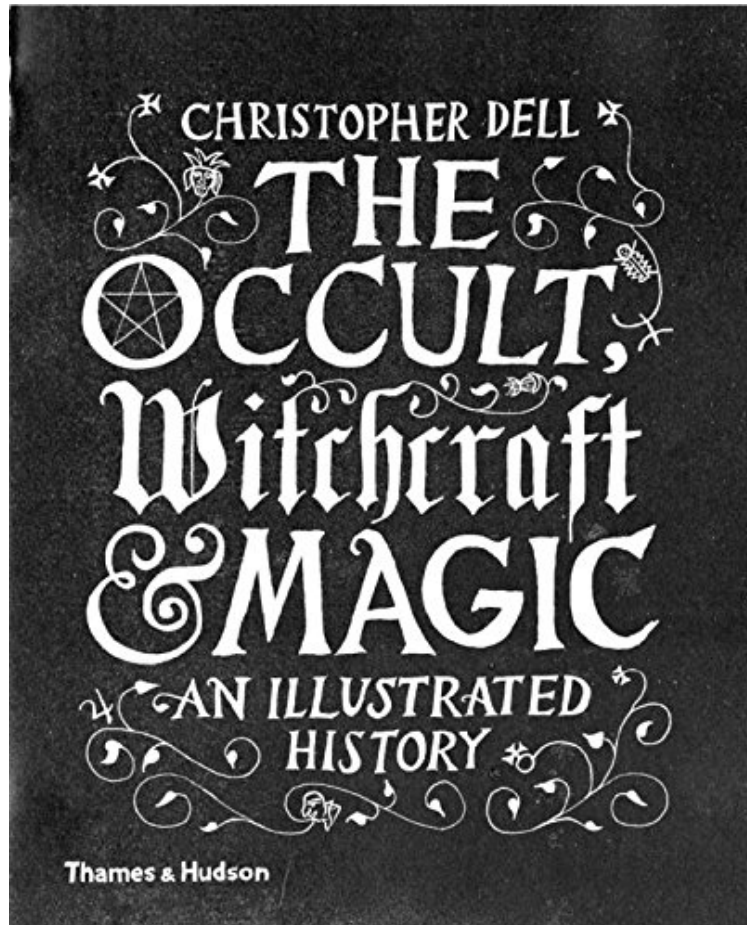


# The Occult, Witchcraft and Magic: An Illustrated History

*Christopher Dell*

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**Christopher Dell : The Occult, Witchcraft and Magic: An Illustrated History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Occult, Witchcraft and Magic: An Illustrated History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Lola BethBeautifully illustrated!!6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very Well DoneBy James AllenThis book is very well done. The illustrations are beautiful, it is well typeset and it is fairly well researched. This book is an illustrated history and more of a survey. It is not a research tome and it is not a practicum. I don't understand the negative reviews here making that complaint. If you are looking to research the occult in depth visit Tarl Warwick's author page. Everything you'd need to start is there. This was done by the people behind the Atlas Obscura and is more of a coffee table book of curiosities. Nice addition to my casual library.10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful pictures/mediocre textBy Thasha BrownWonderful pictures; useless text. For example: a 15th century Dutch of a contemporary subject painting used to illustrate "Greek and Roman Magic."If it's interesting artwork you want, and don't mind flipping to the back of

the book to find the source of the works, then this might work for you. If you're looking for something encyclopedic, skip this one entirely--you're better off learning from Wikipedia

The curious history of magic and the powers of the occult, witchcraft, ritual, and the imagination, from their earliest appearances to modern times. From the days of the earliest Paleolithic cave rituals, magic has gripped the imagination. Magic and magicians appear in early Babylonian texts, the Bible, Judaism, and Islam. Secret words, spells, and incantations lie at the heart of nearly every mythological tradition. But for every genuine magus there is an impostor. During the Middle Ages, religion, science, and magic were difficult to set apart. The Middle Ages also saw the pursuit of alchemy, the magical transformation of base materials, which led to a fascination with the occult, Freemasonry, and Rosicrucianism. The turn of the twentieth century witnessed a return to earlier magical traditions, and today, magic means many things: contemporary Wicca is practiced widely as a modern pagan religion in Europe and the US; magic also stretches to include the nonspiritual, rapid-fire sleight of hand performed by slick stage magicians who fill vast arenas. *The Occult, Witchcraft and Magic* is packed with authoritative text and a huge and inspired selection of images, some chosen from unusual sources, including some of the best-known representations of magic and the occult from around the world spanning ancient to modern times. 400+ illustrations, 300+ in color

[An] invaluable source book on the history and practice of magic and occultism, filled with mystical symbols and perplexing charts. Whether the reader attempts to practice magic upon finishing this book is not as important to Dell as tracing the origins and roots of magic throughout the centuries. Layered throughout is a visually satisfying collection of eclectic and sometimes jarring photographs that will fascinate and stir curiosity. - Publishers Weekly (starred review) About the Author Christopher Dell holds a degree in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute, London. He has written and edited several books on art and visual culture, including *Freemasonry*, *Mythology*, *What Makes a Masterpiece*, and *Monsters: A Bestiary of the Bizarre*.