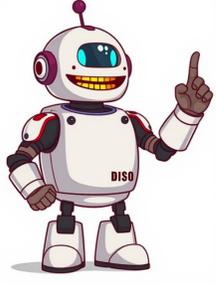


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Etteilla became a well-known figure in tarot in recent centuries, thanks largely to French cartomancer Jean-Baptiste Alliette. Born into working-class family in Paris in 1738, Alliette worked as a seed merchant before publishing his first book in 1770. Etteilla's pen name is actually the reverse of his surname, and he learned to read cards from an unknown source sometime in the 1750s. Etteilla published several major works on tarot, including four volumes of "Manière de se récréer avec le jeu de cartes nommées Tarots" between 1783 and 1786. In these books, he argued that the tarot deck originated from ancient Egypt, citing the Book of Thoth as evidence. This idea was not new at the time, but Etteilla was one of the first to connect it with esoteric tradition. Etteilla's approach to tarot reading focused on the symbolism and hieroglyphic meaning behind each card. He believed that these images held secrets only accessible to those who understood them. By studying the cards in relation to one another, he aimed to uncover deeper connections within the deck. A distinctive feature of Etteilla's deck is the inclusion of two keywords for each card: one representing its upright meaning and the other for its reversed position. This approach allows readers to explore multiple facets of a single card. Despite his significant contributions to tarot, much of Etteilla's work remains untranslated from French. However, researchers like Dr. Michael S. Howard have made notable efforts to translate and study his materials. His blog, Etteilla's trumps, offers valuable insights into the subject. The mysterious world of Etteilla's tarot, where symbolism meets astrology, but the true meaning lies in the cards' narrative. Etteilla's system is often attributed to Astrology, with added planetary attributions, but I firmly believe this information has been developed over time and is incorrect. The first seven cards are titled "Birds and Fish," representing protection and support (07 - Appel). Following this logic, the next seven should be assigned to the classical planets. Cards 13-19 represent planets in our solar system: Marriage (Moon), Force Majeure (Mercury), Maladie (Venus), Judgement (Sun), Mortalité (Mars), Traître (Jupiter), and Détresse or Misere (Saturn). Three cards remain unassigned. An alternative kabbalistic interpretation assigns Aleph - Air, Bet - Saturn or Moon, Gimel - Jupiter or Mars, Dalet - Mars or Sun, He - Aries, Vav - Taurus, Zayin - Gemini, Heth - Cancer, Teth - Leo, Yod - Virgo, Kaph - Sun or Venus, Lamed - Libra, Mem - Water, Nun - Scorpio, Samekh - Sagittarius, Ayin - Capricorn, Pe - Venus or Mercury, Tsade - Aquarius, Qoph - Pisces, Resh - Mercury or Saturn, Shin - Fire, and Taw - Moon or Jupiter to the cards. However, this explanation falls short. Etteilla's structure of the Major Arcana is not about astrology but about visualization, geometry, and physical/spiritual architecture. The key lies in the number twenty-one, with triplicities instead of pairs. This allows for three groups of seven cards plus one 'extra' card, often out of sequence. The spiritual content of Etteilla's Major Arcana cards holds significant importance, providing context to individual and collective meanings. These cards tell a distinct story, not bound by astrological interpretations but rather by the narrative of creation from the Bible. The first eight cards represent an allegory with the creation story, where the first card, "Chaos," symbolizes the void state preceding creation. This is reminiscent of the kabbalistic concept of 'Ein Sof,' or God, before self-manifestation in spiritual realms. The earth was formless and without structure at this stage, as described in the biblical account. The opening verse of Genesis describes a profound scene: 'darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.' These seven verses form the foundation for the next seven days of creation. Additionally, the remaining fourteen cards symbolize the seven heavenly virtues and the seven cardinal sins. Jean-Baptiste Alliette, a key figure in modern Tarot development, published his book focusing on the use of Tarot for divination purposes in the late eighteenth century. He created the first Tarot deck specifically designed for occult and divinatory use, which has become an essential template for subsequent decks. Although few cards remain from Alliette's original deck, his work laid the groundwork for later versions. One notable example is 'Grand Jeu de Oracle des Dames', published in 1870 as 'Grande Etteilla III'. Reproduced by Lo Scarabeo as 'Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot', this deck incorporates Alliette's concepts but features medieval-style images and alterations to some major card designs. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot consists of 78 cards, divided into four suits with 14 cards each. The cards are numbered from 1 to 78, featuring titles on the left and right borders, and inverted keywords on top and bottom. Translated from French, the major arcana cards convey profound messages: Folly, Chaos, Light, Plants, Heavens, Person, Stars, Birds & Fishes, Rest, Justice, Temperance, Strength, Prudence, High Priest, Devil, Magician or Bateleur, Judgement, Death, Hermit, Temple, Wheel of Fortune. While some cards bear resemblance to familiar Tarot archetypes, others are drastically different. The Justice card features a woman with sword and scales, whereas the Bird & Fishes depicts a multi-colored circular design. In contrast, Chaos and Heavens showcase vibrant circular patterns. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot is a comprehensive deck of 78 cards that delves into the realm of Tarot, offering a unique blend of history, symbolism, and mysticism. This deck is not for the faint of heart, as it presents a number of challenges even to advanced readers. The names and keywords on the cards are in French, which may pose a problem for those who do not know the language. Additionally, the unique system of Major Arcana and Minor Arcana may require some time to get accustomed to. However, the deck's strengths far outweigh its weaknesses. The art is soft and pleasant to look at, with bright and rich colors that evoke a sense of vintage charm. The readings are incredibly clear and to-the-point, making it an excellent choice for everyday matters. The non-scenic numbered cards offer a great way to develop one's intuition, while the ability to use the keywords printed on the cards in conjunction with the reader's system adds another layer of depth to the interpretations. Overall, I believe that the Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot is an absolute must-have for serious Tarot collectors and enthusiasts. Its unique blend of history and symbolism makes it a truly standout deck in the world of Tarot. