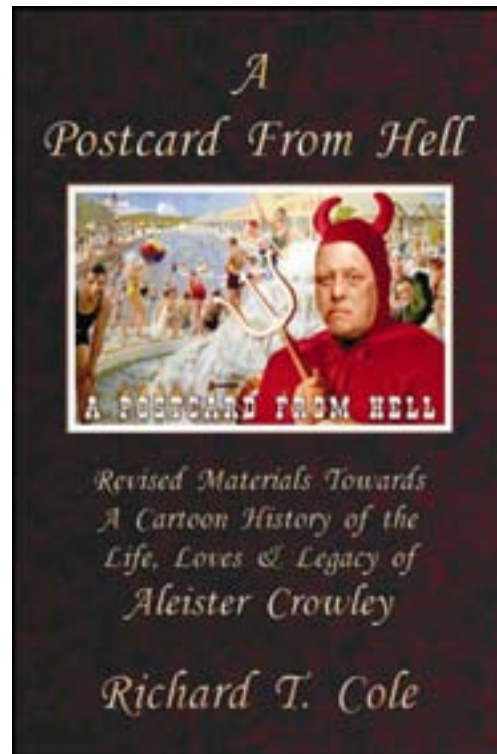


A Postcard From Hell

Subtitled – Revised Materials Towards A Cartoon History of the Life, Loves & Legacy of Aleister Crowley.



Laughter

THE COMMON DEFECT of all mystical systems previous to that of the Aeon whose Law is Thelema is that there has been no place for Laughter. But the sadness of the mournful Mother and the melancholy of the dying Man are swept aside into the limbo of the past by the confident smile of the immortal Child.

And there is no Vision more crucial in the career of the Adept of Horus than the Universal Joke.

Extracted from Crowley's (1938) publication *Little Essays Toward Truth*.

A Postcard From Hell

Published by *Orange Box Books* in 2009

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Richard T. Cole asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work.

