

the lesser key of solomon

The Lesser Key of Solomon is one of the most intriguing and historically significant grimoires in the annals of occult literature. Also known as the *Lemegeton*, it is a comprehensive compendium of magical practices, demonology, and ceremonial rituals purportedly authored by King Solomon, a biblical figure renowned for his wisdom and mystical knowledge. This ancient text has captivated magicians, scholars, and occult enthusiasts for centuries, offering a detailed blueprint for summoning and commanding spirits. Its mysterious origins, complex structure, and enduring influence make it a cornerstone of Western esoteric tradition.

What Is the Lesser Key of Solomon?

The Lesser Key of Solomon is an influential grimoire that originated in the 17th century, though its traditions and teachings trace back to older manuscripts and oral traditions. It is divided into five main sections, each focusing on different aspects of magic and spiritual invocation:

The Five Books of the Lesser Key of Solomon

1. **Ars Goetia:** The Art of Summoning Spirits - focuses on the 72 demons or spirits that can be summoned and controlled.
2. **Ars Theurgia Goetia:** The Art of Spirit Summoning - deals with aerial spirits and lesser spirits associated with the four cardinal directions.
3. **Ars Pseudomonarchia Daemonum:** The Pseudo-Monarch of Demons - a catalog of demons similar to *Ars Goetia*, attributed to Johann Weyer.
4. **Ars Merlini:** The Art of Merlin - contains instructions related to the magical practices attributed to Merlin and other mystical arts.
5. **Tabula Smaragdina:** The Emerald Table - a mystical text focusing on alchemical principles and the unity of the universe.

Of these, *Ars Goetia* is the most famous and widely studied, detailing the names, descriptions, and methods for summoning 72 demons.

Historical Origins and Manuscripts

The origins of the Lesser Key of Solomon are shrouded in mystery, with various sources suggesting its compilation during the Renaissance, drawing from older traditions, Hebrew mysticism, and Arabic occult practices.

Ancient Roots and Influences

- The text likely draws from Hebrew grimoires, such as the Sefer Raziel and Sefer Yetzirah.
- Influences from Arabic magic, particularly from the Picatrix and Kitab al-Jafr.
- The tradition of Solomonic magic, rooted in legends that King Solomon possessed divine wisdom and control over spirits.

Manuscripts and Editions

- The earliest known manuscripts appeared in the 17th century, with notable editions published in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The most famous edition is the 1904 translation by S. L. MacGregor Mathers, which popularized the text among Western occultists.
- Modern editions often include commentaries, annotations, and historical context to aid understanding.

Structure and Contents of the Lesser Key of Solomon

The detailed structure of the Lesser Key reveals a systematic approach to magic, demonology, and ritual practice.

Ars Goetia: The Demon Summoning Rituals

- Contains descriptions of 72 demons, including their titles, ranks, and attributes.
- Provides instructions for summoning, commanding, and dismissing these spirits.
- Includes sigils, seals, and incantations associated with each demon.

Other Sections

- The remaining parts expand on broader magical techniques, spiritual hierarchies, and alchemical principles.
- The Tabula Smaragdina offers mystical insights into the unity of matter and spirit, often linked to alchemy.

Key Points and Themes in the Lesser Key of Solomon

Understanding the core elements of this grimoire is essential for appreciating its significance and influence.

1. Demonology and Spirit Summoning

- The text categorizes spirits into different hierarchies and functions.
- Emphasizes the importance of ritual purity, precise incantations, and protective measures.

2. Ritual Magic and Ceremonial Practice

- Rituals are detailed with specific tools, symbols, and timings.
- The use of sigils, pentacles, and consecrated tools is central to the practice.

3. The Power of Names and Seals

- Knowledge of the spirits' names grants authority over them.
- Seals and sigils serve as magical signatures to summon spirits.

4. The Philosophical and Alchemical Underpinnings

- The Tabula Smaragdina underscores the unity of the macrocosm and microcosm.
- Alchemical symbols and principles are intertwined with the magical processes.

The Influence of the Lesser Key of Solomon

The Lesser Key of Solomon has had a profound impact on Western occultism, ceremonial magic, and popular culture.

In Occult Practice

- Many modern magical orders, such as the Golden Dawn and Thelema, draw inspiration from its rituals.
- Contemporary magicians often study its sigils, rituals, and demonology as part of their practice.

In Literature and Popular Media

- The text has inspired countless novels, movies, and games featuring summoning and demonology themes.
- Its imagery and symbols are prevalent in art, tattoos, and occult symbolism.

