

# DIVINATION

By: David A. Sargent

Numbers 22:7, “And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.”

This subject is quite dark and needs to be studied with care and much humility. I pray the reader will become a blood pleader and live for the Lord Jesus Christ; the alternative is not to be underestimated. The subject in this study is divination and will be covering many forms of divination that the Christian may be unaware that he is practicing. Also at the end is an extensive Divination Glossary Appendix.

Divination in the verse above looks like there was something in their hand; however this is a form of phraseology to say they had a divination motive in their heart in agreement together to do someone evil and in this case the children of Israel. Here you need to pray: I mean real-time: before you read this PRAY!

Notice the phrase “...**the rewards of divination** in their hand...” and the comparative passage: 2 Peter 2:12-16, “But these, as **natural brute beasts**, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And **shall receive the reward of unrighteousness**, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and **that cannot cease from sin**; beguiling **unstable souls**: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; **cursed children**: Which have **forsaken the right way**, and are gone astray, **following the way of Balaam** the son of Bosor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness**; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad **the madness of the prophet**.”

This explains what divination is: Unrighteousness. The Bible says: 1 John 5:17a, “All unrighteousness is sin...” And so we are warned not to go along with people like Balaam; however many in the local churches are doing just that: Revelation 2:14, “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold

**the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

This is against one of the seven local churches in Revelation during the Tribulation. But remember this is the left over local churches from the church age that ended up in Apostasy.

Many Christians are involved in different forms of divination these days. Many are superstitious about things and because of their lack of Bible reading, studying and memorizing they lack the needed equipment to fight a good fight of faith. Many do not even know that they are in a spiritual war and those that do have a modern Bible version that is like going into battle with a butter-knife.

The modern Bibles are part of the divination involved in textual criticism and thinking and exalting the original manuscripts to a level of importance and ignoring what God gave you in the King James Bible. This divination is subtle, hidden and usually misunderstood.

A very strong law was given to Israel in Deuteronomy 18:9-14, “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after **the abominations of those nations**. There shall not be found among you any one **that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire**, or that **useth divination**, or **an observer of times**, or **an enchanter**, or **a witch**, Or **a charmer**, or **a consulter with familiar spirits**, or **a wizard**, or **a necromancer**. For **all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD**: and **because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee**. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For **these nations**, which thou shalt possess, **hearkened unto observers of times**, and **unto diviners**: but **as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do**.” So if a person that uses these things of divination and claims to be a Christian can he or she be trusted? How do we tell when these things are right in front of us? Will it be obvious, or could it be such a lie that it can deceive us into trusting in them?

First the divination itself cannot be trusted even if the prognosis of that divination or the diviner is true and actually helps people. The end NEVER justifies the means. This is the modern lie that has been pushed upon us all to think that because the end came out right, that the means to it must also be right. This is a lie.

Israel got caught up in this in spite of the warning from the Lord. 2 Kings 17:16-17, “And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them

**molten images**, even two calves, and made a grove, and **worshipped all the host of heaven**, and **served Baal**. And they **caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire**, and **used divination and enchantments**, and **sold themselves to do evil** in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.”

What we see here is that there are ear marks of divination; things that seem to go along with divination.

1. Molten Images
2. Worshipping the Sun, Moon Stars and Planets
3. Causing your children to pass through the fire
4. Serving Baal (Satan indirectly)
5. Using Divination
6. Using Enchantments
7. Selling Yourself to do Evil

This is the splitting of the nation of Israel and it was because of these things that God drove the ten tribes out and carried them away to Assyria leaving Judah, Benjamin and part of the tribe of Levi in the land.

Later Judah fell away also and were taken to Babylon. But before this they were warned and yet there were diviners that were false prophets that said to them that they will not go to Babylon when Jeremiah told them that they were going.

Jeremiah 14:14, “Then the LORD said unto me, **The prophets prophesy lies** in my name: **I sent them not**, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: **they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.**” With Jeremiah 27:9, “Therefore **hearken not ye to your prophets**, nor to your **diviners**, nor to your **dreamers**, nor to your **enchanters**, nor to your **sorcerers**, which speak unto you, saying, **Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:**” yet they did serve the king of Babylon. And with Jeremiah 29:8, “For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; **Let not your prophets and your diviners**, that be in the midst of you, **deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams** which ye cause to be dreamed.”

You cannot trust in dreams, you are supposed to trust in the Lord by trusting in His words. If you do not have God’s words, you have to trust in something else: that is a precursor to modern the divination. It is a matter of what you are TRUSTING in. That is what IDOLS do, they are for people to trust in and rely on for life. There is a fine line between Divine and Divination. There is a fine line between an IMAGE

of an idol, and the IMAGE of God: The Lord Jesus Christ. But an IDOL IMAGE is NOT the same in any way as the Lord Jesus Christ. The fine line is that IMAGE; and eventually there will be an IMAGE of a beast during the tribulation. There will be a whole lot more divination during that time than now as life degenerates with each generation.

Ezekiel had the same issues as Jeremiah with divination in the land of the people of Israel. Ezekiel 13:6-9, “They have seen **vanity and lying divination**, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken **a lying divination**, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; **albeit I have not spoken?** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because **ye have spoken vanity**, and seen **lies**, therefore, behold, **I am against you, saith the Lord GOD**. And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and **that divine lies**: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, **neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel**, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.”

The Lord is against these false prophets because of their lying divination and telling the people that these things the Lord had said when he didn't.

When Judah fell to Babylon; God gave them over to a nation that used divinations and even in the invasion of the king of Babylon when they were coming into Jerusalem the king of Babylon used divination and consulted with images as he gazed into the liver; so there was some sort of pagan sacrifice either of animal or human to look into the liver and see an image and divine from that to over through Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 21:21-27, “For the king of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, **to use divination**: he made his arrows bright, **he consulted with images, he looked in the liver. At his right hand was the divination** for Jerusalem, **to appoint captains, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort**. And it shall be unto them as **a false divination** in their sight, to them that have sworn oaths: but **he will call to remembrance the iniquity**, that they may be taken. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have made **your iniquity to be remembered**, in that **your transgressions are discovered**, so that **in all your doings your sins do appear**; because, I say, that ye

are come to remembrance, **ye shall be taken with the hand**. And thou, **profane wicked prince of Israel**, whose day is come, **when iniquity shall have an end**, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Remove the diadem**, and **take off the crown**: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and **abase him that is high**. I will **overturn, overturn, overturn**, it: and **it shall be no more**, until **he come whose right it is**; and **I will give it him**.”

Divination is also in the New Testament and they are three in the book of Acts which are in a progression as the book of Acts is a progression and transitional book so are these three transitional in nature.

1. Simon the Sorcerer who gets saved during the transition but the baggage of sorcery and being paid for the power he had led to Peter’s pronouncement: Acts 8:9-24, “But there was a certain man, called **Simon**, which beforetime in the same city used **sorcery**, and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had **bewitched** them with **sorceries**. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then **Simon** himself **believed** also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And **when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money**, Saying, **Give me also this power**, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, **Thy money perish with thee**, because **thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money**. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for **thy heart is not right in the sight of God**. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For **I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity**. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the

Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”

2. Elymas the Sorcerer (Barjesus) Did not get saved and was rebuked by Paul also being in the transitional time and this one withstood against Paul : Acts 13:6-12, “And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain **sorcerer**, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was **Barjesus**: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But **Elymas the sorcerer** (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, **O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?** And now, behold, **the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.** And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”
3. The Damsel of Divination also did not get saved and this is near to the end of the transition from the Jewish ways to Christianity. She was a grief to Paul and was actually helped by Paul when he cast out the unclean spirit from her. There is no record that she got saved: Acts 16:16-18, “And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a **certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination** met us, which brought her masters much gain by **soothsaying**: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and **said to the spirit**, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ **to come out of her**. And he came out the same hour.”

Sin leaves the sinner worse than when it found him and divination leaves the sinner with extreme baggage even if they do get saved. These things come with a price. Sometimes it is not a price people are willing to pay.

Paul warns us: Galatians 1:6-9, “I marvel that ye are **so soon removed** from him that called you into the grace of Christ **unto another gospel**: Which is not **another**; but there be some that trouble you, and **would pervert the gospel of**

**Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”** With 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, “But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty**, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if **he** that cometh **preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye **receive another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”

Then tells you who this is: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, “**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** Therefore it is no great thing **if his ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

This would mean that there is another Jesus and another spirit and another gospel and they are perpetrated by false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. So anyone that says that they are an apostle of Christ is a LIAR and involved in divination; and is the ministers of Satan.

The trouble is Satan hates the Bible because the Bible says in Romans 10:17, “So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” So it is in Satan’s best interest to pervert the word of God or corrupt it in time. This was happening when Paul was writing 2 Corinthians 2:17, “For **we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:** but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” And Paul was well aware of this fact even so there were more doing it then than there were that were keeping it. Degeneration of time has only made this worse and now we have over 300 English Bibles all against the King James Bible since 1881 all geared in opposition to the King James Bible.

Did God say what is in the King James Bible or all the modern versions? They can’t all be true, they are vastly different. The King James Bible has proven itself over 400 years. Not even the originals lasted that long. No manuscripts lasted that long being USED during that time as the final authority. No other translation has lasted that long and has been in the forefront like the King James Bible which means it takes the lead in Time, Usage and Absolute Truth. Everything else is a

perversion and corruption of the truth. God wrote only ONE absolute truth. Today it is found in the King James Bible: the Bible of the end times.

These fakers that think to restore God's words that God lost are trying to set themselves up as the final authority in your life to take away the fact that YOU have in your lap in a King James Bible God's express inspired words that you can read, know and believe without the approval of any supreme magisterium or university or anyone else for that matter. We need to hear Paul: 2 Corinthians 4:2-4, "But have renounced the **hidden things of dishonesty**, not walking in craftiness, **nor handling the word of God deceitfully**; but by **manifestation of the truth** commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But **if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost**: In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, **who is the image of God**, should shine unto them."

It is imperative to understand that the hiding of the gospel for a Christian is paramount to divination and brought about by the god of this world. There is a spirit of antichrist that persists in the local churches today that orders the abolishment of the King James Bible from the face of the earth. This devilment is the apex of divination: and is worse than the paganism of cannibalistic sacrifices of children on the altars of devils. I know that sounds rough, but it is true.

The very divination that got Israel in trouble was just that: perverting the words of God: Jeremiah 23:36, "And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for **ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.**" And now; the churches have done the same thing; but much worse.

Now that the words of God are perverted, let into the churches every foul spirit of divination that creeps and crawls and flies into the music and ritualistic pagan voodoo of the modern "Christian" local church. It is sickening to see and hear the extreme degradation and putrifying blather spewing forth from most local churches today. Gone are the days of good wholesome worship services aside from a few local churches that still cling to the truth.

Perhaps you are a part of this new age churcheanity and christiology that has permeated the churches with rock and roll music and false doctrines and modernism so much so that even their Bibles reek of the modernism. Perhaps you



find this disgusting also and want out. You can escape, but it will come with a price.

1. If you are saved or have been save from hell already:
  - a. Repent of this wickedness and forsake it.
  - b. Run as quick as you can to the Lord Jesus Christ and
  - c. Become a blood pleader
2. If you are lost then you are still a child of the Devil:
  - a. Admit you are a sinner before a Holy God Almighty
  - b. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to save your soul from hell fire
  - c. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ to God Almighty and before men

Dear Lord God Almighty, I admit I am a sinner before you and deserve to go to hell for my sins; but Oh Lord God I don't want to go there; please have mercy on my wretched soul and save me from hell fire. I now receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and trust in Him alone as my payment for my sins against you. I will confess the Lord Jesus Christ openly as I have done now in my heart. Thank you, Lord God for saving my soul from hell fire and damnation; in Jesus Name, Amen.

Don't let this alone; deal with it today the cost of not doing anything or delaying a decision could be the difference between heaven and hell.

A note before you go any further: The following appendix is compiled from various sources that are from the "horse's mouth" so to speak and so with this in mind please be aware that it is not for the faint of heart, or week minded; and especially not for those that do not seek the truth. The statements below may not be true to the teachings listed as the sources for the most part cannot be checked. It is my intention to show that there are some practices in this list that may have crossed your path unwittingly, unknowingly and perhaps naively. So to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Before you read further; pray and put on the whole armour of God and get washed in the blood thoroughly; pleading the Blood throughout the reading as this is not child's play; this is warfare and knowing the enemy. These are the wiles of the devil: Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."



THE END

# APPENDIX

## Divination Glossary

This glossary is not a complete list but a thorough enough list to help the reader to understand what we are up against. The powers of darkness want your children and they will stop at nothing to deceive them and steal them from you if you let them. To be forewarned is to be forearmed as good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### A

**ABACOMANCY:** Divination via the observation of patterns of dust. Also used are the ashes of the recently deceased. See also Ceneromancy, Spodomancy, and Tephromancy.

**ACUTOMANCY:** Divination via the means of sharp or pointed objects such as needles. In this form diviners use a number of sharp objects (usually seven) to fall on to the table or the like and thus read the patterns. Acutomanzia is a similar method including thirteen pins, ten straight and three bent. They are shaken and casted onto a surface sprinkled with powder. The patterns in the powder and the positioning of the needles are then read.

**ADRYOMANCY:** A rare, and obscurely formed, variant of the word ydromancie, idromancie, which in Middle English was the usual spelling of hydromancy. The first peculiarity of this word is the initial a. This is not a regular variant of Middle English i/y. The second peculiarity is the addition of an extra syllable after the r. This additional syllable does not occur in any other Middle English -mancy words, nor in other Middle English compounds of ydro-. Nor are either of these peculiarities found in the Old French or Latin source words. It remains a mystery.

**AEROMANCY:** Divination via interpreting air and sky regulations by way of wind, cloud shapes and other aerial formations such as atmospheric conditions are studied as omens or signs of future events. This also includes wind currents, cloud formations, comets, falling staves, and spectral formations. There different forms

include: Austromancy (wind); Ceraunoscopy (thunder & lightning); Chaomancy (aerial visions); Meteormancy (meteors, especially shooting stars). It is also known as Nephelomancy.

1. (Generally) divination by the air or aerial phenomena. (specifically) This term has been applied to numerous divinatory practices, including
  - a. Divination from the movement of air itself, observations of the wind.
  - b. Presages gained by observation of other aerial phenomena, as comets, meteors, lightning, thunder, clouds, haloes, etc.
  - c. By images seen in the air, as either naturally occurring mirages or supernatural apparitions, such as spectres, etc.
  - d. By the shape assumed by physical things, such as dust or seeds, tossed into the air.
2. Augury
3. (obs.) weather forecasting.

