Lux Mentis, Booksellers

Lux Mentis specializes in fine press, fine bindings, and esoterica in all areas, books that have been treasured and will continue to be treasured. As a primary focus is the building and/or deaccessioning of private collections, our selections is diverse and constantly evolving. If we do not have what you are seeking, please contact us and we will strive to find it. All items are subject to prior sale. Shipping and handling is calculated on a per order basis. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding terms and/or with any questions or concerns.

This week we offer a new list featuring non-Western world Occult and Witchcraft, books include preeminent Black scholar Joseph Williams' Voodoo and Obeahs, African and Egyptian mythology, Asian sword alchemy and Sumatran Batak bark manuscript book [pustaha].. As always let us know if you have questions or would like images.

Non-Western/BIPOC Occult List

1. Awolalu, J. Omosade. **Yoruba Beliefs and Sacrificial Rites.** Essex, UK: Longman Limited, 1981. Reprint (First edition]. 8vo. xvi, 203 pp, 4 unnumbered leaves of plates, illus. Very Good+ in Wraps. Original Wraps. (#12412) $200.00

Joseph Omosade Awolalu (J.O. Awolalu) is a Nigerian scholar, educator, and writer. Dr. Awolalu was at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan in Nigeria for many years, and is the author of books and articles on African religious traditions, and particularly those of the Yoruba people.

2. Bainbridge, John. **Mana Magic: How You Can Use the Powerful Huna Secret of Ancient Hawaii in Today's High Tech World.** Los Angeles, CA: Barnhart Press, 1988. First Edition. Light creasing, toning, else near Fine. 8vo. 83pp. illus. Pictorial wrappers. Inscribed on half-title. Near Fine in Wraps. Original Wraps. (#12410) $225.00

A world traveler, John Bainbridge's focus on esoterica has resulted in books published on Huna and comparative religions. Huna Huna (Hawaiian for "secret") is the word adopted by the non-Hawaiian New Age author Max Freedom Long (1890–1971) in 1936 to describe his theory of metaphysics. Long cited what he believed to be the spiritual practices of the ancient Hawaiian kahunas (priests) as inspiration; however, contemporary scholars consider the system to be his invention designed through a mixture of a variety of spiritual practices from various cultures, with roots in New Thought and Theosophy, rather than in traditional Hawaiian indigeous beliefs. Signed by author. [OCLC 4 copies]



3. Batak people of Lake Toba region of North Sumatra. **Sumatran Batak divination manuscript book [Pustaha] [Indigenous; divination; Shamanism].** Indonesia, Early to mid-20th century. Unique. Boards stained with natural pigments, little wear to extremities, spotting to wood boards, although in remarkable condition. Repair to a few inner leaves with bark paper. (Two-sided) panel concertina fold; fastened on handcarved alum wood (bark) original boards with lizard sculptural relief and decorative borders; inscribed and drawn on smoothed and pressed; ~closed, measures 9cm x 7.5cm x 5.5cm; illustrated. Handwritten in red and black ink pigments. Remarkable and clean. Very Good+. Hardcover. (#12133) $1,250.00

The 'pustaha' [named by the Batak people of interior province of northern Sumatra, Indonesia] are manuscript books constructed and composed by their "datu" or magicians and healers. Origins of the pustaha remain somewhat clouded to non-indigenous research, although, records of provenance date to the 18th century. The Batak people settled mainly in the Lake Toba region of North Sumatra, and included three dominant dialects: Toba, Angkola, and Mandailing.

"The datu used three essential ritual objects: a magic staff, his medicinal horn, and a bark divination book (pustaha). The text runs parallel to the folds in the bark and is read horizontally from left to right and contain black and red drawings. Batak books use a script that is related to southern Brahmi of India and ancient Javanese writing systems. Like Sanskrit, it is syllabic in nature, and it is widely believed to derive from Sanskrit. The texts deal with divination, magic, and medicine. They could be used to determine auspicious days for ceremonies or new endeavors, or for reference when casting spells, influencing the weather, finding lost objects, diagnosing illness, or prescribing medicine. In addition to appearing in books, writing is found on other ritual objects."-- Bookseller.