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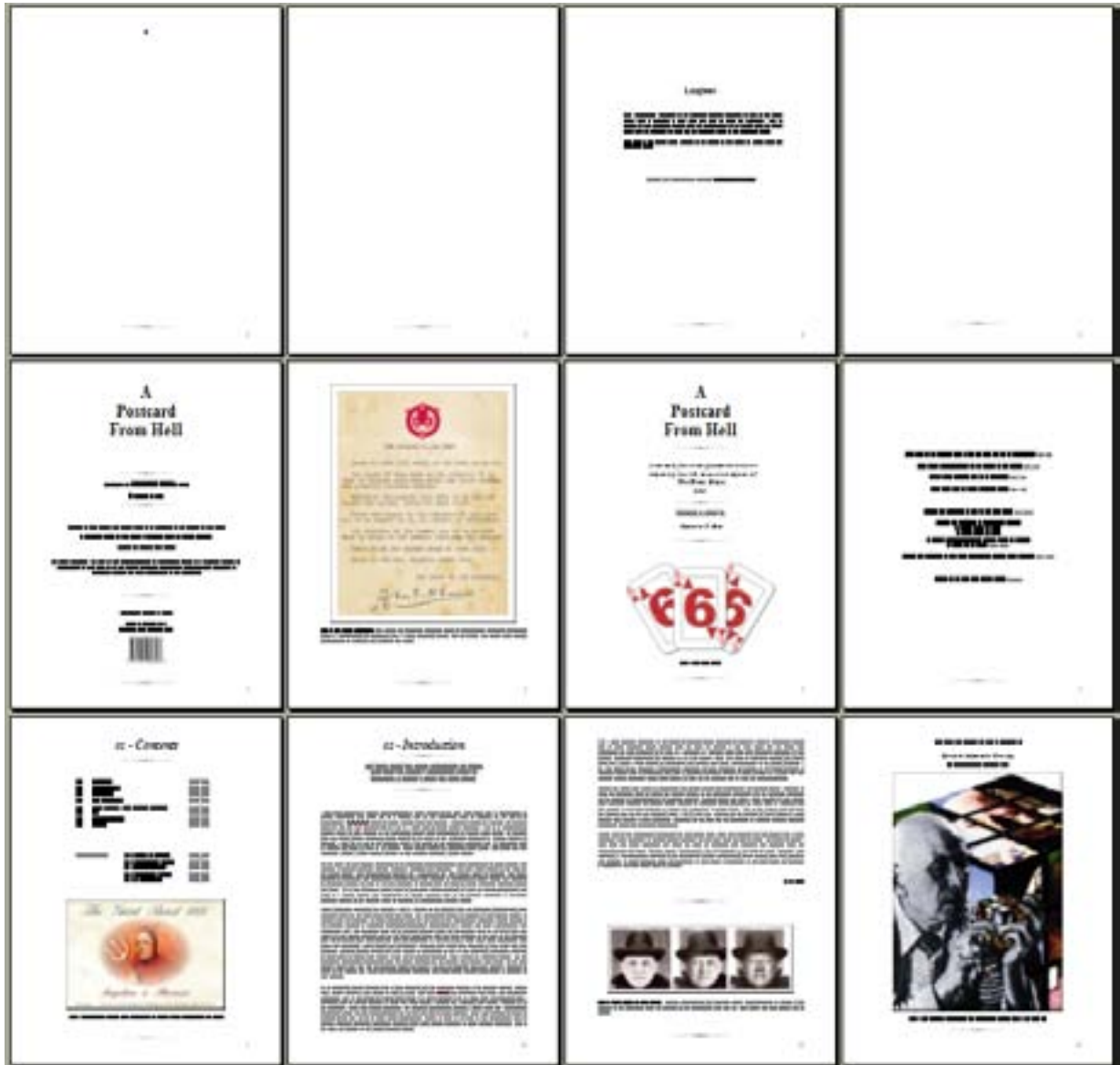
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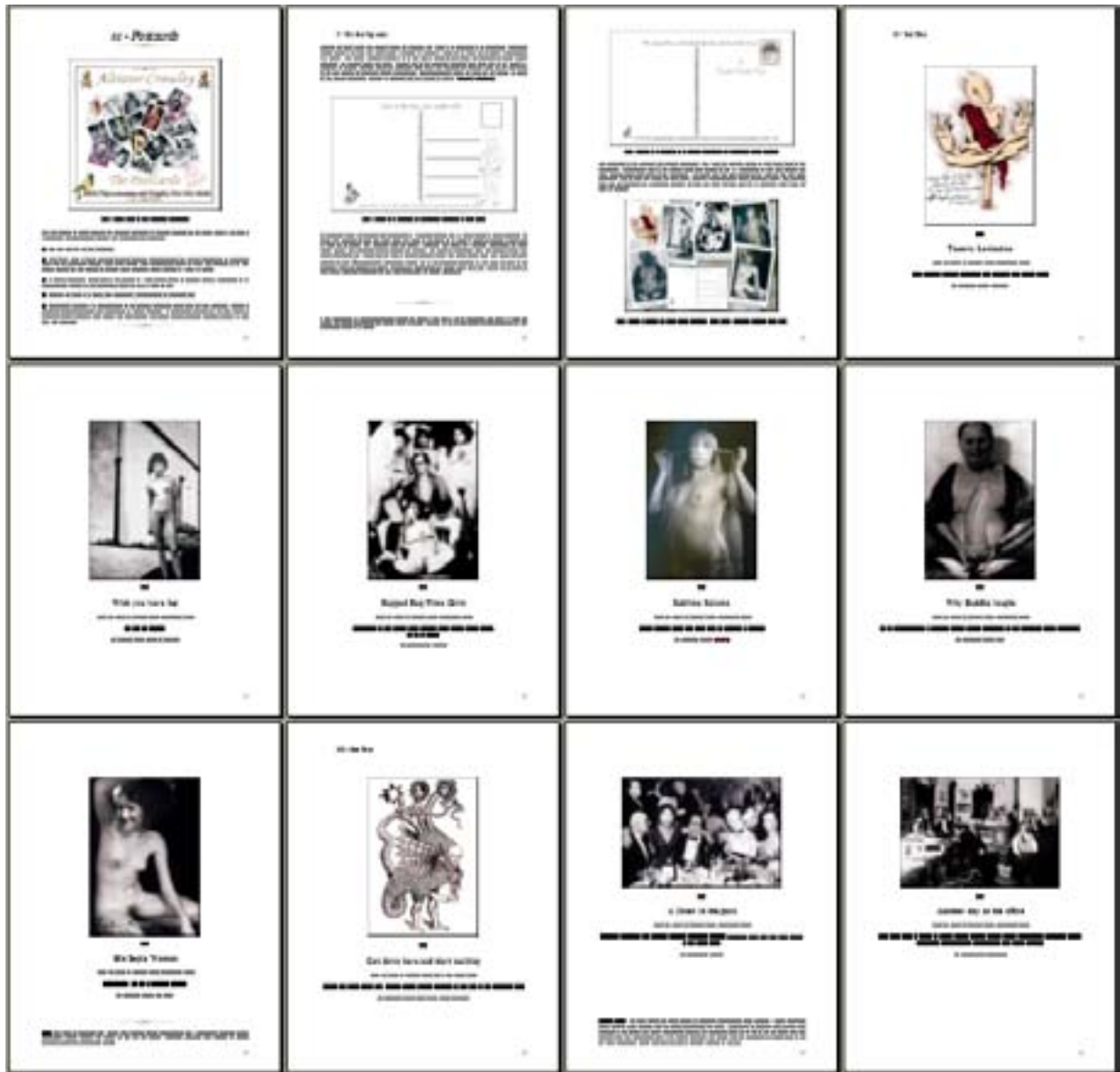
ISBN-13: 978 1 900962 80 3