Borrowed into Middle English from Old French \*aeromancie, aeromaunce, (in modern French (Cotgrave) aëromanty), from Late Latin aeromantia, from Late Greek aeromanteia, from the Greek aero-, combining form of aer air. After the Middle English period it has generally been modified according to New Latin aeromantia and French aeromancie. Classical Greek did not have the word, or at least it has not survived extant, but they did have aeroskopia divination by observing the heavens. Variant Forms Middle English: aermacye, aeromance, aeromancye, aeromauncie, aerymancie. Early Modern English: aeromancie, æromancy, aëromancy, aeromanty, eromancy, heromanty. New Latin: aeromantia, aëromantia. The forms with ë represent a now obsolete typographical convention which proscribed a pronunciation based on the Greek root, in which the first two letters formed separate syllables, that is, ay-eromancy. By some lexicographers it was applied stringently to all words beginning aero-, but for the most part it was applied rather haphazardly. A look at the entries in OED for words beginning aero- is a good example of this haphazardness. Presumably some lexicographers and authors thought that the pronunciation was apparent enough (or "should" be apparent) without typographical assistance. The modern pronunciation (as air-omancy) presumably arose from a lack of knowledge of the Greek language, and also under the influence of the word air. The existence of the form eromancy dates the pronunciation back to the 17th century.

Anemoscropy means divination by means of the study of wind. This type of divination involves the observation of wind direction and strength, including the shape of dust clouds lifted by it. A different method is posing a question and then tossing a handful of dirt, sand or light seeds into the air; the answer comes in the form of the small dust cloud made by the flying particles. Another process uses a pendulum, allowed to move only by the wind, positioned over a circle graph or a set of letters, glyphs or runes. Yet another technique consists of listening to the sound of the wind and interpreting its message. Many people hear 'whispers in the wind' as the movement of sound carries voices that we sometimes can hear. Many indigenous people practiced wind scrying as a means of talking to their gods and receiving messages. They believed in wind spirits. Ancient Greeks practiced wind scrying in the sacred grove of Dodona, which was dedicated to their main god Zeus. Psellus referred to this technique writing "there is a mode of predicting by means of the air and the leaves of the trees. The method involved the hanging of striking wands from branches of sacred oak trees in a way that they struck resounding brass basins when the wind blew. Interpretations were made of these sounds and that of the wind. On a windy day, if one stood still, they could hear tones or perhaps 'whispers in the wind' of the trees as the moving air carries sound vibration. Native Americans, to this very day, use wind scrying to communicate with spirits.

**AGALMATOMANCY:** Greek divination via statues. See also Idolomancy.

**AICHMOMANCY:** A method of divination utilising sharp points, as pins, etc. This word, derived from the ancient Greek *aichme* point of a spear, is one of the numerous terms appearing in Shipley only. To which specific method of divination it is meant to refer to is not clear.

**AILUROMANCY:** Divination by cats. Derived from Greek *ailouros* a cat.

**ALEBROMANCY:** A mistake arising from a typographical error (u = b) in Cotgrave's French-English dictionary (1611, 1632). This was faithfully reproduced by Blount, and later copied by Cocker. This mistake was recorded in the OED (1884), under its own headword, thus effectively putting a stop to any continued copying. Urquhart was meant to have relied largely on Cotgrave for his translation, but apparently not in this instance. Instead, for some unknown reason, Urquhart created his own mistaken spelling (vide *alentomancy*). Both of these misspellings were silently corrected in the OED under headword *aleuromancy*. Apparently

Murray did not feel that Urquhart's erroneous form was worth awarding it headword status. Probably since it never occurs in any dictionaries nor anywhere outside of Urquhart.

ALECTROMANCY, ALECTORMANCY, ALECTOROMANCY, : Greek divination via the use of a cock or hen in which are placed letters of the alphabet. The letters in which are the closest to the hens pecks are gathered and assembled to answer specific question. This practice was used when the sun or the moon was in Aries or Leo. Used in Rome to identify thieves. A less common form of the word allectryomancy. This word is of the same vintage as allectryomancy, and arises from a slightly different Greek word, namely: alektor a rooster (as opposed to alektryon). Alectromanchy (rare), alectromancy (showing elision), and electromancy. Also the New Latin form alectoromantia is to be met with. I have included the alectro- forms under this headword following the OED. However, I cannot see why this could not equally be a variant of allectryo-. Presumably there is a good reason. Often a black hen or a gamecock. The diviner will sprinkle grain and the ground and allow the birds to peck. When the birds have finished, the diviner will then interpret the patterns left by the birds on the ground.

ALECTRYOMANCY: Divination in which a bird is subjected to random picking of corn grains from a circle of letters. A variation is to recite letters of the alphabet noting those at which a cock crows. See Alectromancy.

1. (Rare, obsolete) "divination by a cock-stone". A cock-stone or alectoria was "a christall coloured stone (as big as a beane) found in the gyzerne, or maw of some cockes" (Cotgrave). These stones, purportedly found in a roosters crop, were known to the Romans (in Latin they were called alectoria gemma, literally "cock's gem") and were imputed with magical powers. Apparently they were used for some sort of lithomantic divination, though the details of this use are not to be found.
2. (Loosely) any divination involving a rooster. (specifically) a. a once common mode of divination in which, firstly, a circle of letters (originally twenty-four in number, since j, v are the same as i, u) is laid out with some sort of grain placed on each letter. Next a rooster is let pick at the grains, thus selecting letters to create a divinatory message or sign. The chosen letters could be either read in order of selection, or rearranged to make an anagram. b. the observing of chickens feeding in order to gain omens. c. divination by the crowing of a rooster.

From French *alectryomantie* (Cotgrave), or the New Latin *alectryomantia*, from the Greek word *alectryon* a cock, or rooster. This word is most commonly recorded under this form in modern dictionaries, usually with *alectoromancy*, as the variant. It occasionally occurs in English texts in the New Latin form *alectryomantia*.

**ALENTOMANCY:** A mistake occurring in Urquhart's translation of Rabelais, for *aleuromancy*. The OED records the citation under the headword *aleuromancy*, but silently corrects the error. This is in accordance with his statement in the General Explanations to the OED that "simple blunders, which would mislead the reader, are tacitly corrected." Clearly Murray did not deem the mistake liable to cause later confusion, nor has it seemed to, with the only occurrences being those of later editions of Urquhart. Though it has to be admitted that a reader of Urquhart would turn to the OED to no avail.

**ALEUROMANCY:** Divination via "fortune cookies". Answers to questions are rolled into a sortilege of balls of dough and once baked are chosen at random. The fortunes were inserted into dough that was both baked, and mixed. This form of divination is the origin of Ash Wednesday pancakes and fortune cookies. Another version involves the interpretation of patterns left in a bowl of flour rinsed in water. *Aleuromancy* was the domain of Apollo in some traditions.

1. Originally an ancient Greek method of divination using flour. The sources here given differ considerably on exactly which sort of cereal was used and in what form. Many refer to "barley meal", though some to wheat flour and oatmeal, some to a mixture of different flours. The precise method of divination originally indicated by this word does not seem to be recorded, at least, not alongside the appearance of the word in English sources. According to Potter the divination was a. by flour with which sacrificial victims were besprinkled. However, some have also interpreted the word to mean: b. divination by flour thrown into flames, a type of pyromancy; and c. throwing flour on the ground and interpreting the shape produced.
2. Others have made the assumption that the word could refer to divination by dough or by cakes, since these are at least made by flour - this is at best a tenuous link, but not inconceivable. The earliest suggestion along these lines is the curious gloss cake-divination in Coles' 1676 dictionary. Presumably Coles knew what specific practice he was referring to. Perhaps he was, as Elihu Rich suspects, referring to a trial by ordeal involving a piece of bread or barley cake, analogous to the Anglo-Saxon *corsnaed* and the Latin *panis*

conjuratus, in which the accused is asked to swallow a piece of bread, with guilt being indicated by difficulty in swallowing.

3. (?) The reading of fortune cookie messages for divination.

Lewis Spence, a learned and widely read, but not very careful scholar, wrote in 1920 that the word referred to a type of divination by cakes with messages inside, similar to our modern Chinese restaurant fortune cookies. This has led to many sources stating that fortune cookies are a modern-day survival of ancient aleuromancy. However I think this meaning is, in the end, a spurious one. Although commonly believed to be of Chinese origin and of some distant date, fortune cookies are a 20th century invention. The first recorded use of the term (Chinese) fortune cookies is in 1962, and they were originally a gimmick of North American Chinese restaurants. Notwithstanding Spence, there is no history of them in China as such. The notion that people really take to heart the droll messages available in these cookies, or that the reading of them constitutes a 'method' of divination, is highly unlikely. The assertion that the use of fortune cookies is a modern-day survival is a fine example of a widely held notion that is as prevalent as it is wrong. In much of the literature of folk-lore, superstition, witch-craft, the occult, etc., there is made a habit of finding some analogous practice from ancient times and thence stating that the modern-day practice is a survival. The term survival implies a continuation of the practice throughout the intervening years, presumedly unrecorded and underground. It is as though the idea that the two similar practices may have had separate geneses, one ancient, the other modern, is out of the question, though this is often more likely to be the case. In this instance the proposition that the ancient Greek aleuromancy continued beyond the end of the Grecian period, was somehow transported to China, then lost to the Chinese, except to those who emmigrated to North America and took up the restaurant trade, is ludicrous. Similarly impossible is the alternate proposition that the whole of humanity, (or at least the Greeks as well as the Chinese) in ancient times practised some common form of aleuromancy, of which the making of fortune cookies is the only vestige remaining. This practice of guilelessly identifying supposed survivals is quite old. That it is still common is no wonder since many influential books and authors have indulged in it quite freely. It can be seen throughout Brand's Popular Antiquities, a hugely popular book that went in to numerous editions, and it occurs in much of the literature on witchcraft due to the theories and works of Margaret Murray. Sir James Fraser's all-important Golden Bough constantly cites connections between ancient beliefs and more recent

practices, but, at least in the examples I am familiar with, is cautious in doing so and always cites numerous instances to back up his assertions. Other examples of this "survival" notion in this document are to be seen at: alomancy, ceromancy, chartomancy, ovomancy and xylomancy.

From French aleuromancie, from New Latin aleuromantia. Cælius Calcagninus, *Compendium amatoriae magiæ* (ed. Froben Bale, 1544) "Aleuromantia, per tritici ac farinae excussiones." From the Greek aleuromanteion divination by flour, from aleuron (usually appearing in the plural form aleura) wheat flour. The difference between this word and alphetomancy remains obscure, if indeed there ever was any. In Greek aleuron is 'flour from wheat', and is opposed to alpheton 'flour from barley'. However, Liddle and Scott define aleuromanteion simply as "divination from flour", with no reference to which particular grain was used. In ancient Greek the word \*alphetomanteia is not recorded, but the derivative alphetomantis (i.e. one who divines using flour) does occur. Liddle and Scott merely cross-reference this term to aleuromantis and thus dictate that there was no difference between the two. Certainly in English no clear difference between the two words is apparent. Greek also had kritomanteia, see crithomancy. Also found in the erroneous forms: alebromancy, alentomancy, alevromancy, alveromancy.

**AILUROMANCY:** Divination through the interpretation of the appearance and behavior of cats such as movement or jump. A form of Augury. Also known as Felidomancy. <http://www.gardenofbadthings.com/superstitions.htm>

**ALOMANCY:** Divination via the interpretation of table salt. This is the believed origin of misfortune or superstition including the one about people saying that misfortune is about to fall on the household when the salt cellar is overturned, and the one about throwing a pinch of salt over someone's shoulder for good luck. Also known as Halomancy. A variant of the word halomancy - divination by salt - which arises from an erroneous reading of the ancient Greek root. In Greek there is no letter aitch (h) as such, instead aspiration was represented by the opening apsothrophe symbol (´) placed above the next letter. Someone unaware of this would read the Greek `als as simply als rather than the correct English rendering hals. To one ignorant of modern typography of the Greek language the arcane system of diacritics marking aspiration, lack of aspiration and stress, are confusing and probably regarded, if anything, as obfuscating. I assume that one of the early users of this term, or even the coiner of this word, made the mistake of disregarding the aspiration, and hence concocted the form alomancy. No other



word using this Greek root has a variant form without the h. The word itself, appears to be only recorded only in dictionaries and books on the occult. The OED records it as a variant of halomancy, but when that word is consulted only one citation appears, Websters (1864), where the form is indeed alomancy. Since it is not labelled rare-0 then one must assume that the OED had citations of the h form, though ones later than 1864. OED misses the fact that in 1852 the h form appears in Roget's Thesaurus, even though this source is cited in other OED -mancy entries. What is remarkable is the fact that, in a time of prescriptive dictionaries, the lexicographers of the day did not mark the form alomancy as incorrect or erroneous. Presumably Roget and Webster had original sources for the word, or perhaps they both had the same source and Roget etymologically normalised the form. As yet I have not been able to discover a 19th century (or earlier) primary source.

**ALPHITOMANCY:** Divination via the use of special cakes that are digestible by persons with a clear conscience but are unpleasant to others. It is a practice to assist identifying guilty parties by feeding an individual or group a loaf of barley. The innocent would feel no ill effect, but the guilty parties would experience indigestion. Alphitomancy was often used to identify criminals or adulterers. Also known as Cursed Bread.

1. An ancient Greek method of divination employing barley meal in some way. Most probably the same or, at least, similar to the ancient Greek practice of aleuromancy.
2. By later writers thought to be a type of trial by ordeal using cakes or bread of barley flour. The same notion was also attached to the word aleuromancy.

Derived from the French *alphitomantie*, from the New Latin *alphitomantia*. Cælius Calcagninus, *Compendium amatoriæ magiæ* (ed. Froben Bale, 1544)

"Alphitomantia, quam ceu digito Theocritus signavit in Pharmaceutria." A derivative from the ancient Greek *alphitomantis* a diviner who used barley meal, from Gk *alphiton* (usually only in the plural form *alphita*) barley meal, flour made from barley; also, pearl-barley. See etymology at aleuromancy.

**AMATHOMANCY:** According to Shipley: divination by dust. Not recorded elsewhere. Derived from ancient Greek *amathos* sand.

**AMBULOMANCY:** Divination via movement and action of walking. Possibly referring to gyromancy. Derived from the Latin *ambulare* to walk.

**AMNIOMANCY:** Divination via the inspection and interpretation the caul, the inner embryonic membrane of higher vertebrates (especially when covering the head at birth), of a baby at birth. The caul is any part of the amnionic sac that happens to be attached to a new-born's head. Usually there is no caul and hence it was perceived as signifying something special when one did appear. Thus a great host of beliefs grew up surrounding the caul over the centuries in many disparate cultures, and since cauls occur on the head of babies, the association with them has always been favourable. If it just so happened that it was common for amniotic membrane to be attached to the feet then a very different mythology would have arisen around the topic. At any rate, the caul has always been associated with good luck and beneficial powers. It was believed in Europe that children born with cauls were lucky, and that they had second sight or could see into the spirit world. This belief was also found alive in the 19th century in the East Indies. Also, possessing a caul meant sure victory in any contests entered into, thus cauls were previously in great demand by attorneys, a practice that was ridiculed by Sir Thomas Browne in his *Pseudoxia Epidemica* (*Vulgar Errors*) in 1646. In Scotland the caul was known as the happy hoo, sely hoo, syly hofte or the sillyhoo, which all literally mean the "lucky hood". This is identical to the German name *glückshaube*. In Palsgrave's 1540 translation of the Latin play *Acolastus*, dating from 1525, we find the passage: May not men...thinke, that I was borne in a good howre, or that I was borne with a syly hofte on myn heed. Lastly, cauls, which are easily dried and kept, were believed to be a specific against drowning and shipwreck. Thus cauls were often sold amongst sailors for a high price. One was sold in London's shipping district as recently as 1915. Apart from the definition provided by Lewis Spence, and later writers following him, I cannot find any other evidence that the colour of the caul itself was used to predict the future. All the sources I can uncover unequivocally state that a caul signifies good luck. Derived from New Latin *amniomantia*, from ancient Greek (Galen) *amnion* the amnionic sac, the caul. The ultimate etymology of this Greek word is unknown. An *amnion* was a cup used to catch the blood of sacrifices, and presumably this original sense was extended in medical terminology since the amniotic membrane performed a similar function of holding blood/fluid. However, *amnion* also meant a small lamb, though how this could be related is unknown to me.

