Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot, Lon Milo DuQuette, Weiser Books, 2003, 1609257340, 9781609257347, 352 pages. Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot was his final opus, the culmination of a lifetime of occult study and practice. With artist Lady Frieda Harris, he condensed the core of his teaching - astrology, Qabbalah, magick, gematria and numerology, and alchemy - into the 78 cards of the tarot. Although Crowley's own Book of Thoth provides insight into the cards, it is a complicated, dated book. What has been missing, and what Crowley authority Lon Milo DuQuette has created, is an introductory text for the deck. In clear language, DuQuette provides everything you need to know about Crowley's fundamental principles to get the most out of using the Thoth deck. Many use the deck simply because the artwork is so beautiful, but there is so much more to it than that. DuQuette starts with the basic historical background of this extremely popular deck before delving into descriptions of each card in depth, from both a purely tarot perspective and from an expanded, magickal point of view. Each card is described in detail regarding its straight tarot meaning, which is then expanded upon with all the other attributions Crowley intended. This unique guide will be of great interest to all tarot readers who use the Thoth Tarot - especially those looking for correspondences with other occult systems to enhance their readings - and will be treasured by students of Aleister Crowley's works.

DOWNLOAD HERE

The Chicken Qabalah of Rabbi Lamed Ben Clifford Dilettante's Guide to What You Do and Do Not Know to Become a Qabalist, Lon Milo Duquette, Aug 1, 2001, Body, Mind & Spirit, 233 pages. A unique and humorous -- and also practical -- approach to the increasingly popular study of Qabalah. This is a seriously funny book! Traditional Qabalistic (or Cabalistic, or ....

Qabalah A Magical Primer, John Bonner, Mar 15, 2002, Religion, 224 pages. While it began as a mystical interpretation of Jewish scriptural texts, today Qabalah is much more. As John Bonner writes in his introduction, "Qabalah is a metaphysical ....

Dying Words The Last Moments of Writers and Philosophers, Martin Crowley, Jan 1, 2000, Literary Collections, 215 pages.

Angels, Demons & Gods of the New Millenium , Lon Milo Duquette, Sep 1, 1997, Body, Mind & Spirit, 192 pages. Are angels and demons real? What makes the New Age the New Age? Does consciousness survive death? Writing from the perspective of a practicing ceremonial magician, one of ....

Abrahadabra Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thelemic Magic, Rodney Orpheus, Jul 1, 2005, Body, Mind & Spirit, 208 pages. "Magick is a subtle and curious thing and often works in ways you do not expect and at times you do not expect- but it always works. Every magical act brings a result, as you ....


Tarot Celebrations Honoring the Inner Voice, Geraldine Amaral, 1997, Body, Mind & Spirit, 312 pages. This book shares creative methods to celebrate the powerful gift of knowledge inherent in the 22 Major Arcana of the tarot. Exercises & meditations harness this ancient ....

Tarot Get the Whole Story : Use, Create & Interpret Tarot Spreads, James Ricklef, 2004, Body, Mind & Spirit, 226 pages. Teaches how to create Tarot spreads and how to customize new spreads for specific concerns by discussing positional meanings and dynamics between the cards, and
incorporates ....

The Magical World of the Tarot Fourfold Mirror of the Universe, Gareth Knight, Sep 1, 1996, Body, Mind & Spirit, 210 pages. THE MAGICAL WORLD OF THE TAROT: FOURFOLD MIRROR OF THE UNIVERSE combines the traditions of divination and wisdom into a connected workable system for students of the tarot. An ....

Tarot: Mirror of the Soul Handbook for the Aleister Crowley Tarot, Gerd Ziegler, Jan 1, 1988, Body, Mind & Spirit, 192 pages. Using the Crowley Thoth deck, you learn that the tarot cards symbolize your inner reality. Learn how this "mirror" reflects your growth, and how you can grow to your maximum ....

The Forest of Souls A Walk Through the Tarot, Rachel Pollack, 2002, Body, Mind & Spirit, 278 pages. Use this book to ask the big questions, such as "How do I open my heart?" Rachel Pollack focuses on the possible truths the cards reveal, rather than the easy answers of fortu ....