Thumbnail images of all pages



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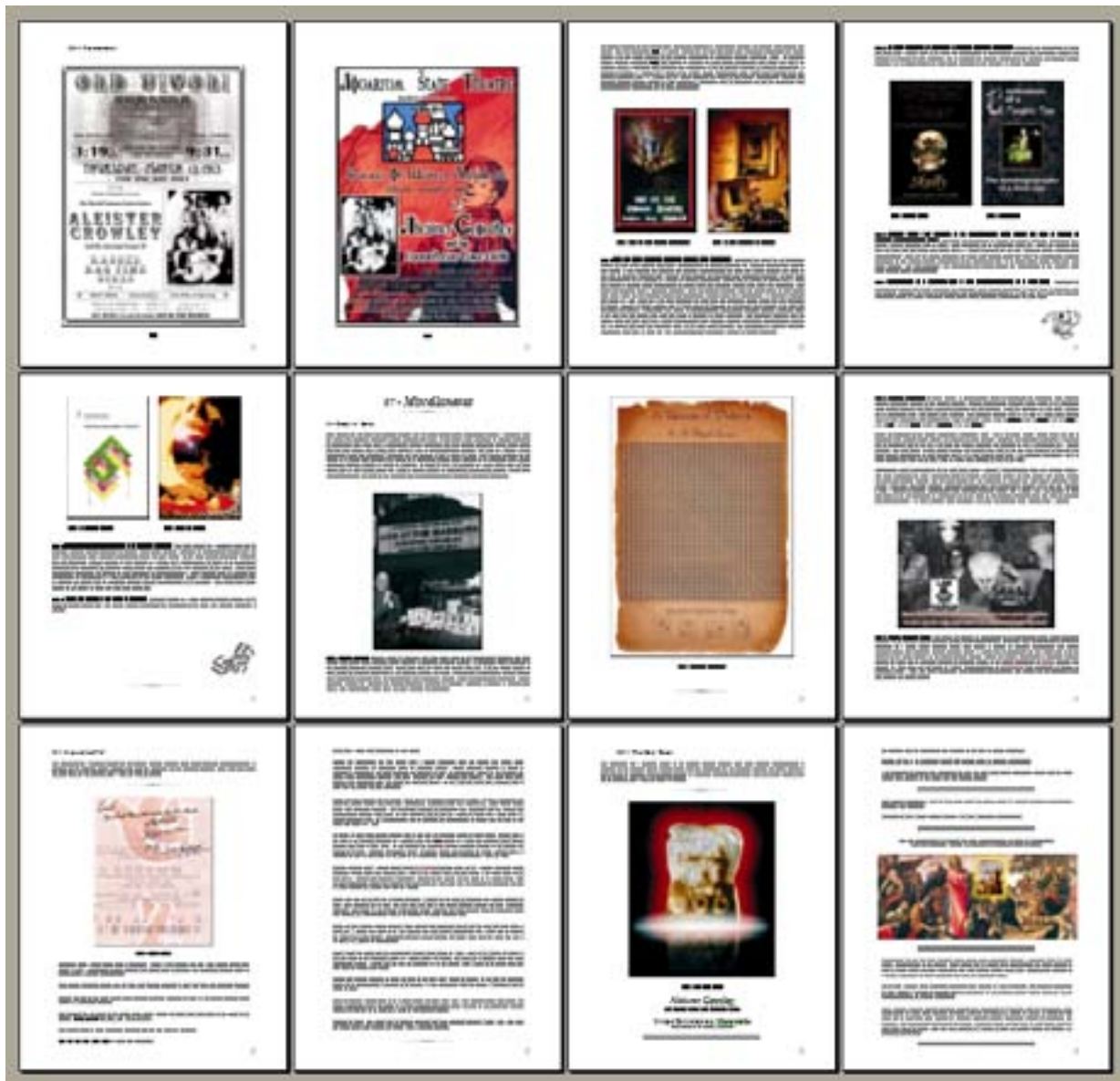


