

* Some Reference Materials for Further Reading

Akron, and Hajo Banzhaf. **The Crowley Tarot: The Handbook to the Cards by Aleister Crowley and Lady Frieda Harris.** Translated from German by Christine M. Grimm. Stanford, CT: U.S. Games, Inc. 1995. A good resource on Crowley and his interpretation of the Tarot.

Antelme, Ruth Schumann and Stephane Rossini. **Sacred Sexuality in Ancient Egypt: The Erotic Secrets of the Forbidden Papyrus.** Translated by Jon Graham. Rochester, Vermont: Inner Traditions, 1999. This is a beautiful book on an important subject in Egyptology. It makes good supplementary reading to **Thoth and the Tarot**.

Aviza, Edward A. **Thinking Tarot: Be Your Own Reader and Adviser.** New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997. Includes CD with computer program. Uses the Waite deck.

Brown, Dan. **The Da Vinci Code.** NY: Doubleday, 2003. This is a best-selling novel based on the conspiracy theories that swirl around Magdalene, the Cathars, the Priory of Sion, the Templars, and so on. It has provoked a response from the Catholic Church in the form of a book called **The Da Vinci Hoax** that pompously exposes Brown's book as fiction. This is odd because Brown calls his work a novel, although the paintings and buildings he describes are real. Brown's book is so convincing that the Church even wants to forbid him the right of artistic license. The **Hoax** diatribe also notes that Catholics are forbidden to play with the Tarot.

Budge, E. A. Wallis. **An Egyptian Hieroglyphic Dictionary in Two Volumes.** NY: Dover, 1978. Based on 1920 ed. by John Murray, London.

Budge, E. A. Wallis. **The Egyptian Book of the Dead: (The Papyrus of Ani) Egyptian Text, Transliteration and Translation.** NY: Dover, 1967. I also used the University Books (New Hyde Park, NY, 1960) edition that has no transliteration, but includes photographs of sections of the papyrus. This is the classic translation by Budge. More recent work has been done, but this gives the original text, which makes it adequate for our purposes. See also **The Gods of the Egyptians**, 2 Vols.

Camp, Robert L. **Love Cards: The Cards of Your Destiny Relationships Handbook.** Walnut Creek, CA: Seven Thunders Publishing Company, 1994. This

is a companion resource to Camp's **The Cards of Your Destiny**, q.v.

Camp, Robert L. **The Cards of Your Destiny: Look Into Your Past, Present and Future Using the Ancient and Original Science of Card Reading**. Tampa, FL: Seven Thunders Publishing Co., 1992. In addition to his Relationships Handbook mentioned above, Camp has several other Workbooks and supplementary materials as well as tapes, workshops, consultations, and computer software. He derives his system from the mystical channeling of Olney H. Richmond as presented in his 1893 work, **The Mystic Test Book**. Richmond was a Grand Master of a secret society called the Order of the Magi. Camp encountered this system through reading **Sacred Symbols of the Ancients** by Florence Campbell and Edith Randall (see below). Camp works with the Poker Deck of 52 cards plus a Joker. The Joker represents December 31 and transcends the system. So he uses a normal year of 364 days. This divides into 7 "months" of 52 days each. You advance one card per "month" and you also have a daily card, so you go through the deck once each 52-day month. Camp's "Natural Spread" shows the Poker Deck cards arranged in a 7x7 planetary square grid in ascending order (right to left, up to down) beginning with Hearts, then Clubs, then Diamonds, and finally Spades. The Spade court cards wrap around to form the short "Crown Line" at the top of the grid. This sequence recycles every 90 years. The Natural Spread represents your sequence of months in your first year of life. Every year it goes through a Quadrature, which is a transformation of the sequence. On the 45th transformation it almost repeats itself, and on the 90th year it returns to the Natural Spread. The transformations repeat regularly, but the system of quadrature appears mystical. There are also 7-year cycles that seem based on nothing but mysticism. For some mystical reason the system of daily cards does not follow the Natural Spread or any of its quadratures. It seems to have a unique mystical structure. Also, for a purportedly ancient book, it bases the dates for birth cards on the modern calendar with its year starting on January 1st. After studying the system for some time I decided it was mystical rather than scientific. It is fine to do symbolic correlation, but the correlation should connect to scientific reality. In other words, the purpose of a myth is to describe a pattern of physically verifiable experience, not an imaginary mystical world. Myth is a way of describing reality with vivid stories that act as mnemonic keys. You should always be able to translate easily from the symbolic keys in the myth back to the actual physical system. The other problem I have with this system is that it tends to subvert the purpose of the Tarot as I see it. Tying personalities and life patterns to your birth date tends to turn card reading into a kind of astrology as if you are reading your fortune as it is fixed by the stars. A card system like this suggests that all the people born at a particular time

will have similar personalities. I do not believe that is reasonable. True card reading is not fortune telling. The cards reflect as in a mirror certain aspects of you and your circumstances. They do not predict outcomes. The outcome is up to you. They simply give useful advice. On the other hand, I applaud the recognition that the cards indeed have something to do with the calendar. In my book I have presented the results of my research, a Perpetual Tarot Calendar that should be good for millions of years. If earth's orbit gradually slows by an extra intercalary day, we can stick a Fool's Day in there. We can continue to use the Zodiac Houses to represent the stages of the precession of the Solstices (Equinoxes).

