

Magick

Strange Fonts
from the Dark Ages of Europe



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Preface

Dark, sprawling, pathless forests of ancient old-growth trees. Gloomy, forlorn monasteries in remote places – the outposts of civilization. Churches built on pagan places of worship, to better convert the heathen forest-dwellers. Christian religion mixed and married with old faiths. This is Central Europe before the first millennium. This is where spirits, ghosts and goblins are real. Powerful superstitions shape the minds of natives and missionaries alike, finding an outlet in their art and their writing. Writing that has come down to us in all its bizarre glory in beautiful, magical, strange manuscripts.

We have captured the magic of these manuscripts with our fonts – they are mysterious and otherworldly, some more legible than others, but all of them true to the original specimens we obtained.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy

Magick



A Brief History of Witchcraft

From the 15th through the 18th century mass hysteria swept through much of Western Europe, a hysteria that killed upwards of 150,000 innocent people. At a time when arts and culture were flourishing, when the renaissance found its highest expression in art, architecture, engineering, philosophy and many other fields, humanity plunged deep into a delirious trance to the point where all reason was abandoned and common sense dissent was mortally dangerous.

The Black Death swept over medieval Europe, comets and meteors were harbingers of doom. Civilization was presumed to be under attack by the devil and his legion of human allies who were poisoning, torturing, blaspheming, renouncing God secretly in the midst of their honest townsfolk. Nobody could be trusted, for anyone could be a witch.

Sorcery, whether good or bad, had always been a serious crime, but convictions were few and far between. However, sorcery and heresy put together formed a new, more potent crime that commanded capital punishment by default. A sorcerer who had also renounced God and worshipped the devil was a new kind of enemy – a witch.

Not once until the rampage of the witch craze had exhausted itself was the actual existence of witches questioned. Books were published by learned men, with accounts and treatises on witches and their ways – describing to the minutest detail exactly what constituted a witch, how to detect, catch, convict and exterminate them. Free of any scientific base, a multitude



of authors produced the most amazing works of fiction, which were nonetheless considered to be the last word when it came to judging over a poor wretch.

The church, as the overruling political and spiritual power of the period fueled the hysteria. A succession of popes promulgated bulls calling for the ruthless prosecution of witches and heretics. Flying courts of the inquisition spread terror wherever they set up their gruesome shops. But it was the fact that the church encouraged the judges to confiscate their victim's estates for their own enjoyment that sent them into overdrive, turning witch hunting into a lucrative and self-sustaining industry.

The ecclesiastical courts refined their methods and created a smooth-running machine whose sole purpose was the extraction of wealth over the bodies of those who possessed it. A hapless victim was hauled before the judges on trumped-up charges or denunciations of malicious neighbors. The victim was tortured into confessing to a prescribed set of crimes which usually included making a pact with the devil, having intercourse with demons, traveling to a witch's Sabbath, poisoning or otherwise harming townsfolk or their livestock. Following this routine procedure, the victim was further tortured into revealing names upon names of other witches, usually prompted by an inquisitor who read from a prepared list of names, mainly of wealthy citizens. The victim was then sentenced to death and executed; the unfortunate people whose names were on the list were hauled into the torture chambers and forced to name yet more names. Thus the machine was kept in perpetual motion.

By the end of the 17th century, an estimated 150,000 innocent people had been burned, hung, beheaded and tortured to death,



the bulk of them in Germany and France. Inquisitors began to complain about the glum prospects of the industry, as the supply of wealthy citizens ran low everywhere.

Slowly, men of reason and courage began to raise doubts in the validity of the witchcraft theory. Slowly, enlightened governments began changing laws – at first requiring less draconic punishment of witches, but gradually removing the legal basis for the prosecution of witches – spectral evidence and torture being the main pillars that supported the witch hunters. Slowly the world sobered up. The last “witch” was hung in England in 1782. After that, witch hunting and its trappings passed from legal practice into folklore.

Little do we think today when we consider the classic fairy tale hag that once upon a time, the warts, the hunch back, the black cat and the broomstick were legal evidence that would get their hapless possessor burnt at the stake.

Towards the end of the 19th century, a revival movement took place, one that sought to re-create the pagan religions of ancient Europe. Scant descriptions of Celtic and Gallic cults have come down to us through the classic historians. Caesar wrote about the customs of the Gauls and the Celts - about Druids and the burning of men trapped in *colossi* made of wicker.

Combined with elements of the Greco-Roman pantheon, these accounts formed the base of a nature or pagan religion that offered the emotionally repressed Victorian society a sensual alternative to the musty pomp of established churches and the dry ascetics of philosophy. In a quiet way, the movement grew and bloomed into a variety of persuasions. One of them is called *Wicca*.



