the Major Arcana, the card numbered 10, which would be the Wheel of Fortune in many packs, is here called "The Spiral of Fortune". It is illustrated with a red spiral on a blue background circle, the red line eventually becoming the neck and head of a bird as it reaches the outside of the circle. The background is a pale pink colour, and there are four small circles of colour around the central motif, of pale blue, yellow, purple and orange.

So to begin with, there seems little similarity - and a scary lack of visual clues - if you're used to a more traditional deck. I admit here that I did not try to read the deck intuitively, I shamelessly dipped into the book all the time - why purchase it, with all the author's thoughts and researches, if you're then going to get all purist and not read it? You do get the feeling of a spiral (circular) journey, of movement, and of change from one thing to another - the line of colour transforming into the bird. But then it's off to the author's explanations....

Within the book you'll find three or four pages devoted to each Major card. First up, a full-page black and white illustration of the card; some of which are dedicated to particular folks. I believe you can purchase the book separately, hence the large illustrations. Then a poem discloses something about the card's energy or presence as the author perceives it. After that, the author's thoughts, researches and explanations relating to this particular image and its symbolism. For this card Rachel Pollack talks briefly about the traditional views of the Wheel of Fortune, before discussing the aspects of her card. The first thing of note is that she has shown us a spiral, an open-ended path rather than the closed-in trudge round and round of the Wheel. Already she is empowering us by suggesting we can break out of old paths and formulas, and use the energy and experience of the card to create a new path.

The significance of the colours is commented on, the blue of the great sea of existence, contrasted with the red of the path of life. The card's place between the Hermit, who receives this vision of the spiral as a vision, and Justice, where we will recognise the truth in our lives, is highlighted. The small circles of colour apparently relate to aspects of the Kabbalah, although I'm not familiar with that, so can't comment on whether it would have helped with interpretation.

At the end of the commentary you'll find the divinatory meanings the author ascribes to the card. They are always at the end, and clearly highlighted by their bold type headings. It would be possible to avoid reading them, if by this stage you felt sufficiently comfortable with the card. I liked that aspect; it gave the freedom to find you own words and understanding, although I think I'd need to cover them with a piece of paper to stop myself reading them just for reassurance!

So the meanings of this card, to contrast with our understanding of the Wheel of Fortune: *"Breaking out of old patterns, change that liberates. Gaining a wider vision. The possibility of a breakthrough, especially when a person seems to have gotten nowhere."*

Reversed: *"Repetition, security, staying within known situations."*

So, something familiar, but with added possibilities; we are shown a creative choice, something we might want to actively DO, rather than passively wait for the wheel to go round.

On to the Minors. Wands become Trees, Cups are Rivers, Swords turned into Birds and Pentacles became Stones. Some cards, such as the Two of Trees or the Nine of Stones are similar to RWS types, and so feel comfortably familiar. But some cards, the Six of Rivers for example, are so dissimilar that they leave you speechless for a moment. Contrast the RWS type, with the two children, the six Cups, the flowers, with the orange/gold figure of the Goddess imposed on huge swathes of blue to represent the river. One red stylised flower lies in the centre of the card. Wow. What do we get from that then? Deep emotion obviously, from the strength of the river image. Perhaps connection to the inner feminine? Sorry, but I'm off to the book again.....

Well, we are talking adult feelings here not child-like emotions in this card. The card talks not about gender but about enjoying the sensuality of the body and nature. The androgynous figure does have elements of shyness – the flower covering the face, but the flower is deep red, signifying passion. The card meanings include “*Sensuality, pleasure, love. Slow development of a serious relationship. Deep feelings emerging out of shyness.*” It suggested to me that the innocence often ascribed to the RWS meanings are fine in their place, but limiting if carried unthinkingly through one's whole life. These kinds of pushes from more traditional meanings are one of the things I like about the pack, it's edgy, and it jolts you out of a secure zone of ascribed card meanings to something more questioning and challenging.

I have used this deck for several free readings, and whilst I found I had to be more careful than usual not to be prescriptive, I did receive 100% feedback – way above my usual rate! So the deck does seem to have strong and uplifting messages to give.

