POSITIVE MAGIC
1700 TO 1900 AND 1900 TO NOW

COMPILED BY HOWIE BAUM
By the turn of the 20th century the medium-directed séance was cemented in popular culture. Séances were demonstrations during which mediums supposedly channeled spirits, acting as intermediaries between those spirits and members of the audience. These increasingly dramatic events came to feature tables turning and floating as well as Ouija boards.
THE BELOVED CRYSTAL BALL
FROM THE WIZARD OF OZ MOVIE

It is large at 25 inches diameter (over 2 feet !)

It was thought to be lost forever until it was discovered in Kenneth Strickfaden's prop house, after being hidden away for more than 70 years.

The ball was found without its base, so a similar one, with flying monkeys was created by another theater prop company.
Ouija boards

Spirit writing, or *Fuji*, was first practiced in China 1,500 years ago: it involved a suspended stick, apparently guided by spirits, that wrote Chinese characters in ash. Today spirit writing is known chiefly through Ouija boards.

It comprised a ring of letters and numbers, and a planchette (pointer) that participants touched; this allowed spirits, it was claimed, to guide the planchette and spell out words.
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CAT AND A DOG, USING A OUIJA BOARD!! 😊
Playing with Ouija boards was a popular pastime, as shown here by two actors during a break on the set of the 1936 film Human Cargo.
Fortune-telling

For centuries the practice of palm reading was kept alive by Romany fortune-tellers, and such chiromancy was the inspiration for this 19th-century painting by German artist Theodor Leopold Weller.
Art magic

William Britten’s *Art Magic, or, Mundane, Sub-mundane and Super-mundane Spiritism*, an 1870s work on spiritualism, spiritism, and theosophy that drew on spiritual practices from around the world such as the spinning rituals of these whirling dervishes.
The Divine Eye

Representing the all-seeing eye of the chief god, this is a major symbol of Cao Dai—a religion of Vietnam founded in the 1920s that blends spiritism with Asian and European influences.
THEOSOPHICAL SEAL OF IT’S SOCIETY

Two interlaced triangles (a form of the star of David), Ouroboros snake, manji, ankh, Om etc.

DIVINE WISDOM

Theosophy

While the details of theosophy are complex, its basic tenet is comparatively simple—there is a single spiritual reality that can only be reached through deep contemplation, a power latent in all humans. Late 19th-century theosophy had much in common with other contemporary religious societies interested in magic, but it also incorporated Buddhist beliefs. It epitomized the era’s fascination with the occult and was hugely influential, bringing Eastern ideas to the West and spawning hundreds of like-minded movements.
She was a Russian author who co-founded the Theosophical Society in 1875.

Helena Blavatsky

A charismatic Russian-born American theosophist, Blavatsky was hailed as a spiritual leader although her critics denounced her as a charlatan. She became a recluse and spent her final years in contemplative solitude in London.

She was a Russian author who co-founded the Theosophical Society in 1875.
THE HERMETIC ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

It was a secret society devoted to the study and practice of the occult, metaphysics, and paranormal activities and went from 1887 until 1903.

Women were admitted on an equal basis with men.

Known as a magical order, it was active in Great Britain and focused its practices on theurgy and spiritual development.

(Theurgy describes the practice of rituals, performed with the intention of invoking the action or presence of one or more deities, to be united with the divine and perfecting oneself.)

Wicca and Thelema, were inspired by the Golden Dawn, which became one of the largest single influences on 20th-century Western occultism.
THERE WERE 3 FOUNDERS WHO WERE FREEMASONS:

William Robert Woodman

William Wynn Westcott
(Dressed in clothing with designs of Rosicrucians.)

Samuel Liddell Mathers
Dressed in an Egyptian costume, performing a ritual
The Order of the Golden Dawn Collegium Spiritu Sancti has Temples, Sanctuaries, and Study Circles in several cities.

A Temple is a dedicated place which regularly hosts Initiations, Rituals, Classes, Seminars, and Special Events.

A Sanctuary is a permanent location which hosts Classes and Rituals on a regular basis.
Rosicrucian symbol

The Great Seal of the Second Order, designed by Moina Mathers in 1891, is a humanized Tree of Life. The central figure within a pentagram is supported by archangels; the outer bands represent the elements: water, fire, earth, air, and spirit.
Salon de la Rose + Croix, 1892

Figures greet a new dawn in this poster for the first of six annual artistic exhibitions organized by Joséphin Péladan. The Salons celebrated his Rose + Croix order as well as the creative work of those involved in the Symbolist movement.
MODERN MAGIC – THE LATE 1800s AND ONWARD
MODERN USES OF RUNES

Runic alphabets have seen numerous uses since the 18th-century Viking revival.

