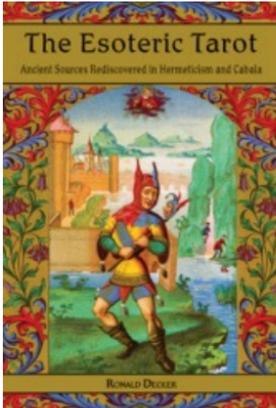


Notable books:



Decker, Ronald.

The Esoteric Tarot: Ancient Sources Rediscovered in Hermeticism and Cabala.

Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House, Quest Books, 2013.

Pp. xi + 330.

\$23.95.

This book is not Theosophical in the sense of relating to the Theosophical Society, though it is theosophical in a more general sense. The author comments: “I feel certain that the Tarot designers were aware of the entire Hermetic theosophy. In my view, they used images, numbers, and symmetries to accommodate three systems — astrological, arithmological, mystagogical — each with a complete program, always enlisting all of the trumps” (p. 10).

The book is wide-ranging and exhaustive, almost to the point of exhaustion. It is a great improvement over the sort of popular books on the tarot, which are all too frequent. But its extensiveness and detail reminds one of the story of the little boy who went to his neighborhood library and told the librarian that he wanted a book all about snakes, so she brought him a 1000-page encyclopedia of herpetology. The boy said, “Thank you, but that’s more all about snakes than I wanted to know.”