THE FANTASY SHOWCASE TAROT DECK
PLEASE EXAMINE

Your FANTASY SHOWCASE TAROT before shuffling. The cards are packed in the order in which they are described in the book.

Compiled and edited 1969-1980 by Bruce Pelz

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A Brief History of the Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck

Artists have always been a prominent feature of the science fiction and fantasy milieu. In the early days—from the 1930's through the 1950's—the professionals exhibited their works on the covers of the magazines and paperback books, while the non-professionals had to make do with being published in the amateur journals/fanzines. A number of artists who began in the latter group eventually graduated to the former group, and there were frequent instances of fanzine art being better than that found on the professional publications. Multicolor spirit duplication and hand-drawn fine line mimeography art easily outshone hackwork in four-color process litho.

In 1960, the World Science Fiction Convention added an art show to its features, following a suggestion by the late Seth Johnson and considerable work by Bjo Trimble. The West Coast Science Fantasy Conference followed suit three years later, and other regional conventions in the field were not many years behind. At last there was a means for showing what the amateur artists could do when freed from the limitations of inexpensive reproduction methods. And as the 1960's progressed, more and more artists came to display their works at convention art shows.

The art was in every conceivable style, medium, and format, and of every degree of quality from the
great to the utterly worthless. (Which was which was, of course, a variable dependent upon the viewer.) But almost all of it sold if the artists wished it sold—cartoons, portraits, horror scenes, spacescapes, fantasy scenes, and even the untold hundreds of “Star Trek” art that infested the shows of 1968 and 1969. Besides there being large number of artists in the science fiction and fantasy field, there were obviously large numbers of art appreciators, also.

The Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck idea came about as a result of the availability of those two groups—and as a result of the lack of availability of Steubenware on the West Coast in 1969.

Steubenware was available in one location in the early 1960’s Los Angeles. Don Simpson, an artist whose versatility includes glass engraving, talked me into purchasing one goblet in October 1963, and promised to engrave it. I couldn’t really afford the thing, but I bought it. Then I tried to think of something worth engraving on a Steuben goblet. It took five years for me to come up with the idea of having the Great Trumps done on a set of such goblets, starting with The Tower. And by then there was no longer a Los Angeles outlet for Steubenware—or any other outside of New York.

So I had one engraved goblet and an aborted idea of a pictorial set of the Great Trumps. A collector finds it difficult to abandon the idea of having a set of something he or she has already deemed collectible. Perhaps the set could be done, instead, as mere two-dimensional artwork. Moreover, perhaps other artists would like to get in on the project... surely I knew at least 22 artists? I began asking artists in the Los Angeles area in August of 1969, and by the time I got to the World Science Fiction Convention in St.
Louis over the Labor Day weekend of that year, I had expanded the project to the complete Tarot Deck of 78 cards. The first card—Doug Lovenstein’s Knight of Swords—came in by the end of September, 1969.

Over the months and years, there were changes—not only in the roster of artists, but in the attitudes behind the project. What had started as an amusing idea became a Grand Project, involving publishing plans for the deck, acquisition agreements regarding the original cards, and finally the necessity of replacing those artists who had signed up to do a card but, as months and then years had passed, had done nothing. Fortunately, there have always been new artists available to replace the ones dropped.

As a nonartist, I have always found it difficult to tell artists that their work was bad—or even “not good enough.” Halfway through the 1970’s I realized that I had not done so in as many instances as I should have, and I went back to some of the artists and asked them to redo their cards. (In a few instances, the artists realized the need for redoing the cards before I did, and took it upon themselves.)

Some cards I rejected outright: the female nude, surrounded by the four Signs of the Apostles, submitted as The Hierophant; the crownless very young man, submitted as a King; two or three others, perhaps.