Enochian World of Aleister Crowley Enochian Sex Magick, Aleister Crowley, Lon Milo DuQuette, Christopher S. Hyatt, May 1, 1991, , 162 pages. This is the 20th Anniversary edition of the book which contains new material by Lon Milo DuQuette! The book gives the student immediate access to the world's most powerful yet ....

Mechanical Occult Automatism, Modernism, and the Specter of Politics, Alan RamГіn Clinton, Jan 1, 2004, Literary Criticism, 225 pages. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, technology and spirituality formed uncanny alliances in countless manifestations of automatism. From Victorian mediums to ....

An introduction to the Golden Dawn tarot including the original documents on tarot from the Order of the Golden Dawn with explanatory notes, Robert Wang, 1979, Body, Mind & Spirit, 158 pages. An exlanation of the Golden Dawn Tarot -- a system of enlightenment that shows us our relationship to the universe. The book includes a section explaining divination, a 10 card ....

Enochian Vision Magick An Introduction and Practical Guide to the Magick of Mr. John Dee and Edward Kelley, Lon Milo DuQuette, Jun 1, 2008, Body, Mind & Spirit, 296 pages. Dr. John Dee (1527-1608) was one of the greatest minds of the Elizabethan Age, and his system of angelic communication was the result of the most dramatic magical operation ....

Understanding The Tarot A Personal Teaching Guide, Sharman Burke, Apr 15, 1998, Body, Mind & Spirit, 128 pages. Describes possible origins of the tarot and uses to which the tarot can be put, and selects twelve popular decks for discussion and interpretation.

Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot was his final opus, the culmination of a lifetime of occult study and practice. With artist Lady Frieda Harris, he condensed the core of his teaching into the 78 cards of the tarot. Although Crowley's own Book of Thoth provides insight into the cards, it is a complicated, dated book. Now, in clear language, Lon Milo DuQuette provides everything you need to know to get the most out of using the Thoth deck.

Truly an excellent book. And I must disagree with the earlier reviewer who felt that Crowley had somehow been "dumbed down" or sanitized. Nothing could be further from the truth. Duquette spends a significant amount of space and time (nearly 100 pages) on explaining such things as the Holy Guardian Angel, the new Aeon of Horus, the Tree of Life, the significance of the Book of the Law as it relates to Crowley's tarot, etc. The bulk of the book is filled with detailed descriptions of each card, and their significance in the Tarot as a spiritual journey...rather than dwelling on divinatory meanings. There is a section at the back that gives brief divination meanings for readings, but clearly he (and Crowley too), thought that divination was a side effect produced by the Tarot...useful certainly, but not the main significance.
My only complaint really, and it is a very minor complaint, is that Duquette keeps apologizing for having to spend so much time on the background stuff. One apology would have been enough...anyone completely unfamiliar with Qabala et al should know what they are getting into, and EXPECT some time spent explaining it. Continually apologizing for it was not necessary.

To accompany the cards and explain their symbolic imagery Crowley wrote his magnificent magnum opus, The Book of Thoth. Penned in his last years, he literally raced death to desperately pour the totality of his vast knowledge and wisdom into a few hundred pages of complex concentrated esotericism. For the most part he succeeded, but unless the reader is already an advanced student of the mysteries the text is all but incomprehensible.

This irony has for nearly 40 years frustrated the tens of thousands of owners and users of the Thoth Tarot (myself being the most notable) who sincerely would like to know more about the cards but find we simply cannot wade through Crowley's highly stylized and post-graduate text. It took a genius to create the Thoth Tarot and the write The Book of Thoth, and fifty-five years after Crowley's death it took another genius to create the Rosetta Stone that unlocks the mysteries of these magical masterpieces.

In his 1993 Magick of Thelema (now renamed Magick of Aleister Crowley) Lon Milo DuQuette did what many very knowledgeable people thought was impossible. With casual ease and a large dash of humor he made Crowley's classic text book, Magick in Theory and Practice, actually understandable to readers even as dense as I. With Dr. Christopher Hyatt he did the same with Crowley's Enochian and Goetic magick works. Later he actually made the Hebrew Kabbalah hilariously understandable with a book with the self-effacing title "The Chicken Qabalah". I could only pray that someday he would turn his zapper on the Thoth Tarot and The Book of Thoth.

