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I.
iNtroducING
LeNoRmaND

A Lenormand deck comprises 36 numbered cards, each featuring a primary image (e.g. Rider) and a secondary playing card image (e.g. 9♥). These include the Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and pips Ten to Six of the four suits (Clubs, Hearts, Spades, and Diamonds). These images are usually called 'inserts', because in many decks they appear as miniature cards, inserted on top of the primary image.

Unlike Tarot, the history of which remains disputed, there is now general agreement upon the origin of Lenormand cards. Recent research has proved that the first Lenormand deck was printed in Germany by Johann Kaspar Hechtel as part of a game called *The Game of Hope* (*Das Spiel der Hoffnung*). Surviving reports from the period indicate that the deck was available as early as 1799.

Many of the images included in Hechtel's deck derive from earlier sources, and there is now compelling evidence to show that cards used for fortune-telling with coffee grounds influenced Hechtel's choice of images. But *The Game of Hope* is commonly agreed to be the first deck which specifically includes the numbers, images, and inserts which appear in all subsequent Lenormand decks.

The name 'Lenormand' itself often causes some confusion. Hechtel did not call his own deck by this name, and only later decks adopted it from the French fortune-teller Marie-Anne Lenormand. Mme. Lenormand's fame reached its peak in the Napoleonic period, several years after the publication of *The Game of Hope*. There's no evidence that she used the deck which now bears her name - in fact there are plausible suggestions that she instead used her own, unique set of cards. It was only as late as 1846 (three years after Mme. Lenormand's death) that an edition of the deck was first published with the name 'Lenormand' - as an opportunistic attempt to capitalise on her reputation.

Lenormand decks remained popular throughout Europe for most of the nineteenth century. They were, however, largely eclipsed by the Tarot revival at the turn of the twentieth century - which has continued unchecked ever since. The spotlight cast on Tarot meant that by comparison Lenormand disappeared into the background. Certain Lenormand decks remained available, but they never received the attention or scholarship devoted to Tarot. Until very recently, Lenormand was mostly a specialist interest, usually appearing only as a minor footnote in Tarot guides.

Recent years have happily seen a strong revival of interest in Lenormand, with new books and decks being published at an ever increasing rate. More new Lenormand decks have been printed in the past five years than in the past hundred, and Lenormand is now even more popular than it was in its original heyday. Importantly, interest in the cards has also spread worldwide. Rather than being restricted to Europe, there are now Lenormand readers and deck collectors all over the globe.

The reasons for this explosion of interest are of course open to debate - but it's reasonable to speculate that Lenormand's growth in popularity is down to three main factors. First, the deck delivers much simpler and more direct messages than Tarot: its simplicity appeals to readers looking for clear, unambiguous answers. Second, Lenormand remains largely untarnished by the 'occult' associations which can make beginners nervous or hesitant about exploring Tarot. Third - and most relevant to me as a designer - the sequence of the images and overall structure of Lenormand have encouraged many professional and amateur artists to create new, original decks. I believe that the increased variety of decks (as well as their wider availability) has driven interest in Lenormand further than ever before.

The Chelsea Lenormand is my own latest contribution to the growing catalogue of decks now available, and is the third Lenormand deck I've published. This deck is part of a strictly limited edition of 500.

The deck takes its inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement, particularly from posters and prints of the period. I've deliberately used a style and palette to create a warm, vintage feel to the cards. I'm personally a great lover of cards with an antique texture, and I've attempted with this deck to create a nostalgic atmosphere.

I went through many different revisions of this deck - of all the decks I've created so far this deck was the hardest for me to get right. Often I was sure the deck was 99% complete, only for me then to fall prey to nagging doubts that it still wasn't exactly what I actually wanted it to be. As always, these doubts emerged once the majority of the work was done - meaning much backtracking and redesigning to ensure all the card designs cohered with the overall scheme. Eventually I found the style I wanted, and I'm now satisfied that the deck works together as a cohesive unit.

I debated for some time whether to include inserts: as explained later, opinion on inserts still remains divided and many readers prefer cards which omit them entirely. I believe that inserts represent an important part of the Lenormand tradition - even if they're not always fully understood. I therefore decided to include inserts, but by integrating the pips into the overall design rather than overlaying a separate miniature card. This was often a great design challenge, but also an artistically rewarding one.