Contemporary Relevance

- The Lesser Key continues to be studied by researchers, historians, and practitioners interested in esoteric traditions.
- Modern reinterpretations often blend traditional ritual methods with new spiritual perspectives.

Controversies and Misconceptions

Despite its historical significance, the Lesser Key of Solomon is often surrounded by myths and misconceptions.

Myth vs. Reality

- Some believe the text grants supernatural powers, but most scholars view it as a ritual manual.
- The idea that summoning demons is inherently dangerous is debated among practitioners.

Authenticity and Origin Debates

- The true authorship remains uncertain; it is likely a compilation of older traditions.
- Some argue it was influenced or fabricated during the Renaissance to serve esoteric interests.

Ethical Considerations

- Many modern practitioners emphasize the importance of ethical magic, cautioning against reckless invocation.

Modern Practice and Study of the Lesser Key of Solomon

Today, the Lesser Key of Solomon is studied both as a historical document and as a practical guide for ceremonial magic.

Learning and Ritual Practice

- Practitioners often study its sigils, rituals, and demon descriptions to develop their own magical practices.
- Some occult groups incorporate its methods in their teachings.

Research and Scholarship

- Historians analyze its origins, influences, and impact on Western occultism.
- Comparative studies examine its relation to other magical texts and traditions.

Digital Resources and Communities

- Online forums and digital editions make the Lesser Key accessible to a global audience.
- Many enthusiasts share ritual scripts, interpretations, and experiences.

Conclusion

The Lesser Key of Solomon remains a cornerstone of mystical and magical traditions, blending ancient wisdom with Renaissance mysticism. Its detailed instructions on demonology, ritual magic, and spiritual philosophy continue to inspire and challenge practitioners and scholars alike. Whether approached as a historical artifact or a living tradition, the Lesser Key offers profound insights into the esoteric understanding of the universe, the nature of spirits, and the power of human will. As with all magical practices, respect, knowledge, and ethical considerations are paramount when exploring its teachings.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Lesser Key of Solomon
- Lemegeton
- Solomon demonology
- Ars Goetia
- Spirit summoning rituals
- Medieval grimoires
- Ceremonial magic
- Solomonian magic
- Demon descriptions
- Magical sigils
- Alchemical symbolism
- Occult traditions
- Esoteric magic
- Historical grimoires

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lesser Key of Solomon?

The Lesser Key of Solomon, also known as Lemegeton, is an anonymous grimoire or book of magic that contains instructions on summoning and commanding spirits and demons, traditionally attributed to King Solomon.

What are the main sections of the Lesser Key of Solomon?

The Lesser Key of Solomon is divided into five parts: Ars Goetia (demonic spirits), Ars Theurgia-Goetia (aerial spirits), Ars Paulina (planets and angels), Ars Almadel (angelic spirits), and Ars Notoria (prayers and meditations).

Is the Lesser Key of Solomon considered a historical or modern text?

It is a historical text believed to have been compiled in the 17th century, though it draws on older traditions and texts related to Solomon and medieval demonology.

What influence has the Lesser Key of Solomon had on modern occult practices?

The Lesser Key of Solomon has significantly influenced modern Western occultism, ceremonial magic, and demonology, inspiring practices, rituals, and fictional works related to summoning spirits.

Are there any ethical concerns associated with practicing the rituals in the Lesser Key of Solomon?

Yes, many consider the rituals dangerous or spiritually risky, and practicing them without proper knowledge or caution can lead to negative psychological or spiritual consequences.

Has the Lesser Key of Solomon been featured in popular culture?

Yes, it has appeared in numerous books, movies, and games, often depicted as a powerful and mysterious grimoire associated with magic, demons, and the occult.

Is the Lesser Key of Solomon related to the biblical King Solomon?

While traditionally attributed to King Solomon, there is no historical evidence linking him directly to the texts; the association is more symbolic, emphasizing Solomon's legendary wisdom and supposed control of spirits.

How does the Lesser Key of Solomon differ from the Greater Key of Solomon?

The Greater Key of Solomon is a more comprehensive and detailed grimoire focused on ritual magic and divine invocations, while the Lesser Key emphasizes demonology and spirit summoning in a more fragmentary form.

Is the Lesser Key of Solomon available in modern editions?

Yes, numerous modern editions and translations are available, often with commentary and historical context, making the text accessible to researchers and enthusiasts of the occult.