They were used in Scandinavian Romantic nationalism and Germanic occultism in the 19th century.

They were also used in the context of the Fantasy genre and of Germanic Neopaganism in the 20th century.

⚠️ For a general reading or to answer a specific question, a single stone may be selected randomly from a pouch or the stones can be cast on a cloth.
Runes functioned like an alphabet, with 24 runes in the oldest form, the Elder Futhark, and 16, in the more recent Younger Futhark.
The Bluetooth logo is the combination of two runes of the Younger Futhark, ᚹ hagall and ᛚ bjarkan, equivalent to the letters H and B, that are the initials of Harald Blåtand's name (Bluetooth in English), who was a king of Denmark from the Viking Age.
▲ Fehu (F) means cattle, and wealth and success earned through effort. Reversed, it means failed plans.

▲ Uruz (U) is the aurochs, a now-extinct giant ox. It means brute strength, willpower, and the security of home.
**Thurisaz (TH)** stands for the giants of Norse mythology. It means seeing the future or discovering the truth.

**Anszu (A)** represents Odin. It usually means listening to one's inner voice or taking advice from others.
▲ Raidho (R) means a long journey—whether actual travel or metaphorically of the soul, or of healing.

▲ Hagalaz (H) means hail or a storm of missiles in battle, and the destructive forces of nature beyond human control.
△ **Naughtiz (H)** is need or necessity. It signifies caution, or awareness of just how bad things are.

△ **Isa (I)** represents ice. It means frozen in time, or putting everything on hold for a period of reflection.
**Jera (J)** is harvest or the cycle of the year. It means finally reaping the rewards of labor at the right time.

**Eihwaz (EI)** is yew, the sacred tree used to make wands. It means doing the right thing, or patience.
**Tiwaz (T)** represents the war god Tyr and was carved on weapons. It means motivation and transcendence.

**Berkana (B)** stands for the birch tree and Idun, the goddess of spring and fertility. It means preparing the ground.
Ehwaz (E) is the sacred horse. It means bringing things into balance or focusing on the tools needed for progress.

Mannaz (M) represents humankind. It signifies one’s place within humanity and a reflective state of mind.
▲ Laguz (L) is water, or a body of water, and signifies feminine energy or cleansing of the spirit.

▲ Kenaz (K) is a torch or beacon. It is a sign of hope in dark times, an opening when things are blocked.
Gebo (G) is a sacrifice to the gods. It means giving up the self to be in harmony with one's surroundings.

Wunjo (W or V) is comfort, joy, or glory. It means needing no one else for happiness and serenity.
- **Perthro (P)** is linked to the phoenix and suggests the unknown. It signifies letting go, death, and rebirth.

- **Algiz (Z)** is defense or protection. It means making the right connections after clarifying one’s thoughts.
▲ Sowelo (S) stands for the sun. It means wholeness or the completion of a circle, or awareness of one's dark side.

▲ Inguz (NG) can be the mythic hero Ing, or the Danish people. It means the blessing of human connection.
Dagaz (D) is day or daylight. It means starting a new chapter, seeing the light, or trying new ideas.

Othila (O) is inheritance: passing on knowledge or wealth, or native land. It means freedom and independence.
Reading runes

For a wider reading, or to look in depth at a particular issue, a spread of three, four, five, or more runes can provide greater detail. There are many ways to interpret the stones, and the order in which to do so can vary, too.

Three-rune spread
1 Past An action or problem 2 Present The challenge and what course of action is best 3 Future The outcome if action is taken
Four-rune spread

1 Past Issues, desires, or influences
2 Present The situation or problem
3 Possibilities Good and bad options
4 Future The desired outcome
Five-rune spread

1 Past Causes of the current situation 2 Present Good or bad issues 3 Solutions Guidance and help that can be expected from other people 4 Problems Obstacles in the way of the solution 5 Future The predicted outcome
HOCUS POCUS

early stage magic

Two major developments characterized stage magic in the 19th century. Firstly, the kind of popular magic that had been practiced for centuries by itinerant conjurers at fairs and street markets was transformed initially into sophisticated drawing-room entertainments and then, increasingly, into lavish theatrical performances that drew mass audiences.
Secondly, its traditional tricks were joined by a throng of new illusions. Spectacular, startling, and improbable, they owed much to presentation—and even more to science.
The father of modern magic

These developments were epitomized by the performances of a Frenchman, Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin, by far the most influential of all 19th-century magicians.

