

= Madeline Montalban =

Madeline Montalban (born Madeline Sylvia Royals ; 8 January 1910 ? 11 January 1982) was an English astrologer and ceremonial magician . She co @-@ founded the esoteric organisation known as the Order of the Morning Star (OMS) , through which she propagated her own form of Luciferianism .

Born in Blackpool , Lancashire , Montalban moved to London in the early 1930s , immersing herself in the city 's esoteric subculture , and influenced by Hermeticism she taught herself ceremonial magic . She associated with significant occultists , including Thelemites like Aleister Crowley and Kenneth Grant , and Wiccans like Gerald Gardner and Alex Sanders . From 1933 to 1953 she published articles on astrology and other esoteric topics in the magazine London Life , and from then until her death in the nationally syndicated magazine Prediction . These were accompanied by several booklets on astrology , released using a variety of different pseudonyms , including Dolores North , Madeline Alvarez and Nina del Luna .

In 1952 she met Nicholas Heron , with whom she entered into a relationship . After moving to Southsea in Essex , they founded the OMS as a correspondence course in 1956 , teaching subscribers their own magical rites . Viewing Lucifer as a benevolent angelic deity , she believed Luciferianism had its origins in ancient Babylon , and encouraged her followers to contact angelic beings associated with the planetary bodies to aid their spiritual development . After her relationship with Heron ended in 1964 , she returned to London , continuing to propagate the OMS . She settled in the St. Giles district , where she became known to the press as " The Witch of St. Giles " . She died of lung cancer in 1982 .

Having refused to publish her ideas in books , Montalban became largely forgotten following her death , although the OMS continued under new leadership . Her life and work was mentioned in various occult texts and historical studies of esotericism during subsequent decades ; a short biography by Julia Philips was published by the Atlantis Bookshop in 2012 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life : 1910 ? 1938 = = =

Madeline Sylvia Royals was born on 8 January 1910 in Blackpool , Lancashire . Little is known of her early life , which coincided with Britain 's involvement in the First World War , although she appears to have had a strained relationship with her parents . Her father , Willie Royals , was an insurance agent , while her mother , Marion Neruda Shaw , was a tailor 's daughter from Oldham . Willie and Marion had married on 28 June 1909 , followed by Madeline 's birth seven months later . In early life , Madeline was afflicted with polio , resulting in a lifelong withered leg and limp . Bedridden for the course of the illness , she read literature to entertain herself , enjoying the works of Edward Bulwer @-@ Lytton , H. Rider Haggard and E. T. A. Hoffman . She also read the Bible in her youth , becoming particularly enamored with the texts of the Old Testament , and was convinced that they contained secret messages , a theme that became a central tenet of her later Luciferian beliefs .

In the early 1930s , she left Blackpool , and moved south to London . Her reasons for doing so have never been satisfactorily explained , and she would offer multiple , contradictory accounts of her reasoning in later life . According to one account , her father sent her to study with the famed occultist and mystic Aleister Crowley , who had founded the religion of Thelema in 1904 ; Montalban 's biographer Julia Philips noted that while she met Crowley in London , this story remains implausible . Another of Montalban 's accounts held that she moved to the capital to work for the Daily Express newspaper ; this claim has never been corroborated , and one of the paper 's reporters at the time , Justine Glass , has claimed that she never remembered Montalban working there . Montalban often changed her stories , and informed later disciple Michael Howard that upon arrival in London , the Daily Express sent her to interview Crowley . According to this story , when

she first visited him at his lodgings in Jermyn Street , he was suffering from an asthma attack , and having had experience with this ailment from a family member she was able to help him , earning his gratitude . They subsequently went to the expensive Café Royal in Regent Street , where after their lunch , he revealed that he was unable to pay , leaving Montalban to sort out payment .

Although her own accounts of the initial meeting are unreliable , Montalban met with Crowley , embracing the city 's occult scene . Having a deep interest in western esotericism , she read widely on the subject , and taught herself the practice of magic rather than seeking out the instruction of a teacher . She was particularly interested in astrology , and in 1933 wrote her first article on the subject for the magazine London Life , entitled " The Stars in the Heavens " . Her work continued to see publication in that magazine until 1953 , during which time she used different pseudonyms : Madeline Alvarez , Dolores del Castro , Michael Royals , Regina Norcliff , Athene Deluce , Nina de Luna , and the best known , Madeline Montalban , which she created based upon the name of a film star whom she liked , the Mexican actor Ricardo Montalbán .

= = = Marriage and London Life : 1939 ? 1951 = = =

By the end of the 1930s , Montalban was living on Grays Inn Road in the Borough of Holborn . In 1939 , she married fireman George Edward North in London . They had a daughter , Rosanna , but their relationship deteriorated and he left her for another woman . She later informed friends that during the Second World War , George had served in the Royal Navy while she served in the Women 's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) , although such claims have never been corroborated . Gerald Gardner , founder of Gardnerian Wicca ? known for his unreliable stories ? claimed that he met Montalban during the war , when she was wearing a WRNS uniform , and that at the time she was working as a " personal clairvoyant and psychic advisor " to Lord Louis Mountbatten . Various individuals who knew her would comment that she had in her possession a framed blurry picture of Mountbatten with an individual who looked like her .