There were also cards I happily accepted that may well scandalize, affront, or otherwise put off the serious reader of the Tarot. Cartoons have been viewed as tantamount to sacrilege by one or two viewers of the deck-in-progress; offbeat viewpoints of standard Tarot card characters have been frowned upon as inappropriate, invalid, inaccurate, or some combination of these; and then there are six extra cards, found in this deck but not in the standard Tarot.
The first non-standard card was Gordon Monson’s Great Trump XXII: Separation, which he gave to me almost as a joke, after he had done The Emperor. The new card was better art. I got Helmut Pesch to take The Emperor, and kept the Monson invention. If one requires a justification for including Separation among the Major Arcana, when there are cards in the Minor Arcana whose meanings may include those of Separation, consider the much greater importance given to sharing of emotions and such today as compared to that given to it in the last century or even the early part of this century. Or consider the traumatic force assigned by psychologists to loss of someone close.

The other non-standard Great Trump, The Farrier, is a logical extension of the force-flow of the Major Arcana, which ordinarily stops with the World, not taking into consideration the fact that the World is no longer an appropriate final boundary. It quite properly comes as the final Trump. (Separation should probably be something like Trump XIII, with Death and all those that follow advanced by one number, but I decided against changing any of the original Trump numbers.)

The remaining four inventions are long-overdue additions to the Tarot court cards, and I admit that I invented them myself. In selecting court cards to signify persons, the Page has long stood for a child of either sex. The Knight stands for a young man, the Queen for a woman, and the King for a man. Obviously—to me, at least—there was something missing. So there is now the Lady, to represent a young woman. The card ranks above the Knight and below the Queen, as the Knight would defer to the Lady and the Lady defer to the Queen. The meanings of the cards follow naturally from their
relationships to the other court cards in their respective suits.

The additional cards and the variety of interpretations of the standard cards may well daunt someone who is used to reading the standard deck. I offer only two suggestions: First, consider the possibility that a Tarot deck designed by one person has that person's imprint firmly established upon it, and the reader's need to attune the deck to him-or herself requires that the designer's imprint be overcome. In contrast, a deck with 85 designers—86 including the editor—would perhaps have the designers' imprints cancelling each other out, and thus allowing an easier attunement.

Second, one can always pare the deck down to the standard 78 cards before reading it.

The only really important thing about the deck is that it should be enjoyed—whether as artwork, as a tool for divination, as a party game, or as some combination of the three.

It has been an interesting eleven years.

Bruce Pelz
June 1980

Note:
If you don't already know the basic Tarot reading layout (the Celtic Cross, for instance), you would do well to pick up an introductory book on the subject. I suggest Eden Gray's *The Tarot Revealed* as a good one to begin with. (It's available in paperback.)
Six of Cups
IMAGO
RECTORIS
CAUCUM

KINGS
OF
CUPS
Page of Pentacles
the KING of PENTACLES
PAGE OF SWORDS
OH!
WHAT AN UGLY DAY!

KINGHT OF SWORDS.

HORSE.
Lady of Swords
LADY of WANDS
xx.
Judgement
Ace of Cups

Artist: C. Lee Healey

Meaning: Great love; fertility; bounty; productiveness.
Reversed: Impossibility of love; sterility of spirit; false joy.

Two of Cups

Artist: Josh Kirby

Meaning: Companionate love; deep friendship; harmony of the kindred.
Reversed: Broken relationships; disunity; schism of ideas.

Three of Cups

Artist: Ellen Green

Meaning: Successful conclusion; all will end well; fortune; good luck.
Reversed: Overindulgence; ill luck; chimerical success.

Four of Cups

Artist: Ross Chamberlain

Meaning: Re-evaluation of one's life-style; empathy from friends.
Reversed: Re-awakening; possibilities of new beginnings.

Five of Cups

Artist: Debra Bean

Meaning: Disillusionment; disappointment in transitory pleasures; exaggerated loss.
Reversed: Pleasant expectations; return of someone thought lost.
Six of Cups  
**Artist:** Kara Dalkey  
**Meaning:** Nostalgia; pleasant reminders of childhood’s past.  
**Reversed:** Dwelling too much on the past; inability to accept modern attitudes or ideas.