The books themselves are frequently made with alim tree-bark; written and illustrated with other natural ink pigments. The pustaha is significant for the Batak, as the

texts are idiosyncratic to the datu, meaning they are didactic tools for apprentices, but also for members of the community to interpret important decisions and advise on community issues, as reconciled by the datu. The books are often written in note-like script. The script is almost illegible for most members of the community, and indecipherable to Western scholars, however the syllabe script is thought to be derived from East Indian Sanskrit or to some scholars, Indian Palava script. Many contemporary pustaha (as this specimen is most likely) were made and sold to tourists of the region, as well. The content of the books vary, but generally are divination books, including diagnosis of illness, protective/ destructive magic, and acts of cult. Many of the books are also astrological in nature and contain solar and lunar charts and tables, and in the case of this particular pustaha, which contains animistic figures. This book features a carved lizard in high relief on one of the front boards with carved decorative elements, which is associated with fertility and fertility rites. Many of the figurative illustrations in the book [a spirit] [a god/ goddess figure] [wheel] [star][snake, scorpion], also allude to creation myth, as the 'tendi' manifestation of 'life' and 'death' represented these symbols. The text is inscribed and illustrated on both sides of the bark. Although colonized by the Dutch government in the 19th century, many Batak people retain indigenous religious beliefs, although increasingly marginalized. Similar to the magical amate bark books of San Pablito, Puebla, Mexico. An exceptional and critical book for Indonesia history and culture. Bound in alum tree boards.

Voorhoeve, P. "Batak Bark Books," Conservator, University of Leiden, John Rylands Library and the Manchester University Press, 1951.
Teygeler, Rene. "Pustaha. A Study into the Production Process of the Batak Book," 1993.

4. Bownas, Geoffrey. **Japanese Rainmaking and other Folk Practices.** London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1963. First Edition. Mild foxing, bumping, light wear to dj, otherwise tight, bright, and unmarred. Illustrated color dj , 175pp. illus. (b/w) Very Good in Very Good Dustjacket (Unclipped). Hardcover. (#12295) $45.00

"The ritual of rainmaking is one of half a dozen Japanese folk practices and festivals described in this book. The story

of rainmaking ceremonies begins with personal experience and then draws on the work of Japanese folklorists to record significant local variations and to construct a general account of the history and purpose of the ceremony. Field research was conducted during study visits to Kyoto, to Tenri in Nara Prefecture and to Shiga Prefecture. The chapter order follows the year cycle, from New Year via early summer purificatory festivals and rainmaking ceremonial to the feast of Bon, which with New Year ceremonies divides the year. Alongside these community or public rites are described private or family rituals concerned with birth, marriage and death. The introductory chapter relates aspects of Japanese culture, myth and language to the constant features of folk practice recorded or extant in 1950s Japan."--Publisher.

5. Chief Osuntoki. **The Book of African Names, as told by Chief Osuntoki.** Washington DC: Drum and Spear Press, 1970. First Edition. MInimal toning, curling to corners, else tight, bright, and unmarred. Unpaged, oblong. Gold and black wrappers. Very Good+. Original Wraps. (#12413) $50.00 “

In Yoruba land this ceremony is known as "Iso omo Loruko" . The ceremony is held 8 days after the birth of the child. The ceremony may be held at the home of the child's parents or grandparents depending on which is more convenient. The ceremony is usually conducted while taking the religion of the child into consideration....The father of the child is asked to reveal to all the names he had chosen for his child. It is normal in the Yoruba culture for a child to have multiple names...." The birthing / Naming ceremony is a sacred ceremony for Yoruba, but also Nigerian, Ghanaian people.

6. Cooke, Harold P. **Osiris: A Study in Myths, Mysteries and Religion.** London: C.W. Daniel Company, 1931. First Edition. Light toning to upper and lower, minimal, chipping foxing to DJ, unclipped, staining to rear, minor chip. Removal of label on DJ and inner boards. Previous owner stamp to tp and text block, 169pp. Very Good in Good Dustjacket (Unclipped). Cloth. (#11404) $100.00

Osiris (whose name is a Greek transliteration of the Egyptian Asar) is the Egyptian god of life, death, fertility, and the underworld. His extreme antiquity is attested to by his inclusion in pyramid texts dated to 2400 B.C.E., when his cult was already well established. In addition to the god's primary mythic and religious affiliation with the land of the dead, Osiris is also seen as the underworld agency that granted all life, including sprouting vegetation and the fertile flooding of the Nile River. Osiris belongs to a complex religious, mythological and cosmological belief system developed in the Nile river basin from earliest prehistory to 525 B.C.E. Harold Percy Cooke (d. 1956) lectured at the University of Durham on various topics, including witchcraft and Egyptology. Out of the Theosophical Library, Pasasena.