She continued her publication of articles under an array of pseudonyms in London Life , and from February 1947 was responsible for a regular astrological column entitled " You and Your Stars " under the name of Nina del Luna . She also undertook other work , and in the late 1940s , Michael Houghton , proprietor of Bloomsbury 's esoteric @-@ themed Atlantis Bookshop , asked her to edit a manuscript of Gardner 's novel High Magic 's Aid , which was set in the Late Middle Ages and which featured practitioners of a Witch @-@ Cult ; Gardner later alleged that the book contained allusions to the ritual practices of the New Forest coven of Pagan Witches who had initiated him into their ranks in 1939 . Gardner incorrectly believed that Montalban " claimed to be a Witch ; but got evrything [sic] wrong " although he credited her with having " a lively imagination . " Although initially seeming favourable to Gardner , by the mid @-@ 1960s she had become hostile towards him and his Gardnerian tradition , considering him to be " a ' dirty old man ' and sexual pervert . " She also expressed hostility to another prominent Pagan Witch of the period , Charles Cardell , although in the 1960s became friends with the two Witches at the forefront of the Alexandrian Wiccan tradition , Alex Sanders and his wife , Maxine Sanders , who adopted some of her Luciferian angelic practices . She personally despised being referred to as a " witch " , and was particularly angry when the esoteric magazine Man , Myth and Magic referred to her as " The Witch of St. Giles " , an area of Central London which she would later inhabit .

In his 1977 book Nightside of Eden , the Thelemite Kenneth Grant , then leader of the Typhonian OTO , told a story in which he claimed that both he and Gardner performed rituals in the St. Giles flat of a " Mrs. South " , probably a reference to Montalban , who often used the pseudonym of " Mrs North " . The truthfulness of Grant 's claims have been scrutinised by both Doreen Valiente and Julia Philips , who have pointed out multiple incorrect assertions with his account .

= = = Prediction and The Order of the Morning Star : 1952 ? 1964 = = =

From August 1953 , Montalban ceased working for London Life , publishing her work in the magazine Prediction , one of the country 's best @-@ selling esoteric @-@ themed publications .

Starting with a series on the uses of the tarot , in May 1960 she was employed to produce a regular astrological column for Prediction . Supplementing such esoteric endeavours , she penned a series of romantic short stories for publication in magazines . Throughout the 1950s she released a series of booklets under different pseudonyms that were devoted to astrology ; in one case , she published the same booklet under two separate titles and names , as Madeline Montalban 's Your Stars and Love and Madeline Alvarez 's Love and the Stars . She never wrote any books , instead preferring the shorter booklets and articles as mediums through which to propagate her views , and was critical of those books that taught the reader how to perform their own horoscopes , believing that they put professional astrologers out of business .

In 1952 she met Nicholas Heron , with whom she entered into a relationship . An engraver , photographer and former journalist for the Brighton Argus , he shared her interest in the occult , and together they developed a magical system based upon Luciferianism , the veneration of the deity Lucifer , or Lumiel , whom they considered to be a benevolent angelic deity . In 1956 , they founded the Order of the Morning Star , or Ordo Stella Matutina (OSM) , propagating it through a correspondence course . The couple sent out lessons to those who paid the necessary fees over a series of weeks , eventually leading to the twelfth lesson , which contained The Book of Lumiel , a short work written by Montalban that documented her understanding of Lumiel , or Lucifer , and his involvement with humankind . The couple initially lived together in Torrington Place , London , from where they ran the course , but in 1961 moved to the coastal town of Southsea in Essex , where there was greater room for Heron 's engraving equipment .

She encouraged members of her OMS course to come and meet with her , and developed friendships with a number of them , blurring the distinction between teacher and pupil . Meetings of OMS members were informal , and rarely for ritual , with the majority of the organisation 's rites requiring solitary work . According to later members of her Order , Montalban 's basis was in Hermeticism , although she was heavily influenced by Mediaeval and Early Modern grimoires like the Picatrix , Corpus Hermeticum , The Heptameron of Pietro d 'Abano , The Key of Solomon , The Book of Abramelin , and Cornelius Agrippa 's Three Books of Occult Philosophy . Unlike the founders of several older ceremonial magic organisations , such as the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn or the Fraternity of the Inner Light , she did not claim any authority from higher spiritual beings such as the Ascended masters or Secret Chiefs . She believed that the Luciferian religion had its origin among the Chaldean people of ancient Babylon in the Middle East , and believed that in a former life , the OMS 's members had been " initiates of the Babylonian and Ancient Egyptian priesthood " from where they had originally known each other . She considered herself the reincarnation of King Richard III , and was a member of the Richard III Society ; on one occasion , she visited the site of Richard 's death at the Battle of Bosworth with fellow OMS members , wearing a suit of armour . In March 1964 , Montalban broke from her relationship with Heron , and moved back to London .

