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So, COUNCIL OF C.O.G. - Dagda arrived for a very brief visit. He was due here at 4 P.M. After car troubles and other delays he arrived at 3 A.M....and I had to go to work at 4 A.M. Not much time to talk. Bobbie travelled the rest of the way with Dagda to the C.O.G. meeting. Non-members of C.O.G. may now get the newsletter for \$7. per yr. Send to C.O.G., P.O.B. 1226, Berkeley, Cal. 94704. We still haven't recieved that report on Athena's trip to Greece.

LAKEMOOD, CAL. - Peggy Ellen recieved my letter 12 days after it was mailed. One of her turtles could have made better time. Peggy Ellen was planning a visit to the L.A. County Fair to see a display of Mayan artifacts. She got an unexpected bath while trimming her trees between rainstorms. They do hold a lot of water. P.E. found a beautiful fairy ring around the north stone of her Circle recently...right where the full moon shines on it. Her brother sent her 4 Hazel pieces from a magick site in England.

LOS ANGELES AREA - Georgia, Gus, Gwyn, Shirley & Lee got here for the Sabbat. We expected Walt but... Mariah says car trouble kept her from getting to the mountain meeting. She is happy about a recent vacation and a cave she found in Oregon. Also enthusiastic about a trip to Yellowstone and a solitary visit to the foot of Druid mountain...solitary until an orange bird with black wings decided to walk along with her. Jay is off to the east again (about due back) and hopes this will be the end of those trips. He hopes to start a new coven in a different part of So. Cal. Walt moving again but still in the L.A. area. Didn't get here for the Sabbat. Wonder if he'd make a suitable sacrifice for something??? A nice card but no visit from Yvonne. To which house shall we send her?

DES MOINES - Sefa says the Lammas meet was great. People attended from Circle, C.A.W., St. Louis, K.C., etc. Also had a Wiccaning, a Bar-B-Q- and a songfest into the late hours. Sefa is a bit unhappy about a published remark about all that money she took in...money she didn't get. Sefa recently made a trip to N.Y. for a Pleasure Faire in the woods near Lake Ontario. She says they had everything there. She was especially turned on by a boat tour on a lake where she could see bottom at 150 ft. She wrote from the Leadership Conference in Georgia...said it was great... promised a report on it...didn't send it. Okay, Sefa, that special place is off limits to you for another 24 hrs. Now she's planning to attend the seminar in Albuquerque, and a visit here. She says she'll be going to The House Of Ravenwood in Atlanta near the end of the year to stay for at least 6 months.

SEATTLE-TACOMA AREA - Stef was sick recently but okay now, and all seems to be going well. Had a nice letter from Donna. Now expecting out of the navy in January and a baby in February. Wonder how she'll take to settling down to married life after her adventures on that island not so long ago??? Very lengthy phone call from Jeannie (I'd hate to have her phone bill)...says Dean should be out of the service before too long. They'll probably move a little farther north to some property they have there. Seems like all is going well in the north country.

NEW JERSEY - Ellen busy learning all she can about the Craft. Now her husband is getting interested, too. They would like contact with other Pagans in their area.

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GETTYSBURG - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LISA! Lisa is back in school (her last year) and busy with that as well as her Craft lessons. She is planning to fly or drive here next summer...maybe Sue, too. We'll look forward to that. Lisa is happy that her cat...missing for 6 months...has returned home. She says she's even wilder than before, and scratches anyone who touches her except Lisa. Sue is also back in school, and she is also busy with her Craft lessons.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - Marsha out of the doghouse...for now. Received a nice, long letter. She has finished with her moving, and the photos of her new place look great. She is quite fascinated with her antique Welsh chair. She's hoping Bobbie will find time to visit her when she spends some time in the area soon.

FLORIDA - David expecting a shipment of 24 volumes on the occult which his step-father is sending him. Doesn't know which set it is yet. David is back home again. Two trips to the hospital and still no operation. He's going to try to solve the problem himself.

Janice & Dennis will soon be moving into a larger home. Lots of space for the kids, and a room just for the Craft. We told you about Janice & Dennis getting horses & ponies. Now they have discovered that they have a magick pony. They made a Circle in the pasture. Just as they started their ritual, the pony pushed his way into the Circle and refused to leave. Anyone know an initiation for ponies??? Jane & Harry are hiving to start a new Dianossian coven in the area of Palm Beach. Anyone in that area looking for a coven, I'll be happy to forward your name & address. Jane & Harry have a 136 lb. Great Dane, 4 cats, a skunk, and a mad ferret named Bilbo. Harry says a male ferret is called a hob. ...and when he was young, Bilbo nibbled whenever he got excited...so... "the hob bit". Now you know what to expect from this pair. See drawing on another page.