In 1949, a Briton by the name of Gerald Gardner published *High Magic's Aid*, a novel that introduced Wicca to the public in a careful, guarded way. Encouraged by its success, Gardner published *Witchcraft Today* five years later, revealing additional details about his beliefs. These works turned Wicca into a mass movement. Subsequently, some claim that Wicca has existed continuously from Celtic times to the present, others that it was invented by Gardner and his predecessors and associates.

While Wicca is often equated with witchcraft, it is not witchcraft in the sense of our earlier discourse. Wiccans are benign and do not associate with the devil (not least because pagan religions have no concept of the Judeo-Christian devil) The rites and attributes of Wicca show connections to Celtic rituals, natural philosophy, alchemy and a variety of other *Weltanschauungen*.

The one thing that permeates it is the connection to nature and its general benevolence and good will to mother earth and all her creatures - values we believe all religions ought to have.





The Fonts

Astaroth

Astaroth WF — Ludicrously elongated ascenders characterize this font, taken from an eighth century parchment. One wonders what things may have been written down in this hand. While clearly legible, this font is best used as a headline or accent face.

BATWYNGE

Batwyngge WF — Illuminated manuscripts of the 10th century furnished this odd set of capitals, which resemble splattered ink more than meaningful writing. Yet this was someone's artful craft a thousand years ago. We recommend this font for headlines.



Luxeuil

Luxeuil WF — One of the famous monastic hands of France, we have seen several documents that bear tight lines of this beautiful, regular but strangely illegible writing. This is a good text face, but it certainly takes some getting used to.

ORGEUIL

Orgeuil WF — What other font conveys the notion of “Capital” letters better than this - it is one of the most beautiful fonts we have seen. This ceremonial hand was used on princely documents to list the promulgator’s many official titles in a way that showed respect yet saved space on the precious parchment.

Gnomos

Gnomos WF — Here we have a gnarled and twisted hand that was used on an actual spell, found tucked under the roof-beams of a 16th century house in southern Germany. The incantation was wrapped around a fossil belemnite (also known as a “thunderbolt”) Evidently this formed protection against lightning. There are brown stains on the ancient parchment, which we (with a delicious shudder) believe to be blood.



Bastarda

Bastarda WF — Proceedings against witches by courts both ecclesiastical and secular were carefully recorded. For many centuries, the secretarial hand used by the official scribes was the gothic Bastarda. A precious font for ornate body text.

Salem 1692

Salem 1692 WF — We wouldn't know it today, but up to the mid-19th century, America was considered to be "behind the times"—so, too, in matters of witch persecution. Even while the witch craze was dying down in Europe, it drove like a fury into the Colonies. In Salem, Massachusetts alone, nineteen people were convicted and executed on the base of hearsay and "spectral evidence". When the fanatic prosecutors accused the wife of the Governor, they had gone too far — the legislature took decided measures and the witch hysteria died down almost as quickly as it had arisen. "Salem 1692" is based on the hands used in the official court records of the time. It is a very nice body text face.



Astrological Symbols WF — Throughout the centuries, the movements of the heavens were supposed to influence our fate. In fact, working out horoscopes was the bread-and-butter occu-



pation of great astronomers like Kopernikus and Galilei. An elaborate system of symbols was created to aid in the description of the stars and their movements. If you wish to try your hand at astrology, you'll need our Astrological Symbols font. The chart below shows the symbols, the key you need to press to get the symbol, and its meaning or explanation.

<i>The Signs of the Zodiac - Pictorial</i>								
	0	Aries		1	Taurus		2	Gemini
	3	Cancer		4	Leo		5	Virgo
	6	Libra		7	Scorpio		8	Sagittarius
	9	Capricorn		:	Aquarius		:	Pisces
<i>The Signs of the Zodiac - Symbolic</i>								
	A	Aries		B	Taurus		C	Gemini
	D	Cancer		E	Leo		F	Virgo
	G	Libra		H	Scorpio		I	Sagittarius
	J	Capricorn		K	Aquarius		L	Pisces
<i>The Phases of the Moon</i>								
	M	New Moon		N	First Quarter		O	Full Moon
	P	Last Quarter		Q	New Moon		R	First Quarter
	S	Full Moon					T	Last Quarter
<i>The Sun and the Planets</i>								
	U	Sun		V	Moon		W	Mercury
	X	Venus		Y	Earth		Z	Mars
	a	Jupiter		b	Saturn		c	Uranus
				d	Neptune			
<i>Signs of Position</i>								
	e	Conjunction		f	Opposition		g	Trine
	h	Quadrature		i	Sextile		j	Variation
	k	Asc. Node		l	Desc. Node		m	Station Mark
	n	Uranus		o	Sun		p	Ceres
	q	Pallas		r	Juno		s	Vesta



