



Olympias' Tarot Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

FALL, 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Divination Enthusiasts Club meets every new moon. Hosted by the Strix Temple of Hekate's Torch of Roswell, NM
- 9/15 - High Mesa Healing Center Psychic Fair in Alto, NM
- 10/12 - 10/13 Harvest Fest, Amarillo UU Fellowship, in Amarillo, TX
www.spiralsource-amarillo.com/
- 10/13 - Las Cruces, NM inaugural Pagan Pride Day at Veterans Park

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Tarot, Art and Science?

Can anyone pick up a deck and read with it? Sure. All the decks come with little booklets of card definitions. The trick is learning the deck, symbology, numerology, and feel. That takes practice, patience and a serious belief of self. Why? The magick is not in the cards, it is in the reader. When I first started reading, I relied heavily on a book. I read card by disjointed card which usually made little sense to the seeker who was left to make sense out of the definitions. When I lost the book, I began learning to read Tarot. I examined each card, each suit and researched the symbology. While I will never call myself an astrologer or numerologist, my studies added to



my understanding of the Tarot and the art of divination in general. The hardest thing I asked of myself was to believe in myself. Imagine a snapshot of a picture and then trying to convey the scene to someone who doesn't see it. It means going out on a limb and saying what you are shown without concealment or judgment. From trial and error, feedback from seekers, a reader does establish an attunement with a deck. And each deck can and usually is different from another and may not read in the same manner. To keep my own feet on the ground and sanity, I created a prayer to say before readings. Part of the prayer asks not to be shown anything I should not say, and

conversely, I will say whatever I am shown. I am the messenger, not the catalyst. So is Tarot an art or science? I believe it is in the purest sense. The art comes in the weaving of the messages and the appreciation for the work and beauty of the system. The science is the study and commitment to learn the tarot or any divination system to one's point of personal excellence. Tarot is not about random generalities strung together in a hit or miss pattern. Tarot is about expanding a personal view and vision, bringing all your experience and knowledge to the table, the sense of connection with self, the seeker and the divine with countless possibilities.

Happy Shuffling! **Olympias**

Tarot Kings

It is interesting to consider that card makers in 15th century France made the King cards look like actual historical figures; King of Pentacles is Julius Caesar, King of Wands is Charlemagne, King of Cups is Alexander the Great, and King of Swords is King David of the Hebrews. Many readers interpret the kings as people, usually men,

in the seeker's life. I have also known strong women or lesbians to have a king represent them in a reading. Hair and eye color can vary between decks based on the author's impressions as well as between readers and their interpretation. Physical characteristics aside, it is important to consider the suit the king represents when reading

or determining a meaning. I usually ascribe kings as: cup - romantics, from medicine, social work, teaching; pentacle - banking, real estate, corporate business, materialistic; wand - marketing, high tech, sales, entertainment; sword - military, law, management. Keep in mind the qualities as the card may not indicate a person.



Divination by observing horses is called?
(answer on Page 4)

The Hierophant from the Goblin Tarot by Peter Wood.

<http://www.aeclectic.net/tarot/cards/goblin/>



“We have now seen that there is no particle of evidence for the Egyptian origin of Tarot cards.”

--Arthur E. Waite
(occultist and co-creator of the Rider-Waite deck)

Historical Tarot Tidbits

Were the Trump assignments always called by the names we use today?

No. Although any early names for the Trumps have been lost to time, we can get an idea about the Trumps meanings from references and literary works of the time period. While many are similar, there are some interesting contrasts. 13 titles match the modern assignments to the Tarot de Marseille. The

modern Hermit was known as the Old Man or Time. The Fool was often known as the Beggar. The Hanged Man was known as the Traitor. The Traitor and Time were seen as precursors of death. The Tower was known as Fire (as in fire from heaven) and could have referred to divine punishment; fire literally striking and destroying what it touched. Strength was regarded as Fortitude. The Lovers was simply known

as Love referring more to the aspect than an specific event. Judgment was known as Angel. The Hierophant referred to the Pope and there was also a Papessa card. There wasn't only one way to the order of the Trumps either from different decks. 9 different orders have been noted prior to the 16th century.

~ Courtesy of www.tarothermit.com/titles.htm

Pick a Card... The Hierophant

“I listen to my own heart and inner voice above all others. I am my own teacher and best friend.”

The Hierophant represents intuition and psychic understanding. Astrologically, the Hierophant relates to Taurus. The card also refers to higher learning or attainment of knowledge. I find many people with this as their life card to be

excellent teachers, scholars, writers, judges, mediators, archeologists, self assured and self-reliant, and above all excellent listeners. On the flip side of this card, there can be agoraphobia, depressed, becoming too set in ways and pragmatic to a fault, and appearing too needy of others. There can also be a tendency to weigh too heavily the opinions of

others in defining a sense of self. While the Hierophant is a strong card of individuality, they are not above needing others who help them break patterns of predictability and give them a fresh and clear vision and color of what is really around them.

They can climb back on the public pedestals afterwards; ready for action.

Coffee with Oly

“Why do people need to use Tarot for readings?”

It isn't about the tool as much as the reader. Are all readers clairvoyant? I would say the answer is yes. But that does not mean to imply that all readers are comfortable with titles or labeling. Speaking for myself, I rather like looking down at a spread and objec-

tively distancing myself from a seeker for the best information I can relay; rather than stare into their often shocked and soulful eyes.

