

Grimoires, Demonology, and Databases



Mouse Reeve

grimoire.org

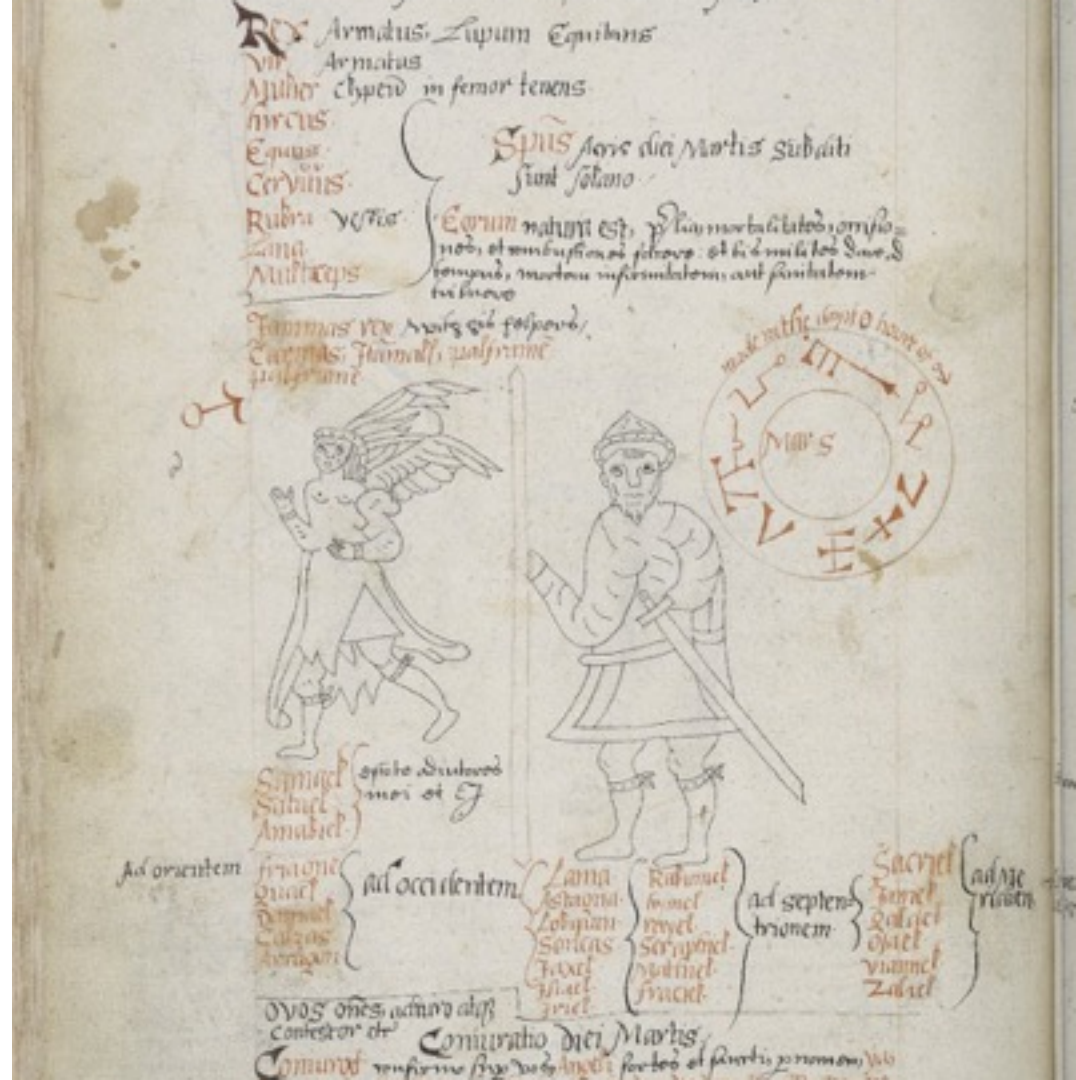
@tripofmice

Grimoire, n.

“A book of magic spells and invocations.”

Oxford English Dictionary

(*Book of Oberon*, Unknown, 1577)