Penny still busy on pre-initiation material. Also taking courses in herbology, aura reading, and numerology. Penny & Jennifer just over a brief session with the flu. Penny gave readings at a Psychic Fair. Penny says she awoke the other night to find her cat's astral floating by. Interesting! I've heard of the Flying Tigers but I've never met a flying pussy.

ATLANTA - Others tell me the Leadership Conference was great. I did receive something from Ilhea but don't know what. The P.O. delivered the address label in a plastic bag with an apology for losing the rest of it.

NEW YORK - Margot Adler attended the Conference in Georgia. She says the conference was wonderful, the setting beautiful, and the last evening ritual truly magnificent. We're still looking forward to Margot's book. Wish we didn't have to wait 'til spring.

SPAIN - Must be a miracle. Two letters and a tape from Herbie! Herbie & roommate, Gordon, doing research on the runes. Herbie says they're having problems with the mail. Who isn't? Herbie says his love-life is non-existent. Only 4 types of women over there. 1- unattached and unavailable. 2- engaged and unavailable. 3- married and unavailable. 4- Bar Hogs available for a price that is too high...penicillin is expensive over there. Herbie says there isn't much going on over there except on Spanish Holy Days. Then nothing is going on because everything closes.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA - Joan was the only one from there to get here for the Sabbat. I had several calls from people telling me that Cathy was in a coma in a hospital. Lasted for several days and must have been serious, but then Cathy phoned to say she was out of it and feeling much better. But she probably won't be working for awhile. Let's send her some energy.

NASHVILLE - Houston Roberts wishes to thank all who helped with his rapid recovery from a broken hip suffered in an accident. He says he and Iron Pony (magick motorcycle) are much better now. See The Cyprian Creed. He says comments are welcome at 2708 Old Lebanon Rd., Nashville, Tn. 37214.

EL PASO - Isabel seems to be quite happy, and is hard at work on the pre-inauguration tapes. She is also taking a local class on meditation. Too bad the herbal medicine class was cancelled but the instructor teaches anthropology and folklore at the University Of Texas, and her work schedule was just too full. Not really much news in Isabel's letter...mostly enthusiasm about Craft things. And that ain't bad!

NEVADA - Barda says "The Glassblower's Children" is a juvenile book dealing with unseen forces in a positive way. The Linda Blair thing she mentioned is "Summer Of Fear"...maybe this fall on CBS. Barda is now keeping a neighbor's toad. She does have strange house guests. She has been busy making strawberry jam and canning pineapples and tomatoes. Barda is much interested in "Greenpeace"...an organization to save whales, dolphins, and seals. Something going on in Golden Gate Park on Oct. 15. For info write Greenpeace, Bld. 240 Fortmason, San Francisco, Cal. 94123. Barda wants to remind Cat Lovers...for 35 9 Lives labels... a \$7.95 mom's tote bag. Write: Mom's Carryall Offer, POB 2604, Reidsville, N.C. 27322.

SEATTLE - TACOMA AREA (again) - Stef attended a belly dance seminar in San Francisco (so close and she didn't visit) and she says it was really great. Now she's busy setting up classes, and maybe some places to dance (like getting paid for it). Stef says they put in a new sliding glass door so they can step through and right into the outdoor Circle. Also doing some remodeling so they can have a permanent indoor Circle.

COLORADO - Karen has moved from Tulsa to Colorado recently. She seems to be really happy with the change.

THE CYPRIAN CREED

I believe in the Goddess and in Her consort, the God. They have created my beautiful Earth and made me its guardian; I must not profane their Creation. I am their warden of all life and I gladly bear my duties.

The Goddess and God have given me Spirit and Mind and Body, and with these I worship them; not through fear but in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

And when my life is ended I will return to the Goddess and God for rest and strength and wisdom. When I am prepared, They will return me to my beautiful Earth to live again amongst those I love.

So mote it be!

HERBS

MERLE SEZ - The current revival of the Craft today, and our search for thousands of years of lost knowledge, is wandering between two worlds...one dead, the other struggling to be born. With that thought in mind allow me to offer the following list of herbs and their traditional uses in the Craft.

ANARANTH - its dried flowers are used to call forth the dead.

APPLE - sliced round sections are eaten in tribute to Aphrodite.

BASIL - sprinkle over your body to call forth ERZULIE (Pagan goddess of love) to your Circle.

BIRCH BARK - associated with THOR (God of thunder)

BLACK ALDER LEAVES - offer to Asclepius.

BIRTHWORT - (aristolochia root) offer to Osirus.

CANOMILE FLOWERS - offer to Karnayna.

DAISY - offer to Freyja (northern Goddess of love and spring).

DILL - associate with Mercury.

HERBS (cont.)