It's been a great pleasure to develop and create this deck, and I sincerely hope that you enjoy your experiences using it!



II. CaRd meAN- INGS

i. priMaRy iMages

The 36 primary images within the Lenormand deck have remained unchanged since The Game of Hope was first published. While a few cards are sometimes named differently (e.g. 'Crossroads' for Paths, 'Park' for Garden), the sequence of images has remained consistent for over two hundred years - a remarkable survival.

In recent years, thorough research has been carried out on the sources for Hechtel's choice of images. Sufficient evidence now exists to confirm that The Game of Hope itself drew heavily upon earlier fortune-telling coffee cards. These coffee cards incorporated many of the images handed down to us. At least one set of 32 cards from 1794 includes many familiar images (although they appear in a different numerical sequence), such that it's now beyond doubt that Hechtel's deck was in fact based on an earlier deck, rather than being a completely original invention.

The credible history which has been built for the deck discounts the theory that there's any secret philosophy embedded within it. Although some have tried to assign astrological or cabballistic associations to the deck, it must be said that these attempts are largely exercises in post-rationalisation. It is sometimes worth remembering that Lenormand was originally just a game.

Throughout this guide I refer to the pictures on the cards as images - not as symbols. Unlike Tarot, Lenormand contains neither symbols depicting the virtues (Temperance, Fortitude, Justice) nor symbols which require religious or cultural explanation (The Hanged Man, The Wheel of Fortune). Lenormand cards show simple images rather than symbols. This makes the cards easier to understand by any reader, regardless of cultural background.

Lenormand decks aren't divided into different schools - there's a single tradition. In this respect, Lenormand is very unlike Tarot. The same card within different Tarot decks can - and often does - carry quite different meanings. For example, a specific Tarot card's meaning depends on its being drawn from an early Marseille deck, a Golden Dawn variant, or Aleister Crowley's later Thoth deck. Lenormand is entirely free of this complexity and potential for confusion. Whatever the shape, style, or theme of a Lenormand deck, its cards always carry the same basic meaning. The Tower could be represented by a mediaeval gothic structure, the Empire State Building, or a termite mound - but it always remains the Tower, and its meaning always remains the same.

The primary images on Lenormand cards should ideally be read literally, rather than symbolically. It's important to recognise this when first learning to use Lenormand. Lenormand cards are simply images - the building blocks for creating layouts or 'visual sentences'. How these visual sentences are constructed is described in Section III of this guide.

The meanings listed here are all my own, and aren't intended in any way to be definitive. They should, however, be sufficient for new readers to familiarise themselves with the basic meanings usually assigned to each card. Over time, as you familiarise yourself with all the images, you will doubtless develop your own intuitive associations with specific cards.

In an attempt to make meanings easier to remember, I've also assigned a single keyword to each card. Again, these keywords are my own suggestions and shouldn't be taken as definitive.



rider (9♥) "News"

News of some kind, delivered in either verbal or written form. It can also indicate unexpected change.

Associations: **swiftness, flight, a messenger, a visitor, a person in uniform, a horse, bicycle, or motorcycle**



CLOVeR (6♦) "Luck"

A welcome bonus, even if this is neither life-changing nor permanent. It's a small stroke of luck - not a huge lottery win.

Associations: **a windfall, a lucky break, opportunity, hope, a turnaround, a tonic, recovery after short illness**



Ship (10♠) "Movement"

A journey, which could be spiritual or mental as well as physical. It frequently indicates a foreign influence.

Associations: **adventure, travel, setting out, distance, a rite of passage, foreign / from abroad, a large vehicle or vessel**



hOuse (K♥) "Home"

The enquirer's own home. In some specific scenarios a safe house or refuge, rather than the enquirer's home.

Associations: security, sanctuary, shelter, creature comforts, a large building, home business, a website



tRee (7♥) "Health"

Physical and spiritual health. It also often suggests the enquirer's culture and family background.

Associations: nature, nurture, organic growth, diet, exercise, roots and ancestry, patience, healing, medicine



clOuDs (K♣) "Doubt"

Uncertainty, particularly in relation to a confusing or worrying situation where there may be no clear 'yes' or 'no'.

