

...and the Triadic Fool

Although the exact dimensions of the early Tarots varied, the cards were always rectangular, so it may seem strange that someone wanting to promote the early images would create a deck that is square.

It surprised me too. Initially my plan was to use what is called the Golden Mean, an ancient and especially harmonious rectangular ratio, because I felt it would also reference the cards to the past. In time, however, I realized that it is more important to make this new deck relevant to the present.

We have global warming, dying oceans, and polluted lands. Add to these, worldwide economic crisis, and terrorist activity, and it is clear that we need to create stability and sustainability in our world. Change is inevitable, but a balance of “give” is required to counter our excessive “take.”

A square seems to be the needed shape for our time. It is a symbol of stability and the material world (as is the number 4); but we need not be crass materialists, we can choose to protect and restore the

natural world. The cards can remind us that we create our reality and that what we do matters.

Clearly a square format allows for a better development of the natural setting, and of course, the square has long been a symbol of the earth, as in “the four corners of the earth,” hence the square cards of the Triadic Tarot.

Elements of design: The Fool’s SPOON is a remnant of early days when traveling minstrels and beggars would dip from a common pot of boiling soup. The MOTLEY TUNIC is said to show confused thoughts, emotions and desires. BELLS, often on the collar and belt of the Fool, were common to court jesters and carnival kings, but they were also used to ridicule people seen as undesirable and to warn others of their approach. This Fool has no bells. The ANIMAL might be a dog that chases the stranger, or a protective companion pet. It can also be a metaphor for that which “dogs” you. The BARREN TREE (a new addition) symbolizes spent opportunities, the loss of love or a loved one, or a negative turn of fortune. The STREAM runs through all of the Major Arcana cards—a symbol of flowing consciousness.