Campbell, Florence Evylinn and Edith L. Randall. **Sacred Symbols of the Ancients: The Mystical Significance of our Fifty-Two "Playing" Cards and Their Amazing Connection with Our Individual Birthdays, With Supplements of Yearly Progressions and Birth Card Cycle-Graphs.** Marina Del Rey, CA: DeVorss & Co., 1947, 1974, 1989. This is the same basic system used by Robert Camp. It has some nice charts that show details of how the system works.

Case, Paul Foster. **Builders of the Adytum Tarot.** Cards illustrated by Jessie Burns Parke in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Los Angeles, CA: Builders of the Adytum. This deck is very close to the RWS design of the Trumps, however the pip cards do not have descriptive pictures. Foster and Parke redesigned the Death and Sun Trumps and made small improvements in many others. In some cases, such as the Magician, the Star, Strength, Tower, Hanged Man, the Hierophant, the Emperor, the Empress, and the High Priestess the changes in small details significantly improve the cards. In the case of Temperance there is a major change that is debatable, since it differs from the traditional design.

Crowley, Aleister. (Master Therion). **The Book of Thoth: A Short Essay on the Tarot of the Egyptians.** The Equinox Volume III No. V. Artist Executant: Frieda Harris. Stanford, CT: U.S. Games, Inc. 2002. Reprint of 1944 edition based on Samuel Weiser reprint. Crowley describes his research on the Tarot and the creation of his Thoth deck.

Eisen, William. **The Universal Language of Cabalah: The Master Key to the God Consciousness.** A Lecture Series by William Eisen. Marina Del Rey, CA: DeVORSS & Co., 1989. This is an unusual book that deals mainly with the bizarre notion of an English language Cabalah. It would be easy to dismiss this as nonsense, except that Eisen keeps coming up with remarkable observations, many of which have

bearing on the Tarot and many of which are solid scientific and mathematical truths. He includes the Manly Hall arrangement of the Trumps as a pyramid within the Fool. He also has a long dissertation on the importance of the Hanged Man. One aspect of this discussion of the Hanged Man is a derivation of what he calls "The Coiled Serpent of Wisdom (Fig. 64, p. 156). This shows a powerful sacred geometry and mathematical structure underlying the ancient game of Mehen, the coiled serpent. You can take this figure and compare it to Drunvalo's research on the Flower of Life and find many interesting insights. Perhaps Mehen was not just a game. And perhaps it relates very much to the Tarot. He takes the coil 38 steps. But if you make the first step downward and then coil around with identical spheres you complete 2 full coils and end up at the bottom with the 22nd circle. I don't think Eisen realized there was a connection to the game of Mehen. He just saw the coil.

Heath, Maya. **The Egyptian Oracle.** Santa Fe, NM: Bear & Co., 1994. Heath has made important progress in identifying the origins of the Tarot cards in ancient Egypt. She has recognized that the major Neters represent the Houses of an Oracle. She has also found the four Suits and developed a creative system to use amulets of the ancient Egyptians for divination, though we do not know how they actually did it. However these amulets played an important role in Egyptian society and the Papyrus of Ani Judgment Scene shows many of them. Her oracle has a creative Ankh layout and Twelve Houses. She uses 28 traditional Egyptian amulets for divination. This suggests a calendar concept, although Heath does not develop that idea. She arranges the amulets into groups of 7 each under the 4 Sons of Horus, relating them to the 4 elements and 4 directions. She also relates the Suits to the organ that is placed in the particular canopic jar made in the image of a son of Horus. Her correlations of the Sons of Horus differ from those of Egyptologists. However, she has conceived the idea that a tableau of Egyptian Neters can serve as a divination board.

The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments. Authorized (King James) Version. Nashville, TE: The Gideons International, 1974.

The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text. Two Volumes. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1955. Tenth Printing, 1977. This has the Hebrew text of the Old Testament: TURaH, NeBIAIM, U KeTUBIM.