Associations: confusion, vagueness, indecision, scepticism, depression, fog, smoke, gloom



sNaKe (Q♣) "Betrayal"

Deception or deceit - from a known person. It can also suggest complexity and difficulty.

Associations: treachery, twisted words, jealousy, rivalry, rivers, winding roads and rivers, pipes, tangled wires



COFFIN (9♦) "Ending"

A necessary end - of a situation or of a relationship. In rare cases, it can indicate death.

Associations: cancellation, conclusion, stagnation, redundancy, terminal illness, death, a closed box, darkness



bOUQUET (Q♠) "Joy"

Sweet and graceful pleasures which bring charm and joy into life. It often suggests a welcome gift.

Associations: happiness, charm, a gift, a (positive) surprise, colour, beauty, generosity, romance, good taste



SCYThe (J♥) "Cutting"

Something will be cut away. This may be painful, but its removal will bring longer term benefits.

Associations: removal, cutting away, separation, surgery, efficiency, practicality, ruthlessness, knives, tools



WhiP (J♣) "Conflict"

A clash - of which the enquirer may be the culprit or victim. It can, occasionally, suggest physical violence.

Associations: argument, culture clash, bullying, threatening behaviour, violence, sport and competition



Birds (7♦) "Chatter"

Small talk or gossip. But it can also suggest the intimacy between siblings and close family.

Associations: conversation, telephone calls or online messaging, a date, an interview, a small meeting, a debate



child (J♠) "Innocence"

The Child usually points to the enquirer's own childhood but may also represent another connected child or pupil.

Associations: inexperience, immaturity, naïveté, simple pleasures, play, fun, a new beginning, a pupil or student



fox (9♣) "Trickery"

A sly, ingenious person - often working against the enquirer. It can indicate a devious work colleague.

Associations: craftiness, resourcefulness, plotting, manipulation, bending the law, getting away with it, office politics



bear (10♣) "Strength"

Money, usually home finances. Often the 'Mother Bear' who provides for and protects her offspring.

Associations: power, weight, prudence, protection, defence, bank accounts, insurance, savings, wealth and assets



Stars (6♥) "Direction"

The Stars are a map - signs to be followed. In the modern world, they can indicate technology and computing.

Associations: clarity, navigation, signs, design, planning, strategy, technology, astronomy, astrology, the internet



StOrK (Q♥) "Change"

Improvement, if the enquirer times it right. It also has a familiar connection with pregnancy and births.

Associations: improvement, promotion, progress, a shift of direction or priorities, good planning, maternity and childbirth



DOG (10♥) "Loyalty"

The Dog suggests loyal friendship and trust. The card very often indicates a close friend, colleague, or partner.

Associations: honesty, support, trust, dependability, 'being there', assistance, intimacy, an advisor or companion



TOWeR (6♠) "Authority"

An institution - government agencies (e.g. the armed forces), the law, education, and large corporations.

Associations: government, law and order, military and police forces, hierarchies, rules and regulations, tax



GaRdeN (8♠) "Society"

A place where people meet. This may nowadays indicate online social networks as often as a physical place.

Associations: meetings, clubs, gatherings, parties, conferences, teamwork, reunions, the countryside



mOuNTaIN (8♣) "Bar"

An obstacle which will only be overcome with great effort. This can be external or internal, e.g. writer's block.

Associations: challenge, delay, blockage, interruption, inertia, paralysis, immobility, denial, stiffness, freezing



paths (Q♦) "Choice"

Called 'Crossroads' in many Lenormand decks, the Paths indicate the need to make a considered decision.

Associations: decision making, determination, evaluation, analysis, free will, gut instincts, consequences



MiCe (7♣) "Damage"

Disruption and disorder - either due to interference or through neglect and lack of proper management.

Associations: loss, theft, erosion, ruin, deterioration, untidiness, dirt, neglect, vermin, parasites



heaRt (J♥) "Love"

The enquirer's emotional life. Cards around it will generally enlighten on the nature of their desires.

Associations: emotion, passion, desire, affection, tenderness, kindness, charity, the heart (part of the body)



RING (A♣) "Partnership"

A partnership - personal or professional.
It can indicate marriage in some circumstances.