Seven of Cups  
**Artist:** Judy Blish  
**Meaning:** Excessive imagination; living in a dream world; dissipated forces.  
**Reversed:** Controlled creativity; intellectual resolve; force of will to carry through.

Eight of Cups  
**Artist:** Bill Rotsler  
**Meaning:** Dissatisfaction with one’s success; unsettled spirit; baseless striving; futile quest.  
**Reversed:** Whole-hearted acceptance of success; celebration of achievement.

Nine of Cups  
**Artist:** Gary Anderson  
**Meaning:** Happiness and satisfaction in accomplishment; wealth and well-being; a wish granted.  
**Reversed:** Foolish faith in others; false freedom; serious error in judgement; a wish denied.

Ten of Cups  
**Artist:** Randy Bathurst  
**Meaning:** Lasting happiness and joy; complete contentment; peace.  
**Reversed:** Betrayal of friendship or love; transitory joy yielding sorrow; illicit satisfactions.
Page of Cups
Artist: Freff
Meaning: A quiet, studious child of great imagination; loyalty to close friends; an offer of service or help.
Reversed: Flirtation; avoidance of responsibility; youthful rebellion.

Knight of Cups
Artist: Jackie Causgrove
Meaning: A young man of grace, a dreamer, a sensualist; bringer of a message or invitation.
Reversed: Fraud; deceit; seduction, physical or spiritual.

Lady of Cups
Artist: Ann Chancellor
Meaning: A young woman of trust and affection; a soothing of emotions; encouragement.
Reversed: Abrasiveness; emotional upheaval; a demivierge.

Queen of Cups
Artist: Kathy Bushman Sanders
Meaning: A woman of devotion and loyalty; familial joys and pleasures.
Reversed: Immorality; manipulation of people; overweening self-love.
King of Cups
*Artist: Andrew Stephenson*

**Meaning:** A man of kindness and consideration; responsibility; liberality; generosity.

**Reversed:** Dishonesty; rapaciousness; scandal and trickery.

Ace of Pentacles
*Artist: Steve Leialoha*

**Meaning:** Success in material things; wealth; prosperity.

**Reversed:** Greed; comfort in material things without actual happiness.

Two of Pentacles
*Artist: Harry Bell*

**Meaning:** Successful handling of two matters at the same time; balance during a period of change; arrival of written messages.

**Reversed:** Inability to balance multiple situations; enforced gaiety; anxiety; false-front pleasure.

Three of Pentacles
*Artist: Chris Holmes*

**Meaning:** Skill in workmanship; gain in commerce.

**Reversed:** Mediocrity in workmanship; pettiness; preoccupation with gain.

Four of Pentacles
*Artist: Ken Fletcher*

**Meaning:** Miserliness; overemphasis of material possessions.

**Reversed:** Loss of material wealth; waste of money; hindrances in financial matters.
Five of Pentacles
Artist: Reed Waller
Meaning: Economic affliction; loss of home and other comforts.
Reversed: Charity; financial re-establishment; new occupation.

Six of Pentacles
Artist: Lee Hoffman
Meaning: Shared prosperity; gifts; philanthropy; inheritance.
Reversed: Bribery; condescending charity; unjust business practices.

Seven of Pentacles
Artist: Jim Schumacher
Meaning: Achievement through toil; success in business matters.
Reversed: Financial anxiety; haste in business brings failure.

Eight of Pentacles
Artist: Kurt Erichsen
Meaning: Willingness to learn; the beginning of a career; ambition.
Reversed: Ambition negated; misapplied talents; overconfidence in one's abilities.