Magic in 16th & 17th Century Europe

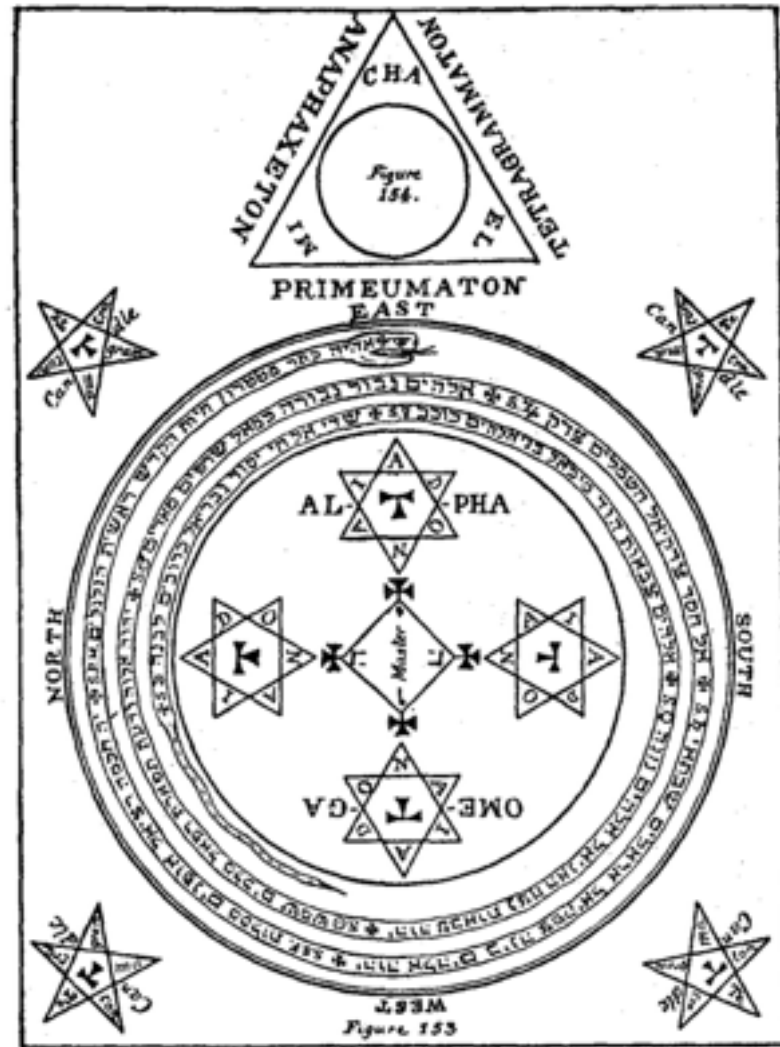
- No clear divide between magic, religion, and science
 - Cunning folk prevalent in Europe
 - “Low” magic
 - Common people, often illiterate
 - Practiced medicine, divination, folk magic
 - Ceremonial magic
 - “High” magic
 - Summoning angels, demons, spirits, and fairies
 - Piously Christian (sometimes, at least)
 - Witchcraft
 - Capital offense - take it up with the inquisition
- (*Le champion des dames*, Martin Le France, 1451)



England, ~1580

- Reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603)
- John Dee (1527-1608)
- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- *Pseudomonarchia Daemonum* (1577)
- *Lesser Key of Solomon* (1641)

(*Lesser Key of Solomon*, Unknown, 1641)

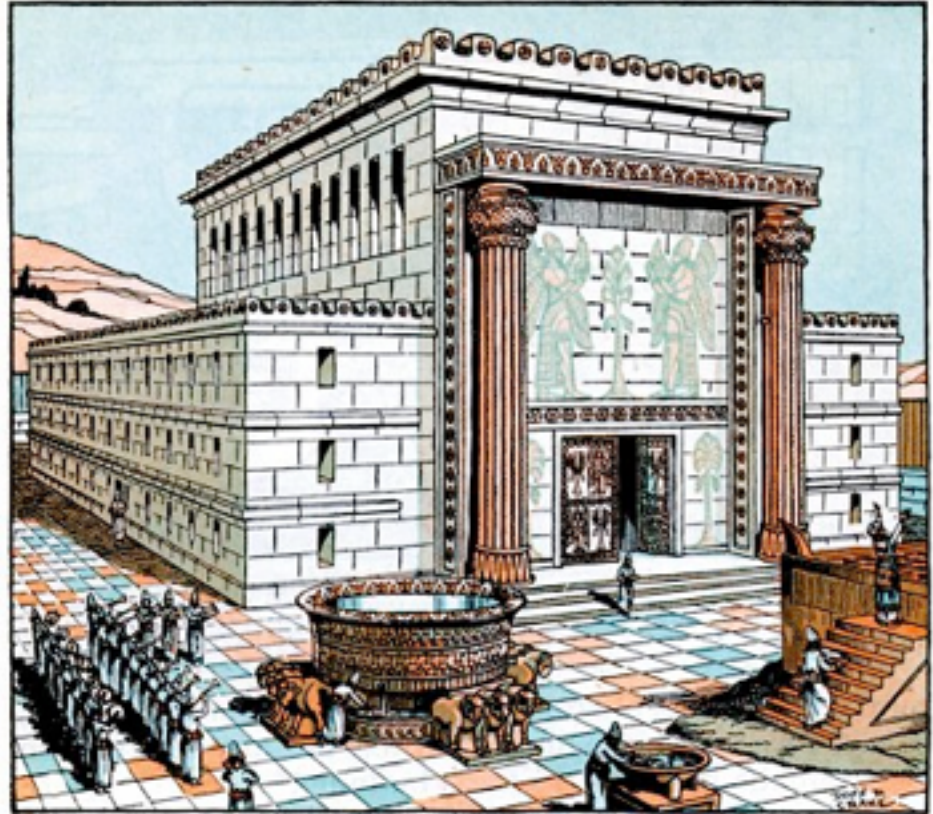


King Solomon's Temple

- "In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build temple of the LORD"
(1 Kings 6)

- *Testament of Solomon*, ~3rd century

(<http://www.templemount.org>)



Here are Some Demons



Agares



Crocell



Buer

(*Dictionnaire Infernal*, Jacques Collin de Plancy, 1818)

(*Lesser Key of Solomon*, Unknown, 1641)

What I Want to Know

- What are grimoires for?
- How do grimoires connect to people and events in history?
- Do they describe a consistent cosmology?
- What texts are sources for other texts?