Associations: marriage, union, alliance, agreement, a contract, co-operation, a promise or vow, a merger, jewellery



BOOK (10♦) "Information"

Information coming into the enquirer's possession - which is frequently of a secret or confidential nature.

Associations: any printed or digital materials (books, papers, files), knowledge, libraries, the occult



LeTTeR (7♠) "Message"

Written communication - a printed document, email, or even a text message.

Associations: correspondence, mail, documents, newsletters, contracts, bills, invoices, statements, cheques



MaN (A♥)

This card represents the enquirer, if the enquirer is male. If the enquirer is female, the Man shows a man close to her (e.g. her husband, father).

This deck includes two Man cards: please see note IV in this section.



WOMaN (A♠)

This card represents the enquirer, if the enquirer is female. If the enquirer is male, the Woman shows a woman close to him (e.g. his wife, mother).

This deck includes two Woman cards: please see note IV in this section.



liLy (K♠) "Maturity"

Wisdom and inner peace gained from experience - also associated with sensuality and sexuality.

Associations: peace, serenity, wisdom, experience, inner security, relaxation, ageing, retirement, sex and sexuality



SUN (A♦) "Success"

Positive power, dynamism, and achievement. A card of great energy.

Associations: light, heat, consciousness, science, logic, ambition, victory, masculinity, testosterone, ego, the left-brain, the visible and physical world



MOON (8♥) "Intuition"

Creativity and inspiration. The opposite to the Sun's external qualities.

Associations: the subconscious, the irrational, fantasy, oestrogen, the id, the right-brain, the hidden and psychic world



KEY (8♦) "Solution"

The solution to a problem. It can also represent an achievement which 'opens doors' to future success.

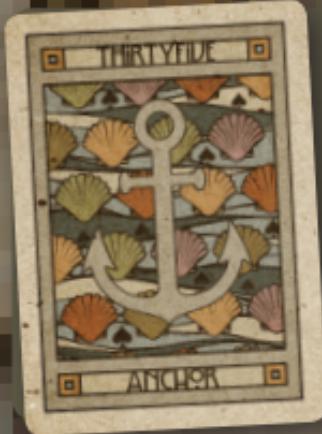
Associations: discovery, access, passwords and entry codes, passports and visas, clues, destiny, the soul



fish (K♦) "Enterprise"

Work, but also independence. The card frequently appears as an indicator of freelance employment.

Associations: freedom, start-ups, independence, flexibility, expansion, water, a freelance worker



aNchOR (9♠) "Stability"

Stability - often after a difficult period. It can, however, also indicate fixed attitudes and aversion to risk.

Associations: security, safety, settling down, a safe haven, legacies, conservatism, stubbornness



CROSS (6♣) "Sacrifice"

A burden - of either a physical or spiritual kind. It can also indicate loss, grief, and regret.

Associations: physical or spiritual sacrifice, religious devotion, suffering, illness, guilt, bereavement, repentance

ii. iNserts as peOpLe

As well as the meanings listed on the previous pages, the Lenormand deck contains cards which may also be taken to represent other people. This is generally in answer to a question such as, "Whom should I trust?", or, "Who's best for me?"

In addition to the Man and Woman, twelve other cards serve this purpose. These are the cards which use an insert of a King, Queen, or Jack. These court cards are all believed to represent people with particular characteristics - which are described opposite.

In this deck, inserts are integrated into the overall card design rather than separate images. As on some cards this integration is quite subtle, they are illustrated here to assist recognition.

Opinion remains divided as to the origin and purpose of inserts. The original Game of Hope cards included 'pips' on each card, but earlier coffee cards from which it drew many of its images did not. In truth, no-one has yet provided a fully convincing explanation as to why or how the inserts were attributed to each card. Various theories have been proposed, and specific meanings for all the inserts have been developed, but these are too detailed to describe in this booklet (they are, however, easily found online).

Attitudes towards inserts remain varied. Some readers place great emphasis on inserts and believe they are integral to a reading. As many others view them as a complete distraction. Many modern Lenormand decks, in fact, omit the inserts altogether. The characteristics assigned to the court card inserts are therefore presented here as a choice - which you may either observe or disregard according to your own preference.