**ANEMOSCOPY:** Divination via the interpretation of the wind direction and strength, including the shape of dust clouds lifted by it. Another method is posing a question and then tossing a handful of dirt, sand or light seeds into the air; the

answer comes in the form of the small dust cloud made by the flying particles. This also includes process uses a pendulum, allowed to move only by the wind, positioned over a circle graph or a set of letters, glyphs or runes. Yet another technique consists of listening to the sound of the wind and interpreting its message. See Aeromancy.

**ANAGRAMALECTRYOMANCY:** A nonce word concocted by the Gibsons for alectryomancy in which the letters chosen by the rooster are rearranged to form a word. A clumsy word, considered so even by the coiner.

**ANSTROMANCY:** is divination by the study of the winds. Divination by interpreting wind. A form of Aeromancy.

**ANTHOMANCY:** Divination via flowers. The same as floromancy. A modern word referring to the practice of plucking petals of a flower uttering alternately "She/he loves me" for one petal, and "She/he loves me not" for the next. Whichever statement the last petal coincides with gives the answer. This practice is still prevalent amongst school children, but not taken seriously as far as I know.

For other forms of flower divination see botanomancy and phyllorhodomancy. Derived from ancient Greek anthos a flower.

**ANTHRACOMANCY:** Divination via burning coals. Only recorded in dictionaries. Presumably there is a primary source, though most probably it is only a word coined ad rem. I have not been able to find any explicit methods of divination employing coals or embers. The word is coined from anthraco-, the modern scientific word element signifying "coal", which comes from the ancient Greek anthrak-, the stem of anthrax coal.

**ANTHROMANCY:** Presumably an error for anthropomancy occurring in Cotgrave, and thence copied into Blount and Coles. The error of dropping the third syllable from anthropomancy seems quite reasonable, as far as errors go. Though no similar errors are recorded for the numerous words beginning with this word element. The major problem is that the definition offered by Cotgrave accords more with necromancy and not anthropomancy. A word similar in form, anthroscopy, is sometimes seen, but only in very recent texts, where it is defined as "divination by the features" (Q&A). Is this a recent mistake for the (admittedly uncommon) anthroposcopy? All up, an ugly kettle of fish.

**ANTHROPOMANCY, ANTINOPOMANCY:** Divination via the interpretation of the entrails of a human sacrifice. This practice is outlawed and unethical obviously Herodotus wrote that Menelaus practiced it when detained in Egypt because of contrary winds. Because of his barbarous curiosity he sacrificed two country children in order to discover his destiny. Also known as Splanchomancy. Derived from New Latin anthropomantia, from ancient Greek anthropos human being; cf. F anthropomancie. Early) anthropomancia, anthropomancie, (erroneous) antinopomancy.

**ANTINOPOMANCY:** A ghost word, beginning as a mistake in Gaule for anthropomancy. Evidently Gaule's typesetter misread the manuscript, reading 'hr' as 'in' (which in ink-written 17th century hand is not improbable) thus creating the curious form antinopomancy. This mistake was then copied ad literatum by Brand, Hone, Robbins, etc., as though the word was a separate divinatory method. There are not many copies of Gaule's Magastromancer extant, and it has not, to my knowledge, ever been reprinted. Thus, in all likelihood, most of the later recorders of Gaule's words have taken them from Brand's Popular Antiquities where Gaule's list is reproduced verbatim (with only a small addition).

Evidently Brand did not understand that there was a typographical error in Gaule and separately notes the word anthropomancie as "not in the above ample list". Hone faithfully reproduced this in his famous Year Book, and the error was not rectified until Mackay's Extraordinary Popular Delusions. The Gibson's, who almost certainly did not get their evidence from an original copy of Gaule, continue the error to the point of defining it separately.

**APANTOMANCY:** Divination via chance meetings with animals (e.g., a black cat), birds, and other creatures. Also divination via interpreting any objects (or beings) that happen to present themselves. A form of Augury. The superstition associated with a black cat crossing one's path is apantomancy. Derived from the ancient Greek apantomai to meet.

**ARACHNOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of spiders. A form of Augury. <http://www.gardenofbadthings.com/superstitions.htm>. For instance, according to Mary Proctor's Legends of the Stars (1922): In China it was customary at one time for the ladies of the Court, on the seventh day of the seventh month, to catch spiders and put them in incense-boxes for purposes of divination. On the morning of the eighth day the box was opened, and if the spiders

had spun a thick web during the night the omen was good, but if they had remained idle the omen was bad. Also, it may be noted that the minute red spiders which are commonly called money spiders are meant to foretell of some financial gain in the near future.

**ARIOLATER:** Someone who practices divination. Also known as Aruspex, Clairvoyant, Diviner, Haruspex, Seer, Soothsayer. See Also: Oracle, Prophet, and Theomancer. The Modern Oracle respects the traditional enigmatical prophetic verses alongside the more coherent prophetic verses as well. Enigmatical verses for instance needed to be translated for seekers of prophecy for the Oracle of Delphi. Oracles that divine information coherently have no need for interpreters for they are coherent enough during the divining to interpret their own findings. Many see Oracles to solely have the ability of precognition, but this is only the mainstream version of divining. Oracles at Delphi were chosen based on their potentials to interact with the gods in an entranced state. At Delphi, Oracles would directly inhale ethylene gases and sway in a euphoric trance to enhance intuition. She would continue by answering question in an ecstatic and wild manner in a complete incoherency. They were not necessarily precognitive or clairvoyant before they became oracles, but had the potential to be communicated through. Other Oracles are born with the ability to prophesize and have an unbreakable heritage. These Oracles are raised from early childhood by their spirit guides due to their extensive abilities such as Precognition (future sight), Postcognition (past sight), Clairvoyance (to see the unseen), Clairsentience (to sense the insensible), Clairaudience (to hear the inaudible) and Psipathy (based on still images and detailed emotions). It is their past, their present and future life. At any time they can choose to wander from their growth, their path, but these abilities can be to overwhelming to live a normal life for the gifts can out grow the Oracle. Oracles never receive all the information asked, rather all the information necessary. They divine what is needed to be known at the time, not necessarily what actually is the truth. Oracles are raised in a community of people and have set belief systems that are ever growing. Oracles offer their prophecies to their community and never ask for anything in return. Oracles, such as the one at Delphi, are allowed to accept donations. The calling and faith of an Oracle is precious to them and their laws are never undermined with out consequence. An Oracle does not know all such as in myth, they only learn from what they ask and they only answer in detail if the question was in detail as well. (vagueness results in vagueness). Basically, they only know what they need to now. For questions of great standing value one

"must" choose their question wisely and the format in which it is given. The modern Oracle is an individual who speaks to divine beings such as archangels or gods, but rarely the dead. The Oracle bases their reception of information in the "heavens" not in the "underworld". The modern Oracle is an individual of heritage, a strong belief structure, a community, of charity and of many gifts. Too many individuals believe Oracles to be fictitious and their prophecies if correct are merely seen as an auspicious coincidence. Those who lack in intuitive awareness tend to be a constituent of this belief. Whether or not an oracle is believed by anyone external to their community is irrelevant. It is supremely their only need to be accepted unconditionally by their community. The Oracle in history has been a right-hand to many kings and queens. They are of great importance to political, financial and generalized community matters. Thus is the same today in the modern world. Many communities all over the world including the USA and Britain have Oracles either as royal advisors equal to that of Shamans. They are also help highly as leaders of smaller communities. In these communities they better their people's futures by foretelling the major movements in their system. They are still seen as priest and priestesses and aide consistently in the ever advancing belief system for the area. Oracles also involve themselves in the societies moral or laws of the community. The Oracle adjoins their localized accepted belief system and formulates just laws accordingly. Since the diviner preforms his or her services without a salary the community takes care of him or her and supplies the oracle with everything she or her requires to continue preforming this great service. Keep in mind a diviner in a community setting is not of control and seizure rather of innovation, growth and revision. Oracles are not only utilized to look into the future, but to also be utilized in protection and healing. Protection is done spiritually and the healing is both mental, by entering the deep recesses of the mind through their guides aide, and of a physical nature. However, their primary function is to protect those of their community unconditionally. The term Oracle in Tibet is used to describe the spirit who enters the "medium" rather than the medium. The Oracle in this case would be a medium between the physical and metaphysical spirit world. In Tibet's case they are known as Kutens or "the physical basis's". Also in Tibet there was once thought to be thousands of Oracles, but today only a few remain, including those consulted by the Tibetan government. The Modern Oracle

**ARIOLATIOMANCY:** Divining via the interpretation of altars.

**ARITHMANCY, ARITHMOMANCY, ARITHOMANCY:** This is an earlier form of Numerology where divination is made through numbers and the number value of letters. Divination by interpreting numbers. Greeks used the number and value of the letters in the names of two combatants to predict the victor. This form of divination has been adopted and modified by many cultures over the millennia. One of its evolved forms is the current magical system of Numerology. Esoterically it is concerned with the science of correspondences between gods, men and numbers, as taught by Pythagoras. The Chaldeans (Chaldeans) also practiced this type of divination, as well as the Platonists and Pythagoreans. Arithmancy is also a part of the Jewish Qabbalah. See Numerology. The 16th and 17th century version of what is now generally known as numerology. The forms of number divination that arithmancy referred to were different to those currently in use. The exploration of the mystical aspects of numbers dates back to at least Babylonian times. However, the greatest influence was by the Greek mathematician Pythagoras (c.582--c.500 BC) and his philosophical followers known as the Pythagoreans. All great magicians and occult theoreticians have had something to say about numbers and their meanings, including Cornelius Agrippa, John Dee, Edward Kelly, and Robert Fludd. Derived from New Latin arithmantia (Agrippa), ultimately from the ancient Greek arithmos a number.

According to the OED this is "contracted for arithmomancy, but earlier". However this earlier form is most probably directly from the New Latin, itself a blend of arithmetica and -mantia. Notice that the form also occurs both Spanish aritmancia, and Portuguese arithmancia. This pattern of formation (i.e. without the normal connective -o- before -mancy) is followed by the two other words referring to divination by number, namely, logarithmancy and mathemancy. The variant form arithomancy is a later formation (1983) with the connective -o- added in to conform the usual pattern of other -mancys. Arithmomantia, Arithmomanty. Entering into English later than arithmancy it is derived from New Latin arithmomantia, from the ancient Greek arithmos a number. Often said to be a more "correct" form of arithmancy since it includes more letters of the Greek base word. The Chaldeans divided their alphabet into three sections of seven letters and linked these to the seven planets. The Greeks would analyze the names of opponents and predict the outcome of a contest.

**ARITHMOSOPHY:** Divination by Bertiaux's method of converting words to numbers. A form of Arithmancy and Numerology.

**ARMOMANCY:** Divining by inspecting the structure of the shoulder blades of a person. Used originally to determine the suitability of a person for sacrifice to the gods. See Scapulimancy, Scapulomancy, Armomancy, and Spatulomancy. A method of divination employing the shoulder blades of animals. The shoulder blade was taken from the dead beast and thrown into a fire, the cracks appearing in the bone were interpreted as indicative of future events, a course of action, or whether or not something was true. This method of divination was formerly very common and occurs in many disparate cultures. Its popularity is in some way indicated by the amount of terms designating the practice, such as omoplatoscopy, scapulimancy, and spatulamancy. In Scotland it was known as 'reading the speal-bone', hence the term spealomancy. This word is derived from the Latin word *armus* a shoulder blade.

**ARUSPEX:** See Ariolater.

**ARUSPICY:** Divination by interpreting animal entrails. Aruspicy is sometimes considered to be a form of augury (interpreting form and behavior of animals). Similar to Anthropomancy (interpretation of human entrails) and Heiromancy (interpretation of sacrificed animals) Also known as Haruspicy, Extispicy, and Extispicium. Then afterwards the entrails were burnt in a sacrificial fire. Sometimes the observation of how the flame burnt the sacrifice was also necessary for the prognostication. This form of divination is sometimes considered to be part of augury. Its underlying theory was that when an animal — usually a sheep or an ox — was sacrificed, it was absorbed by the god to which it had been offered, creating a direct channel to the deity. By opening the carcass, the Haruspex presumed to peek inside the god's mind and watch the future being created.

**ASPIDOMANCY, ASH-ONOMANCY:** Divining by entering casting a circle and summoning an entity. A method of divination in which the diviner sits on a shield and goes into a state of altered consciousness to gain prophetic knowledge. The word first appears in the New Latin form *aspidomantia*, and is derived from the Greek *aspid-*, the combining form of *aspis* a shield. See Necromancy. Ash-onomancy is a poorly concocted translation of the French word *tephramantie*.

**ASTRAGLOMANCY, ASTRAGYROMANCY:** Divination via dice where the faces of the dice bear numbers and letters. Divination also using dice, bones,



stones, or small pieces of wood bearing letters or symbols. The diviner asks a question and interprets the answer based on how the objects lie on the ground or what letters or symbols are facing upwards. Divination through the sortilege of sheep bones (originally).

1. Now commonly done with dice bearing numbers and letters.
  - a. (Literally) divination by huckle-bones. The Greek word astragaloi (plural) referred to a type of dice, which were originally made from the knuckle-bones or huckle-bones of sheep. These astragaloi actually only had four flat sides which were marked (the other two being rounded), as distinguished from the six-sided kuboï (see cubomancy).
  - b. A specific type of divination in which astragaloi were tossed onto the pages of a picture book. This is the method that is being referred to by Rabelais, who got his information from Cælius Calcagninus, *Compendium amatoriæ magiæ* (ed. Froben Bale, 1544)  
"Astragalomantia, ex astragalorum jactu in picturarum libellum, qua imprimis nostrates f?minæ uti solent."
2. (Hence) divination by dice.

From New Latin *astragalomantia*, (in French *astragalomantie*), from ancient Greek *astragalos* one of the vertebrae, or (usually in the plural *astragaloi*) a type of dice, made from knuckle-bones of sheep. Greek had the term *astragalomantis* a diviner using *astragaloi*. The only variant form to come to light is *astragyromancy* (first recorded 1931) which is either due to a typographical error, or a blending of *astragalomancy* and *gyromancy* (possibly because the dice are spun?).