I really enjoyed Duquette's book and devoured it when I got it. He does an admirable job teaching people who do not have the background in kabbalah, tarot, or many occult subjects to give an introduction and insight into the Thoth tarot and into Aleister Crowley. That is his stated goal. Individuals without a great knowledge of the occult, Crowley, and the tarot are his intended target, and he beautifully introduces both tarot and Crowley to a wider audience.

For those of you who bicker about the black and white illustrations just get out your tarot deck and look at the card when you read the text. That's what I did. We'd all like to see color instead of black and white illustrations but I'm sure it would add greatly to the cost of the book and these books are already expensive enough. I don't want to pay an additional 15 or 20 dollars for color and better paper.

I picked this book out after reading many negative reviews of this book and others about the thoth tarot on the amazon site. I was not disappointed in this book and recommend it enthusiastically. Having been guided by another to look into kabbalah and having found Isreal Regardie and the Golden Dawn, I wanted to use tarot cards to help me understand and integrate knowledge of the kabbalah, tarot, and astrology. I didn't have a background in tarot and the occult. I've avoided occult orders because they seem to attract Luciferian characters. I've assiduously avoided Aleister Crowley because I've read the author's work directly and intensely disliked him. I think it is a tribute to DuQuette that he could improve my opinion of a man I detested. I learned that Crowley was a great patriot for England and an accomplished intellect. To the person who criticized the lack of a link with astrology, in his notes DuQuette explains that Crowley was the ghost writer for texts on astrology published under Evangeline Adams name.

One of the critics of DuQuette stated that Crowley told Harris to illustrate Crowley's tarot. Crowley did supervise Harris. Quoting from Greer's column on Crowley, "Crowley made clear that his student and artist, Frieda Harris, at no time contributed "a single idea of any kind to any card, and she is in fact almost as ignorant of the Tarot and its true meaning and use as when she began." That's the kind of misogynist arrogant remark I remembered typical of Crowley. I find it much more likely that Harris approached Crowley about producing a tarot deck than Crowley recruiting her for the project. Why would Crowley pick a woman artist whom he would consider inferior to and incapable of
understanding his intellect? On the other hand, I doubt Crowley could have found a male artist willing to put up with all of Crowley's arrogance without abandoning the project and telling Crowley where to stick it (deservedly so). Crowley, while a great intellect, was an unbearable prick.

I learned from Duquette that the Rider Waite deck which I had been introduced to as an easy way to learn tarot was not the definitive tarot but merely an introduction. I'd always suspected as much but Duquette confirmed it. I wanted tarot cards from the Golden Dawn but when I looked at what was available, the art was so disappointing, I knew I would never use them. Since Crowley based his tarot on the Golden dawn's tarot and I liked Harris's art, I bought the cards even if they were directed by the Beast himself. There is a huge sexual overtone to the Thoth cards that isn't in the Rider Waite deck. DuQuette tells us that Crowley and the thoth tarot are based on sexual magic so don't be surprised to find that bias in this deck. Tantra is one of the paths to enlightenment. For some of you this may make the Thoth tarot even more attractive while deterring others. DuQuette doesn't dwell excessively on the sexual content; he doesn't have to, it's all in the images.

For those of you who want an introduction to the tarot, a brief overview of the various occult societies who contributed to the development of Crowley's Thoth tarot, this book delivers and it's an enjoyable read. I disagree with the person who found it useful only for the Thoth tarot. It deepened my understanding of the Rider Waite tarot as well as the Thoth tarot. So what if DuQuette apologizes and tells us little ditties about his wife's sign. I wasn't offended. Compared to what DuQuette brings to the table, these criticisms of his books are just so petty. I want to address the negative criticisms so others may find this book more attractive because it deserves your attention. Many of these occult texts are so densely packed with knowledge and so drily written, that I enjoyed a little levity for a change. I'm not affiliated with DuQuette or the OTO. Duquette delivers information and he makes learning fun, not a chore. I'd enjoy reading more from this author. Read more

I will commence my review of Lon Milo DuQuette's excellent book on the Thoth Tarot, Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot: An authoritative examination of the world's most fascinating and magical tarot cards - by suggesting that everyone who uses the Thoth deck do themselves a favour and buy this book. Why? Glad you asked. This isn't the best book for gleaning new card interpretations for divination purposes nor does it shed light on new spreads or delve extensively into the history of Tarot. But it does do what the title promises. Read this book and your understanding of the Thoth deck will expand no matter how familiar you are with the Thoth deck. Why is the book so good.....?