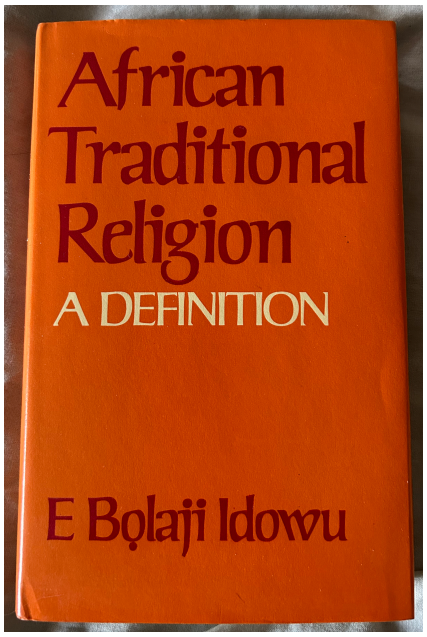
7. Holmes, Winifred, Arthur Hagg, illustrator. **She Was Queen of Egypt: Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, Cleopatra, Shagaret el Dor** The Lives of Four Queens. London: G. Bell & Sons Ltd, 1959. First Edition. Tight, bright, and

unmarred. Minor wear, rubbing and chipping to head and bottom of DJ, minimally toned, clipped. First pp crease. Bright blue cloth, 8vo, 175pp illus. Very Good in Very Good (Price-Clipped) DJ. Cloth. (#11405) $100.00

Winifred Holmes, born Winifred Alice Young on 7 April 1903, was raised in India where her father worked for the Indian Civil Service. Educated at schools in Tasmania and England, she became a nursery teacher but soon abandoned this as a career to take up journalism as a nursery correspondent for the Evening Standard. After the war, Winifred directed a number of film documentaries, including A Cruel Kindness (1948), Consider the Carpet (1948) and A Brother for Susan (1953) as well as scripting others. She wrote a number of children's books and the 'Simon and Sally' strip in Robin. She also contributed to the first 9 editions of Robin (1953-61) and may have contributed to later

volumes. She also wrote books on Indian art and Asian films, and this extensive study on four powerful and noble women in Egypt.

8. Idowu, E Bolaji. **African Traditional Religion, a Definition.** Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1973. First Edition. Near fine. Minimal toned dj and text block. Tight, bright, and unmarred. xii, 228 pp, 23 cm. Near Fine in Near Fine Dustjacket. Hardcover. (#11450) $250.00



E Bolaji Idowu (1913–1995 was the third native-born leader of the Methodist Church Nigeria, serving from 1972 to 1984. He is also well known for his ethnographic and theological studies of the Yoruba people. In the process of preparing a doctoral thesis for the University of London (in 1955), Idowu discovered that all the available material on African religion appeared to be inaccurate, condescending or simply ridiculous. (For example: Leo Frobenius's belief that the Yoruba religion came from Plato's Atlantis by way of Egypt.) As a result, he set out to describe the religious beliefs of his own Yoruba people according to universal theological concerns such as the nature of the Deity, morality, and the ultimate destiny of mankind. His writings on the subject are among the first examples of African religion seen from the viewpoint of an African, but it is not a traditional religious, and the result is biased by Christianity, distancing the reader from real orthodox tribal customs and practices.--Wiki. Extremely scarce in dj. Important work on African religion written by an African scholar and religious leader.

9. Lindenbaum, Shirley. **Kuru Sorcery: Disease and Danger in the New Guinea Highlands** Explorations in World Ethnology. Palo Alto, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1979. First Edition. Minimal to moderate edgewear to wrappers, folding, creasing, and buckling, with highlighting within. Laid in manuscript. Perfect bound color wrappers, 8vo, 174pp (illus., index) Very Good in Wraps. Original Wraps. (#11853) $65.00

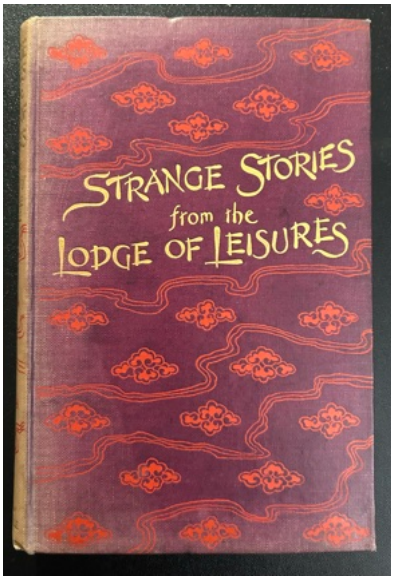
...Includes eight page handwritten in ink working paper using the book as second source material. An comprehensive and marginalized study of the Fore people in Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea and the incidence of a rare disease called kuru. The text discusses the response to kuru epidemic and the relationship to the practice and infliction of sorcery. Epidemiology reveals the disease was potentially exacerbated by cannibalism and consumption of animal meat. The author also discusses Fore beliefs about diagnosis and prevention of other diseases. Provocative and insightful cultural folk medicine study.