International Playing-Card Society. **Brief History of Playing Cards.htm.** Internet Website. This site has colored illustrations of cards from many countries and many periods. It discusses cards used both for entertainment and for cartomancy. The

Society recognizes the Chinese origin of the Minor Arcana Deck, a theory that I concur with pending any new findings to the contrary. They mention that the earliest court cards introduced by Europeans included the King, the Knight, and the Page. The Queen was added later. Thus the 52-card Minor Arcana Deck is actually earlier than the 56-card Minor Arcana. No coherent theory is presented for the origin of the Tarot Trump Deck. They seem to feel that the Trumps were added helter-skelter by the Europeans to facilitate trick-taking games. They ignore the fact that, although variants existed, the Tarot Trumps form a perfectly coherent set based on the Hebrew alphabet. This set has been in existence at least since the 15th century as attested by the Visconti-Sforza, Marseilles, and other decks that have been preserved. In spite of the many variations that occurred over the years, this set retained its integrity and eventually became the standard Trump-set for Tarot packs. There are many unsolved issues regarding the history of playing cards. They mention a number of them that are outside the range I can cover in this book. Take a look at the website.

Kaplan, Aryeh. **Sefer Yetzirah: The Book of Creation**. Revised Ed. Boston: Weiser Books, 1997. Kaplan is a recognized expert on the Qabbalah. This is his translation and detailed exegesis of the SePheR YeTzIRaH, a fundamental text of the Qabbalistic tradition and one of the important documents related to the transmission of the Tarot. It gives clues as to how the Jews developed a metaphysical framework underlying the alphabet that they adopted from the Phoenicians. It also presents the Qabbalistic theory of the Tree of Life with its 10 Sephiroth and 22 Paths.

Kaplan, Stuart R. **The Encyclopedia of Tarot**. 3 Vols. Stanford, CT: U.S. Games, Inc., 1978, 1986, 1990. This giant compilation of materials on the Tarot contains a wealth of information and bibliography.

Kaplan, Stuart R. **Tarot Classic**. Stanford, CT: U.S. Games, Inc., 1972. This book introduces a classic version of the Tarot that is based on the 1751 woodcut version by Claude Burdel. Kaplan provides an excellent annotated bibliography for this smaller volume, a shortened version of his Encyclopedia.

Mahony, Karen. **The Tarot of Prague: A Tarot Based on the Art and Architecture of the "Magic City"**. London: Xymbio, 2003. An excellent book and beautiful deck based on the RWS designs executed with images from the art and architecture of Prague.

McLeod, John. **Card Games: Tarot Games.htm**. This website gives the details

of various games played with Tarot decks in various European countries. He bases his discussions of the rules (with colored illustrations of the cards) on material contributed by Alan Trangmar, much of which comes from **The Game of Tarot** by Michael Dummett (Duckworth, 1980). The Trump cards shown for the Bolognese Tarocchi game called Ottocento include Trumps in descending order the (20) Angel (Angelo = Judgement), (19) World (Mondo), (18) Sun (Sole), (17) Moon (Luna), (16) Star, (15) Tower, and so on in standard Tarot order down to 5. Then come 4 Moors (who must stand for the Pope, Emperor, Empress and Priestess. Then comes the (1) Begato (Magician). The Fool (Matto) is shown beating a drum and is not a Trump. The court cards are traditional and the pip cards have coins, cups, batons and scimitar-shaped swords

Melchizedek, Drunvalo. **The Ancient Secret of the Flower of Life: an edited transcript of the Flower of Life Workshop presented live to Mother Earth from 1985 to 1994.** Two Volumes. Flagstaff, AZ: Light Technology Publishing, 1998. Drunvalo has done some remarkable exploration of the art and cultural history of ancient times, especially focusing on the culture of ancient Egypt. I think he will like **Thoth and the Tarot**, because it establishes for the Tarot Trumps an unbroken tradition at least 4000 years old and with roots that certainly go back long before the rise of ancient Egypt. Drunvalo's two volumes contain lots of interesting information about Thoth and sacred geometry, a subject closely related to the Tarot and the Qabbalistic Tradition.

Palmer, Harry. **Living Deliberately: The Discovery and Development of Avatar(R).** This book is an introduction to the Avatar Materials. Altamonte Springs, FL: Star's Edge International, 1994. Avatar(R), Living Deliberately(TM), and Star's Edge International(R) are registered marks licensed to Star's Edge, Inc.

Palmer, Harry. **ReSurfacing(R): Techniques for Exploring Consciousness.** Altamonte Springs, FL: Star's Edge International(R), 1994, 1997, 2002. This little book contains the exercises for Section I of the Avatar(R) Course. Avatar(R), ReSurfacing(R), and Star's Edge International(R) are registered service marks licensed to Star's Edge, Inc. Enlightened Planetary Civilization SM is a service mark licensed to Star's Edge, Inc.

Pennick, Nigel. **Magical Alphabets.** York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 1992.