(Magical items owned by John Dee, British Museum)

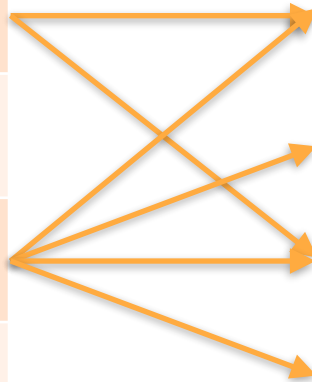
Relational Data Structures

Grimoires

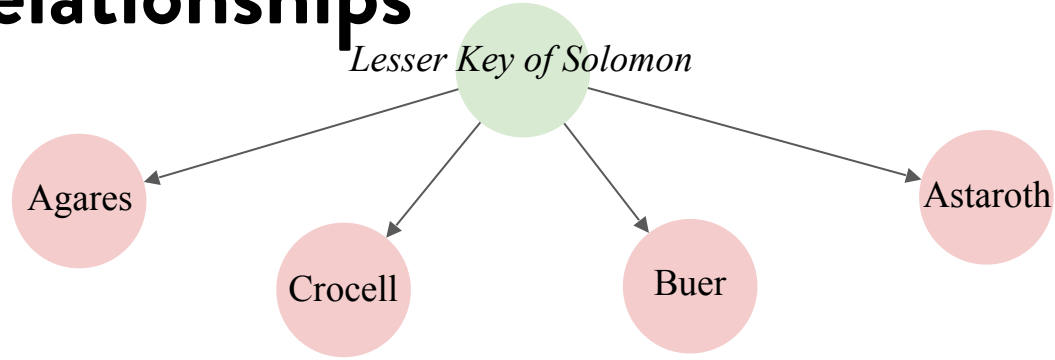
id	title	author	year
1	The Lesser key of Solomon	null	1641
2	Grimoire of Arthur Gauntlet	Arthur Gauntlet	1630
3	Key of Solomon	null	1572
4	Three Books of Occult Philosophy	Agrippa	1531

Demons

id	name	description
1	Amaymon	...
2	Egyn	...
3	Paymon	...
4	Oriens	...

