

MyTarot.org presents: The Magician

From the 13th Century to the Rider Waite Smith



Also known as: The Juggler, Il Bagat, La Bateleur, Ill Bagatto, The Mountebank, The Magus of Power

Quick Description from: The Creative Tarot - A Modern Guide to An Inspired Life by Jessa Crispin

The Magician stands with representations of the four elements—the Cup, the Sword, the Coin, the Wand—lying before him on a table. The Magician has one arm raised toward the heavens and points down at the earth with the other. The Magician is the creator, but whatever he writes, he is simply taking dictation from the heavens. He is the conduit rather than the source. He takes what is given to him by the divine (the arm gesturing up) and gives it form on the earth (the arm gesturing down). The Magician is given the number one, and so, like the Aces and the Fool, is another card that represents a new beginning.



Key Words:

From The Rider Waite Smith LWB: Skill, Diplomacy, pain, loss, disaster, Self confidence, will.

Liz Deans Ultimate Tarot says: Action, creativity, and success

From Stuart Kaplan Tarot Classics

DIVINATORY MEANING:

The Magician signifies originality and creativity. The ability to utilize one's capabilities in order to accomplish a task. Imagination. Self-reliance. Spontaneity. Skill. Willpower. Self-confidence. Dexterity. Ingenuity. Flexibility. Craft. Guile. Masterfulness. Self-control. Trickery. Misleading deception. Slight of hand. Bewilderment. Unity of thought and emotion. Ability to choose one's own actions. Determination to see a task through to completion. Capable of influencing other people.



MyTarot.org: The Magician - The History



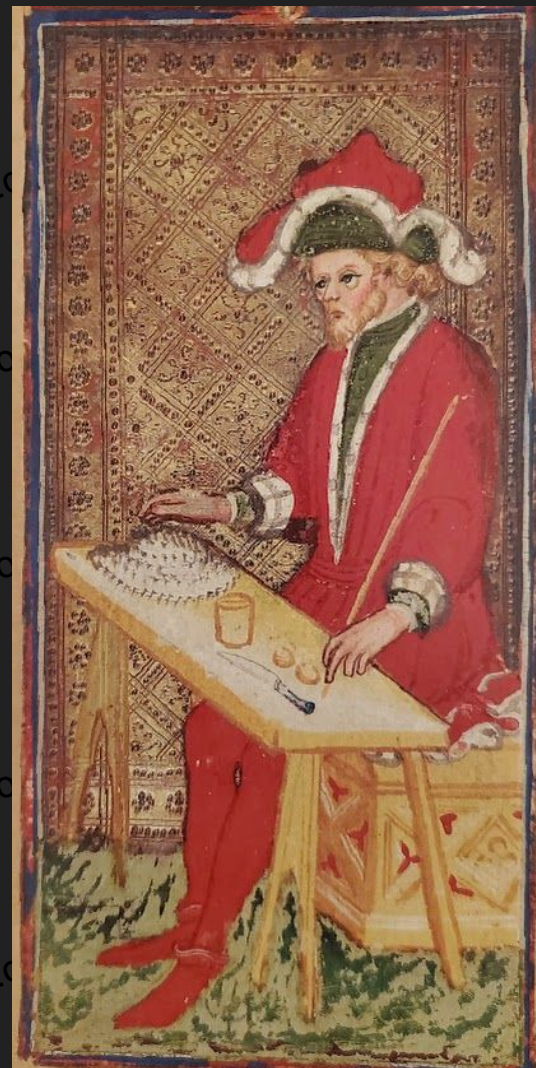
There were many pictures of “La Bateleur” or the Magician before the Tarot
For example:

The Conjuror (The Prestidigitator)
Bosch - 1502

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Visconti Sforza
Mid 15th century,

Most decks
moving forward to
today follow this
format.



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In French Le Bateleur mean "the mountebank" or the "sleight of hand artist". In the 15th and 16th century he would be seen as:

- He is a street performer:
Note how he is looking left at something, as he distracts the observer from watching his hands.
- Con-man
- Wand in left hand (Sinister). Which had will switch from deck to deck.
- The Hat has a curve to it that later on will be turned into a lamiscate
- being Card I he is the lowest card in the game of Tarot, only above the Fool.