Tarot is a tool, not a crutch. I can walk to the store to buy groceries, or I can drive to the same store in my car. I get to the same place using either method; although I get there

quicker using my car. It is the same with psychic tools. Some use and some prefer not to—yet the results are the same. In our modern world of self expression, I cringe when I hear some promote or denounce the use of Tarot (or other tools), Its all about choice and what works best for each person.,



Deck Review - The Housewives Tarot

By James Haliburton, CPTR

The origin of the Housewives tarot comes from, what else, a housewife. As the story (or gossip) goes, Marlene Louise Wetherbee decided to pop her secret to her bridge playing card friends. Needless to say, her friends were shocked! Marlene quipped this was the secret to her success and spotless kitchen, crystal glasses that always gleam and soufflés that always rise. Marlene later became known as Madame Marlena who developed a healthy business using her mystical knowledge.

I don't know how she got the cards to keep her kitchen in order, but I will say, "Ok. This deck is just cute."

The deck and included instruction manual comes in a little box that looks like one of those old fashioned recipe boxes.

There are tab cards for the major, minor, and instruction booklet and these cards have actual recipes on the back of them. (I have tried two of them and they

work out pretty well). So an added bonus when you don't know what to make for dinner or the weekly card game at your house.

The cards are equally as clever. The backs of the cards are done with the 'better homes and gardens cookbook' red checkerboard print. This absolutely complements the 1940's and 50's pop artwork illustrated in each card. I find the Major Arcana to be much more entertaining as well as much more insightful. Examples of this include Aunt Jemima as the high priestess and a television as the Hierophant (both of which I find personally funny). Even the instruction booklet pokes fun at itself with its creation story and spreads (such as the martini) as well as the phrases for the card meanings.

While the standard 78 card deck is certainly a light-hearted "domestic divination deck", it is not a joke. It reads very well and, contrary to the instruction

manual, it will read reversals. Upright this deck can turn even the most dire messages into a message with a silver lining and a 1950's "everything will work out" house wife smile. The interesting thing to me is that with a reversal, that same cheery attitude is now turned into one of complete depression and sadness. Almost like the deck doesn't know what to do when bad things are shown. It is for this reason that I do not think that this is a deck for beginners, unless the reader only wants to read right side up.

All in all, I am glad to have this deck for my personal collection. The interpretations are inspiring and proactive. A 'feel good' deck for a rainy day. I can't wait for a bridal shower, Tupperware party, or some other domestic occasion to pull it out. This is a real non-threatening deck to use around non occult minded folks.

Move over Betty Crocker! Here comes the Housewives Tarot.



The Devil and Fool cards from the Housewives Tarot deck.

<http://www.aeclectic.net/tarot/cards/housewives/index.shtml>

Contest - Do You Know Your Divination?

Each issue, a question on divination will be asked. The first person to email Oly with the correct answer will win a FREE 10-card Tarot reading (a \$25 value). The reading will be done either by phone (you pay for the call to Oly) or on America OnLine/AIM.

The questions are not designed to be easy but rather to get you using your noggin and the Internet. It is also hoped the research experience

will generate interest and questions about various forms of divination, the history of divination, use of oracles and just to have really obscure information that you can amaze your family and friends with the next time you sit down to dinner.

Congrats to Michelle for knowing that 'Cromniomancy' is divination using onions. Brings tears to my eyes just thinking about peeling

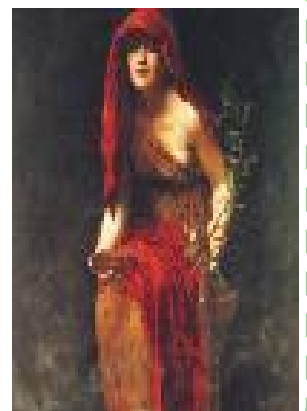
onions and peering inside.

This issue's question is...

Name the ancient form of Babylonian divination that involved examining livers .

You can only win once a solar year . So put on your thinking caps, and start searching.

Good luck and enjoy!



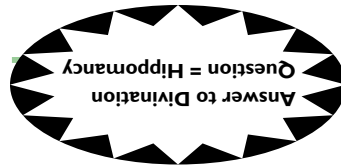


POB 8327
 Roswell, NM 88202
 Messages: (505) 624-2126
www.tarotbyolympias.com

Olympias' Newsletter is published 8 times throughout the yearly cycles of Gaea. The mission is to offer a venue for the curious through the experienced reader for discussion, learning and sharing of Tarot and divination.

If you would like to be on E-distribution for this newsletter, please email Olympias for inclusion. Guest writers are welcome as well as Tarot related questions for future issues. Please submit these directly to Olympias at: olympiasbc@aol.com.

Oly is also available for private phone or online readings.



Spread 'EM!

Autumnal Equinox Spread

Happy Halloween, Samhain, Shadowfest, and Dia de los Muertos!

The leaves are changing color, getting ready to fade and fall. Now is the time to look back over the year and see how far you've come with your dedications and resolutions. Can you remember what promises you made to yourself when the year was fresh and young?

Shuffle and cut the tarot cards as you prefer. Draw one card to answer each question:

- 1 Where am I now?
- 2 What have I forgotten?

3 What have I planted for the future?

4 What needs to rest (*fallow*)?

5 What do I need to let go of (*bury*)?

Think about the meaning behind each card and each position in the layout. Think about your year's work and your goals.

Now is the time to let go of what you are done with - to lighten your load for the final push of your year.