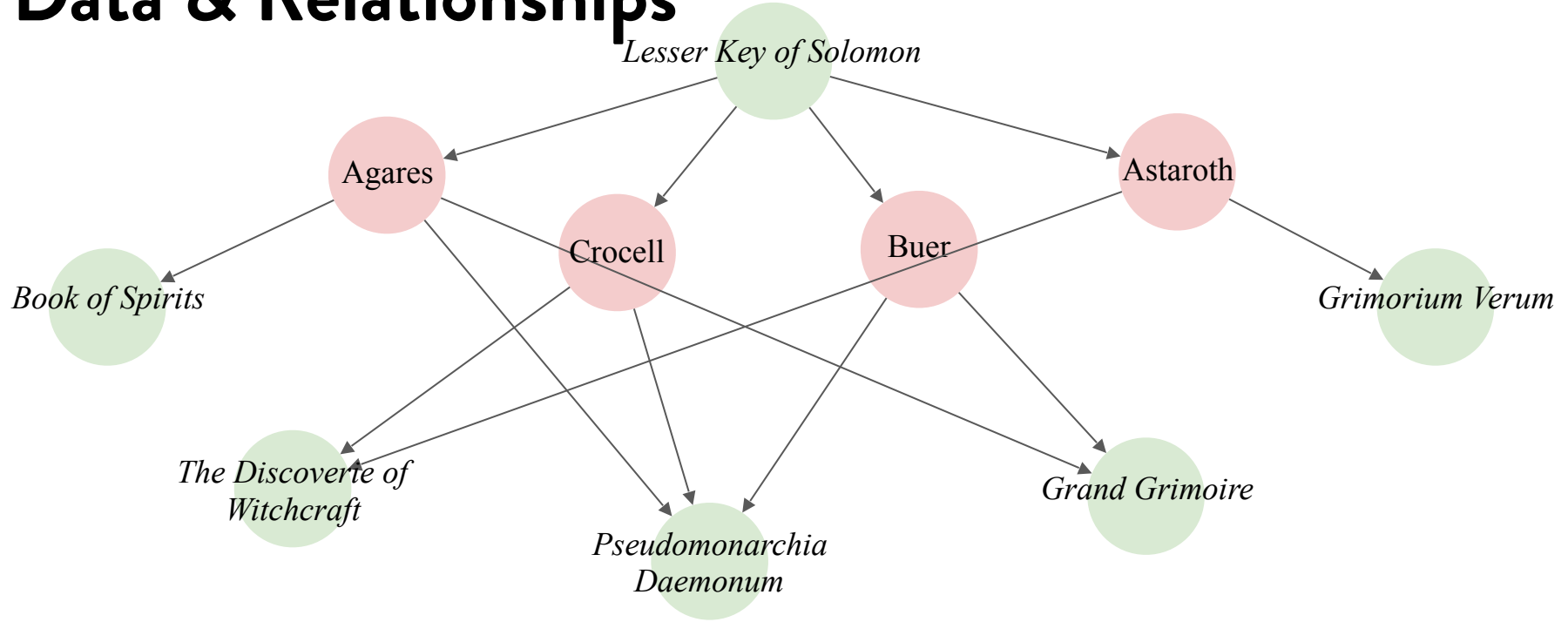


Data & Relationships



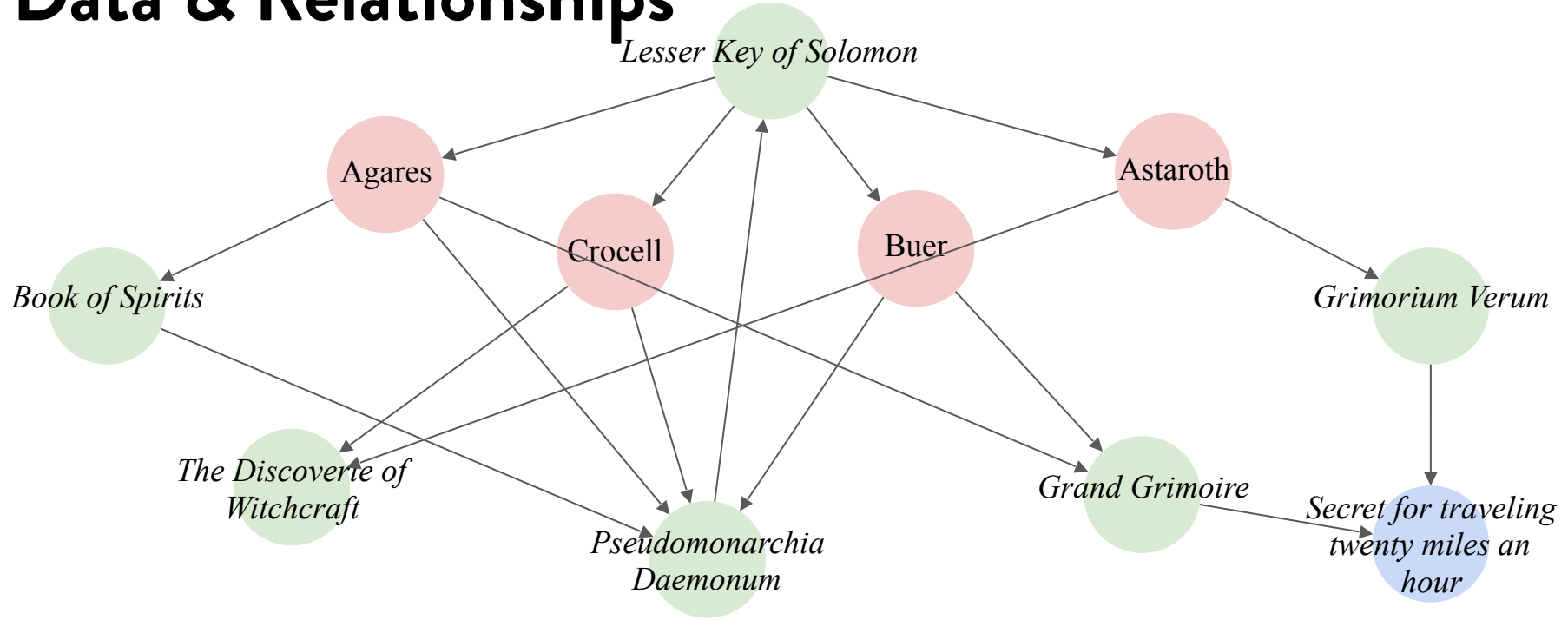
(Except are 72 demons in *The Lesser Key of Solomon*, so use your imagination)