Nine of Pentacles
Artist: Cathy Hill
Meaning: Enjoyment of one's own accomplishments; domesticity; an inheritance.
Reversed: Discontent; loss of personal comfort or possessions.
Ten of Pentacles

*Artist: Paula Marmor*

**Meaning:** Family wealth; acquisition of a business property; a will brings benefits.

**Reversed:** Family ill fortune; loss of wealth or honor; bad investments.

Page of Pentacles

*Artist: Marti Lands*

**Meaning:** A dark-featured child of scholarly intent; introversion; caution; diligence.

**Reversed:** Profligacy; excess.

Knight of Pentacles

*Artist: Eddie Jones*

**Meaning:** A young man of responsibility; service; laborious toil.

**Reversed:** Lack of progress; careless habits; stagnation of affairs.

Lady of Pentacles

*Artist: Stu Shiffman*

**Meaning:** A young woman of diligence and application; perserverance.

**Reversed:** Matters in disarray; dilletantism.

Queen of Pentacles

*Artist: Kathi Macmillan*

**Meaning:** A woman of generosity and physical creativity; material security.

**Reversed:** Suspicion; insecurity; fear of want or failure.
King of Pentacles
   Artist: John Pound
Meaning: A man of business and industry; reliability; mathematical skills; steady temperament.
Reversed: Gambling and speculation; bribery; talents misused.

Ace of Swords
   Artist: Blair Wilkins
Meaning: Triumphant power; championship.
Reversed: Disaster as a result of conquest; tyranny; excessive force.

Two of Swords
   Artist: Bea Barrio
Meaning: Temporary truce; balanced forces; indecision.
Reversed: Reactivation of stalled affairs, not always in the right direction; release from tension.

Three of Swords
   Artist: Jim Odhert
Meaning: Sorrow; strife in love.
Reversed: Disarray in love affairs; caution against loss.

Four of Swords
   Artist: Lee Nordling
Meaning: Rest after struggles; retreat; recuperation from illness.
Reversed: Return to action; unrest; caution against headstrong deeds.
Five of Swords  
*Artist: Alicia Austin*  
**Meaning:** Conquest of others by physical might; self-assurance.  
**Reversed:** Empty victory; caution against boastful pride.

Six of Swords  
*Artist: George Metzger*  
**Meaning:** Escape from oppressions; a water journey; sending forth of a representative in one's stead.  
**Reversed:** Stasis; inescapability of difficulties; unfavorable outcomes.

Seven of Swords  
*Artist: George Jones*  
**Meaning:** Theft; incomplete success; inappropriate plans.  
**Reversed:** Good counsel; unexpected benefit; fortunate innovation.

Eight of Swords  
*Artist: Alexis Gilliland*  
**Meaning:** Captivity of indecision; censure; betrayal.  
**Reversed:** Release from fear; promise of new beginnings; freedom.

Nine of Swords  
*Artist: Joe Pearson*  
**Meaning:** Desolation; suffering; misery; death of someone near.  
**Reversed:** Suspicion; doubt; shame.
Ten of Swords  
Artist: Arthur Thomson  
Meaning: Sudden anguish; pain and suffering.  
(Nor: violent death.)  
Reversed: Resurgence after defeat.

Page of Swords  
Artist: Mike Symes  
Meaning: A child of watchfulness and diplomacy; vigilance.  
Reversed: Imposture; unpreparedness; unexpected crises.

Knight of Swords  
Artist: Doug Lovenstein  
Meaning: A young man of courage and skill, though headstrong; conflict; heroism.  
Reversed: Extreme impulsiveness; false show of courage; bragging.

Lady of Swords  
Artist: Cecilia Cosentini  
Meaning: A young woman of determination and perserverance; conviction.  
Reversed: Insecurity; self-doubt; hesitation.

Queen of Swords  
Artist: Juanita Coulson  
Meaning: A woman of gravity and rooted power; privation; strength in sorrow; depth of character.  
Reversed: Facetiousness; unreliability; artificiality.
King of Swords  
*Artist: Mike Gilbert*  
**Meaning:** A man of authority and counsel; an affair of law or of the military.  
**Reversed:** Injustice; suspicion; cruelty; scheming.

