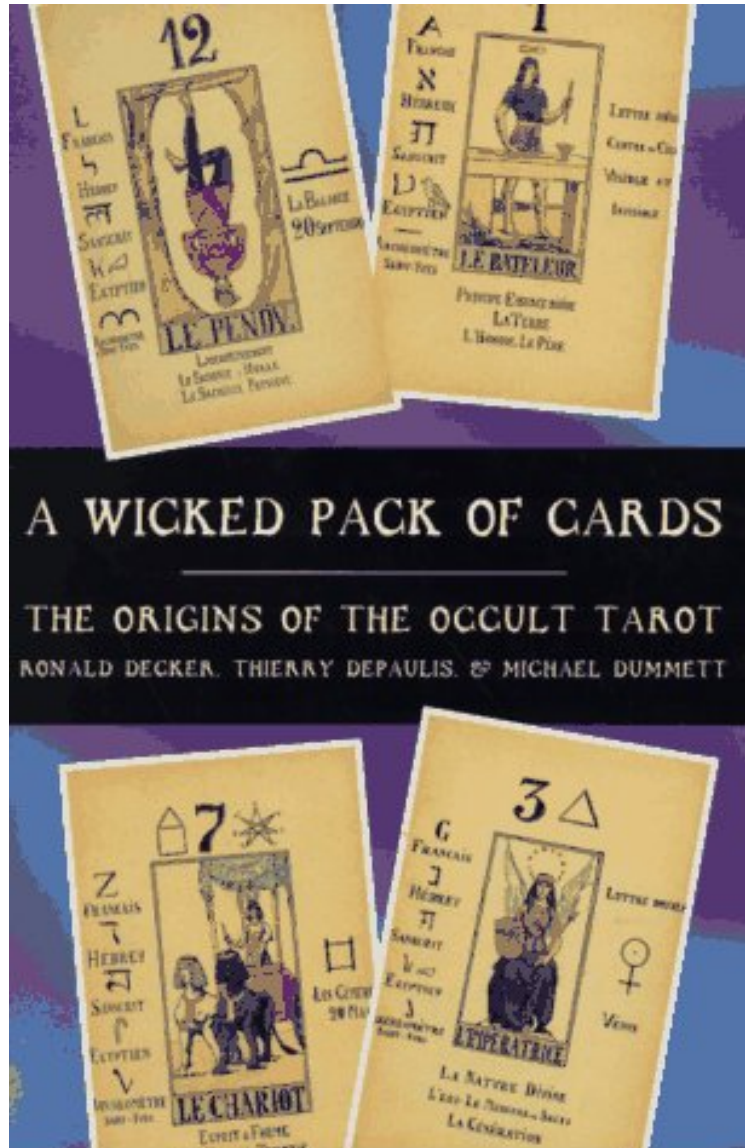


[Free] A Wicked Pack of Cards: The Origins of the Occult Tarot

A Wicked Pack of Cards: The Origins of the Occult Tarot

Ronald Decker, Thierry Depaulis, Michael Dummett

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Ronald Decker, Thierry Depaulis, Michael Dummett : A Wicked Pack of Cards: The Origins of the Occult Tarot before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Wicked Pack of Cards: The Origins of the Occult Tarot:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great source of information but boring in places By pdun459 It has everything you might want to know about the origins of the occult tarot and then some. I found myself skimming large portions just to stay awake; but it's good to have all this information together in one volume for reference. The second

volume, *A History of the Occult Tarot*, is much more interesting overall in my opinion.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. What more could one say? By Supriem Rockefeller Despite the time that has passed since the book was first published, it hasn't become dated. It is still a go-to work on the subject. The only reason I'm not giving it five stars is the quality and price of the print. The authors deserve the highest praise; the publisher does not.²⁷ of 31 people found the following review helpful. The re-invention of cartomancy in France By S. Gustafson As this book confirms, contemporary interest in Tarot cards was rekindled by a brief mention of the traditional Marseilles deck by a late eighteenth century French writer named Court de Gbelin. Writing without the benefit of Champollion's rediscovery of the Egyptian language, de Gbelin created a fanciful history of the cards, a fanciful etymology of the word "tarot," and was the catalyst for a great deal of mystification and malarkey. The authors of this book try to do for the history of this old game what Ronald Hutton did for the origins of neo-paganism in "Triumph of the Moon." What they lack, though, is a wider background in the literature and culture, including the popular culture, of the period of French history in question. A broader grasp of this material would answer the question of why a need was felt for a mystic Tarot in nineteenth century France, and enable them to relate to their subjects with somewhat more sympathy. This background is given in Hutton's book, and is perhaps the most successful thing about it. Without it, the discussion of occult cartomancy turns into a round of "liar, liar, pants on fire."

.com The authors, experts in the fields of art history, games, and the tarot, trace the history of the tarot deck from its origins in the game room to its current role in occult circles. Their thorough research cuts through the misconceptions and glamorization surrounding the cards' rather mundane beginnings, while revealing the rich history of psychological, political, and religious influences on our perceptions of what is now a common tool of many occult practitioners. From Library Journal Many people prefer the mysterious over the reasonable, and the Tarot satisfies this urge for some. Decker, a curator of the collections at the U.S. Playing Card Co., Michael Summet, formerly a professor of logic at Oxford, and Thierry Depaulis, a writer of books on cards, don't completely blast these expectations. But they clearly show the historical background, indicating that the Tarot has been used for divination only since the 18th century. Before that, since the 16th century, it was a popular card game in Italy and France. Their scholarly effort to present facts and the personalities of those involved in creating the popular mythology of the cards is rather dull reading but a worthy addition for large public libraries. ?Jeanne S. Bagby, formerly Tucson P.L., Ariz. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Ian Press is Professor of Russian, University of St. Andrews, and author of numerous books and articles on Russian language and literature.