1. It's funny. Huh, funny you say. What could be funny about the Thoth deck. Well, as it turns out, very little. But Mr. DuQuette is self-deprecating and personable and he takes on contentious issues with tongue usually firmly in cheek. Example: Part One is entitled: Little Bits Of Things You Should Know Before Beginning to Study Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot. His point of view is avuncular and non-threatening and he makes slogging through the tough stuff a lot easier than most authors would be capable of doing. 2

. He (gasp) humanizes Crowley. Somewhat reluctantly assuming the role of apologist, DuQuette tells the other side of the story. He makes a compelling case on Crowley's behalf, highlighting A.C.'s contributions as an occult scholar and purveyor of a new era in human spirituality. DuQuette manages to get the reader past all of the rhetoric and knee-jerk reaction to Crowley and just tells it like it is.

3. DuQuette has a remarkable talent for taking extremely esoteric Hermetic knowledge and distilling it for the layperson. I now finally understand, albeit on a basic level, what the heck all those astrological symbols and planets mean and why they make appearances on specific cards. Also, it was news to me that the Court cards (other than the Princesses) rule 3 minor cards and that one of those three cards is not from the suit of that particular Court card. The book not only got me more excited about the Thoth deck, it also surreptitiously ignited in me an interest in Astrology, an area of study that I have had heretofore only a passing interest in. I finally know the difference between a Cardinal sign and a Mutable sign and this book isn't really about astrology!
4. The chapter on the Rose Cross is worth the price of admission. Here I've been staring at the back of the Thoth deck for a year and a half and had no idea what I was looking at. I was so fascinated with this cross (there's an excellent reproduction of the actual rose cross on the inside back cover) that I found a picture of it on the 'net and downloaded it.

Now the book did disappoint on occasion. In the card descriptions, there is an inconsistency that I sometimes found disconcerting. With some cards, DuQuette goes on at length describing the symbolism contained therein, but in others, he becomes anecdotal and kind of forgets to describe the card symbolism for us (see Seven of Cups). There were cards that he just didn't seem to want to tell his readers too much about. But when he likes a card, you know it! As for divination, he lets Crowley speak for himself, excerpting the writings of Crowley. And as interesting as it was to learn that three of the Court cards rule three of the pips (the exception being the Princesses who acts as the throne for the Ace) he does not adequately explain what it means for a Court card to rule a minor. I was left on my own to assume what that means. For instance, the Queen of Pentacles rules the 10 of Wands. What does that mean, exactly, and should it be taken into consideration when the 10 of Wands comes up in a reading? I wish he had spent some time on the subject but alas, he did not.

This book is a must for Thoth users. Don't let my own ignorance scare away advanced Tarot practitioners. This is a serious book and valuable to beginner and expert alike. As importantly, if you have been turned off by what you think you know about this deck and its creator, read this book and see if you feel the same way afterwards.

I looked forward to reading Lon Milo DuQuette's work of the Thoth Tarot from the very moment that I started hearing the buzz about it on the various Tarot sites and e-lists. The day that I walked into my local mailing center and was handed a stack of packages, and realized that I was holding one from Red Wheel/Weiser, instant joy literally overwhelmed me! I live in a small town - the people at the mailing center know me, so they understood the look of rapture on my face, and the fact that I was all but dancing around in the center of their business!

I came to this work not because I felt an intense need to study the Thoth Tarot - but because I love all that Tarot is and can be. Having read a sampling of Lon Milo DuQuette's work (including "The Chicken Qabalah of Rabbi Lamed Ben Clifford "), I knew that here was a gentleman that could address the subject of Tarot with humor and wisdom at the same time. Here was a person whose work could be quarantined to encourage the personal and spiritual growth of any student that chose to work with it.