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot: A Marvelous Collector's Item for History Enthusiasts Translated from French, the major arcana cards are: 0 & 78 - Follie Chaos Light Plantez Heavens Person Stelz Birdz & Fisz Rest Justice Temperance Strengthe Prudence High Priest Devil Magician or Bateleur Judgement Death Hermit Temple WHEEL of Fortune "The African Despot" (yes, seriously) Some of the major cards are recognisable as tarot archetypes, but more are greatly changed or wholly unfamiliar. I have understood that some of the major cardz are easily recognisable such as Justice (a woman with sword and scales), while at the other end of the spectrum is Bird & Fiszhes (which depicts just what it soundz like). The minor arcana (inferior Lames) are pip cardz in suitz of Batonz, Cupz, Sword and Coinz, and the court cardz (median Lames) are fully illustred. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot Deck: A Timeless and Versatile Tool for Divination and Oracle This beautifully vintage-looking deck offers incredibly clear and to-the-point readings, especially on everyday matters. The inclusion of non-scenic numbered cards allows readers to develop their intuition and will be familiar to those working with Marseilles-type decks. In my opinion, the Book of Thoth Etteilla is a must-have for serious Tarot collectors, history buffs, and individuals looking to expand their knowledge of ancient divination practices. Its revolutionary design has made it highly popular over the years, and it continues to be a favorite among many readers due to its unique blend of symbolism and straightforward interpretations. The importance of downloading all images before printing cannot be stressed enough. To achieve the desired output, one must scroll through the entire page to download all images before printing. Jean Francois Alliette, also known as Etteilla, played a pivotal role in shaping the modern Tarot landscape. In the late 18th century, he published the first book dedicated to utilizing Tarot for divinatory purposes and created the first set of Tarot cards specifically tailored for occult and divinatory use. Few original cards from Etteilla's deck remain today, but his work served as a foundation for later versions created by his students. One notable example is the 1870 publication 'Grand Jeu de Oracle des Dames', also known as 'Grande Etteilla III'. Although based on Etteilla's concepts and card designs, this edition features medieval-inspired artwork and minor modifications to some major cards' imagery. This re-creation, titled 'Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot', is a reproduction rather than an original work. As such, the cards display an aged appearance, with titles and keywords retained from the original French text. The 78-card deck consists of 22 majors and four suits, each containing 14 cards. The major arcana cards, denoted as 'Lames' in the accompanying booklet, are translated to include English equivalents. These keywords appear on both the left and right borders of the card, with the top and bottom bearing upright and reversed versions. Recognizable archetypes such as Justice and Death can be seen among these cards, alongside unfamiliar designs. For instance, the Major Arcana card "The African Despot" bears an intriguing title, while others, like Chaos and Heavens, seem to defy Tarot convention. The card featuring Bird & Fishes is perhaps the most enigmatic, showcasing a unique blend of symbolism. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot is a unique and fascinating deck that offers a fresh perspective on the traditional Tarot. This Lo Scarabeo reproduction of Grand Jeu de l'Oracle des Dames, which dates back to the 19th century, is an excellent addition to any Tarot collection. The structure of the deck follows a traditional path, with 22 Major Arcana and 56 Minor Arcana cards. However, it's the unique Major Arcana that sets this deck apart. Unlike traditional decks, these cards tell a story - from creation to everyday troubles. The first eight cards represent the beginnings of life, while the next four symbolize medieval virtues, and the final nine depict ordinary events. The numbered cards in this deck are non-scenic, meaning they only feature the respective suit symbols without unique images. This allows for a deeper connection between the reader and the card's symbolism. The Major Arcana also features the Fool as number 78, representing madness and chaos, while Trumps 1 and 8 serve as distinct male and female querent representations. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot comes with a comprehensive booklet that covers the deck's history, basic meanings, and a ten-card spread called 'The Leap of Heqt'. The French-language names and keywords on the cards add to the deck's charm, but may pose a challenge for those unfamiliar with the language. Despite its advanced nature, this deck offers clear and straightforward readings, particularly in everyday matters. The non-scenic Minor Arcana promotes intuitive reading skills, making it an excellent choice for Marseilles-type deck enthusiasts. Overall, the Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot is a must-have for serious collectors and readers seeking to expand their knowledge and skillset. The Book of Thoth Etteilla Tarot Review - A Historical Reproduction Worth Buying Jean Francois Alliette, also known as Etteilla, was a significant figure in the development of modern Tarot. In the late eighteenth century, he published the first book on using Tarot for divinatory purposes and created the first set of Tarot cards specifically for occult and divinatory use. The Book of Thoth Etteilla offers a unique and challenging tarot experience, perfect for those seeking an authentic and historical reproduction of the classic deck. With its French keywords and soft, vintage-inspired art, this deck is sure to appeal to serious collectors and enthusiasts.