10. Masumi Chkashige. **Oriental Alchemy.** New York: Samuel Weiser, 1974. First American Paperback Edition. Mild foxing, otherwise tight, bright, and unmarred. Illustrated color wrappers, perfect, 102pp. + illus. Very Good+ in Wraps. Softcover. (#10850) $45.00

Original published in 1936. This volume presents eminent alchemists of both the Chinese and Japanese traditions. There is a survey of alchemical elixirs, with their compositions, properties and uses. Recipes are given for the making of gold, and there is a detailed discussion of the chemical reactions occurring in the process. There is a chapter dealing with the making of bronze, along with a survey of the different articles in which it is used. The work concludes with a chapter on forging steel, which demonstrates how alchemy relates to metallurgy. OOP.

11. Narayan, R.K. **Gods, Demons, and Others (retold by).** New Delhi, India: Vision Books, 1989. Reprint (Indian edition). Significant crease to covers, small tear to upper/lower, creasing and toning, else tight, bright, and unmarred. 241pp, illus. Very Good in Wraps. Softcover. (#11318) $75.00

Modern retelling of Ancient East Indian tales.



12. O'Gorman, Frances. **Aluanda** A Look at Afro-Brazilian Cults. Rio de Janiero, Brazil: Liberia Francisco Alves Editora S.A., 1977. First Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Minor wear to edges, bending, slightly cracked. 108pp. +glossary. Very Good+. Original Wraps. (#11378) $45.00

Scholarly book on African - Brazilian religious cults in South America and México.

13. P'u Sung-ling; George Soulie, translator. **Strange Stories for the Lodge of Leisures** Translated from the Chinese. London: Constable & Company, Ltd, 1913. First Edition. Bumping, light shelfwear and sunning focused at spine, else tight, bright, and umarred. 8vo. xiv,168pp, ads. Original decorated plum cloth, front and spine panels stamped in reddish-orange. Very Good+. Hardcover. (#12258) $325.00

A translation of twenty-five representative examples drawn from more than three hundred myths collected in the late seventeenth century by P'u Sung-Ling [Liao Chai Chih Yi (completed in 1680 in mss, first prited edition 1766)].

Notably includes the early vampire story, "The Corpse of the Blood Drinker," and others such as, "The Ghost in Love," "The Laughing Ghost," and other supernatural tales. "Each is a small gem of economy and style; the collection as a whole set the standard for Oriental fantastic literature." [Sullivan (ed), The Penguin Encyclopedia of Horror and the Supernatural, p. 340]. The Encyclopedia of Fantasy, p. 734.

14. Williams, Joseph J., S.J. **Voodoos and Obeahs: Phases of West India Witchcraft.** New York: Lincoln Mac Veagh/Dial Press Inc., [1933]. First Edition, Fourth Printing. Light scuffing, bumped corners, light shelfwear, mild toning to pages, else tight, bright, and unmarred. Brown cloth boards, blind device. 8vo. xxii, 257pp. Index. Bibliography. Presentation copy. Lacking dj. Laid in Carmelite Saint devotional card. Very Good+. Hardcover. (#12288) $125.00

A critical study of voodoo and obeah spiritual beliefs, utilizing primary sources, scholarly investigations, and personal experiences. From the publisher: "The first scientific study of those weird practices which are connected with the mysterious Voodoo that has cast such a blight on the social and religious development of Haiti." Williams examines the history of voodoo and obeah in the Caribbean, specifically Jamaica and Haiti, traces them back to their roots in Africa and discusses the influence imperialism, slavery and racism had on their development. Joseph J. Williams was born in Boston in 1875 as the son of Nicholas and Mary Jane Williams. He was educated at home by his mother, a former Boston school teacher, and later at Boston College High. In 1893 he entered the Society of Jesus at Frederick, Maryland. After two years of scientific and philosophical studies at Woodstock College he was assigned to Jamaica from 1906 to 1907. Williams earned a doctorate in ethnology at Woodstock and was editor of America from 1910 to 1911. The next five years he served as a missionary in Jamaica. The author also spent numerous years studying black culture in Jamaica, an attempt to trace the many Hebrewisms, especially those found in tribes in West Africa, particularly among the Ashanti. Important work authored by a Black scholar on Afro-Caribbean spiritual beliefs. Signed and presented by the author, dated 1933 on ffep.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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