Pollack Rachel. **Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom: A Book of Tarot. Part I:**

The Major Arcana (1980). Part II: The Minor Arcana and Readings (1983). Northamptonshire, GB: The Aquarian Press, 1980-83. Pollack is quite an expert on the Tarot. She discusses its history giving detailed discussions of symbolism, mythology, esoteric meaning, and psychological implications of each card. She has numerous other works related to Tarot, including her **Shining Tribe** deck and **The Forest of Souls: A Walk Through the Tarot**. Pollack is very close to the truth, but she is not quite willing to go all the way and recognize that the Tarot indeed existed in ancient Egypt. I look forward to her reaction to the Egyptian and Biblical evidence presented in this book.

Rele, Vasant G. **The Vedic Gods as Figures of Biology**. Reprint of original Taraporewala ed. Delhi: Cosmo, 2001. This rare and unusual book astounded me when I found it back in the 1970's. Rele is an Indian physiologist with a deep interest in Yoga and the Vedas. With his special knowledge of the human body he cracked the code of the Rig Vedic mythology system. After slogging around in the ancient Indian texts for a number of years I found that I totally understood the system and its purpose in an hour or so of perusing his little book. About fifteen years later I had the same epiphany when I suddenly understood that the Tarot cards used a similar system. The two systems beautifully complement each other.

Runyon, Carroll "Poke". **The Book of Solomon's Magick**. Silverado, CA: C.H.S., Inc., 1996. This is an interesting work on ritual magic. It contains some esoteric material that relates to the Qabbalistic aspects of the Tarot.

Sunyata Saraswati and Bodhi Avinasha. **Jewel in the Lotus: The Tantric Path to Higher Consciousness**. 3rd Edition. Valley Village, CA: Ipsalu Publishing, 2002. This book is a classic introduction to the path of Kriya Yoga as transmitted by Babaji Nagaraj. You can find other sources that will fill in details on the tradition. There is a good website that has collected writings from the tradition. But this Jewel by Sunyata and Bodhi has all the essentials to get you started in one little book. The only other thing you need is initiation into Babaji's Cobra Breath. You can get this from Bodhi or one of the teachers in her Ipsalu network or from me. I only recommend you learn from someone who can teach all four levels and get them all at whatever pace you can handle them.

Waite, Arthur Edward and Pamela Colman Smith. **The Rider Tarot Deck (R)**. Stamford, CT: U.S. Games Systems, Inc, 1970. Original edition, 1910. This is a reissue in collaboration with Miss Sybil Waite and Rider & Co., London, of the

authorized edition as conceived by Arthur Waite and executed with artwork designed by Pamela Smith. It contains an instruction booklet by Arthur Edward Waite and a Foreword by Stuart R. Kaplan. This is the classic version of the modern Tarot Pack. Paul Foster Case made minor improvements to a few of the majors, but this is a well-done set of majors plus the first full exposition of the pip cards with symbolic art work to assist in their interpretation. It forms the model for countless succeeding decks.

White, Douglass A. "Imagery in the Song of Songs". Paper presented at the Prairie Summer Writers' Conference, Fairfield, Iowa, 1994.

White, Douglass A. "Interpretations of the Central Concept of the I-ching During the Han, Sung, and Ming Dynasties." Ph.D. Dissertation. Harvard University, 1976.

White, Douglass A. "Some Cultural Principles Expressed by the Sequence of Hexagrams in the I-ching." Paper presented at Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Lincoln NB, 1978.

White, Douglass A. **Observer Physics.** Taipei, Taiwan: Delta Point, 2003. This is a collection of essays presenting breakthrough ideas in modern physics. The book and a number of related papers are available on the Internet at www.dpedtech.com.

Wirth, Oswald. **The Tarot of the Magicians: A Guide to the Symbolism and Application of the Wirth Tarot Deck by Its Designer.** Translation of *Le Tarot des Imagiers du Moyen Age* (Paris, 1927). York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1990. In 1889 Wirth produced an excellent Tarot deck with very exact illustrations of the Trumps. He also ascribed each Trump to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet based on the work of Eliphas Levi and Stanislaus de Guaita, Wirth's occult mentor. Although the assignments were wrong, the principle was correct. Wirth points out that the 78 cards equal the sum of the numbers from 1 to 12. He also notes that in Tarot playing cards the Trumps are used simply as numbers with no concern for the content of the pictures. If the sole purpose was gaming, then why bother with the pictures? Wirth explores creative ways of arranging the 22 Trumps and correlates them to the constellations of the northern sky. Again, the attributions are only partially correct, but he has the right idea. Wirth delves deeply into symbolism. In an appendix at the end of the book he suggests a 22-arcana symbolic alphabet Board that vaguely resembles the Egyptian Senet Board and Hall of Judgment that I have reconstructed.