He will stay much the same until

Noblet 1659 century



MyTarot.org: - The Esoteric History

Most of the cards before the RWS kept the same basic design, although interpretations grew wider

- **De Mellet (1781): The Mountebank.** ----->
- **Levi (1855): The Hebrew Letter Aleph, the Juggler. The Magus. Being, mind, man, or God; unity; mother of numbers, the first substance.**
- **Mathers (1888): The Juggler or Magician. Willpower, dexterity.**
- **Golden Dawn (1896): The Magus of Power. The Magician or Juggler. Skill, wisdom, adaptation, cunning, always depending on the cards around it an whether or not its reversed. Sometimes occult wisdom.**
- **Waite (1910): The Magician. Skill, diplomacy, subtlety, snares of enemies, the inquirer - if male.**
- **Crowley (1944): Skill, wisdom, adroitness, elasticity, craft, cunning, deceit, theft. Sometimes occult wisdom or power, sometimes a quick impulse, "a brain-wave". It may imply messages, business transactions, the interference of learning or intelligence with the matter in hand.**

Side note:

An essay by the Comte de Mellet included in Court de Gebelin's *Monde primitif* is responsible for the mystical connection of the Tarot's 21 trumps and the fool with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet... within two years the fortune-teller known as "Etteilla" published a technique for reading the tarot, and the practice of tarot reading was born.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarot_of_Marseille)



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From Liz Deans - The Ultimate Guide to the Tarot

THE MAGICIAN'S ASTROLOGY

The Magician's ruling planet is Mercury, also the Roman god of magic—and the Greek Hermes, god of communication, linked with the Egyptian god Thoth. In alchemy, mercury's form as quicksilver was associated with transformation or the fifth element of ether. The element could also be signified by the symbol of a snake, shown on the Magician's serpent-girdle (see The Magician's Symbols).

THE MAGICIAN AND KABBALA-

The Hebrew letter of the Magician is Beth (The second letter), symbolized by a house, meaning creativity. On the Tree of Life pathway, the Magician is placed on the second pathway between the spheres of Kether and Binah. Kether stands for unity, echoing the card's number, 1, while Binah is the sphere of experience— indicating practical magic and singular direction.

NOTE: Before we said that Levi saw the Magician as Hebrew Letter Aleph as did Levi Papus and Oswald Wirth as well. That is because for them, the Magician at the very beginning of the alphabet and the Fool would come later, after Judgement.

MyTarot.org: - Rider Waite Smith (RWS)

THE MAGICIAN'S SYMBOLS

The lemniscate or infinity symbol: balance, activity, and renewal See this symbol on card VIII, Strength. **The magic wand:** The wand is double-ended and reflects the Hermetic concept “As above, so below,” or heaven and earth as mirrors. The wand’s symbolism reflects that of the Magician’s pose (see below). See this symbol on cards VII, The Chariot, and XXI, The World. The four suit symbols: These are the Magician’s resources. He draws upon the four elements of the suits to create the quintessence, the fifth element.

The red cloak: energy and action; practicality; and being grounded in the material world See this symbol on IV, The Emperor; V, the Hierophant; and XI, Justice.

The headband: The mind and the intention to manifest desires

The Magician and his pose: The Magician is the conduit of energy between earth, which he draws from with his downward left hand, and heaven, symbolized by his raised hand and wand.

The serpent-girdle: The belt around the Magician’s waist is a serpent, a symbol of the element of Mercury, the Magician’s ruling planet (see The Magician’s Astrology). To function as a belt, the serpent or snake must hold its tail in its mouth. This is the alchemical symbol of the ouroboros, which like the lemniscate stands for infinity and constant renewal—just as the snake continually sheds its skin.

The roses and lilies: The red roses symbolize love and the lilies, truth of purpose. The Magician acts with pure intention. See red roses on the gown in card III, The Empress, and on the gown of the supplicant on the left on card V, The Hierophant; roses are also around the waist of the maiden on VIII, Strength. Yellow background: consciousness, clear sight and support See this on III, The Empress; VII, The Chariot; VIII, Strength; and XI, Justice.

MyTarot.org: - Rider Waite Smith (RWS): The Magician

So what do we see in the card?

What about the origins of the card?

Several of Pamala's friends ended up being portrayed in several cards. In the role of Magician was Edith Craig

Edith Craig:

- Was known to be a lesbian, she was a prolific theatre director, producer, costume designer and early pioneer of the women's suffrage movement in England
- In the Biography, Pamela Colman Smith - The Untold Story by Stuart Kaplan
- Read pages 366 and 367