**ASTROMANCY, ASTROLOGY, ASTROSOPHY:** is divination using celestial bodies: the sun, moon, planets, and stars. Divination by interpreting the movements of heavenly bodies, particularly the major planets. Divination by the stars; the 17th century term for what is now generally called astrology. This method of divination, involves taking note of the heavens both when a person is born, and at the present, and forming judgements about that person's character, luck, future, etc., based on the influence exerted by the Sun, the Moon, and the eight planets as they travel through the twelve zodiacal constellations. Originally, the planets Neptune, Uranus and Pluto formed no part of astrology, since they are not visible to the naked eye and were not discovered until after the 17th century. In the pre-Copernican, geocentric view of the cosmos there were only seven planets or wandering stars, namely: the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Their ancient

importance is demonstrated by the fact the the seven days of the week are named after these seven planets. Astrology is recorded throughout the world and clearly dates back to pre-historical times. European astrology is partly derived from Arabic and Egyptian astrology and also owes much to the astrological traditions of the ancient Babylonians, Akkadians and Sumerians. See the timeline of major astrological and astronomical developments, discoveries and famous persons. In the 17th century this method of divination was accepted by many as basic fact, but at the same time a fierce debate raged about its verity, with many authors denouncing it as irreligious, especially as it seemed to negate the doctrine of free will. The term astrology dates back to the 16th century. In earlier times a distinction was made between natural astrology - the prediction of the weather and other natural phenomena, and judicial astrology - prediction of the future of individuals. The term horary astrology refers specifically to divination based on the stars at birth, the major method still in practice. This was previously known as astronomy (now obsolete in this sense), and is also sometimes referred to by casting horoscopes, casting nativities, genethliacs and horoscopy. See also sideromancy and roadomancy. Astrology is a pseudoscience whose predictions are open for personal interpretation by the astrologer reading a chart. Our lives are not just influenced by the planets in our solar system, but by the collective unconscious in which we experience this reality. Astrology taken as a guide can be helpful, but is not perfect. An astrological system written long ago, may not take into account the way we live our lives in the 21st century. As with all oracles of divination, it is subjective based on the chart and the astrologer.

Astrology consists of a number of belief systems which hold that there is a relationship between astronomical phenomena and events in the human world. In the West, astrology most often consists of a system of horoscopes that claim to explain aspects of a person's personality and predict future events in their life based on the positions of the sun, moon, and other planetary objects at the time of their birth. Many cultures have attached importance to astronomical events, and the Indians, Chinese, and Mayans developed elaborate systems for predicting terrestrial events from celestial observations.

Among Indo-European peoples, astrology has been dated to the third millennium BCE, with roots in calendrical systems used to predict seasonal shifts and to interpret celestial cycles as signs of divine communications. Through most of its history, astrology was considered a scholarly tradition. It was accepted in political

and academic contexts, and was connected with other studies, such as astronomy, alchemy, meteorology, and medicine. At the end of the 17th century, new scientific concepts in astronomy (such as heliocentrism) called astrology into question, and subsequent controlled studies failed to confirm its predictive value. Astrology thus lost its academic and theoretical standing.

Astrology is a pseudoscience, and as such is rejected by the academic and scientific communities. Some scientific testing of astrology has been conducted, and no evidence has been found to support any of the premises or purported effects outlined in astrological traditions. Furthermore, there is no proposed mechanism of action by which the positions and motions of stars and planets could affect people and events on Earth that does not contradict well understood, basic aspects of biology and physics.

Advocates have defined astrology as a symbolic language, an art form, a science, and a method of divination. Although most cultural systems of astrology share common roots in ancient philosophies that influenced each other, many have unique methodologies which differ from those developed in the West. These include Hindu astrology (also known as "Indian astrology" and in modern times referred to as "Vedic astrology") and Chinese astrology, both of which have influenced the world's cultural history.

Western astrology is a form of divination based on the construction of a horoscope for an exact moment, such as a person's birth. It uses the tropical zodiac, which is aligned to the equinoctial points.

Western astrology is founded on the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies such as the Sun, Moon, planets, which are analyzed by their movement through signs of the zodiac (spatial divisions of the ecliptic) and by their aspects (angles) relative to one another. They are also considered by their placement in houses (spatial divisions of the sky). Astrology's modern representation in western popular media is usually reduced to sun sign astrology, which considers only the zodiac sign of the Sun at an individual's date of birth, and represents only 1/12 of the total chart. The names of the zodiac correspond to the names of the constellations originally within the respective segment and are in Latin.

Along with tarot divination, astrology is one of the core studies of Western esotericism, and as such has influenced systems of magical belief not only among Western esotericists and Hermeticists, but also belief systems such as Wicca that

have borrowed from or been influenced by the Western esoteric tradition. Tanya Luhrmann has said that "all magicians know something about astrology," and refers to a table of correspondences in Starhawk's *The Spiral Dance*, organized by planet, as an example of the astrological lore studied by magicians.

Hindu astrology originated with western astrology. In the earliest Indian astronomy texts, the year was believed to be 360 days long, similar to that of Babylonian astrology, but the rest of the early astrological system bears little resemblance. Later, the Indian techniques were augmented with some of the Babylonian techniques.

Hindu astrology is oriented toward predicting one's fate or destiny. Hindu astrology relies on the sidereal zodiac in which the signs of the zodiac are aligned to the position of the corresponding constellations in the sky. In order to maintain this alignment, Hindu astrology uses an adjustment, called *ayanamsa*, to take into account the gradual precession of the vernal equinox (the gradual shift in the orientation of the Earth's axis of rotation). In Hindu astrology the equinox occurs when the Sun is 6 degrees in Pisces. Western astrology places the equinox at the beginning of Aries, about 23 degrees after the equinox in the Hindu system. Hindu astrology also includes several sub-systems of zodiac division, and employs the notion of *bandhu*: connections that, according to the Vedas link the outer and the inner worlds.

Sri Lankan astrology is largely based on Hindu astrology with some modifications to bring it in line with Buddhist teachings. Tibetan astrology also shares many of these components but has also been strongly influenced by Chinese culture and acknowledges a circle of animal signs similar to that of the Chinese zodiac.

Chinese astrology has a close relation with Chinese philosophy (theory of the three harmonies: heaven, earth and man) and uses concepts such as yin and yang, the Five phases, the 10 Celestial stems, the 12 Earthly Branches, and *shichen* a form of timekeeping used for religious purposes). The early use of Chinese astrology was mainly confined to political astrology, the observation of unusual phenomena, identification of portents and the selection of auspicious days for events and decisions.

The Korean zodiac is identical to the Chinese one. The Vietnamese zodiac is almost identical to Chinese zodiac except that the second animal is the Water Buffalo instead of the Ox, and the fourth animal is the Cat instead of the Rabbit.

The Japanese zodiac includes the Wild Boar instead of the Pig. The Thai zodiac includes a Naga in place of the Dragon and begins, not at Chinese New Year, but at either on the first day of fifth month in Thai lunar calendar, or during the Songkran festival (now celebrated every 13-15 April), depending on the purpose of the use.

**History of Astrology:** Astrology, in its broadest sense, is the search for meaning in the sky. It has therefore been argued that astrology began as a study as soon as human beings made conscious attempts to measure, record, and predict seasonal changes by reference to astronomical cycles. Early evidence of such practices appears as markings on bones and cave walls, which show that lunar cycles were being noted as early as 25,000 years ago; the first step towards recording the Moon's influence upon tides and rivers, and towards organizing a communal calendar. Agricultural needs were also met by increasing knowledge of constellations, whose appearances change with the seasons, allowing the rising of particular star-groups to herald annual floods or seasonal activities.

By the third millennium BCE, widespread civilizations had developed sophisticated awareness of celestial cycles, and are believed to have consciously oriented their temples to create alignment with the heliacal risings of the stars.

There is scattered evidence to suggest that the oldest known astrological references are copies of texts made during this period. Two, from the Venus tablet of Ammisaduqa (compiled in Babylon around 1700 BCE) are reported to have been made during the reign of king Sargon of Akkad (2334-2279 BCE).

Another, showing an early use of electional astrology, is ascribed to the reign of the Sumerian ruler Gudea of Lagash (ca. 2144-2124 BCE). This describes how the gods revealed to him in a dream the constellations that would be most favorable for the planned construction of a temple. However, there is controversy about whether they were genuinely recorded at the time or merely ascribed to ancient rulers by posterity. The oldest undisputed evidence of the use of astrology as an integrated system of knowledge is therefore attributed to the records of the first dynasty of Mesopotamia (1950-1651 BCE).

The system of Chinese astrology was elaborated during the Zhou dynasty (1046-256 BC) and flourished during the Han Dynasty (2nd century BC to 2nd century AD), during which all the familiar elements of traditional Chinese culture - the Yin-Yang philosophy, theory of the 5 elements, Heaven and Earth, Confucian

morality - were brought together to formalise the philosophical principles of Chinese medicine and divination, astrology and alchemy.

Astrology was taken up by Islamic scholars following the collapse of Alexandria to the Arabs in the 7th century, and the founding of the Abbasid Empire in the 8th. The second Abbasid caliph, Al Mansur (754-775) founded the city of Baghdad to act as a centre of learning, and included in its design a library-translation centre known as Bayt al-Hikma Storehouse of Wisdom, which continued to receive development from his heirs and was to provide a major impetus for Arabic-Persian translations of Hellenistic astrological texts. The early translators included Mashallah, who helped to elect the time for the foundation of Baghdad, and Sahl ibn Bishr, (a.k.a. Zael), whose texts were directly influential upon later European astrologers such as Guido Bonatti in the 13th century, and William Lilly in the 17th century. Knowledge of Arabic texts started to become imported into Europe during the Latin translations of the 12th century, the effect of which was to help initiate the European Renaissance.

Other important Arabic astrologers include Albumasar and Al Khwarizmi, the Persian mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, who is considered the father of algebra and the algorithm. The Arabs greatly increased the knowledge of astronomical cycles, and many of the star names that remain in common use today, such as Aldebaran, Altair, Betelgeuse, Rigel and Vega retain the legacy of their language.

Astrology saw a popular revival from the nineteenth century as part of a general revival of spiritualism and later New Age philosophy, and through the influence of mass media such as newspaper horoscopes and astrology software.

Early in the twentieth century psychologist Carl Jung developed some concepts concerning astrology, which led to the development of psychological astrology.

Other new developments included Uranian astrology, Astrocartography and Financial astrology.

Core Beliefs: The core beliefs of astrology were prevalent in parts of the ancient world and are epitomized in the Hermetic maxim, "as above, so below". Tycho Brahe used a similar phrase to summarize his studies in astrology: *suspiciendo despicio*, "by looking up I see downward".

Although the principle that events in the heavens are mirrored by those on Earth was once generally held in most traditions of astrology around the world, in the West there has historically been a debate among astrologers over the nature of the mechanism behind astrology.

Although the connection between celestial mechanics and terrestrial dynamics was explored first by Isaac Newton with his development of a universal theory of gravitation, claims that the gravitational effects of the celestial bodies are what accounts for astrological generalizations are not substantiated by scientific research.

Most astrological traditions are based on the relative positions and movements of various real or construed celestial bodies and on the construction of implied or calculated celestial patterns as seen at the time and place of the event being studied. These are chiefly the astrological planets, the stars, the lunar nodes, Arabic parts and hypothetical planets.

The frame of reference for such apparent positions is defined by the tropical or sidereal zodiac of twelve signs on one hand, and by the local horizon (ascendant-descendant axis) and midheaven-imum coeli axis on the other. This latter (local) frame is typically further divided into the twelve astrological houses. Furthermore, the astrological aspects are used to determine the geometric/angular relationship(s) between the various celestial bodies and angles in the horoscope.

Predictive astrology, in the Western tradition, employs two main methods: astrological transits and astrological progressions. In astrological transits the ongoing movements of the planets are interpreted for their significance as they transit through space and the horoscope. In astrological progressions the horoscope is progressed forward in time according to set methods.

In Vedic astrology, the focus is on planetary periods to infer the trend, while transits are used to time significant events. Most Western astrologers no longer try to forecast actual events, but focus instead on general trends and developments. By comparison, Vedic astrologers predict both trends and events. Skeptics respond that this practice of western astrologers allows them to avoid making verifiable predictions, and gives them the ability to attach significance to arbitrary and unrelated events, in a way that suits their purpose.

In the past, astrologers often relied on close observation of celestial objects and the charting of their movements. Modern astrologers use data provided by astronomers which are transformed to a set of astrological tables called ephemerides, showing the changing zodiacal positions of the heavenly bodies through time.

**Cultural Influence:** In the West there have been occasional reports of political leaders consulting astrologers. Louis de Wohl worked as an astrologer for the British intelligence agency MI5, after it was claimed that Hitler used astrology to time his actions. The War Office was "interested to know what Hitler's own astrologers would be telling him from week to week". In fact de Wohl's predictions were so inaccurate that he was soon labelled a "complete charlatan" and it was later shown that Hitler considered astrology to be "complete nonsense". After John Hinckley's attempted assassination of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, first lady Nancy Reagan commissioned astrologer Joan Quigley to act as the secret White House astrologer. However, Quigley's role ended in 1988 when it became public through the memoirs of former chief of staff, Donald Regan.

In India, there is a long-established and widespread belief in astrology. It is commonly used for daily life, particularly in matters concerning marriage and career, and makes extensive use of electional, horary and karmic astrology. Indian politics has also been influenced by astrology. It remains considered a branch of the Vedanga. In 2001, Indian scientists and politicians debated and critiqued a proposal to use state money to fund research into astrology, resulting in permission for Indian universities to offer courses in Vedic astrology. In February 2011, the Bombay High Court reaffirmed astrology's standing in India when it dismissed a case which had challenged its status as a science.

In Japan, a strong belief in astrology has led to dramatic changes in the fertility rate and the number of abortions in the years of "Fire Horse". Women born in these years are called hinoeuma, and believed to be unmarriageable and to bring bad luck to their father or husband. In 1966, the number of babies born in Japan dropped by over 25% as parents tried to avoid the stigma of having a daughter born in the hinoeuma year.

**Scientific Appraisal:** Astrology is a pseudoscience that has not demonstrated its effectiveness in controlled studies and has no scientific validity. The majority of professional astrologers rely on performing astrology-based personality tests and making relevant predictions about the remunerators future. Those who continue to



have faith in astrology have been characterized as doing so "in spite of the fact that there is no verified scientific basis for their beliefs, and indeed that there is strong evidence to the contrary." Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson commented on astrological belief, noting that "part of knowing how to think is knowing how the laws of nature shape the world around us. Without that knowledge, without that capacity to think, you can easily become a victim of people who seek to take advantage of you".

The former astrologer, and scientist, Geoffrey Deans and psychologist Ivan Kelly conducted a large scale scientific test, involving more than one hundred cognitive, behavioral, physical and other variables, but found no support for astrology. Furthermore, a meta-analysis was conducted pooling 40 studies consisting of 700 astrologers and over 1000 birth charts. Ten of the tests, which had a total of 300 participants, involved subjects picking the correct chart interpretation out of a number of others which were not the astrologically correct chart interpretation (usually 3 to 5 others). When the date and other obvious clues were removed no significant results were found to suggest there was any preferred chart.

A further test involved 45 experienced astrologers, with an average of 10 years experience and 160 participants (out of an original sample size of 1198 participants) who strongly favored certain characteristics in the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire to extremes. The astrologers performed much worse than merely basing decisions off the individuals age, and much worse than 45 control subjects who didn't use birth charts at all.