Additional Resources

The Lesser Key of Solomon: Unlocking the Mysteries of an Ancient Grimoire

The Lesser Key of Solomon, often referred to by its Latin title Lesser Key of Solomon or simply Lemegeton, stands as one of the most intriguing and influential grimoires in the history of Western occultism. Its pages promise access to the hidden worlds of spirits, angels, and demons, offering a structured approach to summoning and commanding supernatural entities. Over centuries, this text has fascinated scholars, occultists, historians, and the curious alike, weaving a complex tapestry of myth, theology, and ritual magic.

In this article, we will explore the origins, structure, content, and influence of the Lesser Key of Solomon, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of this enigmatic work.

Origins and Historical Background

The Roots in Solomonic Tradition

The title "Lesser Key of Solomon" references King Solomon of ancient Israel, famed in biblical and apocryphal texts for his wisdom and control over spirits. The legend holds that Solomon possessed divine knowledge allowing him to command demons and angels alike, which he used to construct the Temple and acquire esoteric wisdom.

The myth of Solomon's mastery over spirits became a cornerstone of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic lore, inspiring various texts and magical traditions. The Lesser Key is believed to draw upon these legends, synthesizing them into a practical manual for summoning spirits under Solomon's authority.

Historical Manuscripts and Development

The earliest known manuscripts of the Lesser Key of Solomon date from the 14th and 15th centuries, though its content likely existed in oral or manuscript traditions earlier. The most famous printed version emerged in the 17th century, particularly through Latin editions published in Europe, notably in Germany and Italy.

The text is thought to be a compilation of older magical traditions, possibly influenced by earlier Egyptian, Greco-Roman, and Jewish magical practices. Its structure reflects a synthesis of ceremonial magic, astrology, and angelology, aimed at practitioners seeking to harness supernatural forces.

Structure and Contents of the Lesser Key

The Lesser Key of Solomon is traditionally divided into five books, each with

a specific focus on different aspects of ceremonial magic and spirit invocation. The most widely known and studied section is the first, the Ars Goetia, which deals with demonology.

The Five Books of the Lesser Key

1. Ars Goetia (The Lesser Art of Witchcraft)

This section catalogs 72 demons, each with detailed descriptions, sigils, and instructions for summoning and commanding them. It emphasizes rituals, seals, and incantations designed to invoke these spirits safely (or at least with some measure of control).

2. Ars Theurgia Goetia

Focused on lesser spirits associated with the four cardinal directions, this part deals with aerial spirits and their hierarchy. It blends angelic and demonic elements, offering methods to call upon these entities for various purposes.

3. Ars Paulina

Covering planetary spirits and the angelic hierarchies associated with planets, this section emphasizes astrological timing, planetary rituals, and angelic invocations for planetary influences.

4. Ars Almadel

Dedicated to angelic spirits associated with the four seasons and celestial realms, the Almadel provides instructions for creating a celestial altar, summoning angels, and seeking divine guidance.

5. Ars Notoria

Unlike the other sections, the Notoria contains prayers, invocations, and rituals aimed at acquiring divine wisdom, memory, and understanding. It is more contemplative and less focused on spirits.

Key Elements of the Text

- **Sigils and Seals:** Visual symbols representing spirits are central. These are drawn and used during rituals to summon specific entities.
- **Ritual Procedures:** Detailed instructions involve incantations, the use of ritual tools (such as circles, swords, and pentacles), and the creation of sacred spaces.
- **Astrological Timing:** Many rituals are tied to planetary hours and celestial configurations to enhance efficacy.
- **Safety Precautions:** Instructions often include protections against malevolent spirits and guidance for closing ceremonies.

Philosophical and Theological Underpinnings

The Lesser Key is rooted in a worldview where the universe is populated by a hierarchy of spirits—angels, demons, and celestial beings—interacting within a divine order. Its rituals reflect a belief that humans can tap into these forces through proper knowledge, ritual purity, and authoritative seals.

A core concept is the authority of Solomon himself, who, through divine favor

and wisdom, commands these spirits. The text emphasizes that summoning spirits is not merely for personal gain but requires respect, discipline, and understanding of cosmic law.

Moreover, the work reflects a synthesis of Judeo-Christian ideas, blending biblical angelology with magical traditions. It presupposes that divine and infernal spirits are accessible but require specific knowledge and rituals to contact safely.

Influence and Legacy of the Lesser Key of Solomon

Impact on Occultism and Magic

The Lesser Key has profoundly influenced Western occult traditions, especially during the Renaissance and subsequent centuries. It inspired numerous magical societies, including the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and later modern ceremonial magic practices.