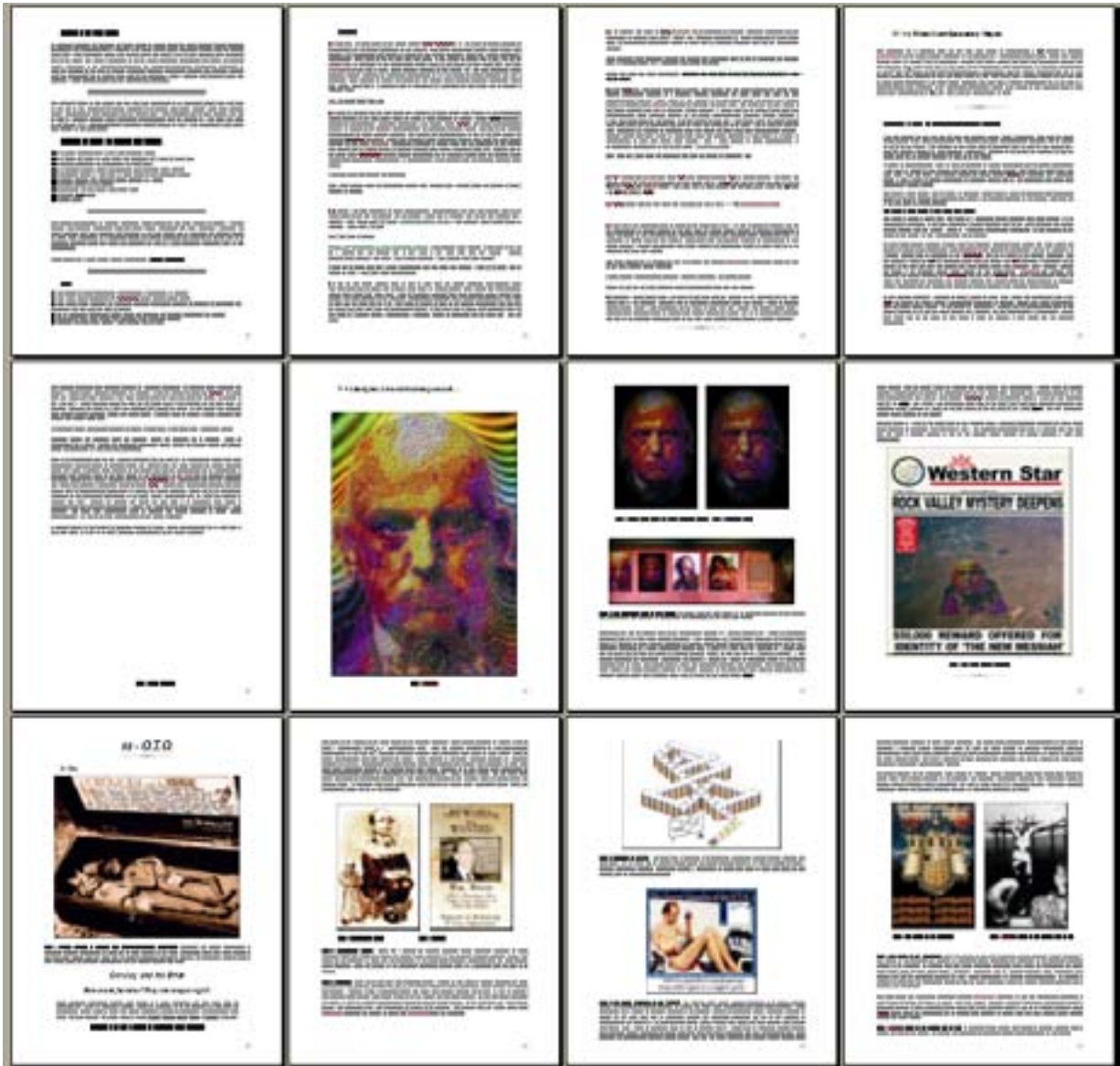


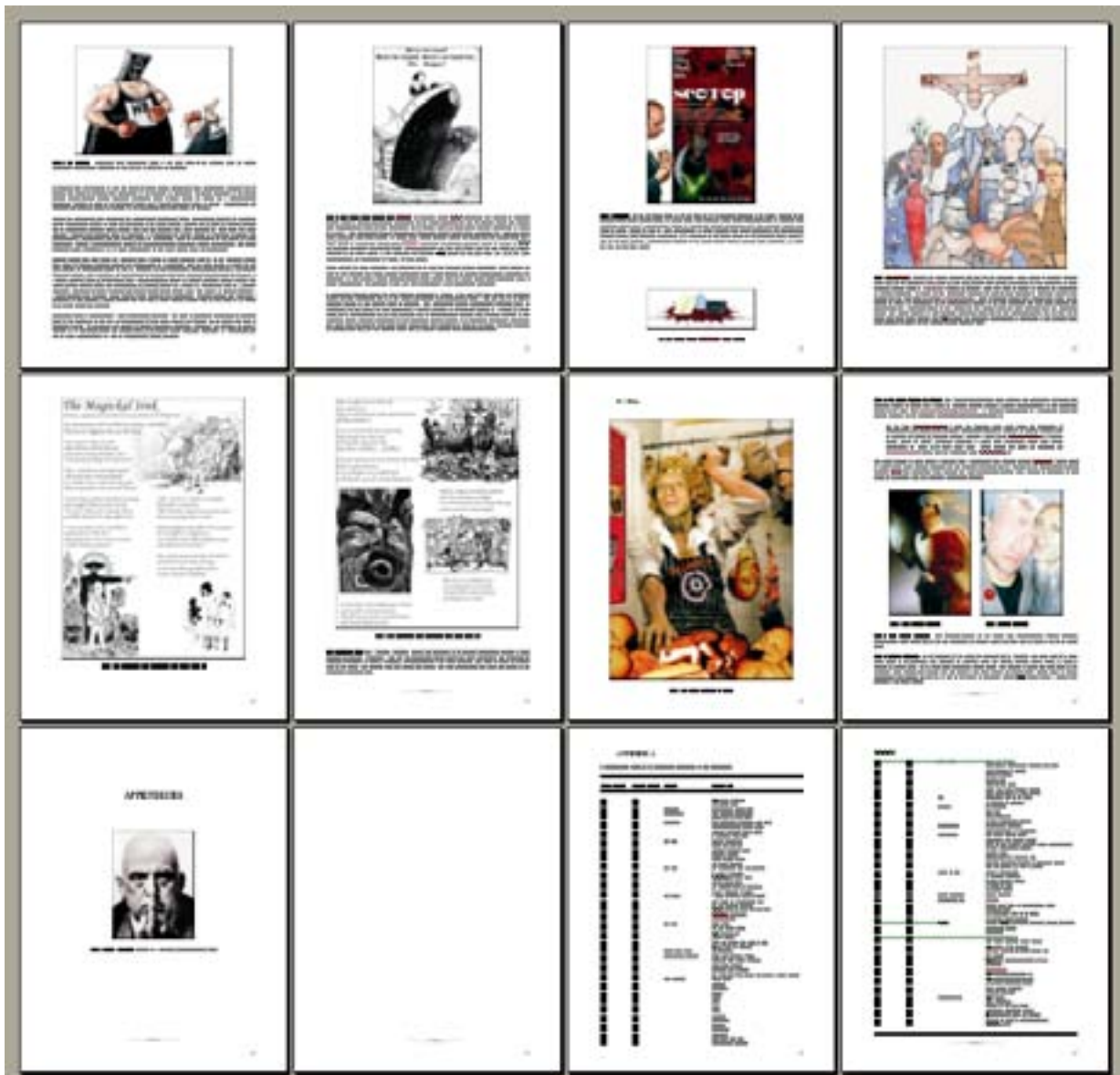


Pages 37 to 48









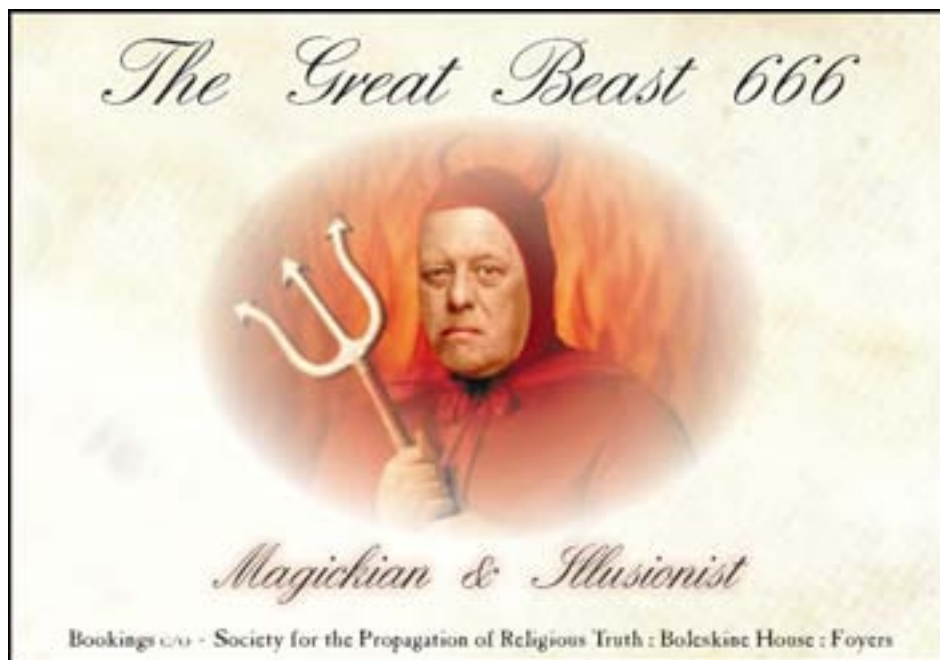


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668 – Promotional calling card distributed to media offices throughout the world

02 - Introduction

The Editor hopes that Mental Pathologists, for whose eyes alone this treatise is destined, will spare no precaution to prevent it falling into other hands.

I have often wondered if occult experimentation is often referred to as, “*The Dark Arts*”, not in consequence of sinister overtones, but rather due to a singular lack of any discernable sense of humour on the part of its practitioners. Abramelin’s book of Magic Squares does not include a Sudoku section or a chapter on origami. John Dee did not pull elementals out of a hat as a party trick to amuse Queen Elizabeth I and S. L. “*MacGregor*” Mathers chose to omit elements of the ‘Highland Fling’ when constructing his Golden Dawn rituals. In keeping with this rather morose tradition, arcane theory, in the form of its associated literature, is equally lacking in brevity. I have yet to hear of the candidate who, at the climax of his initiation ceremony, feels an irresistible urge to giggle, and yearn to read of an evoked entity which begins its testimony with, “*Have you heard the one about...*” Indeed, I remain wholly unaware of any account featuring a happy ghost.

To my mind the one notable exception in an otherwise comprehensively bleak succession of dour wizards and warlocks is English eccentric Aleister Crowley. Crowley was certainly a man with many strings to his bow and his myriad talents were undoubtedly crowned by a razor-sharp wit and sadistic sense of humour. An astute observer of behaviour and mannerisms, Crowley took great pleasure in highlighting human foibles and delighted in extracting revenge on those he felt had wronged or irritated him, by means of savage limericks, parodies, poems and satire. Of all the glittering literary gems in Crowley’s autobiography, or rather his “*autohagiography*” (the story of a Saint), entitled *The Confessions of Aleister Crowley*, one of my personal favourites is the utterly hilarious account of his “*Haggis hunt*” (as described in *Confessions*, Chapter Fifty).