RUNOR

Runor WF — Runes are letters we find inscribed on boulders in Northern Europe. It is commonly thought that they were derived from the Greek and Roman alphabets, adapted to suit the hard surfaces they were incised on - wood and stone. In addition, runes were understood to be a cipher more than an alphabet - runic writing was reserved for sacred or otherwise important purposes, and its practitioners were most likely learned or holy men. Each rune has a sound value and also a name (such as “aurochs”, “hail” and “god”), so that a runic message often bears a double meaning. Thus runic text must be interpreted, not just translated. It follows naturally that such mystical writing makes a great tool for divination - pebbles are etched with runes, then put into a pouch. A given number (usually either one or three) runes are pulled out or spilled from the bag. The names of the runes, as well as their order and position foretell the fate of whoever cast them.

ᚠ	A	Thurs: Giant	ᚨ	B	Ken: Torch	ᚱ	C	Hagall: Hail
ᚢ	D	Jara: Year	ᚱ	E	Ilhs: Elk	ᚦ	F	Biarkan: Birch
ᚦ	G	Lagu: Water	ᚷ	H	Feu: Cattle	ᚨ	I	Ansur: God
ᚨ	J	Geofu: Gift	ᚫ	K	Nied: Necessity	ᚬ	L	Peorth: Luck
ᚱ	M	Sygil: Sun	ᚴ	N	Eoh: Horse	ᚸ	O	Ing: Success
ᚷ	P	Ogal: Possession	ᚹ	Q	Ur: Aurochs	ᚺ	R	Rad: Cartwheel
ᚻ	S	Wyn: Comfort	ᚾ	T	Is: Ice	ᚾ	U	Yr: Death
ᚿ	V	Tyr: Honor	ᚾ	W	Man: Mankind	ᚾ	X	Dag: Day



Alchemy Symbols — Alchemy is a concept that is nowadays often misinterpreted - the term conjures up an image of a slightly mad individual, hunched over a fire, exercising a strange mix of chemistry and magic to turn lead into gold or to create the elixir of life.

In truth, alchemy is much more than that. It is the forerunner of modern science - and as such, it encompasses all aspects of science. Alchemy is the study of all things. There are alchemical treatises on a great variety of subjects, from botany and zoology to philosophy and chemistry. Many great minds, including Paracelsus and Sir Isaac Newton practiced it.

Naturally, then as now, “a sucker is born every minute,” and the list of those who paid princely sums to charlatans that they may turn lead and glass into gold and gems is as long as any venerable old alchemist’s beard.

Our font gives you the alchemic chart of elements, so that you too may cribate, dealbate, elixirize and glutinate and thus discover the philosopher’s stone. Let us know when you do.

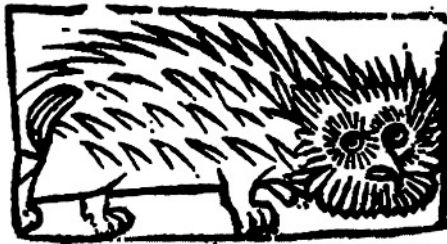




Chart of Alchemical Symbols

⊕	0	Pernicious	♂	1	Male Bloom	♀	2	Female Bloom
♀	3	Dioecious	⚔	4	Poisonous	⚔	5	Poisonous
♁	6	Sulfur	⊖	7	Salt	♀	8	Mercury
⊕	9	Vitriol	♁	A	Potash	♁	B	Antimony
♁	C	Amalgam	♁	D	Alum	⊖	E	Saltpeter
○	F	Alum	✱	G	Sal Ammoniac	♁	H	Antimony
♁	I	Alum	♁	J	White Lead	♁	K	Olive Oil
♁	L	White Lead	♁	M	Arsenic	♁	N	Lead
♁	O	Arsenic	♁	P	Anglesite	♁	Q	Borax
♁	R	Hematite	♁	S	Alcohol	♁	T	Bolus
♁	U	Iron	♁	V	Copper	♁	W	Copper
♁	X	Vinegar	♁	Y	Talc	♁	Z	Essential Oil
♁	a	Metal Lime	♁	b	Copper	♁	c	Iron Vitriol
♁	d	White Arsenic	♁	e	Brimstone	♁	f	Sublimate
♁	g	Aquafortis	♁	h	Precipitate	♁	i	Steel
♁	j	Lye	♁	k	Lapis Lazuli	♁	l	Minium
♁	m	Alkali	♁	n	Orpiment	♁	o	Vitriol
♁	p	Tin	♁	q	Water	♁	r	Tartar
♁	s	Wax	♁	t	Wood	♁	u	Sublimation
♁	v	Precipitation				♁	w	Annealing



Written by Oliver Weiss
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