Data & Relationships



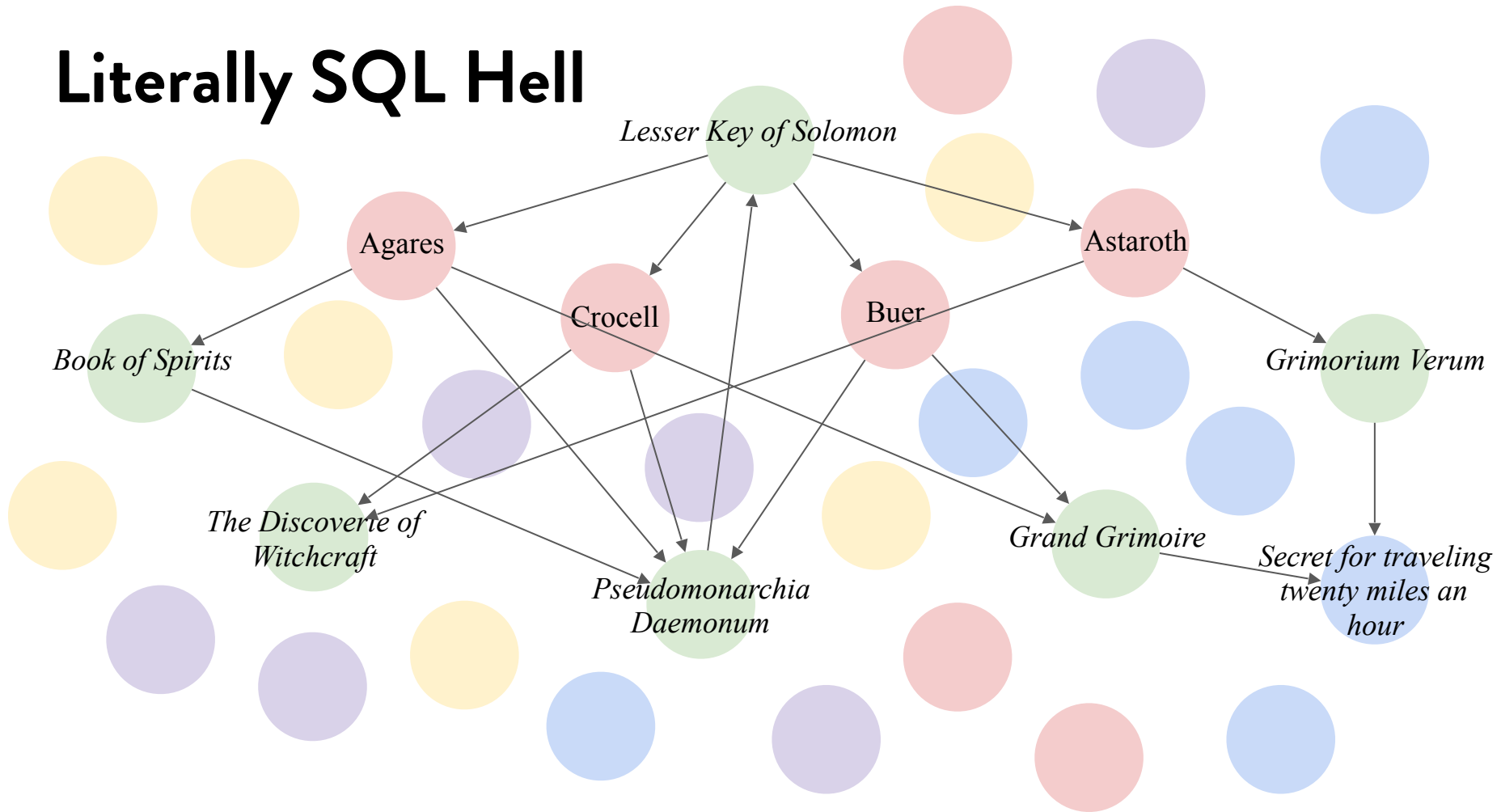
(There are a bunch of other grimoires related to these demons)

Data & Relationships



(There are a bunch of other grimoires related to these demons)