Science and non-science are often distinguished by the criterion of falsifiability. The criterion was first proposed by philosopher of science Karl Popper. To Popper, science does not rely on induction, instead scientific investigations are inherently attempts to falsify existing theories through novel tests. If a single test fails, then the theory is falsified. Therefore, any test of a scientific theory must prohibit certain results which will falsify the theory, and expect other specific results which will be consistent with the theory. Using this criterion of falsifiability, astrology is a pseudoscience. Popper regarded astrology as "pseudo-empirical" in that "it appeals to observation and experiment", but "nevertheless does not come up to scientific standards".

In 1953, sociologist Theodor W. Adorno conducted a study of the astrology column of a Los Angeles newspaper as part of a project examining mass culture in

capitalist society. Adorno concluded that astrology was a large-scale manifestation of systematic irrationalism, where individuals were subtly being led to believe that the author of the column was addressing them directly through the use of flattery and vague generalizations.

**Astrology and Astronomy:** Astrology and astronomy were archaically one and the same discipline (Latin: *astrologia*), and were only gradually recognized as separate in Western 17th century philosophy (the "Age of Reason").

Since the 18th century they have come to be regarded as completely separate disciplines. Astronomy, the study of objects and phenomena originating beyond the Earth's atmosphere, is a science and is a widely-studied academic discipline. Astrology, which uses the apparent positions of celestial objects as the basis for psychology, prediction of future events, and other esoteric knowledge, is not a science and is typically defined as a form of divination.

In pre-modern times, most cultures have not made a clear distinction between the two disciplines, putting them both together as one.

In ancient Babylonia, famed for its astrology, there were not separate roles for the astronomer as predictor of celestial phenomena, and the astrologer as their interpreter; both functions were performed by the same person. This overlap does not mean that astrology and astronomy were always regarded as one and the same.

In ancient Greece, pre-Socratic thinkers such as Anaximander, Xenophanes, Anaximenes, and Heraclides speculated about the nature and substance of the stars and planets. Astronomers such as Eudoxus (contemporary with Plato) observed planetary motions and cycles, and created a geocentric cosmological model that would be accepted by Aristotle - this model generally lasted until Ptolemy, who added epicycles to explain the retrograde motion of Mars.

However, around 250 BC, Aristarchus of Samos postulated a proto-heliocentric theory, which would not be reconsidered for nearly two millennia (Copernicus), as Aristotle's geocentric model was favored. The Platonic school promoted the study of astronomy as a part of philosophy because the motions of the heavens demonstrate an orderly and harmonious cosmos. In the third century BC, Babylonian astrology began to make its presence felt in Greece.

Astrology was criticized by Hellenistic philosophers such as the Academic Skeptic Carneades and Middle Stoic Panaetius. However, the notions of the Great Year

(when all the planets complete a full cycle and return to their relative positions) and eternal recurrence were Stoic doctrines that made divination and fatalism possible.

In the Hellenistic world, the Greek words 'astrologia' and 'astronomia' were often used interchangeably, but they were conceptually not the same. Plato taught about 'astronomia' and stipulated that planetary phenomena should be described by a geometrical model. The first solution was proposed by Eudoxus. Aristotle favored a physical approach and adopted the word 'astrologia'. Eccentrics and epicycles came to be thought of as useful fictions. For a more general public, the distinguishing principle was not evident and either word was acceptable. For the Babylonian horoscopic practice, the words specifically used were 'apotelesma' and 'katarche'. but otherwise it was subsumed under the aristotelian term 'astrologia'.

In his compilatory work *Etymologiae*, Isidore of Seville noted explicitly the difference between the terms astronomy and astrology (*Etymologiae*, III, xxvii) and the same distinction appeared later in the texts of Arabian writers. Isidore identified the two strands entangled in the astrological discipline and called them *astrologia naturalis* and *astrologia superstitiosa*.

Astrology was widely accepted in medieval Europe as astrological texts from Hellenistic and Arabic astrologers were translated into Latin. In the late Middle Ages, its acceptance or rejection often depended on its reception in the royal courts of Europe. Not until the time of Francis Bacon was astrology rejected as a part of scholastic metaphysics rather than empirical observation.

A more definitive split between astrology and astronomy in the West took place gradually in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when astrology was increasingly thought of as an occult science or superstition by the intellectual elite. Because of their lengthy shared history, it sometimes happens that the two are confused with one another even today. Many contemporary astrologers, however, do not claim that astrology is a science, but think of it as a form of divination like the I-Ching, an art, or a part of a spiritual belief structure (influenced by trends such as Neoplatonism, Neopaganism, Theosophy, and Hinduism).

The primary goal of astronomy is to understand the physics of the universe. Astrologers use astronomical calculations for the positions of celestial bodies along the ecliptic and attempt to correlate celestial events (astrological aspects, sign positions) with earthly events and human affairs. Astronomers consistently use the

scientific method, naturalistic presuppositions and abstract mathematical reasoning to investigate or explain phenomena in the universe. Astrologers use mystical or religious reasoning as well as traditional folklore, symbolism and superstition blended with mathematical predictions to explain phenomena in the universe. The scientific method is not consistently used by astrologers.

Astrologers practice their discipline geocentrically and they consider the universe to be harmonious, changeless and static, while astronomers have employed the scientific method to infer that the universe is without a center and is dynamic, expanding outward.

Astrologers believe that the position of the stars and planets determine an individual's personality and future. Astronomers study the actual stars and planets, but have found no evidence supporting astrological theories. Psychologists study personality, and while there are many theories of personality, no mainstream theories in that field are based on astrology.

Both astrologers and astronomers see Earth as being an integral part of the universe, that Earth and the universe are interconnected as one cosmos (not as being separate and distinct from each other). However, astrologers philosophically and mystically portray the cosmos as having a supernatural, metaphysical and divine essence that actively influences world events and the personal lives of people. Astronomers, as members of the scientific community, cannot use in their scientific articles explanations that are not derived from empirically reproducible conditions, irrespective of their personal convictions. Scientific discourses must provide explanations based on known measurable laws of nature, according to which Earth is just as integral a part of the universe as are celestial objects.

Astrology and astronomy were indistinguishable for a very long time - the funding from astrology supported some astronomical research, which was in turn used to make more accurate ephemerides for use in astrology. In Medieval Europe the word *Astronomia* was often used to encompass both disciplines as this included the study of astronomy and astrology jointly and without a real distinction; this was one of the original Seven Liberal Arts. Kings and other rulers generally employed court astrologers to aid them in the decision making in their kingdoms, thereby funding astronomical research. University medical students were taught astrology as it was generally used in medical practice.

Astronomy and astrology diverged over the course of the 17th through 19th centuries. Copernicus didn't practice astrology (nor empirical astronomy; his work was theoretical), but the most important astronomers before Isaac Newton were astrologers by profession - Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, and Galileo Galilei. Newton most likely rejected astrology, however (as did his contemporary Christiaan Huygens), and interest in astrology declined after his era, helped by the increasing popularity of a Cartesian, "mechanistic" cosmology in the Enlightenment.

Also relevant here was the development of better timekeeping instruments, initially for aid in navigation; improved timekeeping made it possible to make more exact astrological predictions-predictions which could be tested, and which consistently proved to be false. By the end of the 18th century, astronomy was one of the major sciences of the Enlightenment model, using the recently codified scientific method, and was altogether distinct from astrology.

**Cognitive Bias:** It has also been suggested that much of the continued faith in astrology could be psychologically explained as a matter of cognitive bias. In 1949 Bertram Forer conducted a personality test on students. While seemingly giving the students individualized results, he instead gave each student exactly the same sheet that discussed their personality. The personality descriptions were taken from a book on Astrology. When the students were asked to comment on the accuracy of the test with a rating more than 40% gave it the top mark of 5 out of 5, and the average rating was 4. The results of this study have been replicated in numerous other studies. Thus, study of this Barnum/Forer effect has been mostly focused on the level of acceptance of fake horoscopes and fake astrological personality profiles. Recipients of these personality assessments consistently fail to distinguish common and uncommon personality descriptors.

By a process known as self-attribution, it has been shown in numerous studies that individuals with knowledge of astrology tend to describe their personality in terms of traits compatible with their star sign. The effect is heightened when the individuals were aware the personality description was being used to discuss astrology. Individuals who were not familiar with astrology had no such tendency.

**Lack of Consistency:** Testing the validity of astrology can be hard because there is no consensus amongst astrologers as to what astrology is or what it can predict. Most professional astrologers are paid to predict the future or describe a person's

personality and life, but most horoscopes only make vague untestable statements that can almost apply to any individual. Astrologers avoid making verifiable predictions and instead rely on making vague statements which allows them to try to avoid falsification.

**Lack of Mechanism:** Astrology has been criticized for failing to provide a physical mechanism that links the movements of celestial bodies to their purported effects on human behavior. In a lecture in 2001, Stephen Hawking stated "The reason most scientists don't believe in astrology is because it is not consistent with our theories that have been tested by experiment."

In 1975, amid increasing popular interest in astrology, *The Humanist* magazine presented a rebuttal of astrology in a statement put together by Bart J. Bok, Lawrence E. Jerome, and Paul Kurtz. The statement, entitled 'Objections to Astrology', was signed by 186 astronomers, physicists and leading scientists of the day. They said that there is no scientific foundation for the tenets of astrology and warned the public against accepting astrological advice without question. Their criticism focused on the fact that there was no mechanism whereby astrological effects might occur.

Astronomer Carl Sagan declined to sign the statement. Sagan said he took this stance not because he thought astrology had any validity, but because he thought that the tone of the statement was authoritarian, and that dismissing astrology because there was no mechanism (while "certainly a relevant point") was not in itself convincing. In a letter published in a follow-up edition of *The Humanist*, Sagan confirmed that he would have been willing to sign such a statement had it described and refuted the principal tenets of astrological belief. This, he argued, would have been more persuasive and would have produced less controversy.

Many astrologers claim that astrology is scientific. Some of these astrologers have proposed conventional causal agents such as electromagnetism and gravity. Scientists dismiss these mechanisms as implausible since, for example, the magnetic field, when measured from earth, of a large but distant planet such as Jupiter is far smaller than that produced by ordinary household appliances.

Other astrologers prefer not to attempt to explain astrology, and instead give it supernatural explanations such as divination. Carl Jung sought to invoke synchronicity to explain results on astrology from a single study he conducted, where no statistically significant results were observed. Synchronicity itself is

considered to be neither testable nor falsifiable. The study was subsequently heavily criticized for its non-random sample and its use of statistics and also its lack of consistency with astrology.

The word *astromancy* enters 17th century English from the medieval Latin *astromantia*, which comes from the Greek (Siculus Diodorus) *astromanteia*, derived from *astron* a star. In earliest example of its use in English it occurs in the New Latin form *astromantia*. Another, more recent, form is the rare *astronomancy*, which shows influence from the word *astronomy*. The term essentially died out after the 17th century. However, it reappears in the 19th century in a few sources. It occurs in Mackay where it is used as a substitute for Gaule's etymologically obscure *roadomancy*. Its appearance in Sir Richard Burton's translation of the *Arabian Nights' Entertainments* is not surprising as the use of archaic terms in this translation is a stylistic feature (for a further apposite example see *egromancy*). It is also to be met with in James Murray's definition of the term *astrology* in the OED. The assertion in Gaynor and Gibson that the term *astromancy* refers to an ancient form of astrology, and not the modern day practice is based on conjecture rather than evidence. Certainly there were many astrological methods and practices that are now abandoned or lost, but it is clear from the 17th century citations that the term *astromancy* is basically equivalent to the modern astrology.

**AUGURY:** is the general term for the art of divination and is chiefly applied to interpretations of signs and omens. Often used synonymously with divination to mean the interpretation of signs and omens. More accurately, it is divination based on the appearance or behavior of animals. Includes:

*Alectryomancy* (chickens); *Arachnomancy* (spiders); *Entomomancy* (insects); *Hippomancy* (horses) *Ichthyomancy* (fish); *Myomancy* (mice); *Ophiomancy* (snakes); *Zoomancy* (any animal); *Haruspicy* (interpreting animal entrails) is sometimes consider augury.

**AUSTROMANCY:** Divination by a study of the winds; presages taken from the wind. Cf. *aeromancy*, *chaomancy*. Derived from *austro-*, combining form of Latin *auster* the south wind. New Latin form *austromantia*. Basically a dictionary word, occurring mainly, and originally in dictionaries and thence other language reference books, laterly being found also in lists in books on the occult and magic. No record exists of it ever being in use. It is interesting to note that in the earliest occurrences

of this term the practice is ridiculed. This is common to many other terms ending in -mancy.

**AUTOGRAPHY, AUTOMATIC WRITING, AUTOMATIC SPEAKING":** Spirit communication done unconsciously by an individual often in trance, obsession or possession states. Automatic communication has occurred with people in a fully conscious state without their awareness of the action and distinct personality and knowledge variants (e.g.: fluency in an ancient language) have been documented. Autography and Automatic Writing apply to written communication and are also known as Psychography. They are distinct from Direct Writing where a spirit writes directly without human or mechanical assistance. All forms are distinct from Psychomancy where the diviner summons the spirit consciously for communication.

**AXIOMANCY, AXIONMANCY:** is divination through the observation of how an ax or hatchet quivers or points when driven into post. Divination using an axe or hatchet. Both the handle and the blade are used in various forms.

1. Any divination employing an axe or hatchet, various methods including
  - a. (a1660) placing an agate stone, piece of jet, or some other precious or semi-precious stone upon the axe-head and heating the metal, the signs being read from the movement of the agate.
  - b. (1727) by their movement when balanced on a post. See Gibson 1973 for more methods.
2. (Gaule, and copyists, only) divination by saws. I am wholly unable to account for this bizarre gloss. Liddle & Scott mention no such sense in ancient Greek. I presume that it is merely an error, such as one makes when tired or not fully paying attention to the task at hand. What is further unusual is that later writers did not fix the mistake, for even if one was unfamiliar with Greek the word axinomancy virtually screams axe at you!

From New Latin axinomantia, axiomantia: Cælius Calcagninus, *Compendium amatoriæ magiæ* (ed. Froben Bale, 1544) "Axinomantia belle ab Homero indicata, dum per secures experitur procos." From Latin axinomantia, from ancient Greek axine an axe, also an axehead. Showing elision: axiomancy -recorded first in Blount, but also occurring in New Latin (Agrippa) axiomantia). ? Under influence of other words ending in -onomancy: axionomancy - recorded only in Urquhart,



who followed Cotgrave's spelling. Badly formed: ax-onomancy (Raffel). New Latin form: axinomantia.

## B

**BELOMANCY:** is an ancient form of divination performed by tossing or balancing arrows. Divination through interpreting arrows. This type of divination is expressly forbidden in the Koran. Also known as Bolomancy. A word primarily used to refer to the divination mentioned in the Bible at Ezekiel 21:21. Called in Latin *sortes sagittariæ*. Often considered to be a subtype of rhabdomancy. Derived from Late Greek *belomantia*, from *belos* an arrow, a dart. *bellomancy*, (?) *bolomancy*. New Latin *belomantia*. One method involved throwing the arrows in the air, the point in which the arrows inclined pointed out the direction to be taken.