So, apart from the strikingly different artwork, what is it that sets this deck apart, what makes it seem special for me? It is partly that feeling of energy and choice that each card seems to offer. It encourages you to seek beyond your usual boundaries, feel that more is possible. The combination of familiar yet different makes you think twice about cards that you thought you knew well. The artwork, naïve in style, may not be to everyone's taste, but does make you study the images closely, and the meanings Rachel ascribes to the cards challenges your thinking.

I also enjoyed the spiritual background to the pack, and the sense of sacredness and mystery Rachel Pollack sees in the natural world and our world-wide spiritual heritage. She seems to suggest that many people are searching to find spiritual truths, possibly outside of traditional religious frameworks. Her pack allows us to re-connect with the sacredness of the landscape, and make use of meanings from the symbols and mythology of many ancient peoples.

Although there are references to the Jewish faith, Rachel's own background, it is in no way exclusive, but used to give examples and clarity to ideas. She never gives any impression that there is only one route to travel for a deeper spiritual experience, but encourages us to use the pack to connect in any way we feel comfortable.

Then again, you can use the pack without considering the spiritual aspects at all. Anyone with an interest in native art and myths would find Rachel's well researched book and deck interesting to use, and the writings are ultimately about our human experiences, whether we see a spiritual dimension to that or not.

Quite a different deck, but definitely worth getting to know if the artwork, and Rachel's style of writing, appeals to you.

DECK REVIEW - Indian Tarot Cards

Published by B. Jain Publishers (P) Ltd. New Delhi. India.

Reviewed by Brian Stevenson



Contrary to popular belief, Indian-themed Tarot cards actually made in India really do exist.

These fascinating cards are larger than usual and are fully illustrated with Indian versions of the traditional Rider-Waite images. The images are mainly drawn in primary colours and all are very bright, cheerful and full of life. They could easily have been taken from posters advertising one of the latest Bollywood films. I particularly liked The Chariot, which depicts a young smiling warrior confidently riding a ceremonial chariot, complete with a splendid bright yellow parasol.

Almost all of the people depicted in the cards are wearing authentic Indian costumes and jewels and the artist has included a considerable amount of interesting detail in these costumes.

There is some colour coding in the borders of the cards. The Major Arcana have bright red borders, coins cards have orange ones, swords dark blue, wands green and coins orange. The backs of the cards are pale orange with the word Tarot repeated in straight lines.

The deck as a unique feature; every card is tightly wrapped in an almost undetectable thin transparent film. After I had completed about 20 readings using these cards I thought that the lamination was peeling of some of them. Then I realised that it

was the protective cover that was falling off each card. To quote one of my clients, "Oh, they're just like little condoms, aren't they?"

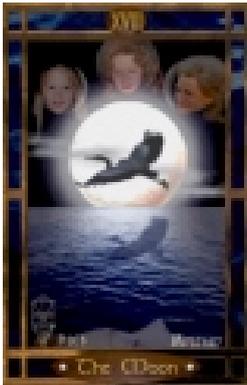
I can thoroughly recommend this colourful deck to anyone interested in Indian culture. Although there is no companion book to comment on any of the characters in the cards or their costumes, the cards do speak for themselves. Wonderful!

DECK REVIEW - Tarot of Timeless Truth

By Leila Vey

Self-published – order from <http://tarot.leila.ca/>

Review by Beth Kemp



Timeless Truth is what Tarot is, and what it shares with us, according to Leila Vey, the artist and creator of this lovely self-published deck. She describes herself as a “spiritual guide, counsellor and teacher” who comes from a family of artists and musicians. Her website talks about the tarot in general terms and explains how she came to create this deck. She talks with some sadness about how her “beloved cards” just stopped working one day. This experience led her to realise that the perfect deck for her had not been created and was the spur to putting together the Tarot of Timeless Truth.

The deck is self-published in Canada and easily available online from Leila Vey’s site. I showed considerable restraint and selected the surface mail option, quoted as 2-8 weeks. It arrived in 4 (over the Christmas period, no less!). I was delighted to see the companion book available either as a physical book or a pdf download – although that did mean I had the pdf book for a month before the cards arrived – rather a mixed blessing!