K♣

Clouds
(6)

An influential and protective older man.



Q♣

Snake
(7)

A cool, intelligent, woman. She may be a 'dark horse'.



J♣

Whip
(11)

An active, ambitious youth. Full of life and energy.



K♥

House
(4)

A warm, older man - a father, or father figure.



Q♥

Stork
(17)

A loving, kind woman - often a mother or nurse.



J♥

Heart
(24)

A serious, purposive, graceful and artistic youth.



K♠

Lily
(30)

An authoritative man. The 'other man' in a triangle.



Q♠

Bouquet
(9)

A woman who likes to be in charge - a widow or divorcee.



J♠

Child
(13)

An ambitious youth, perhaps a ruthless achiever.



K♦

Fish
(34)

A powerful man, often within work.



Q♦

Paths
(22)

An interfering woman - a rival.



J♦

Scythe
(10)

A mercurial youth, full of nerves.

iii. combiNatiONs

One of the best ways to gain a fuller reading is with combinations. This is where two or more cards appear next to one another. While it is, of course, possible to read all cards individually, treating them as combinations often delivers much more precise detail.

With thirty-six cards there are many possible pairings, and some books and websites provide long lists of combinations. I believe, however, that it's bad practice for beginners to try to learn all of these before they've first acquired some confidence with the deck. I would instead recommend a more intuitive approach in which readers start by creating their own combinations, based on one simple rule: that the second card describes and explains the first. As you become more familiar with the deck, you'll begin to develop and recognise your own personal combinations.

Below are two illustrations of possible combinations. They are presented in pairs, to help you understand how the card order can dramatically change the meaning of the combination.

Combination 1a : Fish + Coffin = "False start"



The Fish card denotes new ventures, particularly in business. But the description shown by the second card, the Coffin, means that these are soon destined to end.

The combined meaning here is, therefore, a plan which is over before it has begun or which fails ever to get off the ground, i.e. a false start.

Combination 1b : Coffin + Fish = "End of a project / job"



In this combination, the cards are reversed.

The Coffin signifies an ending. To understand what this ending might be, we need to look at the Fish, which describes work and business. So here we see the ending of a project or job. It may even indicate a total career change, or leaving employed work to become a freelance.

Combination 2a : Ship + House = "A trip back home"



The Ship denotes a journey. The House describes the nature of this journey - so this combination specifically denotes a trip back home. Whether this journey is temporary (just a family visit) or a permanent move will be indicated by other adjacent cards.

Combination 2b: House + Ship = "Relocation"



Reversing the cards again produces a different meaning. Whereas Ship + House showed a journey (with House supplying the description), House + Ship is showing a message about home. Ship supplies the necessary description. This combination indicates that the home itself will move, i.e. relocation. Given the international flavour of the Ship, this could indicate relocation abroad, i.e. emigration.

iv. same sex COUPLEs



This deck includes two versions of both Man and Woman cards. The extra cards have been included for readers who wish to make readings concerning same-sex couples. In this scenario, the alternative Man or Woman card replaces the Woman or Man card.

So, for example, a man with a male partner (or hoping for one) would remove the Woman card and replace it with the alternative Man card. In resulting layouts, this card would represent another man (the main Man card continues to represent the enquirer himself). Similarly, a woman with a female partner would discard the Man card and replace it with the alternative Woman card.

How readers choose to use these extra cards is entirely a matter of personal preference. I know gay readers of both sexes who still prefer to use both Man and Woman cards - since these may indicate people other than lovers and partners. These extra cards are included purely as an option for those who wish to use them.

III. BASiC CaRd lAyOuts

i. First Principles

There are many different Lenormand layouts available - it's an extremely flexible tool. As you become more familiar with the deck, you may develop your own unique layouts: quick 'pulls' which include fewer cards, or more complex layouts which cover many different aspects of life.