Its emphasis on sigils, ritual purity, and structured invocation became foundational in modern ceremonial magic, influencing figures such as Aleister Crowley and other 20th-century occultists.

Pop Culture and Literature

Beyond esoteric circles, the Lesser Key has permeated popular culture—appearing in novels, movies, and games. Its depiction of summoning spirits and demonic hierarchies fuels stories about magic, the supernatural, and the occult.

Some fictional portrayals exaggerate or sensationalize its contents, but the core concepts—hierarchies of spirits, ritual magic, and the quest for divine or infernal knowledge—remain central themes.

Contemporary Practices and Interpretations

Today, practitioners of modern ceremonial magic and chaos magic often study the Lesser Key for historical insight or as inspiration for their rituals. Some see it as a symbolic or psychological tool rather than a literal manual for spirit contact.

Scholars continue to analyze its texts to understand medieval and early modern magical practices, as well as the cultural attitudes toward spirits and divine authority during those periods.

Controversies and Criticisms

Despite its influence, the Lesser Key of Solomon has faced skepticism and criticism. Critics argue that its rituals are based on superstition, and its claims of controlling spirits lack empirical evidence.

Historically, some have associated the text with witch hunts and persecution, fearing that such knowledge could be dangerous or misused. Modern critics also caution against attempting dangerous spiritual practices without proper understanding or guidance.

However, from an academic perspective, the Lesser Key is valued as a cultural artifact that reveals much about medieval and renaissance beliefs about the cosmos, divine authority, and human agency.

Conclusion: A Window into the Esoteric World

The Lesser Key of Solomon remains one of the most compelling texts in the history of magic and mysticism. Its detailed hierarchies, structured rituals, and vivid imagery continue to captivate those interested in the occult. Whether viewed as a literal manual, a symbolic guide, or a historical document, its influence endures, offering a glimpse into humanity's age-old desire to understand and command the unseen forces of the universe.

As both a product of its time and a living part of modern esoteric traditions, the Lesser Key exemplifies the enduring human fascination with the mystical, the divine, and the mysteries beyond our everyday perception.

[The Lesser Key Of Solomon](#)

the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon and Goetia The Book of Evil Spirits
Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers, Lauro William De Laurence, Quite simply the most popular of all Medieval grimoires devoted to the evocation and control of spirits. This edition is claimed to be compiled from manuscript copies in the British Museum and contains a great many spirit sigils.

the lesser key of solomon: *The Lesser Key of Solomon* Joseph Peterson, 1999-11-30 Compiled from original manuscripts and fragments in the British Museum Library, Joseph Peterson's new presentation is the most complete and accurate edition of this famous magical grimoire. A widely respected scholar and archivist of occult texts, Peterson goes to great length to establish the provenance of each part of The Lesser Key of Solomon, and possible derivative works, including critical analyses of all major variations, utilizing fresh translations of earlier magical texts such as Johann Trithemius's *Steganographia*, *The Archidoxes of Magic* by Paracelsus, and newly discovered Hebrew manuscripts of the original Key of Solomon. Abundantly illustrated, Peterson includes reproductions of the original magical circles, tools, and seals of the spirits with variations of certain drawings from various sources and notae missing from earlier editions. This definitive edition of The Lesser Key of Solomon includes: Goetia—The ritual invocation of evil spirits and Solomons devices for binding them Theurgia Goetia—Continues the study of spirits that are “partly good and partly evil” Ars Paulina—Outlines the good spirits or angles governing the hours of the day and the signs of

the zodiac. The text is purported to have been discovered by the Apostle Paul after he had been snatched up to heaven and includes "The Conjunction of the Holy Guardian Angel." Ars Almadel—attributed to an Arab of the same name, this text describes twenty beneficial spirits that govern the zodiac Ars Notoria—With roots that go back to the 13th century Latin manuscripts, and probably even early oral traditions, this collection of orations and prayers is interspersed with magical words said to have mystical properties that can impart communion with God and knowledge of divine and human arts and sciences. Appendices, which include addenda found in the Sloan Manuscript 2731, Johan Weyer's Pseudomonarchia demonum List of Sources Index