Ace of Wands  
*Artist: Ray Capella*  
**Meaning:** Creation; invention; birth of family or enterprise.  
**Reversed:** Aborted enterprise; false start; deferred beginning.

Two of Wands  
*Artist: Gary Benson*  
**Meaning:** Balanced enterprise; thought countering desire.  
**Reversed:** Ill-advised affairs; obstinacy; fear; physical pain.

Three of Wands  
*Artist: Evelyn Turner*  
**Meaning:** Hope realized; power of commerce or business established.  
**Reversed:** Caution against offered aid; disappointment in business.

Four of Wands  
*Artist: David Higgins*  
**Meaning:** Harmonious work; peace and prosperity; haven after work.  
**Reversed:** The meaning is the same, though perhaps to a slightly lesser degree.
Five of Wands
   **Artist:** Marc Schirmeister
**Meaning:** The struggle of life; fierce competition.
**Reversed:** Obstacles; disputes; legal or contractual complications.

Six of Wands
   **Artists:** Jane & Philip Hagopian
**Meaning:** Good news; victory after a struggle; success through industry.
**Reversed:** Rewards delayed; caution against insolence in victory; fear of a victorious foe.

Seven of Wands
   **Artist:** Steve Stiles
**Meaning:** Success against competition; advantageous position.
**Reversed:** Confusion; anxiety; warning against indecision.

Eight of Wands
   **Artist:** Rick Sternbach
**Meaning:** Approach to a goal; activity furthers the undertaking; journey by air; messages arriving.
**Reversed:** Stagnation in affairs; great delay; misdirected communication.

Nine of Wands
   **Artist:** Maureen Garrett
**Meaning:** Preparedness; defensive power; a reserve of strength.
**Reversed:** Adversity; weakness; vulnerability.
Ten of Wands
Artist: Jim Barker
Meaning: A goal will be reached despite oppressive burdens; ill-use of power; a problem soon solved.
Reversed: Failure; departure under duress.

Page of Wands
Artist: Liz Danforth
Meaning: A child of enthusiasm; messenger; bearer of news.
Reversed: Ill tidings; apathy; indecision about a project.

Knight of Wands
Artist: Wendy Fletcher Pini
Meaning: A young man of celerity and great energy; haste; flight.
Reversed: Interruption; discord; interference; listlessness.

Lady of Wands
Artist: Terry Austin
Meaning: A young woman of talent and perspicacity; organizational competence.
Reversed: Mediocrity; casual incompetence.

Queen of Wands
Artist: Bonnie Goodnight
Meaning: A woman of animation and magnetism; domestic success; control of nature.
Reversed: Parsimony; prudery; deceit or infidelity.
King of Wands
   Artist: Dan Steffan
Meaning: A man of authority in enterprise; nobility; familial loyalty.
Reversed: Intolerance; severity and ruthlessness in judgement.

Trump 0: The Fool
   Artist: Bruce Duncan
Meaning: An important choice is to be made.
Reversed: The choice will be wrong.

Trump I: The Magician
   Artist: Taral
Meaning: The power of will; mastery of natural forces; eternity.
Reversed: Destructive power; weakness of will.

Trump II: The High Priestess
   Artist: George Barr
Meaning: Spiritual power; mystery; shrouded future.
Reversed: Superficial knowledge; lip-service faith.

Trump III: The Empress
   Artist: Maxine Miller
Meaning: Domestic strength; material wealth; fertility.
Reversed: Unsettled home; the disruption of poverty; infertility.
Trump IV: The Emperor
   Artist: Helmut Pesch
Meaning: Government; leadership; domination of intellect over emotions.
Reversed: Immaturity of emotion; a slave to parents; subservience.