**BIBLIOMANCY:** involves divination by books. Bibliomancy is divination by means of a book. A book (the Bible and Koran are often used) is opened at random and the perspn points to a line while keeping his eyes closed. The randomly chosen line is believed to convey a message of significance. Originally, the divination used to assess the guilt or innocence of a person accused of sorcery. The person was weighed against the great Bible in the Church and if the person weighed less than the bible they were deemed innocent. Today, bibliomancy refers to divination interpreting randomly chosen passages in books and is also called *stichomancy*. The most common form is opening a book to a random page to answer a question. The Bible is still the most frequently used book, although any book may be used. Using books by Virgil and Homer specifically is called *stoichemancy*.

1. The variant of using a book of poetry is called *rhapsodomancy*.
  - a. (Originally) divination by means of a book in which a passage chosen at random carries the omen; *sortes*. The ancients used the works of Homer (*sortes Homericæ*) and Virgil (*sortes Virgilianæ*) for this purpose. Moslems have similarly used the Koran.
  - b. In Christian times the Bible was used for this purpose (*sortes Biblicæ*).
2. A form of divination in which a person was weighed against the great Bible of the church, those weighing less being innocent as charged.

A relatively modern word, dating only back to the 18th century. From Greek *biblion* a book. Definition 1.b. arising from an association with the word Bible.

Bibliomancy is the practice of seeking spiritual insight by selecting a random passage from a Holy Book.

Bibliomancy is divination using a book, sometimes a bible is used. The book will be opened at a random page and while keeping your eyes closed you will point at a line or passage in the book. Moslems use the Quran for this divination. During the middle ages Virgil's Aeneid was popular.

It is a form of Stichomancy or Libromancy ("divination from lines"), which involves selecting a random passage from a random book of any nature.

Bibliomancy and Stichomancy have been popular methods of divination for at least 3000 years, when the I Ching was first used to divine the future.

Method:

- Pick a book you believe to hold truth.
- Balance it on its spine; let it fall open.
- With eyes closed, touch your finger to any random passage.
- View the passage as wisdom to your future.

St. Francis of Assisi, to seek divine guidance, is said to have thrice opened to a random page of the book of Gospels in the church of St. Nicholas. Each time he opened to a passage in which Christ told His disciples to leave their earthly belongings and follow Him.

Because book owners frequently have favorite passages that the books open themselves to, some practitioners use dice or another randomizer to choose the page to be opened. This practice was formalized by the use of coins or yarrow stalks in consulting the I Ching. Tarot can also be considered a form of bibliomancy, with the main difference that the cards (pages) are unbound.

Another variant requires the selection of a random book from a library before selecting the random passage from that book. This also holds if a book has fallen down from a shelf on its own.

Chartomancy, from the Latin charta, meaning 'paper', it is the art and practice of divination by interpreting the writings in literary or musical works, official papers,

letters, manuscripts, documents, and so forth. Chartomancy it is considered to be a form of Bibliomancy.

**BOLOMANCY:** See Belomancy. **BOOK OF CHANGES, The:** An ancient Chinese system of oracular divination that reveals patterns of subtle forces. The questioner is required to interpret the information provided through deep introspection and intuitive thought. The Book of Changes dates back to about 2852 B.C. Also known as I Ching.

**BOTANOMANCY:** is divination from burning tree branches and leaves. A form of pyromancy, interpreting burned or burning tree branches and leaves. Originally the branches of brier and vervain were used and the question was carved into the branch. Often used today to refer to divination by the interpretation of plants. Hence, used to refer to tea-leaf reading, or tasseomancy. Also used as an umbrella term for other types of divination involving plants, see anthomancy, daphnomancy, dendromancy, floromancy, foliomancy, and sycomancy. Batanomancy, Botinomancy, Botomancy, Botonomancy, Botono-nomancy.

**BRIZOMANCY:** A form of ancient Greek divination by interpreting dreams with the help of the goddess Brizo, the goddess of dreams worshipped at Delos. The original source of this rare word is a famous glossary by an ancient Greek lexicographer of the early third century AD. By modern Greek scholars Hesychius' lexicon is regarded as relatively unreliable and many of the terms he records are not to be found elsewhere in the extant corpus of ancient Greek. Liddle & Scott did not record terms if they only could be found in Hesychius and nowhere else. However, formerly his lexicon was not so deprecated. From ancient Greek Brizomantis diviner of dreams, an appellation the goddess Brizo of Delos, from brizo to be sleepy, to slumber or sleep. Possibly related to britho to be heavy, to be weighed down.

**BRONTOMANCY:** Divination via thunder. Derived from ancient Greek bronte thunder.

**BUMPOLOGY:** strictly a modern term, a popular nickname for PHRENOLOGY.

## C

**CAPNOMANCY:** is the study of smoke rising from a fire. Divination by interpreting smoke rising from a fire, especially sacred fires. A form of pyromancy.

Derived from New Latin capnomantia, from Gk kapnos smoke; cf. F capnomantie (Cotgrave), Sp, Pg capnomancia. Capnomancie, Kapnomancy.

**CARROMANCY:** Divination by interpreting melting wax (usually poured into cold water). Also called Ceromancy, Ceroscopy. A variant spelling of ceromancy occurring in Gaule.

**CARTOMANCY:** is fortune telling using cards such as the Tarot. divination by cards. Tarot cards are the most common used. Divination using modern playing cards. Some sources include Tarot and other Divination cards in this category.

**CASTRONOMANCY:** Divination via looking into images on the surface of water in a glass or magical receptacle. If spring water is used in this method of divination, or if the diviner uses a sacred pool or spring, then it is termed Pegomancy.

**CATOPTROMANCY , CATOXTROMANCY, CATTOBOMANCY, ENOPTROMANCY, CALOTROMANCY, CATOPTOMANCY:** is an early form of crystal gazing that utilizes a mirror turned to the moon to catch moonbeams. Divination by interpreting images in a reflective or transparent object such as a mirror, crystal globe or pool of water. The earliest recorded form of catoptromancy turned a mirror toward the moon to catch moonbeams. Also known as Crystallomancy, Crystalomancy, Dubjed, Enoptromancy, Scrying. Divination based on how a face appears when viewed in a mirror underwater. Derived from New Latin catoptromantia (Agrippa), or directly from French catoptromancie, from ancient Greek katoptron mirror (katop- stem of the future of kathoran look down, look upon, from kata down + oran to see). (cataptromancy, catopromancy, catoptromancie, catoptromancy, catoptiomancy). Performance of the Dorje Yudronma mirror divination should be done in a quite and peaceful place. The mirror is placed in a container filled with grain, itself standing on top on a clean felt cushion. The diviner then sprinkles vermilion powder (Sindura) and recites the mantras of the ritual. In front of the mirror is placed a small crystal stupa or a piece of crystal, and at the back, a five coloured flag (representing the Buddhas of the five families) is attached to an arrow. On the right, is a ritual cake offering decorated with butter ornaments and on the left a red coloured cake offering. Around these are arranged offerings of drink, roasted barley flour (tsampa) mixed with butter, incense and various kinds of wood. In front of himself or herself, the diviner places a vajra, a bell and a damaru (drum), some barley and vermilion

powder to sprinkle in the drink, as well as an arrow to which is tied a white scarf. He or she then generates himself or herself as a deity and performs the preliminary ritual for removing obstacles according to the ritual of Tam. Following this, invocations are made to Dorje Yudronma, one of Tibet's chief protectors, who holds an arrow with the five colours in her right hand and a white silver mirror in her left. The diviner then requests the goddess to give a correct answer to the questions asked. The minor is not read by the diviner but by a virgin boy or girl no more than 15 years old. The child, who must be clean and well dressed, sits on a cushion under which has been drawn a swastika, symbol of stability. He or she is asked to pick up a stone, wrap it in a piece of red cloth and place it under his or her knee and is made to drink the orange tinted libation. Blessed ears of barley are placed on the child's head, which is then wrapped with a turban. The diviner cleans the mirror and lights the butter lamp. The child looks into the mirror and, depending on the type of divination which has been requested, sees either pictures, like sequences in a film or letters. Letters require written questions, which have been given to the diviner. The child describes the visions to the diviner who interprets and explains them in terms of the questions which have been asked. The reader of the mirror has no knowledge of the questions asked and the diviner does not see the mirror; however, they are complementary and mutually dependent for this type of divination. The child's ability to read the mirror disappears at puberty, and thus the diviner may use different children at different times.

**Mirror Scrying:** Mirror scrying is an evolved form of water scrying. When it became possible to build mirrors they were regarded as being like water that was fixed into one place.

The early mirrors were made of polished copper, brass, marcasite, tin foil or mercury behind glass, polished silver and obsidian. All types of mirrors may be used for scrying and the size is not important.

Because mirrors are linked to the moon mirrors should be backed with silver. Try and use a round or oval mirror instead of a square mirror.

For the frame try and use a mirror that has a silver frame. Old mirrors also seem to work better than new mirrors.

Most seers prefer to use a black mirror. Because this is difficult to buy you may have to make one.

Just simply take out the glass and paint it black. You may have to give it a few coats of paint though. When you put it back in the frame make sure the glass part is to the front.

The use of black mirrors may be traced back over the centuries. Alchemists Edward Kelley and John Dee used a black mirror of shewstone - a piece of polished obsidian.

Catoxtromancy is a form of divination by means of looking glasses. In ancient Rome, special diviners known as "blindfolded boys" were known to gaze into mirrors in order to experience visions of the future or of the unknown, and according to the 4th century 'Scriptores Historiae Augustae' the death of Julian the Apostate was accurately predicted by diviners using this method.

When using the black mirror for scrying you do not want to see your reflection. The best is to leave the mirror on a table and look at it from an angle.

Look into the depths of the mirror as though you were looking into a bowl of water. At first it may appear gray than colors will come and go.

With time and practice you will be able to see sacred images like still photographs or moving film images. Spirits may sometimes look at the scryer, talk to the scryer or even touch the scryer. The visions may even exist outside the mirror and surround the scryer on all sides.

Other Methods of Mirror Scrying: Black Obsidian Mirror: This type of Mirror Scrying involves messages received on a mirror ...

- After it is steamed up in an area such as bathroom - these messages appear in totality and not no develop as if a script or art design. They may come from the consciousness of the scryer.
- Standing in a dark room with a flashlight a few inches below your face and stare into the mirror for a few minutes. You will see your features change then change again. Some believe this reflects who you are in a parallel or past life. The same exercise may be done by carefully using a candle held safely below the face. After you stop scrying, take a look at the wax droppings for further information linked to what you say in your mirror images.

Remember, when it comes to reality, it's all done with mirrors...

Mirror Scrying: Mirrors that are steamed up can leave messages or impressions from the other side. Mirrors can serve as 'windows' to other realities. Mirror images manifests all at once as they come from consciousness.

Mirror Scrying:

1. The diviner goes into the bathroom and shut the door and window so hot air will be temporarily trapped in the room. Clean the mirror. Allow hot water to run in the sink or shower until the mirror steams up. Watch for images to emerge, either immediately or after a few minutes.
  - a. An entire picture, or part of something can manifest. Observe the mirror from various angles. You may be surprised at what you see! Messages and symbols received are subject to personal interpretation.
2. The Diviner stand in a dark room facing a mirror. Place a flashlight under your face. Do not move. Stare into the mirror and watch your features change. Some believe you are looking at yourself in a parallel or past life.
  - a. They also do this with a candle held beneath your face, but not too close. The candle holder must have a large base to capture the wax drippings as they fall.

Magic Mirrors in Past History: Magic mirrors were allegedly used in ancient times to see the future.

In Persia the Magi used mirrors.

In the East they were called Stellar Mirrors.

In Rome people who read mirrors were called Specularii. Pica della Mirandola had faith in them providing they were made under a favorable constellation, and that they should only be consulted when one felt comfortably warm, for the cold harms the lucidity of their oracle.

The Chinese and the Hindus made their mirrors out of metal - their shapes concave or convex.

Some bore the name of their inventor (Cagliostro, Swedenborg, etc.)

More recently they have been used to fix the eye of clairvoyants or mediums so as to put them into a state of hypnosis.

Cahagnet, in his *Magnetic Magic*, quotes the principal mirrors as follows:

- The Theurgic Mirror - a bottle of clear water looked at by a child and in which the Archangel Gabriel replies by pictures to his questions.
- The Mirror of the Sorcerers - any kind of mirror or pail of water. The country sorcerer, standing near the consultant, recites a spell and shows him the reflection of the picture wanted.
- The Mirror of Cagliostro - the bottle of clear water is on a piece of furniture, and before it a child, on whose head the operator places one hand and tells him the questions to ask, to which replies are given in allegorical pictures.
- The Mirror of du Polet - a piece of cardboard having pasted on one side a sheet of tin and on the other a piece of black cloth. The operator magnetizes it strongly and places it a foot away from the eye of the consultant who, having fixed his eyes on it, soon sees in it the desired object.
- The Swedenborgian Mirror - a paste of graphite mixed with olive oil is poured on an ordinary mirror and allowed to dry for a few days. The consultant, whose image must not be reflected (he stands at some distance for this reason) looks into it, whilst the operator stares magnetically at the back of his head, and vision takes place.
- The Magnetic Mirror - a round crystal globe filled with magnetized water at which the consultant looks carefully until the desired vision appears.
- The Narcotic Mirror - similar globe but a narcotic powder made of belladonna, henbane, mandragora, hemp, poppy, etc., is dissolved in the water.
- The Galvanic Mirror - it is made of two discs, one of copper and concave, the other of zinc and convex, both magnetized nine times in nine days. The center of the concave is looked at.

**CATTABOMANCY:** A term used by Gaule for the ancient Greek divinatory game of 'kottabos'. The game originated in Sicily, but became popular among young men in Athens. The "simplest mode was when each threw the wine left in his cup, so as to strike smartly in a metal basin, at the same time invoking his mistress' name; if all fell in the basin, and the sound was clear, it was a sign he stood well with her. ..The game soon became more complicated, and was played in various ways." (Liddle and Scott). See also, chalcomancy. The word was coined by Gaule from



the Greek kottabos the game of kottabos, also the metal basin used in the game. It has not been recorded in the OED or any other dictionary, and appears in Gaule and his copyists. The only modern book on divination to record it is Gibson who gives a catch-all definition and seems unaware of the ancient Greek game. As far as I know none of the popular books on divination or the occult mention the Greek game of kottabos.

**CAUSIMOMANCY CAUSINOMANCY:** is divination from behavior of objects placed in a fire. Divination from observing the behavior or reaction of objects placed in a fire. It is a particularly good sign if combustible materials do not catch fire. See empyromancy, pyromancy. Derived from the Greek *kausimos* fit for burning, from *kausis* a burning, burning heat. Not recorded in OED or other dictionaries except the Macquarie, where it appears in the erroneous form *causinomancy*.

**CENEROMANCY:** A rare term for divination by ashes, the more common term being *tephramancy*. The fine distinction drawn between this and *tephramancy* in the citation is probably illusory. Derived from *cenero-*, a rare, early modern English combining form of Latin *cinerem* ashes. This word, along with a number of words listed by Shipley, is not recorded elsewhere. The form of the word is consistent with 17th century spelling. The OED records *cenereous* and *ceneritious* as "erroneous" forms of *cinereous* and *cineritious*. Perhaps Shipley knew of some source that I have not yet discovered.