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the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon S. Liddell Macgregor Mathers, 2025-06-30 Also known as the Lemegeton, The Lesser Key of Solomon is a foundational grimoire of demonology, cataloguing the names, attributes, seals, and conjurations of 72 spirits said to have been summoned and commanded by King Solomon. Focusing primarily on the Goetia, the first and most renowned section of the text, this work offers detailed instructions for invoking demons, along with the rituals, protections, and ceremonial tools required to engage with them safely and purposefully. The Lesser Key of Solomon presents a structured and disciplined spiritual system rooted in Solomonic, Kabbalistic, and Renaissance magical traditions. S. Liddell MacGregor Mathers' translation, edited and introduced by Aleister Crowley in 1904, brings together centuries

of preserved manuscripts with scholarly commentary and occult insight.

the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon Aleister Crowley, S.L. MacGregor Mathers, 2023-12-21 Delving deep into the enigmatic and arcane, 'The Lesser Key of Solomon' is a compelling anthology that explores the intricate tapestry of Western esoteric traditions. This collection encompasses a diverse range of literary styles, from ritualistic incantations to symbolic allegories, all unified by the enduring theme of mystical knowledge and its pursuit. Within these pages, readers will uncover an array of spellbinding works that stand out for their profound insights into the realm of the occult, seamlessly weaving together ritualistic traditions and literary artistry. The collection is notably curated by notable figures such as Aleister Crowley and S.L. MacGregor Mathers, whose contributions to occult literature have significantly shaped modern esotericism. Both authors are deeply embedded in the late 19th and early 20th-century esoteric revival, bringing together a vast array of cultural and historical influences that underscore their examinations of ancient wisdom. Their writings not only protect and perpetuate hidden knowledge but also invite readers to explore the rich narratives of mystical experiences across time and space. Readers are offered a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in this rich tapestry of mystical literature. 'The Lesser Key of Solomon' beckons the intellectually curious with its promise of deep, esoteric insights and an unparalleled exploration across varied occult traditions. This anthology enriches the reader's understanding of mystical practices and invites scholarly reflection on the dialogues between these eclectic contributions, making it an indispensable addition to the libraries of those captivated by the mysteries of the hidden world. In this enriched edition, we have carefully created added value for your reading experience: - A succinct Introduction situates the work's timeless appeal and themes. - The Synopsis outlines the central plot, highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists. - A detailed Historical Context immerses you in the era's events and influences that shaped the writing. - A thorough Analysis dissects symbols, motifs, and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings. - Reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work's messages, connecting them to modern life. - Hand-picked Memorable Quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance. - Interactive footnotes clarify unusual references, historical allusions, and archaic phrases for an effortless, more informed read.

the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon S. L. Mathers, Aleister Crowley, 2015-10-30 The Lesser Key of Solomon, also known as the Clavicula Salomonis Regis or Lemegeton is based on manuscripts from the British Museum. Although edited by two prominent occultists, S.L. MacGregor Mathers and Aleister Crowley, it is Crowley's literary fingerprints that are found all over this book.

the lesser key of solomon: The Greater and Lesser Keys of Solomon the King Aleister Crowley, Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers, 2016-12-02 This hardback volume contains both The Key of Solomon the King (The Greater Key) and The Lesser Key of Solomon, including all of the original illustrations, diagrams and annotations to aid the reader in their understanding of the Solomon Key. The Key of Solomon the King was originally researched and translated by S.L. MacGregor Mathers from ancient manuscripts in the British museums. Included by Mathers is the Order of the Pentacles of Solomon, the Ancient Fragment of the Key of Solomon, The Qabalistic Invocation of Solomon, and 15 plates full of figures, seals and charts, as well as the original text giving detailed instruction for spells and invocations. The work is traditionally divided into two books detailing the Key of King Solomon. Book One explains the operation of conjurations, curses, spells and other magical works. Book Two instructs the practitioner on the proper attire, purification rituals and other means of obtaining the goals of the Goetia. Between these two books is the list of plates that contain numerous illustrations and secret seals of Solomon, including the Mystical Seal of Solomon, the Pentacles of Solomon, and the Mystical Alphabet, which impart the mechanisms and requirements for the invocation of spirits and demons. The Lesser Key of Solomon, or the Clavicula Salomonis Regis, or Lemegeton, is a compilation of materials and writings from ancient sources making up a text book of magic or grimoire. Portions of this book can be traced back to the mid-16th to 17th centuries, when occult researchers such as Cornelius Agrippa and Johannes Trithemius