Literally SQL Hell



Literally SQL Hell: Neo4j



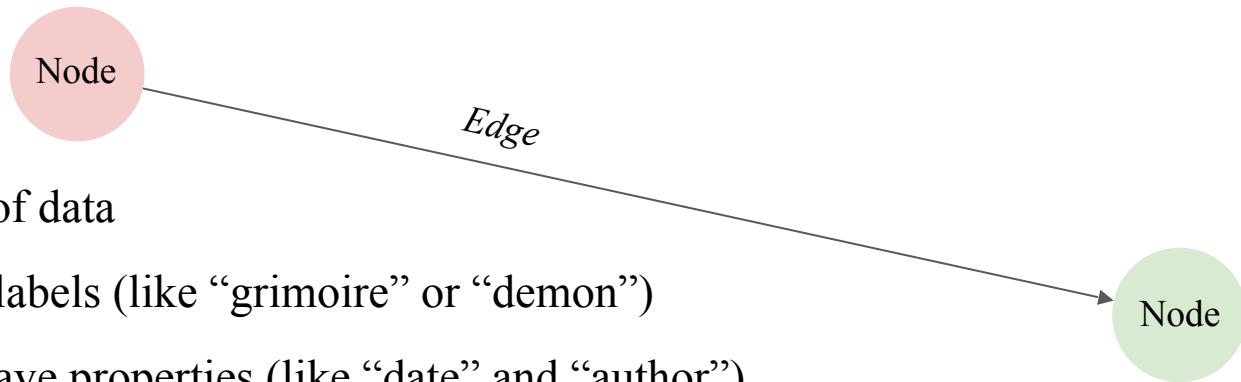
Graph Data Structures

- Nodes

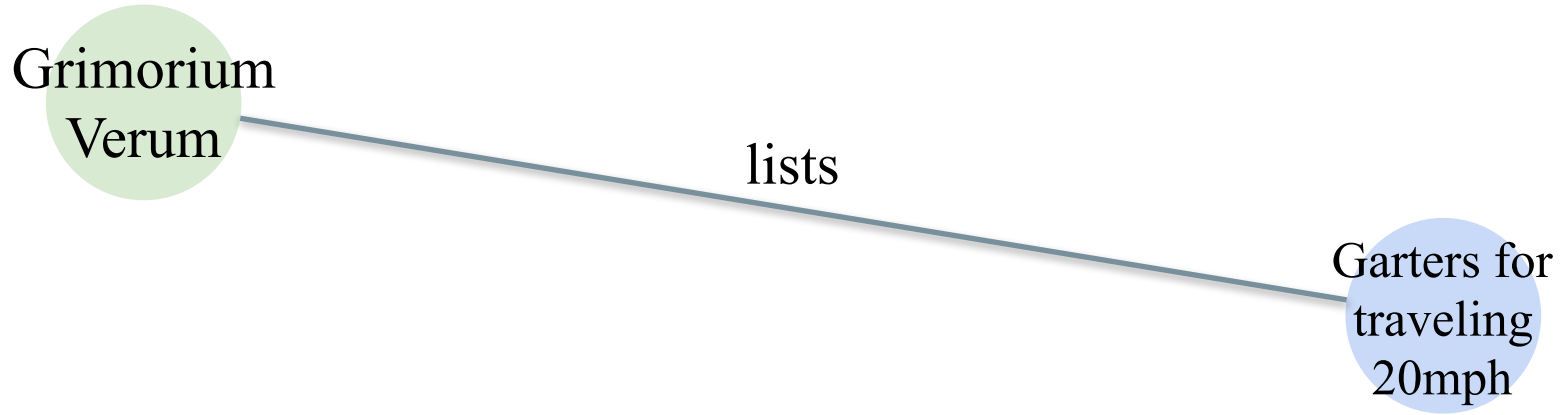
- Any piece of data
- They have labels (like “grimoire” or “demon”)
- And they have properties (like “date” and “author”)

- Edges

- A relationship between two nodes
- They have types (or descriptions)
- And they have a direction



Graph Data Structures



Bibliothèque Bleue, 1602-1830

- 1602, Troyes, Jean and Nicolas Oudot
- Inexpensive mass market chapbooks
- Bound in blue paper
- Salacious, diabolical grimoires
 - *Petit Albert* (1706)
 - *Grimorium Verum* (1817)
 - *Grand Grimoire* (1821)

(*Petit Albert*, Unknown, 1706)



Bibliothèque Bleue: spells

	Book of Oberon, The (1577)	Grimoire of Arthur Gauntlet, The (1630)	Petit Albert (1706)	Grimorium Verum (1817)	Long Lost Friend, The (1820)	Grand Grimoire, The (1821)
The three ladies or gentlemen	✓			✓		✓
Apple of Love			✓	✓		✓
The mystery of the black hen				✓		✓
To make the garter of twenty miles per hour			✓			✓
Glue to Repair Porcelain Vases					✓	✓
The magical secret for speaking with the dead				✓		✓
To Compel one dance naked			✓			✓

