Casting the spell: magic in books

In 2005 I was awarded a three-month State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowship, which allowed me to spend time in the Heritage Collection Reading Room absorbing as much as possible from Will Alma's bequest to the library. This bequest consists of over 3500 books on magic, 60 magazine titles, 1500 photographs, 250 posters, over 400 detailed research files on individual magicians, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, programs, letterheads, business cards, blueprints, letters, postcards, bookplates and other magic memorabilia. And whilst it was impossible to read through all this material during the time of my fellowship, there were moments of discovery which were delightful and which I'd like to share.

It should be noted, however, that as well as magicana, the W.G. Alma Conjuring Collection contains mountains of personal ephemera such as holiday snaps, gas bills, a pressed flower, and decades of Mother's Day cards which Alma gave to his wife, Eileen, from himself and their cat Fluffy. All of this speaks volumes about the man himself, but it is not my intention here to go into any of these details. Readers who'd like a more personal account of Will Alma's life should refer to Frances Awcock's article, 'Will Alma, Master Magician; which appeared in No. 74 of this journal (pp. 15-23). The focus of my article here is the contents of the collection.

Will Alma lived from 1905 to 1993. It was a life that saw the rise and fall of the vaudeville era from a performer's point of view, and it's this point of view that shapes his collection. As a magician Alma was particularly interested in how-to magic books; books that describe in detail the equipment and patter needed for certain tricks. And these books are astonishingly repetitive. As it turns out, most magic tricks are variations on a theme, but what theme? The ruminations which follow are my attempt to find the theme and develop a theory of magic.

How did she do it?

MY OWN interest in magic is fairly childish. I'm not a magician but did once, at the age of seven, perform an act at a family Christmas party. It was my parents' idea--they didn't want me to sing. So, for my birthday which was three weeks earlier, they gave me a magic book and kit. The tricks were basic and yet I took them seriously, and I remember very clearly the first rule in the book: never, never, never tell anyone how the trick is done. To do so is a violation of the magicians' secret code of practice. At the very least it ruins everyone's enjoyment of your act, and at the worst it can jeopardize livelihoods. The book told me how it was an honour to wave a small plastic bat in the air and magically make a star appear on one side. The tricks went well and my aunts and uncles were suitably aghast. But, as I bowed with confidence and aplomb, my older brother went berserk. He was simply unable to...

Access from your library
This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Gale Document Number: GALE|A162184424

Explore
This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Access from your library
The best spell books for beginners and advanced witches that actually work. Real magic spell books for sale to ignite the inner witch or as a perfect gift. This is natural since spell casting is one of the most enticing and exciting things that magic enables us to do. Did you know, though, that you don’t have to be a witch to cast spells? Anyone can do it with the help of a good, descriptive spell book. Best Witchcraft and Spell Books. In this article, I will provide you with the ultimate list of the best witchcraft and spell books for beginners and advanced spell casters. Included in this list is a brief description of each option along with what the book can do for you. Learn how to Cast Spells of Real Magic and Become a Real-Life Witch. This Witchcraft Online Course is perfect for Beginner or Baby Witches. Prepare your Altar. Casting spells is an art that consists of exploring the paths of the Universe, and aims to connect with the infinite source of all ancient wisdom. Manifesting change through real spells. How To Cast Spells The Real Way. In this lesson, you will learn: Introduction. Spell-casting is the art of identifying, raising, and directing energy to actualize our intentions, and when it comes to matters of the heart, love spells are the perfect tool for inviting positivity and connection into our lives. (You may think of love spells as magick that compels a certain individual to harbor romantic feelings for you, but love spells shouldn’t be about commandeering someone else’s will — more on that in a bit.) While some love spells are extremely complicated, calling for obscure ingredients and implementation at specific times, others are extremely straightforward Spell Casting, Ritual Magic. Collection by Javon Padgett. 75. Book of Shadows Spell Page, FINANCIAL FORTUNE & GOOD LUCK, Wicca, Witchcraft BOS. Sigil Magic Magic Symbols Symbols And Meanings Reiki Symbols Spiritual Symbols Witch Symbols Spiritual Awakening Body Art Tattoos Small Tattoos. Image result for grounding sigil. Wiccan Symbols Norse Pagan Magic Symbols Viking Symbols Ancient Symbols Egyptian Symbols Viking Runes Norse Tattoo Viking Tattoos. Wolf Magick: The Five Wolf Sigils. Wolf Magick: The Five Wolf Sigils These sigils are connected to the different types of wolf energy that were explained in my wolf magick posts. You will find these post The power to cast spells. Sub-power of Magic. Magical version of Formula Manifestation. Casting Magic. Spell Binding. Spellcraft. Magic Spell Usage. The user can cast spells, which are formulae for producing specific magic effects. Such formulae are often a series of magic words, but they can also take the form of specific thoughts, gestures, rituals, etc.