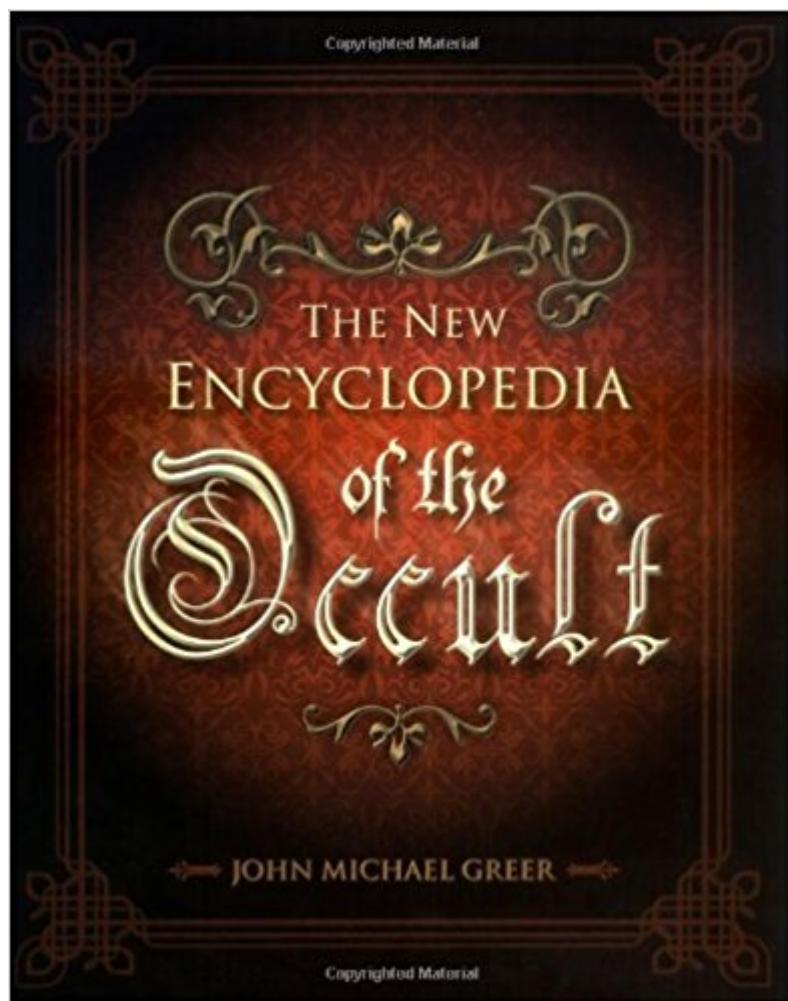


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The New Encyclopedia Of The Occult



Synopsis

From "Aarab Zereq" to "Zos Kia Cultus," this is the most up-to-date, comprehensive guide to the history, philosophies, and personalities of Western occultism. Written by an occult scholar and practitioner with the assistance of hundreds of experts in the field, this volume presents the latest in scholarly research and points out errors in previous writings-revealing truths much more interesting and dramatic than the fictional histories that obscured them. The New Encyclopedia of the Occult is an invaluable reference guide to magic, alchemy, astrology, divination, Tarot, palmistry, and geomancy; magical orders such as the Golden Dawn and Rosicrucians; important occultists; and religions and spiritual traditions associated with occultism such as Wicca, Thelema, Theosophy, and the modern Pagan movement. "This is an important source for libraries to have in their collections to assist anyone seeking information about the many aspects of occult traditions." Booklist "Greer delivers a well researched, informative, and unbiased encyclopedia... Highly recommended for all public libraries and where interest merits." Library Journal COVR Award Winner

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Customer Reviews

In his introduction, Greer states that his book is the first written by an "occult practitioner" who has consulted the scholarly texts that have recently been written about the history of occult traditions. This combination has produced a reference work that is sympathetic to the arcane lore but avoids many of the common errors found in occult literature. The volume arranges its 1,500 entries in

alphabetical order. Topics include magic, Tarot, astrology, and other forms of divination; magical orders such as the Golden Dawn; biographies of significant individuals; and spiritual movements such as Wicca, Theosophy, and the modern Pagans. Where appropriate, entries contain see references to other entries and to books found in the extensive bibliography. Illustrations include charts, diagrams, and photographs. The essays are clearly written and are very informative. The book is useful for the practitioner as well as for the curious because the contents are factual and concise. The author promises that as new information becomes available on topics, he will publish a revised edition to maintain the integrity and accuracy of the volume. This is an important source for libraries to have in their collections to assist anyone seeking information about the many aspects of occult traditions. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I am a student of religion and belief systems so I enjoy reading about different beliefs even when I don't happen to agree with them in practice. A good, basic reference dealing with the under-appreciated set of worldviews held by thousands of people in the U.S. and millions around the world should find a place in the library of any thoughtful reader. Just because the subject seems strange to many, if not most, people nowadays doesn't mean that it's not important or worth trying to understand. The standpoint of the author is vital to understanding what makes this book worth owning. Most works on the subject might be assumed to be written either by uninvolved scholars on one hand or uninformed or biased practitioners on the other. Greer fits in to neither of these categories. He is both a respected practitioner and a MOSTLY unbiased scholar of the subject. One does occasionally meet with a rather humorous indication of the author's opinion of a certain subject, but such instances are fairly rare and easily spotted. There is still more room for improvement from the standpoint of scholarship, but Greer's encyclopedia is heads above most entries in the field. A note to religious people, specifically Christians, would not be out of place. If you are not already a part of the occult scene, this book will not convert you. It does not try to argue for a position. If you believe something is good, it is worth understanding so you can draw closer to it. If you believe something is bad, it is worth understanding so you can keep it away. The uneducated on the topic might be surprised at how much of the occult they encounter in everyday life. Jesus both tells us that the Devil is bad, and explains his nature to us so that we will recognize it. Whether one is a dispassionate observer, a practitioner, or even one who believes that the occult is evil, the subject is still important and worth being educated about.

Fairly comprehensive, and the author sticks to well documented facts without a lot of "woo-woo"

speculation. A mature assessment of many prominent practitioners and writers of magical lore over the centuries throughout the world, though woefully lacking in references to Asian practices, such as Tao or Tibetan paths. Other than that I found it to be a useful reference and highly readable. It is a book that belongs on the shelves of researchers in the field and those interested in magic and the supernatural. If nothing else it pointed me to primary sources that I need to fill out my library on magic, witchcraft, the supernatural, divination and the Kabbalah. This book does not deal extensively with the Sidhe or other supernatural or mythic entities so I wouldn't buy this book to investigate pookas or slyths, naiads, gnomes, kami, skinwalkers, doppelgängers, trolls, ghouls, vampires, zombies, were-creatures, and such. The references to these are sparse and there are other books that treat those topics.

Book has a lot of info, some detailed and some not, but there is a lot more that it could have had.

A must have book

I haven't seen a better encyclopedia of the occult in my entire life. A lot of professional and objective information. The author, even if he is a Druid and study the occult from practical side, have wrote this encyclopedia as true professional, providing readers with objective information. Although I miss the terminology of Theosophy, I consider this book to be a great reference source for everyone interested in the occult.

Better than I expected!

Being an artist and a writer, I can say that this book has added a valuable resource to my research library, I would recommend it to anyone needing information on the occult.

Thorough and comprehensive encyclopedia on all subjects involving the occult. It is very well written and researched, and it is clear to see how much of an effort went into compiling this large volume. Easily a 5 star rating.

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