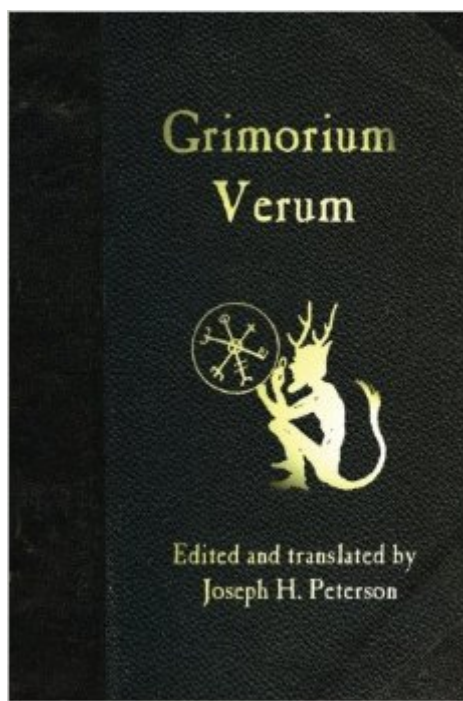


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Grimorium Verum



Synopsis

Grimorium Verum is one of the most notorious handbooks of black magic -- one of the few that deals openly with spirits of darkness. People have long sought the aid of non-physical beings; the biblical king Solomon in particular had a reputation since ancient times for commanding demons. There are many texts purporting to reveal Solomon's methods, but most are extremely complicated and difficult. Grimorium Verum is one of the easier texts, but also one of the most sinister. It includes a catalog of specific demons and how to draw on their powers. This new critical edition includes a fresh translation based on all the major sources, complete French and Italian texts, and 5 other appendices.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many collectors of occult lore may think they want to pass on this title, especially if they have a copy of A.E. Waite's "Ceremonial Magic". While I will not attempt to counter the argument of redundancy, I would say that for anyone looking for a definitive account of this work, it is Peterson and not Waite that delivers the goods. Anyone who has read Peterson's working of the Lesser Key of Solomon will feel at home in his treatment of the Grimorium Verum. There is a herculean front-matter outlining the French and Italian sources for the current edition, as well as a lineage of the work as it relates to other pieces belonging to the "Solomon Cycle". Among other things covered, the preface is broken down into the following logical categories: * Disclaimer: Please don't really use a human skull to perform these rituals, etc.* Outline of the method: Tools of the trade, preparatory considerations, etc.* Demonology: An outline of the "demonic theology" subscribed to in the work.* Notes specific to

this edition* Explanation of the figures: Why the author resisted the temptation to re-execute the drawings and clean up the figures.* Relation of textual sources: Contrasts between the French and Italian works. Peterson does a great job of laying out his theory of how the present work came to be, pointing out French elements still extant in Italian versions.* A general curse: Peterson is probably best known for his hard work on his CD compilation of old magical texts. Here he pits the host of hell against IP trolls and those that have stolen his work for their own web-sites. Nicely played Mr. Peterson. What follows is a compiled translation from the various editions listed in the front-matter.

I'm a sucker for anything that is well-researched, and this book is an example of some of the finest, extremely heavy occult scholarship. Every page has abundant footnotes, and with every page I became more impressed at the effort involved in assembling this book. "Grimorium Verum" is a small, incomplete grimoire with most of its elements taken from (or based on) the Keys of Solomon. Several printed editions from the 1800s exist in French and Italian, as well as bits and pieces of it in older manuscript form. None of these editions are complete, and their content varies in greater or lesser degrees. Many of the names are inconsistent, and all of the 1800s editions are missing crucial illustrations which are mentioned in the text. Mr. Peterson has critically assembled all these sources in an effort to produce a "complete" English translation of the Grimorium Verum, with missing figures imported from other books. His scholarly conscientiousness extends to including the entire French and Italian texts as well .. which impresses me for its thoroughness, but also doubles the size of the book. If you don't read French or Italian, these sections are just a waste of paper. The actual English content of this book is only about 150 pages, including the introduction, bibliography, "Index of Angels and Demons" and subject index. The Grimorium itself is not as scary as the cover illustration and promotional ad copy would have you believe. Sure, it mentions the use of human skulls, human fat, and blood in some of the rituals. It also instructs the sorcerer to summon demons ... but all of this is done in the name of "the Most High" and the whole thing has an overtly Judeo-Christian veneer to it. Mr.

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