Given Crowley’s proclivity for humour I find it curious in the extreme that his devotees, “*Thelemites*”, who zealously hang on the man’s every word and deed, seem remarkably reticent to indulge in their Master’s virtue, or perhaps vice, for comedy.

During the long, dark winter of 2008-2009 (the coldest Britain has experienced for seventy years) I decided to tackle the daunting chore of tidying the *Pictures* section of my computer’s hard-drive and was somewhat surprised by the volume of Crowley-related art scattered therein. Between 2004 and 2007 a light dusting of these images were sprinkled amongst the limited digital editions of Crowley’s works released by *Black Flag & Naughty Nun New Media*. A few were e-mailed to friends and colleagues, as *private jokes*. One or two found their way onto the Internet and, on the odd occasions where a bit of space was available on the run-offs of other projects, a small number were printed as actual postcards. However, for the most part my collection of Thelemic artwork remained unknown, unseen and gathering cyber-dust.

Whilst most of the individuals lampooned on these pages have long since shuffled off this mortal coil, a few, especially those featuring in Section Eight, “*O.T.O.*”, do still have some life left in them. In respect of these I must note that whilst preparing this work no malice or disrespect was intended and sincerely hope my *grotesqueries* and other assorted artistic abominations will be received in the spirit of their creation. This sentiment is wholeheartedly extended to the individuals, groups and businesses whose images have been hijacked and mutated. I, again, sincerely hope my adaptation of their works is interpreted in the spirit which was intended – Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery!