The book is beautifully presented, with large images of each card and all symbolism explained clearly. The deck is designed to fit with Leila Vey’s personal beliefs (which are clearly stated on her site), which are broadly Pagan. It celebrates the divine feminine in many ways, and avoids Christian imagery, but it isn’t as explicitly or specifically Pagan as say Druidcraft or Old Path – I think it gels with quite a broad spectrum of belief, or with none. There’s no need to have knowledge of Pagan practice or of myth for the deck to work.

The cards themselves are very sturdy and the pack as a whole stack feels tall in the hand – I have had people ask if there are extra cards in the deck. The cards are 11.5 x 7.5 cm, so not particularly large. As a self-published deck, the cards do have a slightly rough feel to the edges and when the deck is stacked together, you can feel the ‘burrs’ on the edges from the production process. But I wouldn’t want to put anyone off – this is a high quality self-publish, and these burrs are only noticeable with a significant pile of cards put together. The printing itself, and the lamination, is of a very good standard and the cards do feel professional – I have no hesitation in taking them to fairs to be handled by the public.

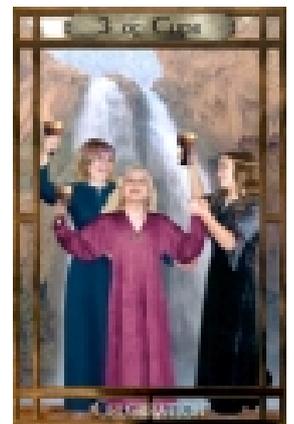
The card backs are fully reversible and show a geometric pattern with Celtic knotwork, pentacles and spirals in a very modern presentation. This is typical of the cards which I think combine modernity and traditionalism very well. The central geometric design is on a black background, with bubbles in different colours around it (more images can be seen on the deck site – the back image is on the card box, which can be seen on the products page).

The suits follow a standard system – Swords are air, Wands fire, Cups water and Pentacles earth. All minors are fully illustrated and the numbered cards have a keyword. The cards have a slim black border, and a frame-style border overlaying the image, which carries card information. Minors have the card name at the top, and keyword at the bottom. Court cards don’t have keywords.

The art is photographic and most cards show a scene clearly reminiscent of the RWS, or true to the spirit of the RWS image (see the 3 of Cups).

Courts are slightly renamed from RWS to be Princess, Prince, Queen and King. As stated, they don’t have keywords.

The Majors are all traditionally named and display the number at the top (Strength is 8, Justice 11) and the title at the bottom. Majors also carry a keyword, above the border in the lower right-hand corner. The lower left-hand corner shows a Tree of Life diagram with relevant pathway highlighted, together with Hebrew letter, astrological and runic correspondences. Each Major also incorporates a specific crystal somewhere in the image – for example, Death has obsidian, Temperance blue lace agate. As is common, the Major images stray further from the RWS images, whilst fitting well with the traditional meanings. The Hanged One shows a foetus in utero, while



the devil shows people on chains held in a crow's beak. There are no images that don't fit – for me, anyway. I was thrilled to find it a 'straight out of the box deck'.

The images are very well done generally, although there are a couple of cards where the computer-generated art hasn't quite 'worked' for me (slightly imperfect hair, if you must know!) Personally, I love the images generally far too much to be put off by a couple of not quite perfect images, but you can view every card on the creator's site, so obviously you can be sure before you buy.

I have found this a very accessible and usable deck. I did the single card draw I always do with a new deck, asking "what kind of readings will you give me?" and it replied with the Princess of Cups, speaking to me of gentle, caring readings. I was reading at a fair a few days after receiving the deck and took it with me to be one of the four decks offered that day – and every person chose it. I've never had a day before where I only used one deck. So, it's clearly popular with querents.

I think its charm is that it appears quite traditional in many ways, yet is also very modern in that it is a photographic deck. The art of some cards I find truly beautiful, and the Pagan sensibility speaks to me – just look at the Moon above, with her 3 aspects. The Hermit is also a woman, although men appear in most of the other cards you'd expect them in, this is no radical feminist deck. Anyone familiar with RWS or its clones can read with this straightaway, whilst there is also detail to learn from in the correspondences, all detailed in the book. I would recommend this mostly to those sympathetic to a Pagan outlook – I have been very pleased with its addition to my small collection

DECK REVIEW - The Dragon Tarot

Nigel Suckling, Roger and Linda Garland

RRP £12.99.