Now known as “the father of modern magic,” Robert-Houdin combined great technical sophistication with an effortless instinct for drama. He dazzled crowds across the globe and regularly performed before royalty.

3.2 minute video of David Copperfield talking about the designs by Robert Houdin  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKT_2h2TL6I
THE MAGICIAN IS AN ACTOR

THE BEGINNING OF STAGE MAGIC HISTORY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abD72dHKN0s 2 min
ROBERT HOUDIN’S AMAZING ORANGE TREE
HENRI ROBIN
FRENCH ILLUSIONIST

In the early 1850s, he performed at Windsor Castle, at the request of Queen Victoria.

In 1861, he became the first illusionist to offer a full program of magic at the Egyptian Hall in London.

Between 1862 and 1869, he managed a theatre in the Boulevard du Temple, Paris.

Publicity photograph for Henri Robin (1863).
His most well-known illusion was "The Medium of Inkerman", in which a drum on stage was apparently struck by an unseen spirit, in response to questions from the audience.

The meeting of science and magic was precisely encapsulated by Frenchman **Henri Robin**, who from the 1850s used electrically generated images to create ghostly figures, such as the drummer shown here.
Science and illusion

In 1862, a British scientist named John Henry Pepper stunned audiences at London’s Royal Polytechnic by producing a ghost. Three years later he patented his Proteus Cabinet, a staple of stage magic ever since, which involved a figure disappearing and startlingly reappearing from a wooden box—a trick achieved, like the ghost, by the use of mirrors.
EQUIPMENT USED TO SHOW AN IMAGE LIKE PEPPER’S GHOST

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r27wrQOgawo
Tupac Lives
How to create a life-sized computer generated performer

1. A high-definition projector throws the image onto a reflective surface on the floor.

2. The image bounces onto a Mylar surface, angled to reflect the image but leaves the Mylar invisible to the audience.

Source: Musion Systems Ltd.
Graphic by Alberto Cervantes/The Wall Street Journal
PEPPER'S GHOST: TUPAC AND ROY ORBISON ARE BEING RECREATED AS REALISTIC "HOLOGRAMS"
John Wyman, Jr. (1816-1881), one of the first American-born magician/ventriloquists, was billed as “Wyman the Wizard”.

A favorite entertainer of Abraham Lincoln, for a time he was managed and presented by P.T. Barnum.

Wyman was a pioneer of “gift shows”, giving door prizes to ticketholders based on number drawings.

Some say he was the first magician to do a full evening show in the U.S., and the first to do the dangerous “bullet catch”.

WYMAN THE WIZARD
PIONEER OF MAGIC AND VENTRилоQUИSM
Goetia is a practice which involves invoking ("calling") angels and demons.

The word came from the 17th-century grimoire The Lesser Key of Solomon. It describes the calling of seventy-two demons.
Early 20th-century magic was marked by two developments. The first, which had begun in the late 19th century, was the spread of ceremonial magic across Germany, the UK, and France. This Western magic was at its most esoteric and spiritual, indebted to ancient lore and wedded to elaborate ritual. The goal of practitioners was enlightenment through not always orthodox.

The most notorious magician, Aleister Crowley, took up depravity and wickedness with orgiastic relish.

His name is pronounced a·luh·str krau·lee Crow lee

△ The cult magician

Crowley craved notoriety, and in 1923 an English newspaper named him “the wickedest man in the world.” He is shown here wearing his “headdress of Horus,” styled on the ancient Egyptian god Horus.
"Mr. Crowley" is a song by Ozzie Osbourne, in 1981.

It was inspired by a book about Aleister Crowley which Osbourne had read, and a deck of tarot cards that were found in the recording studio.
Astrum Argenteum seal

The seven-pointed star—a seal of Crowley’s A.:A.: group—represents both masculine and feminine. The spiritual organization was founded by Crowley in 1907.
The second development was the growing impact of mass media. Even before World War I, Harry “Handcuff” Houdini—easily the 20th century’s most celebrated magical performer—drew immense crowds, the result of blanket press coverage as much as of his own showmanship. Magic in numerous guises became a staple of the cinema and, later, of television, winning huge new audiences.

He did his amazing escaping and other tricks, from 1900 to 1920.
THE END