R. T. Cole.



008

A Joker in the pack

(Note on reverse of original source photograph reads):

**Aleister Crowley and Scarlet Woman entertain friends (including Ruth Ellis and Errol Flynn)
at the Paris Ritz.**

01 April, 1924: France.

Editor's Note: An entry (dated 02 April, 1924) in Crowley's unpublished diary recounts a minor altercation which occurred only seconds after the above photograph was taken. According to Crowley, "*Not content with blagging a free lunch, our mystery gatecrasher insisted on copping a quick feel of the S. W. for dessert and was advised, with firm correctness, that if his fingers wandered any further into the wasteland he would taste my fist for weeks afterwards. Made clear this was not a symbolic reference to the XI^o*"

IV - Set Three



013

I know what you did last summer

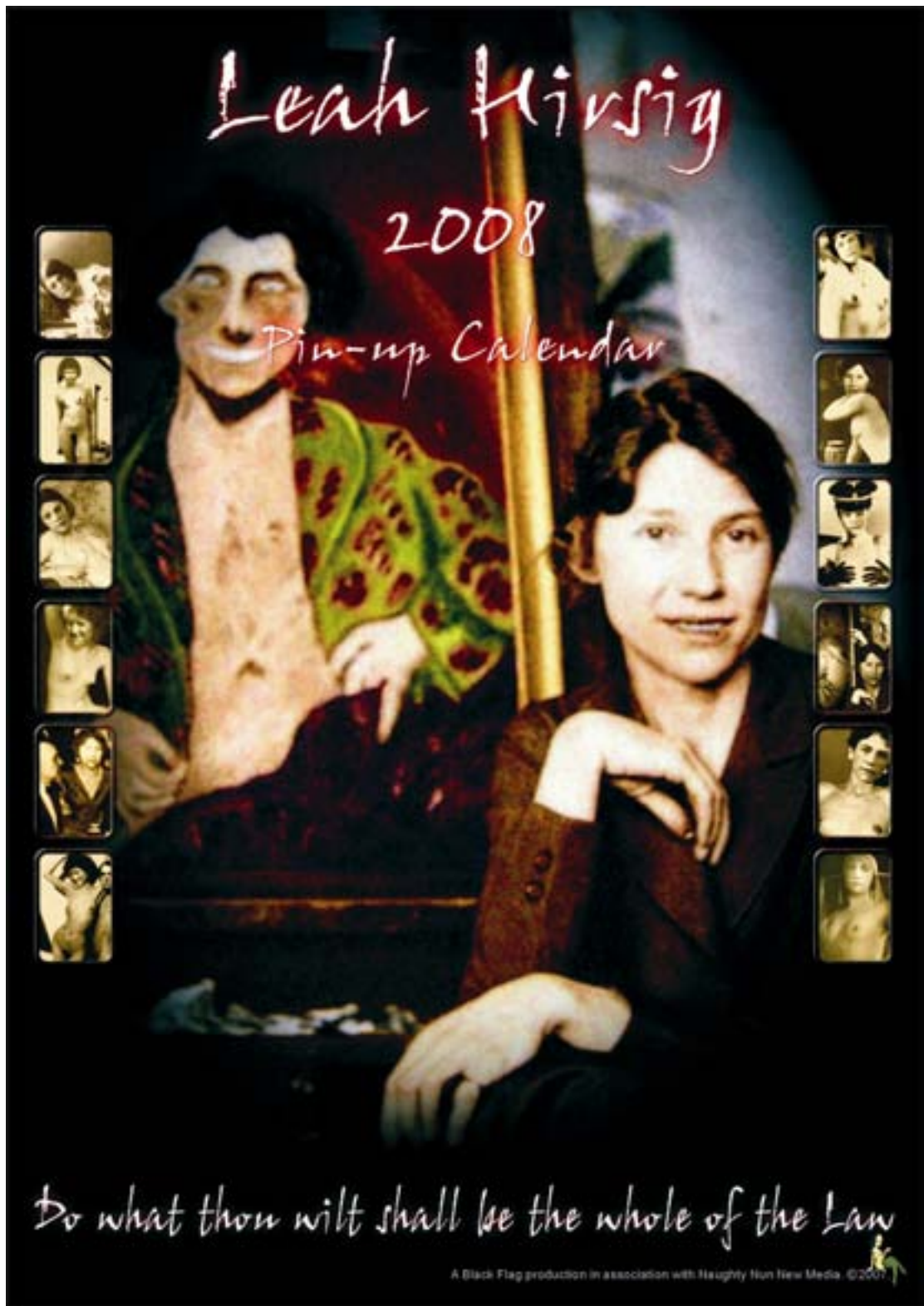
(Note on reverse of original source photograph reads):

A deeply tanned Leah playfully poses for the camera with a randy old goat.

01 May, 1923: Cefalu.



675 - Compilation



679 – Leah Hirsig 2008 Pin-up Calendar, front cover

ΛΦΥΑΡΓΟΥM ŠTATE THEATRE

φρρφsite the salt mine



ŠUMMER Φf Weštern Dečadenče

July 03 - AUGUŠT 11, 1913.



Λειšter Cρφωley

and his

LAGGED LAG TIME GIRLS

τφρ English Cabaret Act

ΜΑΤΙΗΕ 4:18 p.m. - ΕΥΕΗΙΗΓ 9:31 p.m.

all seats φηε rφβιε - cφηγεššιφηš τφρ ραυτφν μεμβειš
αδφναγε βφφκίηαš (η ταρλιεατε) τφ βφx 666 : the Kremlin.
štrictly ηφ απμαλš, απαρτφš φρ φραη κρεš αλφφεδ η the theatre

ρυβλιε εχεξυφίηηš δαίην λτ ηφφη

III – The Holy Toast

The following was a genuine listing on the Internet auction website, eBay (Item Number: 6594069077). It appeared on 02 October, 2008, attracted 1423 hits, was ‘watched’ by 45 members, featured on “*eBay pulse*” (a Top Ten list of auctions with the greatest number of watchers), received twenty-four bids and ended ten days later, on 12 October, with a final sale price of £26.51.