I am one of those people who have never studied the Thoth Tarot - in any way, shape or form. I have followed intensely the on-line discussions, and have allowed the deck to intimidate me more than a bit. Note that I said the deck intimidated me - for some reason Crowley himself, with all of his "unique" ways, never intimidated me. Perhaps I just saw him as being "human", but his work as being in some way "super-human".

At any rate - I am entering the world of the Thoth Tarot backwards - studying the book that explains the work before I study the deck or Crowley's words. Part of what makes this OK with me is that I realize that I was not ready to study the Thoth Tarot, and all of its eccentricities, until now. I put in my time, as it were. I studied numerology, some astrology, a little Gematria, some symbolism and as much Qabalah as I could cram into my brain. I am not at such a total loss now when reading Crowley's work - and I have some idea where to reference that which I truly do not understand.

I need to order another copy of this book right away - because I know this one will literally be worn out from use - as a study guide as well as a reference book. Which leads me to the only two gripes that I have about the book - the copy that I have seems to have some issues with the binding (which is the only way that I know how to put it - it is not coming apart, but the manner in which it is bound together does not look as well as it could), and there are several proofing errors - such as flagrantly misspelled words (top of page 22). Hopefully in later print runs these things will be corrected.
The wise will perhaps start their journey into this work by studying the front cover, reading the back cover, then looking inside the front and back covers. With this book, this is where the real "Aha!" experience takes place. Inside the front and back covers are the most marvelous full color graphics! Inside the front cover are graphics of the "Stele of Revealing" (front and back), and a graphic of the back of the "Thoth Tarot" deck. The "Stele of Revealing" has a wonderful connection with the formation of Crowley's work "Liber AL vel legis (The Book Of The Law)". There is an engaging story in the book (Chapter 5, pages 20-25) about how this connection lead Crowley into taking the information channeled by his wife, Rose, seriously, which in turn acted as a catalyst for a series of psychic and magical events leading to "The Book Of The Law". And what student of the western mysteries is not familiar with: "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."

Now, we move on to the book itself! Part One is pure DuQuette: "Little Bits of Things You Should Know Before Beginning To Study Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot." Little bits of things like the formula for repelling telemarketers! Little bits of things like seeing Aleister Crowley and Lady Frieda Harris as people with their own separate lives that somehow grew so very entwined (the best work I have seen of this nature since Mary Greer's "Women Of The Golden Dawn"). See how "Mad Bob" was instrumental in getting Mr. DuQuette to take a serious look at Crowley and his work. Look at Crowley's connection with Ian Fleming (of James Bond fame). Read about the metaphysical leanings of the Third Reich, and how Crowley's (anonymous) writing in a newsletter got the United States into the war on the side of Britain.

DuQuette also does a more than wonderful job of clearing up the esoteric background of the Thoth deck, which is instrumental in understanding this deck as more than great artwork. He covers sense of math and geometry that Lady Frieda Harris had to have to make this deck work. He covers the background of "The Book Of The Law", coming up with the following conclusions re Crowley:

* He was a passionate and adventurous spiritual seeker, bound from early manhood by severe personal oaths to gain supreme enlightenment; * He was a master poet, adept in the art of transforming abstract concepts into the imagery of language; * He was (as much as any man of his day) intimately acquainted with the gods, religions and mythologies of both the East and West. This familiarity gave him a rich vocabulary of words and images understandable to people of many cultures and religions.

* He was alive at the very moment a great shift of human consciousness was about to dramatically change the world; * He was sensitive enough to perceive this change and had the language skills to communicate it; * He was willing to suffer condemnation, ridicule, financial ruin, personal tragedy, and professional vilification to tell the world about it. 2

DuQuette goes into the background of the core of the Thoth Tarot, into such things as the revised court cards (Knight, Queen, Prince Princess, as opposed to the previously accepted King, Queen, Prince, Princess), and the renaming of four of the major trump cards: Justice becomes Adjustment; Strength becomes Lust; Temperance becomes Art and Judgment becomes The Aeon.