

THE TRUTH
IN STORY

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Tarot Class

WEEK 1

Finding guidance in
eclectic divination

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HISTORY OF TAROT: KEY POINTS

- 1215 First paper mills in Italy
- 1356-74 Petrarch writes I Trionfi, leading to the idea of triumphs in the game Trionfi
- 1370 Mamluk playing cards enter Italian/Spanish ports and the suits become Swords, Batons, Cups, Coins & the courts become King, Queen, Knight, Valet
- 1424 a Marchesa orders inexpensive cards and first evidence of cheap printed cards being produced
- 1441 latest date for invention of tarot, could be earlier, Cary-Yale/Modrone deck commissioned
- 1442 account books show purchases of carte da trionfi for a small amount of money showing them as mass-produced and easily purchased
- 1450 Sforsa deck commissioned
- 1450s large fresco of Tarocchi players painted on a wall
- 1470 a sermon by a priest against dice and card playing where he lists the trumps in essentially the same order we use now
- 1480s-1510s lot books people using playing cards to pick a page and find an answer
- 1490s Milan and parts of Italy conquered by France and the card manufacturing moves to France
- 1500 earliest printed wood block cards that survived
- 1500s Minchiate invented, expanded tarot with 4 elements, 12 zodiac signs and knights as centaurs
- 1527 in Venice a poet wrote four sonnets based on tarot trumps describing being led into a room where people have drawn cards related to their fates
- 1557 Catelin Geoffroy deck, first block printed deck still existing
- 1770 Etteilla writes How to Entertain Oneself with a Pack of Cards mentioning Tarot for fortune telling for the first time
- 1789 Etteilla produces first occult deck, Le Grand Etteilla
- 1888 Westcott and Mathers launch the Golden Dawn
- 1909 A. E. Waite publishes Rider Waite deck that becomes the bases for Anglo-American tarot
- 1944 Crowley publishes the Thoth deck
- 1960 Eden Gray publishes The Tarot Revealed laying the groundwork for Tarot's popularity with the public
- 1980 Rachel Pollack publishes 78 Degrees of Wisdom
- 1984 Mary Greer publishes Tarot for Yourself
- For more see: <https://tarot-heritage.com/history-4/tarot-history-chronology/>

UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL DECKS

- * The minor arcana came out of the playing card tradition and all of the associations we add on are fluid and came much later in the tradition.
- * While the major arcana Trumps were added in for trick taking games, the Triumphs have a separate history of an understanding of the progression of man. The arrangement we use now has been generally set since the 15th century.
- * Etteilla was the first to print correspondences such as astrology, elements, and the four humors in the 18th century. He was the first to write about divinitory tarot separately from playing cards. He claimed to have learned to read from an Italian and introduced assigned meanings, spreads and the concept of upright and reverse meanings that we still use today. His history is somewhat complicated with a desire to be recognized in an esoteric fashion and the fashion that was introducing anything Egyptian at the time.



UNDERSTANDING RIDER WAITE SMITH

- * It came out of the correspondences of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, this is a hierarchical order with levels, intercessory setup between the founders and Secret Chiefs, revolts, splinters and all sorts of goings on.
- * Associations taken from Sola Busca, Eliphas Levi, and much from Etteilla.
- * Christian imagery was muted, Pope to Hierophant, Papess to High Priestess, but the Devil and Judgement card as well as Garden of Edenesque Lovers remains.
- * Waite swaps Justice to 11 and Strength to 8 in order to preserve the astrological correspondence pattern which wasn't received well or necessarily what the Golden Dawn used. Crowley, whose deck stays truer to Golden Dawn correspondences, put Justice at 8 for balance and Strength at 11 to correspond to willpower with the number 1 and the Magician card. In the end it's a question of astrological vs. numerological correspondence.



STRUCTURE OF TAROT

- Major Arcana: 22 Trumps (0 Fool, 21 World then 1-20 cards).
- Minor Arcana: 56 cards based on playing card deck with an extra court card, Queen.
- Minor Arcana broken down into Batons/Wands, Coins/Pentacles, Cups/Chalices, Swords
- Minor Arcana Court cards: King/Father/Knight, Queen/Mother, Knight/Son/Prince, Page/Daughter/Princess
- Many associations have been attached to the cards such as numerology, elements, Kaballah, astrology, and etc.
- There will always be variations, figure out what resonates with yourself and then apply it **CONSISTENTLY!**

MINOR ARCANA