ECHINACEA FLOWERS - used by early North American Witches to insure spells (as an offering).

ELDER (seed or branches) - used to transform yourself in time or form.

ENGLISH IVY - dedicate to Dionysus.

EUROPEAN VERVAIN (with honey) - eaten during an Isis ritual to produce a spell.

FINUGREEK (seed) - associate with Apollo.

GARDEN VIOLET - associate with Io and Zeus.

GARLIC - dedicate to Mars.

HAWTHORN - (blossoms) - offer to Hymen in Handfastings to insure love.

IRIS FLOWER - dedicate to Isis, Osirus, or Hera.

KELP - associate with Athena.

LAUREL - associate with Eros.

MANDRAKE ROOT - offer to Aphrodite for love.

MISTLETOE - offer to Odin (Wotan).

MILFOIL (yarrow) - drink a cup of its tea before divination.

OLIVE -(branch or oil) - to call forth Athene. Never use the olive when Poseidon or any water element is being encouraged to your Circle.

POMEGRANATE - associate with Demeter and her daughter, Persephone.

POPLAR - associate with Hercules.

ROSE - offer to Aphrodite.

ROSEMARY - sprinkle around your Circle (before casting) to keep out the spirit of an enemy who has just died.

TARRAGON - use to summon Lillith.

THISTLE (dried flowers) - associate with Minerva.

THYME and APPLE BLOSSOMS - offer to Venus to bind a spell.

I would like to hear from you so I may list any Craft use of herbs that you may have for the above.....Merle.

BOOKS & THINGS

We had a most pleasant visit with Jeff and his lovely daughter as they were passing through Bakersfield recently. Though we've had quite a bit of correspondence, this was our first opportunity to meet. I found Jeff to be a warm, friendly person, easy to talk with. We hope this won't be his last visit.

Since our meeting I've had the privilege of reading the present form of the last 2 chapters of his book (modern Witchcraft) "A Complete History Of Witchcraft". I'm sure that Crafters will be most pleased with his treatment of the subject. I'll let you know the publication date.

Since the book is not quite in final form, if you have info you think should be included, you might write him: Jeffrey B. Russell, Dean Of Graduate Studies, University Of California, Sacramento, 6000 J St., Sacramento, Cal. 95819.

The Druid Chronicle - irregular publication every 6-8 weeks. Some articles, and news of Druid groups. \$5. per yr. Isaac Bonewits, Box 9398, Berkeley, Cal. 94709.

Sefa reminds us that Circle is still putting out nice note cards and postcards. Sefa especially likes the Wiccan Rede one. Also tapes available. Circle, Box 9015, Madison, WI. 53715.

BOOKS & THINGS (cont.)

We just received the 1979 Lunar Calendar. Shows the phase of the moon, time of moonrise and moonset for each day of the year as well as Sabbats. Pages of articles, photos, poetry, and art work. Large size to hang on your wall. You'll love it. Send check for \$6.95 plus \$1. postage to the Luna Press, Box 511 Kenmore Square, Boston, Mass. 02215. Outside U.S. check payable in U.S. dollars or postal money order.

Sefa says Barbara Baker, Upton Rd., Red Creek, N.Y. 13143. makes unicorn block prints at 25¢ each or 8 for \$1.50. She'll make them to order by color.

California Directory of Psi Services, Guide To Psi Periodicals, Guide to PSI Tape Recordings...\$3. each. Innerspace Interpreters, POB 1133, Magnolia Park Station, Burbank, Cal. 91507.

Jeff says he has seen the MS of Margot Adler's new book. He says it is very good and should be popular. Hurry up, Margot...we're waiting.

Forgot to mention earlier: Jeff will be attending a Witchcraft Conference of professors at Kansas State on Hallowe. He now plans to present a paper on Modern Craft instead of medieval Craft as originally planned. That should be an interesting meeting. Wish we could all listen in.

BOOK REVIEW BY GORDON IN SPAIN

"The Mary Myth" by Andrew Greeley is a very explosive book. Unlike most (nearly all) of the books available on Mary, he does not examine Mary; he deals almost exclusively with the God that is revealed thru and in Mary. Reading this book was somewhat of a difficulty for me, as I was raised in a very staunch (many would say straitjacketed) Mennonite background. Any reverence to Mary would have been "heretical". I later lived in New Orleans (last bastion of Catholicism in the south) for six years, and was highly puzzled by the seemingly endless honorifics heaped upon Mary, not to mention the innumerable prayers to her. When my religious feelings (such as they were) left, I came to view Mary as the greatest barrier to progress since the burning of the Alexandrian library. With this in mind, (i.e., that my feelings toward her were ambivalent, to say the least) I read Greeley's book several times.