694 – The Holy Toast

Aleister Crowley
(12 October, 1875 – 01 December, 1947)

Unique Contemporary Memorabilia
(Free shipping to any address - worldwide)

08 - O.T.O.

I - Us



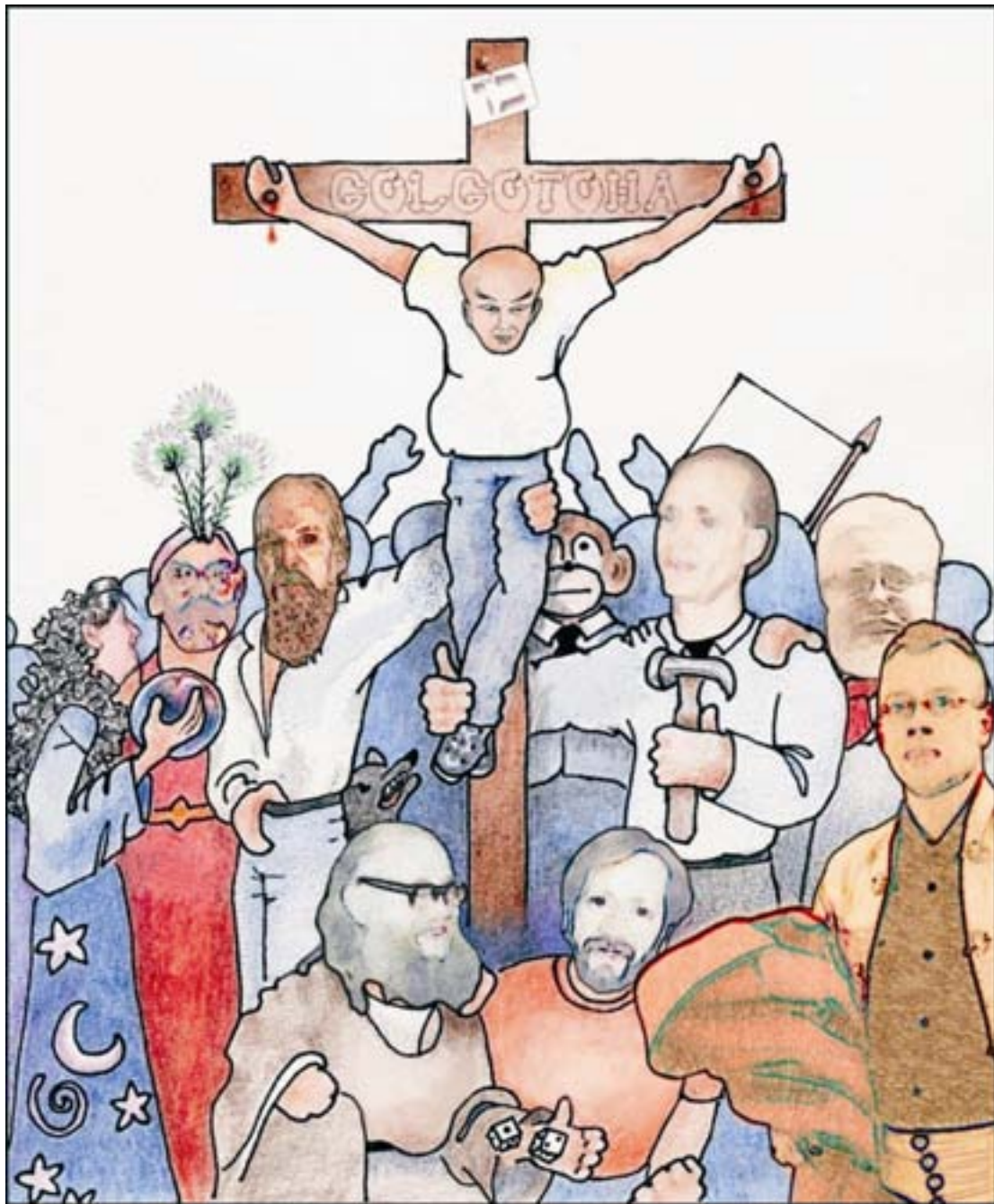
698 – O.T.O. launch a radical new awareness-raising campaign following the (1984) re-discovery of Crowley’s original manuscripts of *Liber AL vel Legis* (Book of the Law). Individual pages from both variants of the poem were placed over the Beast and his Scarlet Woman’s desiccated genitalia for thirty-one minutes prior to them being listed as, “*genuine sacraments*,” on the Internet auction site, eBay.

Crowley and his Bride

Known and feared as “They who creep at night”.

These shrunken mummified figures were found in a crude tomb-like cave near Loch Ness, in Scotland, by a party of American tourists. They are supposed to be the remains of a lost race of “*Thelemites*” (Devil Men) – who, after death, followed a custom of shrinking & mummifying their dead. Are they “*Real*”? We don’t know – But... X-Rays showed Skin, Horns & Hooves – Human!