**CEPHALEONOMANCY:** Divination by roasting an ass's head on hot coals. Derived from ancient Greek *kephalos* a head + *onos* an ass. Also *Cephalonomancy*.

**CEPHALOMANCY:** refers to divination with the skull or head of a donkey or goat. Divination interpreting the skull or head of a donkey or goat. Also known as *Kephalonomancy*.

1. *Cephaleonomancy*.
2. Divination by study of the shape of the skull or head, esp. of a donkey or goat.

In all likelihood the word 'boiling' in Urquhart is a typographical error for 'broiling', since the method required viewing the falling or movement of the donkey's jaw-bone and the precise time this happened, a thing not easily determined whilst boiling. Further the boiling of something 'upon hot coals' is

nonsense, one boils something 'in some liquid'. This error has been copied in later editions of Urquhart, and also found its way into later -mancy lists. This form of the word literally means 'divination by a head' and would thus apply to any sort of head divination, whereas 'cephaleonmancy' literally means 'divination by an ass's head'.

Derived from ancient Greek kephalos a head. Kephalomancy; NL Cephalomantia.

CERAUNOSCOPY, CERAUNOMANCY: seeks to draw omens from the study of thunder and lightning. Divination by interpreting thunder and lightning. A form of Aeromancy. Derived from ancient Greek keraunos thunder, a thunderbolt. This is not the usual term, ie ceraunoscopia, from Greek keraunoskopia.

CEROSCOPY, CEROMANCY: Divination in which melted wax is poured into cold water, forming bubbles which are then interpreted. See Carromancy.

CHALCOMANCY: Divination by striking brass or copper vessels. Mackay's word for Gaule's 'cattabomancy', which see. From ancient Greek chalkos copper.

CHAOMANCY: Divination by interpreting aerial visions. A form of Aeromancy. A Paracelsian term for divination by the air. See aeromancy. From New Latin chaomantia, from Greek (Paracelsian) chaos the atmosphere. Chaomantia, (? erroneous) Chaomandy.

CHARTOMANCY: Divination using writing paper. Divination by interpreting inscriptions written on paper or cards. A Gaulean word. The "choosing Valentines" mentioned by Brand refers to a custom of choosing valentines by writing names of a group of males and females on pieces of paper and selecting them at random. This parenthetic information added by Brand is found in Hone, proving his reliance upon Brand. Robbins, on the other hand, actually quotes from Gaule's original text. Derived from ancient Greek chartes a leaf of paper.

CHEIROMANCY, CHIROGNOMY, CHIROLOGY, CHIROMANCY: Divination through analysis of hand shape, fingers, fingernails and the palms. According to legend, it is one of the oldest Witch skills, taught to mortals by Aradia, daughter of Lucifer and Diana. Also known as Palmistry: is divination from the lines on people's hands. This is one of the pseudo-sciences of reflexology.

CHEROMOMANCY, CHEROMANCY: clearly a mistake in Urquhart for cleromancy, however it is unclear how such a gross error could have eventuated. It

could certainly not have arisen from a misreading of a handwritten manuscript by the typesetter nor from a simple typographical mistake. This curious word was sometimes (faithfully) copied into later editions of Urquhart. Most editions of Urquhart silently correct the mistake, and later translations of Rabelais follow the French and give cleromancy - see citations 1951, 1955. However, some alter it to cheromancy, an equally spurious form. Neither form is recorded in OED, though this would have made a nice story, and explained the word to some undoubtedly mystified English readers of Rabelais.

The original passage in Rabelais read: "Par cleromantie, comme l'on trouve la febe on guasteau la vigile de l'Epiphanie."

The practice referred to is one found in various European countries where a nominal King or Queen is chosen on the night of the Feast of the Epiphany (ie Twelfth Night) by dividing up a cake that has had a bean baked in it. The person to get the bean is accordingly the King or Queen, and has to shout the rest of the company for the evening. The fact that this custom relies on a 'random' selection makes it a form of cleromancy.

Urquhart had made mention of this custom in an earlier work. According to Brand Popular Antiquities i. 23:

Sir Thomas Urquhart, of Cromarty, in his curious work, entitled The Discovery of a most exquisite jewel, found in the kennel of Worcester streets, the day after the fight, 1651, says, p. 237, "Verily, I think they make use of Kings - as the French on the Epiphany-day use their Roy de la feve, or King of the Bean; whom after they have honoured with drinking of his health, and shouting aloud, 'Le Roy boit, Le Roy boit,' they make pay for all the reckoning; not leaving him sometimes one penny, rather than exorbitance of their debosh should not be satisfied to the full."

**CHILOMANCY:** An error for clidomancy, apparently arising from an error in transcribing handwritten text. The element 'chilo-' is normally used in scientific compounds to signify 'lip', from New Latin chilo-, from Greek cheilos lip.

**CHIROGNOMY:** is the study of the general hand formation.

**CHOIRAMANCY:** A method of divination using a pig's bladder. To what particular practice this word refers is unknown. Potter in his Archaeologia

Graeca mentions: Sometimes, when the entrails foretold nothing certain by dissection, the priest made observations from them in a fire: in order hereto he took the bladder, and binding the neck of it with wool (for which reason Sophocles calls the bladders mallodetous kysteis), put it into the fire, to observe in what place it would break, and which way it would dart the urine.

Though this doesn't specifically refer to pigs. This word comes into English through Thomas Urquhart's translation of Rabelais. In the French text it appears as choeromantie, and is derived from the Greek choiros a small pig, a pig. The variant form, namely: choeromancy, choeromancy, and choiromancy, all show editorial substitution of the normal connective -o-, where Urquhart has -a-.

**CHRESMOMANCY:** Defined by Gibson as "divination from the utterances of a person in a frenzy". This rare word, not recorded elsewhere, is derived from the Greek chresmos an oracular pronouncement, a prophecy. Itself a derivative of the Greek chrao to pronounce, to proclaim, to give a needful answer, stemming from a basic meaning "to furnish what is needful". The given definition is referring to the fact that ancient Greek oracles used to go into a state of divine frenzy in order to gain information from the gods so that they might make an oracular statement. A better definition would seem to be "oracular divination".

**CHRONOMANCY:** Divination to find the best time to plane future events. Divination to determine the precise time for action. Derived from the Greek word chronos time. An uncommon term.

**CHRYSTALLOMANCY:** See Crystallomancy.

**CIROMANCY:**

1. A Middle English variant of chiromancy.
2. A variant spelling of ceromancy.

**CLAIRAUDIENCE:** is "clear hearing" of divinatory information. Parapsychologist generally regard as a form of extrasensory perception. Divination through hearing the future. Clairaudience is often categorized under the broader heading of Clairvoyance. Hearing the metaphysical and in most cases a subcategory under telepathy in the respect you can hear what goes on in the Meta, including spirit guides and angels speaking to you.

**CLAIGUSTANT:** Divination via taste. The gift ability to sense a being or the metaphysical by taste.

**CLAIRSENTENT:** divination via touch, feeling, sensation. Feeling the metaphysical and the vibrations of it. This ability shares like components with Psychometry in that it can see the history of an object by touch. This happens as a feeling received off of an object perhaps an emotion.

**CLAIRVOYANCE:** is "clear seeing" of divinatory information. Parapsychologists generally regard it as a form of extrasensory perception. Divination through seeing the future. Clairvoyance specifically refers to the visual image of future events, but other forms of "seeing" the future are commonly called clairvoyance including: Clairaudience (hearing); Metagnomy (induced through hypnotic trance); Precognition (inner knowing); and Psychometry (induced through contact with a physical object). Seeing the future and looking beyond the present by following the stretch or path of time. This ability allows one to see that which is beyond the normal range of seeing. With this ability a psychic is able to see the metaphysical with the "third eye", this is closely related to astral projection, but of course all gifts are closely related to one and other. Clairvoyance is the minute aspect of the third eye capabilities. This ability shares like components with Psychometry in that it can see what is to come.

**CLAIRVOYANT:** See Ariolater or Oracle. Seeing the future and looking beyond the present by following the stretch or path of time. This ability allows one to see that which is beyond the normal range of seeing. With this ability a psychic is able to see the metaphysical with the "third eye", this is closely related to astral projection, but of course all gifts are closely related to one and other. Clairvoyance is the minute aspect of the third eye capabilities. This ability shares like components with Psychometry in that it can see what is to come.

**CLEDOMANCY, CLEDONOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting random events or statements.

**CLEDONISMANCY:** Divination by first words uttered upon meeting friends, after salutations. Derived from ancient Greek kledonisma a sign or omen. (cledonismantia).

**CLEDONOMANCY:** Divination by chance remarks overheard. Derived from ancient Greek kledon an omen, a presage contained in a word, sound or chance utterance. (cledomancy).

**CLEIDOMANCY:** A form of radiesthesia (divination using a pendulum) using a suspended key as the pendulum. Also known as Clidomancy. Divination by means of a dangling key. From New Latin clidomantia, from ancient Greek kleid-, combining form of kleis a key. Clidomancy, Chilomancy (err.), Kleidomancy.

**CLEROMANCY:** is divination by "casting lots", similar to dice but with objects such as pebbles or sea shells. Divination by sortilege with dice. It is sometimes used synonymously with Sortilege (divination by casting or drawing lots).

1. (Generally) divination by casting lots.
2. (Specifically) a. divination by throwing of dice, or other marked objects, such as beans, bones or pebbles.
  - a. Used to denote a specific divination involving a bean baked in a cake; see [cheromancy](#).

From New Latin cleromantia, Middle French cleromancie, medieval Latin cleromantia, from ancient Greek kleros a lot. cf. French cl?romancie, Sp cleromancia.

**CLIDOMANCY or CLEIDOMANCY:** is divination using a dangling key. see **RADIESTHESIA**. See Cleidomancy.

**COCK-OMANCY:** A new form, invented by Raffel to translate Rabelais' alectryomantie.

**COLLIMANCY:** A jocular nonce-word for a supposed method of divination using the lines on the neck.

**CONCHOMANCY:** Divination via sea shells. Derived from Latin concha, from ancient Greek konche muscle, cockle, shell.

**Shell Scrying:** This is a modern method of scrying and is becoming more popular. Most people are familiar with the sound of when a shell is placed over the ear. Shell Scrying is listening to the sounds of the ocean which often reverberate sounds in the atmosphere and may bring messages. Nautilus - Golden Ratio - Sacred Geometry.

Sacred Geometry: Sacred geometry involves sacred universal patterns used in the design of everything in our reality, most often seen in sacred architecture and sacred art. The basic belief is that geometry and mathematical ratios, harmonics and proportion are also found in music, light, and cosmology. This value system is seen as widespread even in prehistory, a cultural universal of the human condition.

It is considered foundational to building sacred structures such as temples, mosques, megaliths, monuments and churches; sacred spaces such as altars, temenoi and tabernacles; meeting places such as sacred groves, village greens and holy wells and the creation of religious art, iconography and using "divine" proportions. Alternatively, sacred geometry based arts may be ephemeral, such as visualization, sand painting and medicine wheels.

Sacred geometry may be understood as a worldview of pattern recognition, a complex system of religious symbols and structures involving space, time and form. According to this view the basic patterns of existence are perceived as sacred. By connecting with these, a believer contemplates the Great Mysteries, and the Great Design. By studying the nature of these patterns, forms and relationships and their connections, insight may be gained into the mysteries - the laws and lore of the Universe.

Sacred Geometry Jewelry: Christ grid; Flower of life; Merkaba

David's work harnesses the power of spiritual symbols and sacred geometry from around the world to bring those wearing them health, happiness, vitality, abundance, excitement, and above all - love. David's jewels are meticulously crafted to work on conscious and subconscious levels to inspire people's lives.

Nature's Design: Many forms observed in nature can be related to geometry (for sound reasons of resource optimization). For example, the chambered nautilus grows at a constant rate and so its shell forms a logarithmic spiral to accommodate that growth without changing shape. Also, honeybees construct hexagonal cells to hold their honey. These and other correspondences are seen by believers in sacred geometry to be further proof of the cosmic significance of geometric forms. But some scientists see such phenomena as the logical outcome of natural principles.

Golden Ratio, Divine Proportion, Phi, Consciousness.

Cosmology: Close-up of inner section of the Kepler's Platonic solid model of planetary spacing in the Solar system from *Mysterium Cosmographicum* (1596).

Cosmology: Harmony of the Spheres: In Johannes Kepler's timeline (1571-1630), a belief in the geometric underpinnings of the cosmos persisted among scientists. Kepler explored the ratios of the planetary orbits, at first in two dimensions (having spotted that the ratio of the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn approximate to the in-circle and out-circle of an equilateral triangle). When this did not give him a neat enough outcome, he tried using the Platonic solids. In fact, planetary orbits can be related using two-dimensional geometric figures, but the figures do not occur in a particularly neat order. Even in his own lifetime (with less accurate data than we now possess) Kepler could see that the fit of the Platonic solids was imperfect. However, other geometric configurations are possible.

Galaxies; North polar hexagonal cloud on Saturn; The Great Pyramid Above and Below; Geometry of the Great Pyramid; The Great Pyramid Geometrically Links to the Belt of Orion.

Art and Architecture: In ancient civilizations the golden ratio (sacred geometry) was often employed in the design of art and architecture - from the simple spiral to more complex designs. Today sacred geometry is still used in the planning and construction of many structures such as churches, temples, mosques, religious monuments, altars, tabernacles, sacred spaces and the creation of religious art.

Mandalas; Flower of Life; Swastika; Labyrinth; Parthenon; Crop Circle Images; M.C. Escher Art

Music: A modern theory states that reality is created by harmonics following the patterns of sacred geometry.

Stuart Mitchell - Decoding Roslyn Chapel: Pythagoras is often credited for discovering that an oscillating string stopped halfway along its length produces an octave relative to the string's fundamental, while a ratio of 2:3 produces a perfect fifth and 3:4 produces a perfect fourth. However the Chinese already had instruments that were thousands of years older, such as the Guqin that also feature these tonal scales. Pythagoreans believed that these harmonic ratios gave music powers of healing which could "harmonize" an out-of-balance body. This belief has been revived in modern times.



In the News: Golden Ratio Discovered in the Quantum World Epoch Times - January 20, 2010. The golden ratio, which is equal to approximately 1.618, can be found in various aspects of our life, including biology, architecture, and the arts. But only recently was it discovered that this special ratio is also reflected in nanoscale, thanks to researchers from the U.K.'s Oxford University. Their research, published in the journal Science on Jan. 8, examined chains of linked magnetic cobalt niobate (CoNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>) particles only one particle wide to investigate the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. They applied a magnetic field at right angles to an aligned spin of the magnetic chains to introduce more quantum uncertainty. Following the changes in field direction, these small magnets started to magnetically resonate.

Researcher explains mystery of golden ratio PhysOrg - December 21, 2009: The Egyptians supposedly used it to guide the construction the Pyramids. The architecture of ancient Athens is thought to have been based on it. Fictional Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon tried to unravel its mysteries in the novel The Da Vinci Code. "It" is the golden ratio, a geometric proportion that has been theorized to be the most aesthetically pleasing to the eye and has been the root of countless mysteries over the centuries. Now, a Duke University engineer has found it to be a compelling springboard to unify vision, thought and movement under a single law of nature's design.