= = = Later life : 1964 ? 1982 = = =

From 1964 until 1966 she dwelt in a flat at 8 Holly Hill , Hampstead , which was owned by the husband of one of her OMS students , the Latvian exile and poet Velta Snikere . After leaving Holly Hill , Montalban moved to a flat in the Queen Alexandra Mansions at 3 Grape Street in the St. Giles district of Holborn . Here , she was in close proximity to the two primary bookstores then catering to occult interests , Atlantis Bookshop and Watkins Bookshop , as well as to the British Museum . She offered one of the rooms in her flat to a young astrologer and musician , Rick Hayward , whom she had met in the summer of 1967 ; he joined the OMS , and in the last few months of Montalban 's life authored her astrological forecasts for Prediction . After her death , he continued publishing astrological prophecies in Prediction and Prediction Annual until summer 2012 .

In 1967 , Michael Howard , a young man interested in witchcraft and the occult wrote to Montalban after reading one of her articles in Prediction ; she invited him to visit her at her home . The two became friends , with Montalban believing that she could see the " Mark of Cain " in his aura . She invited him to become a student of the ONS , which he duly did . Over the coming year , he spent

much of his time with her , and in 1968 they went on what she called a " magical mystery tour " to the West Country , visiting Stonehenge , Boscastle and Tintagel . In 1969 , he was initiated into Gardnerian Wicca , something she disapproved of , and their friendship subsequently " hit a stormy period " with the pair going " [their] own ways for several years . "

A lifelong smoker , Montalban developed lung cancer , causing her death on 11 January 1982 . The role of sorting out her financial affairs fell to her friend , Pat Arthy , who discovered that despite her emphasis on the magical attainment of material wealth , she owned no property and that her estate was worth less than £ 10 @,@ 000 . The copyright of her writings fell to her daughter , Rosanna , who entrusted the running of the OMS to two of Montalban 's initiates , married couple Jo Sheridan and Alfred Douglas , who were authorised as the exclusive publishers of her correspondence course . Sheridan ? whose real name was Patricia Douglas ? opened an alternative therapy centre in Islington , North London , in the 1980s , before retiring to Rye , East Sussex in 2002 , where she continued running the OMS correspondence course until her death in 2011 .

= = Personal life and magico @-@ religious beliefs = =

According to her biographer Julia Philips , Montalban had been described by her magical students as " tempestuous , generous , humorous , demanding , kind , capricious , talented , volatile , selfish , goodhearted , [and] dramatic " . Philips noted that she was a woman who made a " definite impression " in all those whom she encountered , but who equally could be quite shy and disliked being interviewed in anything other than print . Philips asserted that Montalban had a " mercurial personality " and could be kind and generous at one moment and fly into a violent temper the next . Several of her friends noted that she was prudish when it came to sexual matters . She would take great pleasure in causing arguments , particularly between a couple who were romantically involved .

Describing herself as a " pagan " , Montalban 's personal faith was Luciferian in basis , revolving around the veneration of Lucifer , or Lumiel , whom she considered to be a benevolent angelic being who had aided humanity 's development . Within her Order , she emphasised that her followers discover their own personal relationship with the angelic beings , including Lumiel . Montalban considered astrology to be a central part of her religious worldview , and always maintained that one could be a good magician only if they had mastered astrology . Her correspondence course focused around the seven planetary bodies that were known in the ancient world and the angelic beings that she associated with them : Michael (Sun) , Gabriel (Moon) , Samael (Mars) , Raphael (Mercury) , Sachiël (Jupiter) , Anael (Venus) and Cassiel (Saturn) . Each of these beings was in turn associated with certain days , hours , minerals , plants , and animals , each of which could be used in the creation of talismans that invoked the angelic power . Montalban disliked the theatrical use of props and rites in ceremonial magic , such as that performed by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn , preferring a more simplistic use of ritual .

= = Legacy = =

In his book on the history of Wicca , The Triumph of the Moon (1999) , historian Ronald Hutton of Bristol University noted that Montalban was " one of England 's most prominent occultists " of the 20th century . Michael Howard referred to Montalban 's teachings in his book on Luciferian mythology , The Book of Fallen Angels (2004) , with religious studies scholar Fredrik Gregorius noting that Howard played an " important [role] in furthering an interest " in Montalban 's ideas .

In 2012 , Neptune Press ? the publishing arm of Bloomsbury 's Atlantis Bookshop ? published a short biography of Montalban entitled Madeline Montalban : The Magus of St Giles , written by Anglo @-@ Australian Wiccan Julia Philips . Philips noted that for much of the project she found it difficult separating fact from fiction when it came to Montalban 's life , but that she had been able to nevertheless put together a biographical account , albeit an incomplete one , of " one of the truly great characters of English occultism . "