Bibliothèque Bleue: spells



MATCH (n:grimoire)--(m:spell)--(o:grimoire) RETURN m, n

Graph Data Structures

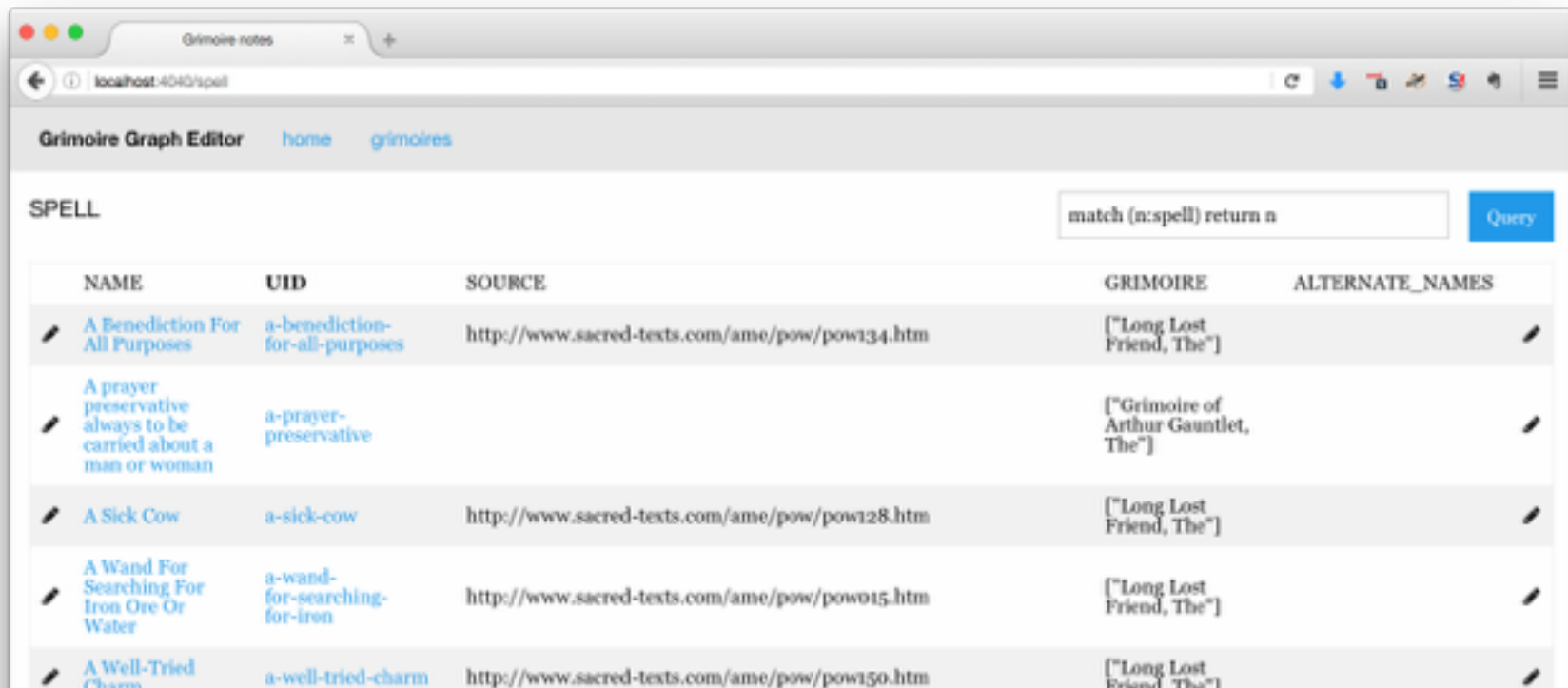
- Advantages
 - Designed for relationships & connections
 - Flexible data structure
 - No DB migrations
- Disadvantages
 - No schema for consistency
 - Non-performant for simple table data
- Common use cases
 - Social networks
 - Public transit systems

(*Magia Naturalis et Innaturalis*, Unknown, 1612/1849)













Dealing with Unstructured Data

- Edit all nodes of a given label as if they are in a table



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar at `localhost:4040/spell`. The page title is "Grimoire Graph Editor" with navigation links for "home" and "grimoires". Below the header, there is a section titled "SPELL" with a query input field containing `match (n:spell) return n` and a blue "Query" button. The main content area displays a table with five columns: NAME, UID, SOURCE, GRIMOIRE, and ALTERNATE_NAMES. Each row represents a spell entry with a pencil icon for editing.

NAME	UID	SOURCE	GRIMOIRE	ALTERNATE_NAMES
 A Benediction For All Purposes	a-benediction-for-all-purposes	http://www.sacred-texts.com/ame/pow/pow134.htm	["Long Lost Friend, The"]	
 A prayer preservative always to be carried about a man or woman	a-prayer-preservative		["Grimoire of Arthur Gauntlet, The"]	
 A Sick Cow	a-sick-cow	http://www.sacred-texts.com/ame/pow/pow128.htm	["Long Lost Friend, The"]	
 A Wand For Searching For Iron Ore Or Water	a-wand-searching-for-iron	http://www.sacred-texts.com/ame/pow/pow015.htm	["Long Lost Friend, The"]	
 A Well-Tried Charm	a-well-tried-charm	http://www.sacred-texts.com/ame/pow/pow150.htm	["Long Lost Friend, The"]	

Dealing with Unstructured Data

- Suggest existing relationships for a node based on its label

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'localhost:4040/spell/604'. The page title is 'Grimoire Graph Editor' with navigation links for 'home' and 'grimoires'. The main content area is titled 'SECRET FOR TRAVELING TWENTY MILES AN HOUR' and includes a 'Content' section with a text area containing the following text:

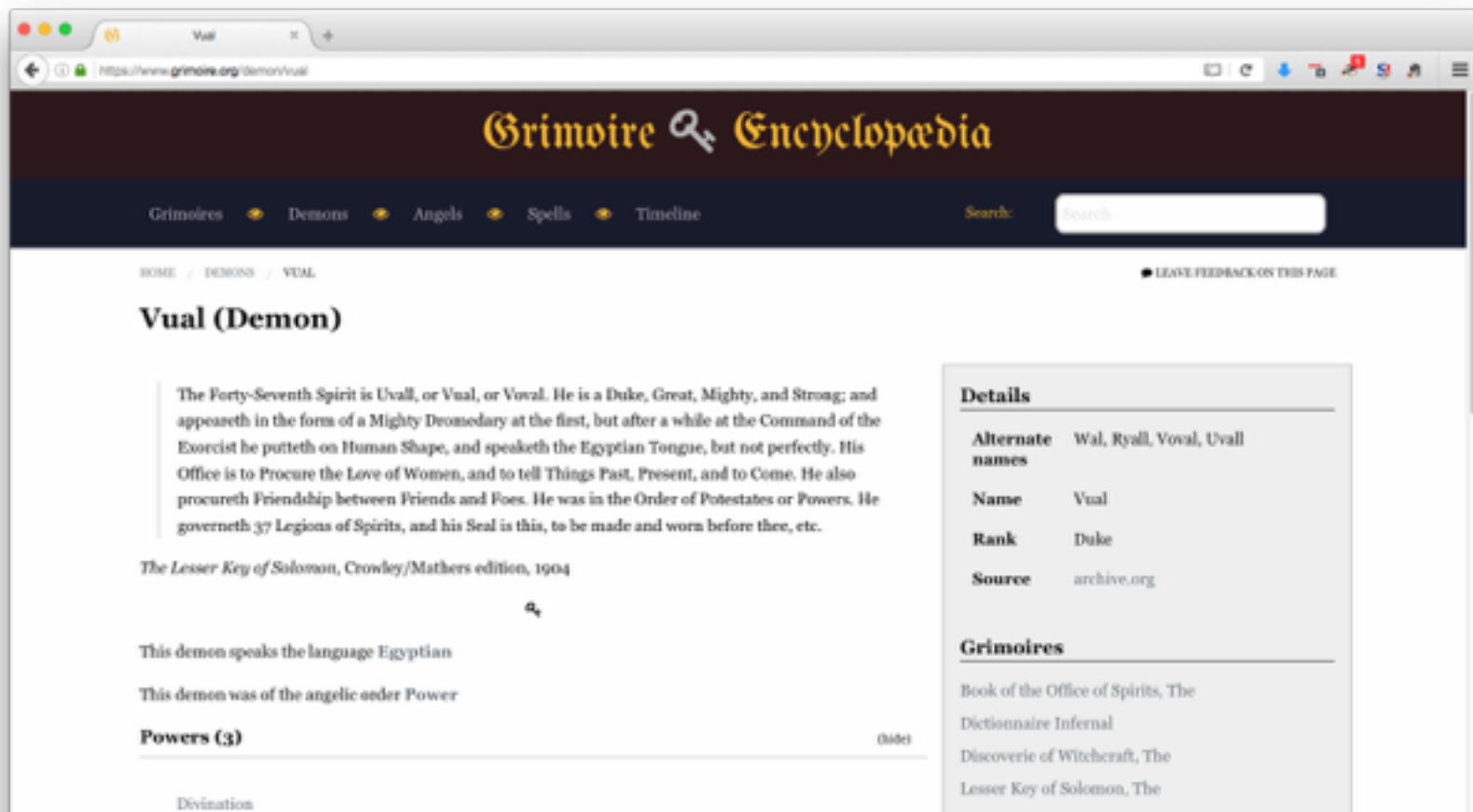
In `_Grimorium Verum_`, this spell is known as "Secret for traveling twenty miles an hour," whereas `_Grand Grimoire_` only promises 10. The spells, however, are virtually identical.

It's worth noting that, while it only offer 10 miles per hour here, `_Grand Grimoire_` contains its own spell for traveling 20 miles per hour through magical garters.

This is the version which appears in `_Grand Grimoire_`:

Below the content, there is a 'uid' field with the value 'twenty-miles-an-hour'. On the left side of the interface, there is a list of labels: 'cures disease', 'for outcome', 'invokes demon', 'invokes angel', 'grimoire lists', 'produces magic_object', and 'uses magic_object'. There are also buttons for 'Existing item', 'New item', and 'Add item'.

Now that I have all this data: grimoire.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.grimoire.org/demon/vual>. The page title is "Grimoire Encyclopedia". The navigation bar includes links for "Grimoires", "Demons", "Angels", "Spells", and "Timeline", along with a search bar. The breadcrumb trail is "HOME / DEMONS / VUAL". The main heading is "Vual (Demon)".

The text of the entry reads: "The Forty-Seventh Spirit is Uvall, or Vual, or Voval. He is a Duke, Great, Mighty, and Strong; and appeareth in the form of a Mighty Deomedary at the first, but after a while at the Command of the Exorcist he putteth on Human Shape, and speaketh the Egyptian Tongue, but not perfectly. His Office is to Procure the Love of Women, and to tell Things Past, Present, and to Come. He also procureth Friendship between Friends and Foes. He was in the Order of Potestates or Powers. He governeth 37 Legions of Spirits, and his Seal is this, to be made and worn before thee, etc."

Below the text is a small image of a seal, which is a circle containing a cross and a crescent moon. The text below the seal reads: "This demon speaks the language Egyptian" and "This demon was of the angelic order Power".

The entry is sourced from "The Lesser Key of Solomon, Crowley/Mathers edition, 1904".

On the right side of the page, there is a "Details" section with the following information:

Details	
Alternate names	Wal, Ryall, Voval, Uvall
Name	Vual
Rank	Duke
Source	archive.org

Below the details section is a "Grimoires" section with the following text:

Book of the Office of Spirits, The
Dictionnaire Infernal
Discoverie of Witchcraft, The
Lesser Key of Solomon, The

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Powers (3)" section with the text "Divination".

Questions?



Mouse Reeve

grimoire.org

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