Believe it or not – “*Truth is stranger than fiction!*”



707 – GolgOTOha. Though not widely reported, each year (on 01 December) a small troupe of devoted disciples who, over the last sixty-two years, have in their own unique ways strived ceaselessly to raise awareness of their ascended Master, gather at GolgOTOha (which, in Hebrew, means *the place of skulls*) to re-enact the deification of Aleister Crowley. At dawn on the appointed morning the soul of each attendee is weighted against four feathers and the most obese is ritually *Crowleyfied* on a cross especially crafted from pulped legal bills. At the moment of death it is traditional for the newly-affixed *Saint* to cry out, “Crowley, why hast thou forsaken us”, accompanied by a discordant chant of, “I’m OTO... No I’m OTO... Fuck off we’re OTO...” from the assembled masses. The mortal remains are then divinely transmuted (with one eye one calorie-counting and the other on not being next year’s main course) into, “Lite Cakes” for symbolic consumption as sacraments at the ensuing feast. Any leftovers are listed on the Internet auction web-site, eBay.

APPENDIX A

A comprehensive index of all illustrations reproduced in this publication.

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011	669	Introduction	Mr. Crowley investigates
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016	001	Set One	Tantric Levitation
017	002		Wish you were her
018	003		Ragged Rag-Time Girls
019	004		Sublime Salomé
020	005		Why Buddha laughs
021	006		His Sepia Woman
022	007	Set Two	Get down here and start sucking
023	008		A Joker in the pack
024	009		Another day at the office
025	010		Leah's Spare Parts
026	011		Has anyone seen Mr Crowley?
027	012		Don't look back in anger
028	013	Set Three	I know what you did last summer
029	014		All I want for Crowleymas is...
030	015		All the comforts of home
031	016		Don't finger me while I'm still wet!
032	017		Bloomin' Boleskeine
033	018		Psychede Leah
034	019	Set Four	Four Play
035	020		Get yer brush out...
036	021		The Original Sin
037	022		Room Service
038	023		Does my armpit look hairy in this?
039	024		At the Gates of Babalon
040	675	Sixty Years Gone	Compilation
041	027	Confessions Postcard	Beast 666 (black & white)
041	028		Alostrael 156 (black & white)
041	044		Beast 666 (colour)
041	045		Alostrael 156 (colour)
042	676		Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the... Holiday
043	677	The Calendar	Front cover
044	031		January
044	029		February
045	032		March
045	051		April
045	033		May
045	035		June
046	030		July
046	037		August
046	034		September
046	036		October
047	054		November
048	055		December
049	056		Got your copy yet?
049	056		Promotional montage

continued...

050	678	Leah Hirsig	Leah and Ninette?
051	679		Leah Hirsig 2009 Pin-up Calendar Title Page
052	040		Now available in colour
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064	689		Crystal Clear
064	690		Confessions of a Naughty Nun
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065	692		Jack the Ripper – In Fact & Fiction
066	046	Odds 'n' Sods	Live at the Warburg
067	064		A Thelemic Talisman
068	061		Happy Birthday LAM!
069	693		It could be NU!
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077	695	Sneeze Magick	Sneeze Magick
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079	068		Spicy Beast Balls (in thick darkness sauce)
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083	701		Structure of O.T.O.
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102	719		A Postcard From Hell

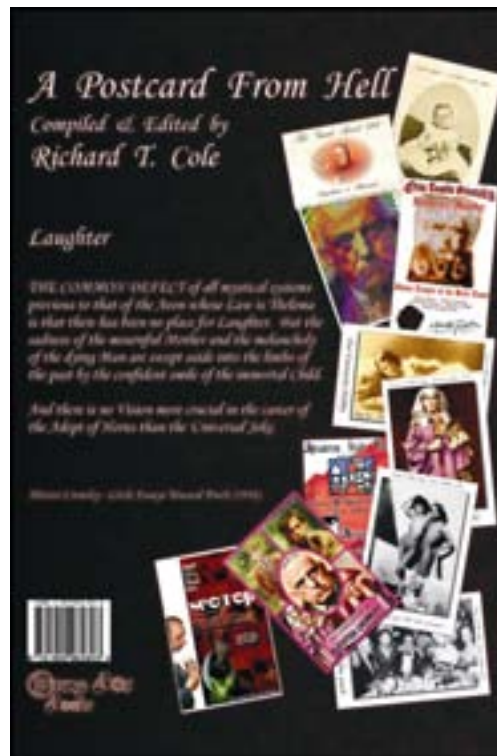
APPENDIX C

DISCLAIMER

- 1) All characters appearing in this work are wholly fictitious and creations of a warped imagination. Any resemblance to real persons, situations, organisations, or indeed any other category of hypothetically possible scenario or occurrence, is entirely coincidental.
 - 2) All photographic and other artistic representations of individuals, groups and background scenery depicted on these pages were made possible only on account of the extraordinary skill and dedication of Hastings-based conceptual media agency *Look-alikes R Us* who, quite literally, bent over backwards to accommodate our requirements and who, based exclusively on our creatively visualised descriptions of the imaginary people and places concerned, kindly provided models (all over the age of 18) and backdrops bearing, “*A striking resemblance to what we [Look-alikes R Us] believe these would and should look like, if they existed; which they don’t*”.
 - 3) All copies of this publication were seized and immediately destroyed by H. M. Customs & Excise, on 01 April, 2009, thirty-one minutes after their discovery (concealed in the hand-luggage of a Virgin passenger returning from a recreational seminar in Amsterdam).
 - 4) No O.T.O.s were harmed during the preparation of this book.
-



716 – The author: Still working hard at the slab despite ongoing chaos and carnage created by extensive renovation work undertaken on his South Yorkshire home between June and September, 2008.



A Postcard From Hell

Compiled & Edited by

Richard T. Cole

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