ISBN number is 1-904991-32-7

By Xara



This deck was purchased for me by my husband at Christmas 2006 and was a complete surprise! "If ever there was a Tarot Deck for you," he said, "this is it." And so, the Dragon Tarot has joined my little collection!

I waited until my young son was asleep for his afternoon nap, before I dared to open this deck! The book cover is just fantastic and my spine was tingling as I removed the cellophane from the cards themselves. From the first card to the last, I was skimming through them carefully, savouring every Dragon that I saw. As I came out of the Majors, the suits hit me and so did the only disappointing fact on the cards: the Minors are pips. The backgrounds on them are brilliantly illustrated and so is each Cup, Wand, Sword and Pentacle, but the story of the Dragon's themselves are told only in the Majors, The Courts and Aces.

As I said above, the artwork is still fantastic (even if the Minors are pips!) and each suit does have a different feel to it. Pentacles are your typical pentacle shape with a Dragon eating its green tail around the inner of each Pentacle. The Swords are blue with a gem in the hilt. The Wands are golden brown walking sticks, with Dragon's heads and the Cups are golden with a small green Dragon around the cup. The back of the cards are also wonderful, with a blue dragon-skin like design mirrored so it's hard to tell which card is up or reversed. Around the edges of each card is a leather halter design and the name of each card at the bottom of the card is in a blue box with nice calligraphy at the start of each proper word.

Given the article in the e-Zine from Winter 06 by Diane McMahon-Collis, I've now taken myself back to journaling with this deck, and I'm going through each card each day, absorbing the flavour of the day that the card is trying to show me. The meanings within the not so LWB are not based on the RWS and have their own connotations and spin on the meanings I learned here at TABI and from others that I've conversed with through TABI (and outside) and thus, they've added to my knowledge and given me a different slant on things.

So, now I'm going to shuffle the deck some more, separate the cards out further (they're still suited off somewhat) and have fun with the new spreads that are in the book (a new slant on the 5 card spread and the Romany Seven-Card Pyramid) and see what happens!



Training Courses

These training courses are offered by members and are not endorsed by TABI

<http://www.farawaycentre.com>

The Magician's Tarot Weekend (2-day weekend course, Lake District)

21st-22nd April 2007 - Booking now!

11th-12th August - Booking now!

Whether you are a reader who is interested in taking your Tarot to a whole new level, or a beginner looking to learn Tarot quickly and comprehensively, this is the course for you! On our weekend, we look at the history and theory of Tarot, as well as lots of practical methods of reading the cards for your own self-development or for other people.

This course is constructed with rare materials from private occult libraries around the world, as well as my own experience of reading for thousands of people over twenty years. As a licensed NLP Trainer, I'm interested in novel ways of teaching people, so expect some surprising learning on this course!

You'll experience:

The History of Tarot
The Structure of the Deck
Unique Spreads & Layouts
Learning the Tarot - Fast!
Meeting the Court Cards
Shaping the Major Arcana
The Patterns of the Minor Arcana
Dream-Work with the Cards
Inner Landscape Methods
Self-Discovery through Tarot

The Mythic Journey
Dealing with Difficult Cards
Face-to-Face Reading
Advanced Reading methods
Tarot Magick and Rituals
The Wedding Day Tarot Journey
Tarot, Alchemy & Kabbalah

And much more!

Information Sheet and Booking Form at
<http://www.farawaycentre.com>

TAROT EXPRESSION COURSE

£40 TABI members £50 non-members

Introduction

Grasping the 'storytelling' aspect of reading the Tarot is essential. We know the individual cards' layers of meanings but when we are faced with a whole spread, the rapid formation of a cohesive story can often prove elusive.

For the professional Tarot reader, the ability to read and relate the 'story' in the spread quickly and fluidly is paramount. For the reader who prefers to use the Tarot as a tool for personal enlightenment, the 'storytelling' aspect of the spread is key in order to consider one's own spread objectively.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to enable the student to become adept at the essential 'storytelling' facet of the Tarot. Using creative writing techniques, students will develop their ability to express ideas and communicate effectively.