Greeley convincingly argues that God must contain feminine qualities, such as compassion, laughter, wisdom, etc. Without a feminine aspect of God, men and women both suffer. Greeley argues "had Mary not existed, it would have been necessary for the pagans to invent her".

In an earlier book, "The Jesus Myth", Greeley argues that many religious symbols link man with the same limit-experience (religious truth) and that each religious symbol (within the context of Catholicism, Greeley emphasizes) is valid. In short, Mary as God doesn't compete with the risen Christ, since both symbols represent the same truth. In this light, Greeley compares Mary (more correctly, the four aspects of Mary: Sponsa, Virgo, Pieta, and the Madonna) with the many pagan Goddesses of the past. Astarte, Hecate, Demeter, Isis, and Tara are his main examples. He praises them at length, while almost apologizing for the excesses of the ancient fertility cults. He finds much that is praiseworthy within the Goddesses: life, birth, renewal, joyous ecstasy, and reunion with the cosmos (God) in death. Above all, there is a passionate zeal in/for learning and growing within Greeley's book.

Mary's worshippers are presented as being people intoxicated with the joys of earth (Mary's garden) life, and learning. They are not discouraged by obstacles. A lover of Mary can venture to be open and honest with others. Not blindly and without an understanding of the cruelties that others can inflict, however. But you can trust, because if your heart breaks...the gentle Mother will enfold you in her blue mantle and comfort you. (paraphrased slightly here) You can trust your heart to Mary

BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

because she'll put it back together.

As Greeley explains, women possess an almost supernatural hold over life on earth. Woman bring life into the world, raise children, comfort, make love, and the earth-mother receives the dying. There is a mystery to all women that is an expression of God's mysteries.

And as Greeley points out, Mary is about all one has to worship in the way of a mother goddess, in her four aspects. The other members of her "eternal sisterhood" as Greeley so calls them, have passed from the scene. No other options are available to one who wants a feminine deity, as Greeley explains. (unless one wants to return to one of the Goddesses of Witchcraft).

The apologists for Mary made a serious mistake when they attempted to deliberately overlook the almost painfully obvious manner in which deities were "adopted" by the early church.

Greeley feels that no follower of Mary must feel ashamed of the similarities between Mary and earlier female deities, insofar as none of them can compare with her (Mary). On the other hand, Greeley feels that Nut, Demeter, etc. had to exist before Mary could. Herin follow the four aspects of Mary, along with several of the more significant aspects and examples as given by Greeley.

ASPECT	SEXUAL Differentiation	Goddesses	Symbols
Maddonna	Maternity	Isis, Demeter, Juno	Earth, Water, Home, Hearth
Sponsa	Pleasure, Lust	Venus, Astarte, Aphrodite	Moon, Planets
Virgo	Transforming	Sophia, Tara, Muse, Shakti	Moon
Pieta	Woman as source of what lives to die.	Nut, Kali, Hecate, Isis	Gate, Raven, Lock, Vulture

Our thanks to Gordon for the above review. But if any of you infuture wish to send reviews, please make them a bit more brief.

STUFF & THINGS

Finally got a letter from Fixie in the Bay area. She still exists and is enjoying the beaches.

Finally just got a 10 page typed book (letter) from Rhas, and then she says don't print a word of it. Okay, so I won't tell you how great the Leadership Conference was.

Don't forget to change address for us whenever you move. P.O. charges 27¢ to supply us with each forwarding address. No way can we afford it.

If you didn't see Dr. Strange on TV, watch for a re-run. Very interesting.

Sefa, your full page of letter about kids not being allowed at meetings does not apply to us. I did not say kids would not be allowed at the mountain meeting. I said, "if you bring 'em, you take care of 'em". There have been instances of people bringing kids, then asking someone to watch them for a few minutes, then they disappear for hours. It isn't fair to the other people.

Sorry about the messy last page of the last newsletter. We were racing the clock on everything because of the date and because Monday was a holiday.

We try to always get the newsletter in the mail on the first of the month if possible. If you want something in, I must receive it at least 3 days before the first. If the first comes on the weekend, make it a couple of days earlier.

Sorry if your copy is a bit hard to read. My first experience with a Ditto machine, and I also don't think it will make as many good copies as we need. May have to find another system.

THIS MONTH WE WILL CHANGE PEOPLE INTO AN OCTOGONARIAN OCTUPUS.

We'll be celebrating the Sabbat here on October 28. A party first, and ritual at midnight outdoors.



At the left...Bobbie and I at the dining room conference table.

Bobbie just heard that she would be attending the C.O.G. Grand Council meeting

Below...a drawing by Harry in Florida.

That's all, folks.

Love and Blessed Be.



The Prophecies will come
 When Shadow mates with Sun.
 Be There.
 You know Where...
 2/26/79





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