assembled what they discovered during their investigations into their own great works. As a modern grimoire, the Lesser Key of Solomon has seen several editions with various authors and editors taking liberty to edit and translate the ancient writings and source material. In 1898, Arthur Edward Waite published his *The Book of Black Magic and of Pacts*, which contained large portions of the Lemegeton. He was followed by Mathers and Crowley in 1904 who published *The Goetia: The Lesser Key of Solomon*. Many others have assembled their own version of this ancient material since, and it is important to realize that it is the contents rather than the book itself that make up the Lesser Key. Traditionally, the source material is divided into five books: *Ars Goetia*, *Ars Theurgia Goetia*, *Ars Paulina*, *Ars Almadel*, and *Ars Notoria*. Mathers and Crowley indicate their edition is a translation of the first. In the preface to this edition, it is explained that a Secret Chief of the Rosicrucian Order directed the completion of the book. The original editor was a G. H. Fra. D.D.C.F. who translated ancient texts from French, Hebrew, and Latin, but was unable to complete his labors because of the martial assaults of the Four Great Princes. Crowley was then asked to step in and finish what the previous author had begun. Traditionally, S. L. MacGregor Mathers is credited as the translator of this edition, and Crowley is given the title of editor. Scholars believe these books of Solomon and their many iterations derive from the ancient practices of Jewish Kabbalah and Arab Alchemy. After time, it is thought Greek and Roman influences were added until, finally, the work was used and molded by high Renaissance magicians. This book, as well as other King Solomon books, such as the *Magical Treatise of King Solomon* and the *Testament of Solomon*, were brought back to modern times through the labors of occult practitioners such as S. L. MacGregor Mathers, Aleister Crowley and others around the turn of the last century.

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safely and purposefully. The Lesser Key of Solomon presents a structured and disciplined spiritual system rooted in Solomonic, Kabbalistic, and Renaissance magical traditions. S. Liddell MacGregor Mathers' translation, edited and introduced by Aleister Crowley in 1904, brings together centuries of preserved manuscripts with scholarly commentary and occult insight.

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the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon S L MacGregor Mathers, Aleister Crowley, 2020-08-25 Spiritual awakening about demonology The Lesser Key of Solomon is one of the best-known grimoires, primarily for the first section, the Goetia, which features captivating descriptions of the 72 demons conjured by Solomon, along with illustrations of their sigils, and the tools required for summoning. The Lesser Key of Solomon or The Goetia translated by Aleister Crowley and Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers is one of the greatest masterpieces of occult and esoteric literature. Brilliant and sparkling, this book is a stunning portrait of the 72 sigils. This edition contains all of the over 150 seals, sigils, and charts of the original lesser book of Solomon and it also includes Crowley's original footnotes and Enochian evocations. Intoxicating, powerful, often incredibly disconcerting, this book is a tour de force by two truly great occultists. In all this is a very clever book, that is erudite, full of symbolism and intelligence and is certainly worth reading.

the lesser key of solomon: The Lesser Key of Solomon Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers, Aleister Crowley, 2016-09-13 Trade paperback edition of Aleister Crowley's and S.L. MacGregor Mathers' The Lesser Key of Solomon. This edition is fully illustrated and contains over 100 of the original, or exact replicas of the 1904 edition illustrations. The Lesser Key of Solomon, or the Clavicula Salomonis Regis, or Lemegeton, is a compilation of materials and writings from ancient sources making up a text book of magic or 'grimoire.' Portions of this book can be traced back to the mid-16th to 17th centuries, when occult researchers such as Cornelius Agrippa and Johannes Trithemius assembled what they discovered during their investigations into their own great works. As a modern grimoire, the Lesser Key of Solomon has seen several editions with various authors and editors taking liberty to edit and translate the ancient writings and source material. In 1898, Arthur Edward Waite published his The Book of Black Magic and of Pacts, which contained large portions of the Lemegeton. He was followed by Mathers and Crowley in 1904 who published The Goetia: The Lesser Key of Solomon. Many others have assembled their own version of this ancient material since, and it is important to realize that it is the contents rather than the book itself that make up the Lesser Key. Traditionally, the source material is divided into five books: Ars Goetia, Ars Theurgia Goetia, Ars Paulina, Ars Almadel, and Ars Notoria. Mathers and Crowley indicate their edition is a translation of the first. In the preface to this edition, it is explained that a 'Secret Chief' of the Rosicrucian Order directed the completion of the book. The original editor was a G. H. Fra. D.D.C.F. who translated ancient texts from French, Hebrew, and Latin, but was unable to complete his labors because of the martial assaults of the Four Great Princes. Crowley was then asked to step in and finish what the previous author had begun. Traditionally, S. L. MacGregor Mathers is credited as the translator of this edition, and Crowley is given the title of editor.

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