The course may also appeal to those who wish to improve or practice their writing skills using the Tarot as a tool, although we must stress that the emphasis of our curriculum is geared towards enhancing Tarot skills using creative writing in order to expand understanding and improve communication, rather than using Tarot as a medium to write creatively in itself.

Pre-requisites

- A fully pictorial Tarot deck, such as Rider-Waite or clones.
- Good command of the English language. This course may not be suitable for students whose first language is not English, or who have trouble with writing well in English.
- Basic Tarot knowledge. Although this course is suitable for all levels of Tarot Reader, it is recommended that students have a basic working knowledge of Tarot to gain greatest benefit.

Format

The course will be run on a closed online group. Students will be required to submit their work by the deadlines and participate in group discussions via email or chat as part of the programme.

Course tutors

Ania Marczyk first found an interest in the Tarot over 15 years ago. She is an Endorsed Reader and Mentor for TABI and has just recently stood down as Treasurer. She has been reading the Tarot professionally for over four years and, as regular Tarot reader for TABI, attends a variety of events throughout the year on their behalf, both as a reader and also as a guest speaker. She also has a passion for language, expression and the art of communication.

Dee Fifield B.A. (Hons.) graduated in Creative Writing at Middlesex University in 1996 and has worked as a professional writer. She is a member of TABI and has been reading the Tarot professionally for five years; at psychic fairs, other venues and at the Sunday market stall she runs with her husband

Tarot Holidays and Days Out!

The Mercian Gathering

Pagan Camp 31st August, 1st September and 2nd September

Nr Nuneaton, Warks

Adults £37, Child under 16 £13, under 6's free

Talks from Michael Dames, Pete Jennings, Rae Beth, Anna Franklin and many more

Workshops on wand making, belly dancing, morris dancing, ritual movement, Mithraism, herbs and many more

Entertainment- Vikings, bardic evening with Damh the Bard, Taliesin, Gary Brienholt, Saturday night with the fabulous

Dolmen, Ash and Ian, Morris Dancers

Flaming labyrinth, wicker man, waywyrd fire show, stilt walkers

Cafe, hot tubs and much, much more

www.merciangathering.co.uk

Spiritual Adventure Tours

Are you interested in making a Tarot-guided journey to Peru and Bolivia from 17 June – 2 July? All the details, including an outline of the tarot activities we'll be doing are on <http://WWW.tarotjourney.Com.au>. These will evolve according to who's in the group and what we encounter on our inner and outer journeys!

This is a private group tour through Peregrine in Australia, but people from anywhere in the world can book and pay in their own currency. Bookings are through a woman called Karen Palenzuela at Peregrine – her email details are on the South America page of the site.

Timing is tight for this tour – everyone has to pay in full for their trip by about 19 April so that all accommodation etc can be finalised. The reason for the tight deadline is so that we can be in Cusco for the Inca Festival of the Sun on 24 June – a highlight of the trip

Something closer to home for UK residents is the tour from Berlin to Budapest from 26 August – 9 September. Check out our website for full details.

TAROT & THE MYSTERIES - IN EGYPT

On November 2-17, 2007 Mary K. Greer and Nicki Scully will be co-leading a trip to Egypt where we will experience Tarot and Mystery School initiations in the temples and tombs. Our work will include rituals from Nicki's newest book and Tarot with Mary Greer. Normandi Ellis, translator of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, is also coming to make for an extraordinary, never-to-be-forgotten spiritual journey. Receive initiation into a new level of the ancient Egyptian mysteries. Visit the sacred sites and reclaim the fragmented parts of yourself, re-remembering, & becoming whole. For Rites of Passage, there is no place like Egypt, and no doorway into her mysteries like the one we will enter together! Please join us as we travel into Egypt's, and our own, mystic past.

Tour information is available at <http://www.shamanicjourneys.com/egypt.html> or write Mary K. Greer at mkgreer@pacbell.net
Mary Greer's article on "Tarot, Egypt and Mystery School Initiations" is at <http://www.shamanicjourneys.com/articles/articleframe.html>

Nicki Scully is the author of *Shamanic Mysteries of Egypt*, *Power Animal Meditations*, and *Alchemical Healing*. She has been leading groups to Egypt for over 15 years.