Personally, I've found the following broad guidelines to be useful:

- (i) Read from left to right, and from top to bottom.
- (ii) Cards to the left and top relate to the past-present - what has already happened, or what the enquirer cannot change. The enquirer has no control over what is shown by these cards.
- (iii) Cards to the right and bottom relate to the present-future - where the enquirer can affect the situation through choice.
- (iv) Cards should first be read individually, before identifying and reading card combinations.
- (v) A single card may be preselected to focus the subject or topic of a reading. This card is called the Significator and is preplaced in the centre of a layout. For men, the Man (28) should be used; for women the Woman (29) should be used. If a layout is being cast to represent a specific question, then a Significator can be chosen to relate to that question. So, for example:
 - A question about love and relationships - Heart (24)
 - A question about work - Fox (14) or Fish (34)
 - A question about home life - House (4)
 - A question about money - Bear (15)

ii. STRING READ-

The simplest and easiest Lenormand layouts are strings, where cards are laid out in a single row and read from left to right. If a Significator has been chosen, this should be placed in the centre. The number of cards used depends on the detail desired, but the most common layout for quick questions uses just three cards.

Two examples, answering specific questions, are shown here.

Example 1 : Would I be happier in a new job?



14 21 34
PAST PRESENT FUTURE

Here the reader has selected three random cards from the deck. The cards are read from left to right.

The Fox (14) suggests that a colleague has been creating difficulties, most likely by undermining the enquirer's position. This has produced an impasse shown by the Mountain (21). A possible future is shown by Fish (34), where the enquirer makes a fresh start, perhaps by going freelance.

Drawing another card and adding it to the string helps to clarify the likely outcome.

+



31

The Sun (31) is a highly positive card, indicating energy and success. This confirms that making the move suggested by the first three cards would provide much greater happiness for the enquirer.

Example 2 : Should I try again with him?



In this layout, we look at a question asked by a woman who has recently split up with a male partner. She's looking for advice as to whether she should give the relationship another attempt.

Because the question is so specific, it makes sense to choose a Significator to represent the other person. Here the Man (28) card is used. Because questions of love are more complicated than many others, five cards have been used rather than just three. Five cards allow us to look both further back and further forward.

The first card, Birds (12), shows that the relationship was founded primarily on talking - Birds denote conversation and chatter. But we also need to consider cards which don't appear. There's little here to indicate genuine passion: none of the cards which suggest either sexual attraction or compatibility (Heart, Sun, Ring) are present. It's tempting to conclude, therefore, that from the beginning the relationship was based on talk rather than action.

The second card, the Scythe (10), is a clear indication of the recent break up. Taken as a combination with the Birds, this strongly implies that the reason for the split was that the conversation between the two partners was cut short. Perhaps the jokes and banter dried up the more time they got to know one another, such that they became tired - eventually annoyed - with one another's talk.

Looking to the future, the Ship (3) suggests that rather than trying again with her previous partner, she would instead benefit from some distance. Given the context of the layout it would appear that the couple certainly need - right now - to give themselves a break from one another.

The final outcome is represented by the Dog (18). Its appearance in the final position suggests that ultimately the two have the potential to become close friends - rather than lovers. The continuing absence from the layout of any cards indicating love and partnership suggest that the relationship between the two will eventually be platonic rather than romantic.

Positive, negative, and neutral outcomes

Some readers like to complement strings with one more card which sums up the layout as positive, negative, or neutral:

| Rider | Clover | Ship | House | Tree | Clouds |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Positive | Positive | Positive | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
| Snake | Coffin | Bouquet | Scythe | Whip | Birds |
| Negative | Negative | Positive | Negative | Negative | Neutral |
| Child | Fox | Bear | Stars | Stork | Dog |
| Positive | Negative | Positive | Positive | Neutral | Positive |
| Tower | Garden | Mountain | Paths | Mice | Heart |
| Neutral | Neutral | Negative | Neutral | Negative | Positive |
| Ring | Book | Letter | Man | Woman | Lily |
| Neutral | Neutral | Neutral | Neutral | Neutral | Positive |
| Sun | Moon | Key | Fish | Anchor | Cross |
| Positive | Neutral | Positive | Positive | Positive | Negative |

iii. graND tableau

The Grand Tableau is the oldest and best known layout. It originates from the original Game of Hope - whose cards were laid out in a 8+8+8+8+4 pattern. Alternative Grand Tableau layouts are often used by many readers (for example a 9+9+9+9 pattern), but the layout shown below is the traditionally accepted and most regularly used pattern.