Trump V: The Hierophant
   Artist: Karen Kuykendall
Meaning: Concentration on ritual, ceremony, the trappings of religion; need for social conformity.
Reversed: Unorthodoxy; social revolt.

Trump VI: The Lovers
   Artist: Connie Faddis
Meaning: Yang and yin; sexual and spiritual love; a choice of temptations.
Reversed: Sundered relationships; quarrels; disharmony.

Trump VII: The Chariot
   Artist: Joe Wehrle
Meaning: Conquest; triumph over foes; control of nature and oneself.
Reversed: Decadence; surrender; victory without right.

Trump VIII: Strength
   Artist: Suford Lewis
Meaning: Spiritual power bests material power; love triumphs over hate, a higher nature over a lower.
Reversed: Immorality; abuse of power; rule by lower natures.
Trump IX: The Hermit
   
   Artist: James Patrick
   
   Meaning: Prudence; wise counsel; attainment of appropriate goals.
   
   Reversed: Foolish habits; rejection of maturity; refusal to accept counsel.

Trump X: The Wheel of Fortune
   
   Artist: Linda Miller
   
   Meaning: Success; luck.
   
   Reversed: Ill fortune; setbacks or failures brought upon oneself.

Trump XI: Justice
   
   Artist: Joan Hanke Woods
   
   Meaning: A just result; success at law; balance in one's affairs.
   
   Reversed: Bias; inequality; legal complications; injustice.

Trump XII: The Hanged Man
   
   Artist: Greg Bear
   
   Meaning: Spiritual wisdom; prophecy; self-sacrifice; a pause in one's life or affairs.
   
   Reversed: Pride; arrogance; wasted effort; resistance to spiritual things.

Trump XIII: Death
   
   Artist: Tim Kirk
   
   Meaning: Change; transformation; renewal after a tearing down.
   
   Reversed: Stagnation; inertia.
Trump XIV: Temperance

Artist: Kate Wadey

Meaning: Beneficient control; working harmoniously with others; adaptation; good management.

Reversed: Excess; lack of control; unfortunate combinations; competing interests.

Trump XV: The Devil

Artist: Fangorn

Meaning: Bondage to the material; sensation without understanding; misuse of spiritual power.

Reversed: The start of spiritual understanding; timidity; ineffectuality.

Trump XVI: The Tower

Artist: Don Simpson

Meaning: Violent change; upheaval of existing affairs; destruction of material values.

Reversed: Oppression; imprisonment; false accusations.

Trump XVII: The Star

Artist: Kelly Freas

Meaning: Inspiration; hope; unselfish aid; love.

Reversed: Doubt; pessimism.

Trump XVIII: The Moon

Artist: Mary Jane Hertz

Meaning: Dreams; psychic power; unforeseen dangers; ill fortune to someone close.

Reversed: Imagination ruled by practicality; survival at some cost; risks should be avoided.
Trump XIX: The Sun  
Artist: Ingrid Edelfeldt  
**Meaning:** A pleasant; happy life; material or domestic success; achievement in studies.  
**Reversed:** Loss of happiness; success diminished.

Trump XX: Judgement  
Artist: Tina Bear  
**Meaning:** Awakening; change in consciousness; renewal.  
**Reversed:** Failure in life's goals; fear of death; weakness.

Trump XXI: The World  
Artist: Victoria Poyser  
**Meaning:** Completion; total triumph; movement in one's affairs; travel.  
**Reversed:** Fear of change; stubbornness; success denied.

Trump XXII: Separation  
Artist: Gordon Monson  
**Meaning:** Loneliness; inability to communicate with others.  
**Reversed:** Reconciliation; unity of purpose; sharing of emotions.

Trump XXIII: The Farrier  
Artist: Dian Crayne  
**Meaning:** Forces of the universe; destiny's hand.  
**Reversed:** Chaos; lack of purpose; randomness.
Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck
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