Mary K. Greer is the author of *Tarot for Your Self*, *Mary K. Greer's 21 Ways to Read a Tarot Card*, *Women of the Golden Dawn*, and many others.

Normandi Ellis is the author of *Awakening Osiris*, *Feasts of Light*, and *Dreams of Isis*.

A few notes on the ritual work involved: Our work in Egypt is based on guided journeys (visualisations) involving particular tasks that take place in the innermost shrines of the temples. Usually there is time for your own meditation, either within the rite itself or afterward. In a few cases you have the opportunity to have your own experience with only a few suggestions as to how to approach the mysteries at the location (like at the Temple of Sekmet and Ptah at Karnak). These are not highly structured rites of ceremonial magic, although there may be some ceremonial enactments.

The initiatory intent is to enliven the heart-mind consciousness that is at-one with our life purpose. This is achieved, in part, by purifying and transforming the psychic body so that we become living temples to the Divine (often involving guided visualisations). By directly contacting the divine principles (neteru) we are more able to manifest them-in-us in the world. Our job as leaders is primarily to create the opportunity for each person to feel completely safe in opening up to the spiritual energies that are ready to move into and through each individual in these powerful places.

THE TAROT-LOVERS' HIGH STREET

To find out the closest place to pick up US Games Systems Inc decks and books, contact:

Airlift Book Company

8 The Arena
Mollison Avenue
Enfield
EN3 7NL
England

Tel: 020-8804-0040
Fax: 020-8804-0044

David Westnedge Ltd

5 Ferrier Street
London
SW18 1SN
England
Tel: 020-8871-2654
Fax: 020-88877-1241

TABI Member Chanel Bayless has a website Immortaltower.com Chanel says: 'I give readings through the website, of course ;) with a monthly discounted spotlight reading, and have various articles on dream analysis, tarot and spirituality. It's a new site I'm still building on, so not an exorbitant amount of detail yet, but enough to give a taste of what I have to offer'

Emma Sunerton-Burl MICHT
Reflexology, Healing and Tarot Readings
Natural Healing and Guidance for your Mind, Body and Spirit

www.seeds-of-light.co.uk



Cae Sarn, Pont y Pant, Dolwyddelan, Conwy, LL25 0PJ, North Wales
Tel: 01690 750204 Fax: 01690 750446
emma@seeds-of-light.co.uk

innermoo is dedicated to demystifying the esoteric with simple but empowering information on subjects such as tarot, crystals, numerology, runes and much more as well as offering online tarot readings for sale.



Ania M
www.aniam.co.uk

Visit Ania Marczyk's on-line shop for exquisite embroidered tarot bags and cloths, available from stock in the online shop or custom made to order, visit www.aniam.co.uk or email enquiries@aniam.co.uk. Also giftware and custom couture garments, specialising in corsets, cloaks and occasion-wear. New items added regularly.

www.mythictarot.com - Carole Szerman

The Course

A three level Tarot course held in West London.

Join us in a relaxed environment.

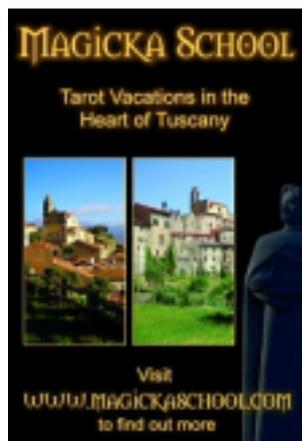
The course is a journey of self-development using the symbolism of the Mythic Tarot.

The course is aimed at developing counselling skills using the Mythic Tarot.

The course has been specifically designed to guide students towards becoming professional Tarot readers.

The courses are held on the first weekend of each month.

For more information Tel: Carole - 0207 266 3317



Magicka School is a new business venture set up by TABI member Keith Broad and wife Chantal Santos in 2004.

Subjects covered include Tarot History, The Tarot and the Kabbalah, Tarot and Astrology, the Tarot and Alchemy and Divination. There are approximately 15 hours of study during the week interspersed with trips to local beauty spots, old medieval towns and pretty fishing villages.

TABI members who are interested in finding out more can check out the website at [www. Magickaschool.com](http://www.Magickaschool.com)

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