There are many different ways of reading a Grand Tableau, and the following notes serve only as a very basic introduction. I would recommend first getting a feel for the Grand Tableau layout before attempting more advanced techniques.

The following simple rules should be observed:

(i) The focal point is the Significator representing the enquirer - the Man for a male, the Woman for a female. The layout shown here is for a man, so the focal point is Row 2, Column 5.

(Please note that with the Grand Tableau a Significator should not be preplaced in the layout, but should fall into position naturally.)

(ii) The column in which the Significator appears (Column 5 in this layout) represents the present.

(iii) Columns to the left of the Significator (Columns 1-4) represent the past. Columns to the right (Columns 6-8) represent the future.

(iv) The most important and influential aspects will appear in the same row as the Significator (Row 2). These are the forces and situations which are closest to him.

(v) All cards below the Significator (Rows 3 and 4) are within his control. These are elements of life over which he can make choices.

(vi) Cards which appear above the Significator (Row 1) are elements which are controlling and influencing him. He has little or no choice in the situations which these cards present.

(vii) The four cards at the bottom of the Grand Tableau are additional 'fate' cards which should be read as a mini-layout in their own right - not as part of any other column or row. They serve as an overall summary for the whole layout, and should be read as a string from left to right.

Following these principles will allow you to build up a detailed portrait of the enquirer's present, past, and future - but this is only the beginning of how the Grand Tableau actually works.

The Grand Tableau also offers the power to explore many different questions. By focusing on specific cards which relate to a particular aspect of life (e.g. work, family, love, friends), the Tableau can answer many different questions - all within a single layout.

To ask about money, we look to the card which represents finances - the Bear (15). Cards around the Bear deliver insight into the enquirer's financial situation. We've already learned the rule that cards above the Significator are within the enquirer's control. So, in the example shown, it appears that he is in control of his finances. But the Bear's position in relation to the Significator should also be examined. Its distance from the Man (appearing far in the future) suggests that for now, our enquirer isn't thinking about money decisions a great deal and is postponing proper consideration of this issue until some time in the future.

Similarly, if the enquirer wishes to know about partnerships, we would locate the card which signifies partnerships - the Ring (25). In the layout shown, the Ring appears far to the left of the Man. This suggests that he hasn't had a meaningful partnership for some time. Looking at the cards between the Ring and the Man indicates what's happened since his last relationship. The cards which appear here are Clover (2), Heart (24), and Ship (3). Clover always indicates something temporary. Taken in combination with the Heart we can guess that he may indeed have experienced brief flashes of passion, but has immediately moved on (Ship). So he hasn't had a partnership for some time - but he may well have enjoyed a few one night stands!

The Grand Tableau can therefore answer many different questions - without the need for a different layout each time. The Tableau also has the advantage of showing precisely how all these elements of life interact and influence one another.

Other cards commonly used for specific questions are as follows:

Love and desire: Heart (24) Work: Fish (34) or Fox (14)

Marriage: Ring (25) Money: Bear (15)

Childhood: Child (13) Pregnancy: Stork (17)

Home: House (4) Friends: Dog (18)

Health: Tree (5) Sex: Lily (30)

School and college: Book (26) Illness: Cross (36)

As previously explained, the Man (28) and Woman (29) cards should usually be read as representing the enquirer's partner.

I hope that this brief introduction gives sufficient information for you to begin working with the Grand Tableau. There are many more advanced techniques available, which you may wish to explore once you've mastered the basics. These techniques include reading diagonally, reading the four corners and the central cross of the Tableau, 'knighting' (cards which are relatively positioned to each other as in a knight's chess move). Readers are constantly developing and creating new techniques.

To explain all of these techniques would require a much longer and more detailed booklet than it was possible to prepare for this deck. Fortunately, information about these techniques is widely available in the books and resources listed in Section IV of this guide.

IV. further reading

This booklet is intended only as a brief starter's guide to the Lenormand deck. For more detailed histories, more sophisticated card interpretations and combinations, and advice on advanced layout techniques, I would recommend the following resources.

Learning Lenormand: Traditional Fortune-Telling for Modern Life

Marcus Katz & Tali Goodwin (Llewellyn Publications US, 2013)

ISBN-10: 0738736473 / ISBN-13: 978-0738736471

The Essential Lenormand: Your Guide to Precise & Practical Fortunetelling

Rana George (Llewellyn Publications US, 2014)

ISBN-10: 0738736627 / ISBN-13: 978-0738736624

The Complete Lenormand Oracle Handbook: Reading the Language and Symbols of the Cards

Caitlin Matthews (Healing Arts Press, 2014)

ISBN-10: 1620553252 / ISBN-13: 978-1620553251

The Secrets of the Lenormand Oracle

Sylvie Steinbach (Createspace Publishing, 2007)

ISBN-10: 1419670301 / ISBN-13: 978-1419670305

The English Lenormand

Mary Greer & Tali Goodwin (Forge Press, 2013)

Lenormand Symbols: Exploring the Origins of the Images on the Cards

Anthony Louis (Kindle only, via Amazon, 2014)

As well as printed works, there exists an ever growing number of websites, blogs, online communities, and Facebook pages devoted to Lenormand. At the time of publication, I have found the following to be especially engaging and useful:

tarotassociation.net

The leading organisation for all things Tarot and Lenormand, this site offers many video-based courses and resources.

[facebook.com/groups/learninglenormand](https://www.facebook.com/groups/learninglenormand)

Moderated by Tarot Professionals, this group acts as an exchange for discussion of card history, deck design, readings, and layouts.

marygreer.wordpress.com

Packed with insight, this blog is written by Mary K. Greer, a leading light in cartomancy scholarship. The blog covers all aspects of cartomancy, but contains many entries on Lenormand.

learnlenormand.com

An extensive website devoted to Lenormand in all its forms, including detailed advice on card meanings, specialist layouts, and advanced interpretation techniques.

lenormanddictionary.blogspot.com

Blog covering Lenormand history, card meanings and combinations, layouts, and interpretation techniques.

aeclectic.net and tarotforum.net

Although primarily a Tarot site, Aeclectic also has a growing library of Lenormand decks and reviews. Its free forum contains a section dedicated specifically to discussion of Lenormand.

maLPERTUiS DESiGNS

I founded **Malpertuis Designs Ltd** in 2013 with a mission to design and produce quality limited edition Tarot, Lenormand, and oracle cards. I run the company according to three main principles:

i) Independence

My founding principle is simple: to create beautiful artefacts which I'd myself wish to own. I don't design decks with an eye to the market, or base my designs around what I think might be most popular or most lucrative. It's important to me that I'm able to produce decks exactly as I'd like them to be without compromise. That's why I design, publish, and sell all my decks independently.

ii) Imagination

While I respect and love the history of cards, I'm more interested in expanding and extending possibilities than in sticking religiously to traditional images and symbolism. I'm a designer - not a scholar or archivist - and imagination is much more important to me than authenticity. I'm therefore happy to leave the pursuit of provenance or purity to others while I hopefully create something new, original, and different.

iii) Integrity

I want to create decks which are as attractive and original as possible, without stealing other designers' material or ideas. I work primarily as a collagist, but any images I use are my own photographs or drawings, licensed images from stock libraries, or material already certified as existing in the public domain.

Other Lenormand decks available from

www.malpertuis.co.uk



MALPERTUIS LENORMAND (2014)

Designed in the style of classical oil paintings, my first Lenormand won the Tarot Association's award for best self-published Lenormand in 2014. Printed in a gilt-edged edition of 1000.

LOTHROP LENORMAND (2014)

Designed as an affectionate pastiche of antique cards, this nostalgic deck takes its inspiration from vintage engravings and aquatints. It is available in both coloured (750) and uncoloured (250) editions, both gilt-edged.



SPUTNIK LENORMAND (due 2015)

This quirky, retro deck takes its inspiration from vintage illustrations from Eastern Europe. Due for publication in 2015, this fun deck will be printed in a limited edition of 500 copies.



OLD ARABIAN LENORMAND (due 2015)

This deck draws on my own experiences in the Middle East, and is designed to evoke the often unrecognised romance and beauty of the region.

This deck is due for publication late in 2015.





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