Sacred Geometry: Reality is a consciousness hologram set in linear time to experience and record human emotions. Reality is science and math. The term "sacred geometry" is often used by archaeologists, anthropologists, geometricians, and metaphysicians to encompass the religious, philosophical, and spiritual beliefs that have sprung up around this geometry in various cultures during the course of the human biogenetic experiment.

Sacred Geometry is abbreviated SG referencing Stargate, the Wheel of Time or Karma through which we experience and evolve. We are soul sparks of light having a physical experience, our consciousness spiral down through the patterns of the golden ratio, now about to reverse the spiral (spin) and return to source consciousness and light. To understand reality is to focus on the patterns that have repeated throughout time, as if on a higher octave with each programmed experience for the souls. Science and science fiction are merging in the twenty first

century when all becomes clear and the nature of reality, as based on a sacred geometric design, is understood. It's really not that complicated.

COMETOMANCY: Divination via omens taken from comets.

COSKINOMANCY COSKIOMANCY: is divination using a hanging sieve. see RADIESTHESIA.. A form of radiesthesia (divination using a pendulum) using a sieve which was sometimes suspended from tongs or shears. This type of divination was usually used to discover thieves and criminals in general. A method of divination employing a sieve and a pair of shears. Divinations were taken from the movement of the sieve upon the saying of a person's name, a word, etc. This word and method of divination come to us from ancient Greece, and a certain passage from Theocritus (floruit 272 B.C.) is often quoted as a reference to this type of divination though a number of other Greek authors have spoken of it (Philippides, Pollux, Lucianus). The term comes into English via both New and medieval Latin coscinomantia, and is derived from the Greek koskinomantis a diviner using a sieve, from koskinon a sieve.

The variant forms may be categorized as follows:

1. Those arising from different transliterations of the Greek letter kappa (K): Choschinomancy, Choschinomancie (prob. from misreading Greek kappa (K) as chi (ch) Coskinomancy, Koskinomancy.
2. Erroneous forms showing elision: Cosinomancy, Coskiomancy (Brand, OED - see Note), Cosnomancy.
3. Erroneous form showing transposition of letters: Coskniomancy (Athenian Oracle).
4. Transcription error in typesetting: Coseinomancy.

Coscinomancy, as practised in medieval times, is clearly outlined in Agrippa's *De Occulta Philosophia*, 1533, chapter xxi. This text provides the basis of Holyday's satire, which I have reproduced in extensio. There has been much speculation about the manner in which the sieve was to be held by the shears, with some writers throwing up their hands at the problem (see cit. 1868), and other suggesting that a piece of thread was used. Fortunately in the 1567 edition of Agrippa's works there is a beautiful picture showing exactly this. It is clear that sieve was suspended from the shears in such a way that the cutting edges of the shear-blades made tangents to the outer rim of the sieve. Thus suspended the sieve is capable of some sideways movement, or even of dropping. The holding of the shears by only the

two middle fingers would make it almost impossible to keep the sieve still for any length of time, thus ensuring a prognostication. The complicating factor is that in the Latin text accompanying the picture the sieve is said to "turn around" (circum agatur), which clearly it cannot do unless held at two diametrically opposite points on the outer rim. Agrippa believed that the movement of the sieve was performed by a demon, and that the conjuration dies, mies, jeschet, benedofet, dowima, enitemaus actually compelled the demon to perform the task. He further notes that the words of this conjuration were understood neither by the speaker nor anyone else (nec sibi ipsis, nec aliis intellectua). Here Agrippa is asserting one of the most venerable notions of magic, i.e. that there is a language in the spirit world and that this language is powerfully efficacious. The co-called "Enochian language" of the 16th century magician Edward Kelly, later revived by **Alister Crowley**, is such a language. Kelly would communicate Enochian messages to his cohort, Dr. John Dee, backwards, for to say them directly would unleash powers beyond control. This concept can further be seen in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments where a sorceress takes some lake water in hand and over it speaks "words not to be understood" (tr. Burton I. xi. 80).

**COSNOMANCY:** A mistake in Cockeram for coscinomancy.

**CRANIOSCOPY:** Divination and character analysis by studying the shape and structure of the human skull. Also known as Phrenology.

**CRITOMANCY CRITHOMANCY:** is the study of barley cakes. Divination by interpreting food, usually cakes and breads, that are offered in sacrifice. Divination by meal or grain, often by strewing it over sacrificed animals. From ancient Greek krithomanteia divination by barley, from kritho-, combining form of krithe) barley.

**CROMNIOMANCY:** is divination using onion sprouts. Divination by interpreting onions or onion sprouts. To find out the name of a future husband the names of possible candidates were written on onions which were left on the altar on Christmas eve, then planted, the first onion to sprout indicated who it was to be. This custom is quite old and Brand quotes from a 16th century poem on the subject. Presumably the rationale inherent in this practice is that the virility of the male, transmitted magically via the written name, will cause the onion to grow quicker. Hence it is a process of selecting the best male. Also, there is the possibility of the sprouting onion representing the phallus - witness the Old English riddle the answer to which is 'onion', albeit the ostensible answer is 'penis'.

Another method, mentioned in Frazer's *Golden Bough*, comes from Germany, where on one of the twelve days of Christmas, twelve layers of peel, each representing one month, were taken off an onion, and a pinch of salt was sprinkled into each. The next morning the amount of moisture collected in each foretold the amount of rain expected in the coming year.

To this may be added a gardener's rhyme recorded in 1893: Onion's skin very thin, Mild winter coming in; Onion's skin thick and tough, Coming winter cold and rough.

The word first appears in a New Latin form *cromnysmantia*, and I assume that Burton is quoting some Latin text which I have not seen. Also, I have not been able to track down a 1660 edition of *The Anatomy of Melancholy* in Australia and thus have to rely on Brand's secondary evidence, which is not altogether reliable (see Note). Clearly the term is derived from the ancient Greek *kromyon* or *krommyon* an onion. This has not been a productive word element in English, and apart from the Sydenham Society's *Lexicon* which records *crommyon* as an "Old name for an onion" (citing a 18th century text), I have not found any other examples.

Note that the form *cromnio-* involves a misspelling retained since the earliest citation!

**CRYPTOMANCY:** Divination by unrevealed means. From ancient Greek *kryptos* secret, hidden.

**CRYSTAL BALL:** A crystal sphere used for divination, especially for scrying. Also called a Showstone.

**CRYSTALLOMANCY CRYSTALOMANCY:** is divination through crystal gazing. See *Catoptromancy*. Scrying. *Cristallomantia*.

1. Divination by means of a crystal ball.
2. Divination by a transparent body such as a precious stone, or mirror; crystal-gazing; crystal-seeing; scrying.

From ancient Greek *krystallos* crystal. Cf. French *cristallomancie*, New Latin *cristallomantia*. *Chrystallomancy*, *Cristallomancy*, *Cristallomantia*, *Crystallomancie*, *Crystalomancy*.

**CUBOMANCY:** Divination by dice. From French *cubomancie*, from *cubo-* cube, from ancient Greek *kubos* a die, *kuboi* dice.

**CURSED BREAD:** See Alphetomancy.

**CYATHOMANCY:** Cup divination, as described at Cattabomancy. Derived from Latin cyathus, ancient Greek kyathos a cup.

**CYCLOMANCY:** is the practice of divination from a turning wheel. Divination by interpreting revolving wheels. Divination by revolving objects. From New Latin cyclomantia, from ancient Greek kyklos a circle.

**CYROMANCY:** Middle English variant of chiromancy.

## **D**

**DACTYLOMANCY DACTYLIOMANCY:** is an early form of Radiesthesia using a dangling ring. Divination using rings. Most frequently dactylomancy is done in the form of radiesthesia (divination using a pendulum) and the ring is suspended over various objects. One form uses rings of various metals placed on the fingernails in patterns in conjunction with the planets. Sources indicate it is often used for dowsing. Derived from French dactyliomancie, from the ancient Greek daktylios a finger-ring. According to some sources (eg Shipley, Roget's Thesaurus) there is a distinction between the two forms with 'dactyliomancy' = a suspended ring, and 'dactylomancy' = a finger-ring. However considering that in ancient Greek daktylios means 'finger-ring' and daktylos simply means 'finger', this distinction cannot really hold true as it is etymologically arse-about. The OED did not note any such distinction and noted the dactylo- form as being erroneous.

Dactalomancy, Dactylomancy; New Latin Dactylomantia. One method involved placing gold or silver rings on the fingernails in certain conjunctions of the planets. In another way a round table is inscribed with the letters of the alphabet and a ring suspended above. The ring will then spell out the message. Another method involves suspending a ring within a glass. If the glass is struck once it will indicate yes, and twice will be no.

**DAPHNOMANCY:** requires one to listen to laurel branches crackling in an open fire. Divination by interpreting a burning laurel branch. If the fire crackles it is a positive sign. A form of pyromancy. Bailey 1727 gives the def.

**DAPHNOPHAGI:** certain Prophets or Diviners in ancient Times, that pretended to be inspired after the eating of Bay-leaves. Recorded earliest in dictionaries. From French daphnomantie, probably from New Latin daphnomantia, from ancient Greek daphne the laurel tree.

**DEMONOMANCY:** is divination with the aid of demons. Divination by evoking the aid of demons (devils) to reveal information. A Gaulish word. Derived from ?French demonomancie, from New Testament Greek (daimon) demon (translated as devil in the AV). Dæmonomancy.

**DENDROMANCY:** is divination with either oak or mistletoe. Divination interpreting trees, especially oak or mistletoe. From ancient Greek dendron a tree. Divination by leaves and branches of plants.

**DERVISHING:** The practice of whirling into a state of ecstasy. Sometimes cited as a form of Gyromancy (divination by interpreting the fall of a person who whirls until they are dizzy and fall down).

**DICE DIVINATION:** Palden Lhamo dice divination is conducted with three dice with a number from one to six indicated by dots on each face. Divination associated with other deities can be conducted with dice marked with letters. The dice are made of bone, wood or conchshell. Khamtrul Rinpoche described his own procedure for doing dice divination as follows: For a divination to be successful, it is essential that the diviner should have a pure motivation and the person who came for advice believe in the diviner. It is important that they both pray to the Three Jewels, their root and lineage lamas and their deities, chiefly Palden Lhamo and other Dharma protectors, for a clear answer. If I didn't hear the request clearly, I ask again. Then, I visualize myself as my personal deity Dorje Shonu or Vajra Kilaya and call on Palden Lhamo. Through my long familiarity with her, I can clearly visualize her before me and I request her to give a perfect answer to the person who came for advice. Then I throw the dice and according to the numbers indicated on the dice, I refer to a divination book. There are many such books written by great lamas and they provide all the possible answers, though once you are familiar with divination techniques reference to texts is no longer necessary".

**DIRECT WRITING:** The term for a spirit writing without human or mechanical assistance. Distinct from Autography, Automatic Writing and Psychography which are done through human beings.

**DIVINATION:** The art of using magickal tools and symbols to gather information from the Collective unconscious on the nature of people, places, things, and events in the past, present and future. Also known as Dukkerin, Dukkering.

**DIVINATION ON A ROSARY:** The person doing the divination prays to the deity he is invoking for the correct answer and recites that deity's mantras. He then holds up the rosary horizontally in front of him, with the fingers of each hand grasping a randomly chosen bead, leaving half the beads or fewer between them. Then the fingers of each hand move towards each other counting three beads at a time. The outcome of the divination depends on the number of beads left. The procedure is repeated three times. When only one bead remains, the result is called 'falcon'. When two beads remain, it is called 'raven'. When three beads remain the result is called 'snow lion'. The outcome on the first attempt indicated the extent of the deities' support and the quality of the divination in general. A falcon at the first attempt would indicate support from protectors, luck in a new enterprise, and success in a lawsuit. A raven on the first try means the protectors are not on your side. There will be no accomplishment, lawsuit will be unsuccessful and there are enemies present. Such a divination would caution against starting on any new enterprise. A snow lion on the first round would indicate support from the deities, slow but stable accomplishments and weakness on the part of enemies. If the question concerned successful business, this would be regarded as a neutral result. At the second attempt, the outcome indicates conditions to take place in one's immediate environment. The falcon indicates good luck in general, but not much success for those wishing to have children. The risk of thefts and illnesses in general would remain small. The raven indicates serious illness, obstacles to health and a decline in the life force. There will be a tendency for things to get lost or stolen. However, in the case of an ordained person, these negative aspects would be reduced. On the third occasion, the number of remaining beads gives clues about an expected person arriving from elsewhere. This was a very important aspect of life in Tibet, for people travelled constantly and there was no communication system. A falcon with regard to an expected visitor indicates imminent news or arrival. With regard to illness, it would indicate finding the best way to cure it. A raven represents a bad indication concerning expected travellers. They are likely to encounter obstacles on the way will not arrive at all or will be robbed. The sick will not be cured and possessions will be lost or stolen. The snow lion indicates that travellers will arrive late, but come to no harm. Problems with health will be few, although there will be difficulties in finding the right treatment. The best divination would be three consecutive falcons. This would indicate that travellers will arrive quickly, patients will recover and accomplishments will be

swift. iv) Bootstrap Divination: This form of divination is popular among nomads. The flat, one inch thick bootstraps are folded over each other into squares and suddenly pulled apart. If the bootlace unfolds freely and clearly it indicates positive signs, while a tangle would be negative.

**DIVINER:** See Ariolater or Oracle.

**DIVINING ROD:** A forked rod or branched which is used to for dowsing (locating things underground). Also known as Dowsing Rod or the Devil's Fork or the witches wand.

**DOUGHBALL DIVINATION:** This method is practised mainly in the monasteries or by individual lamas when an important decisions needs to be made, such as in the search for the reincarnation of very high lamas. A number of possible answers to the enquiry, such as the names of likely candidates for a reincarnation, are written on slips of paper. These are then encased in equal sized balls of dough. Great care is taken to weigh the dough balls to ensure that they are exactly the same size. The doughballs are then placed in a bowl, which is carefully sealed and placed in front of a sacred object, such as the Jowo statue in the main temple in Lhasa, images of Dharma protectors or the funerary monuments of great lamas, requesting their inspiration in deciding the outcome. For a period of three days monks remain in the temple reciting prayers day and night. During that time no one is allowed to touch the bowl. On the fourth day, before all those present the cover of the bowl is removed. A prominent lama rolls the doughballs round in the bowl before the sacred object until one of them falls out. That is the ball containing the answer.

**DOWSING:** Divination to find a person, place, thing or element in buried in the earth. Dowsing will often involve using a pendulum (radiesthesia) or divining rod (rhabdomancy).

**DOWSING ROD:** A forked rod or branched which is used to for dowsing (locating things underground). Also known as Divining Rod above.

**DRIRIMANCY:** Divination via dripping blood. I have a feeling that this is probably a ghost word originally arising from a misconstruing of drymimancie. The juxtaposition in Reade of this word with the rare word scatomancy (for which the sole source is Agrippa, and where it appears alongside drymimancie) is very suspicious. If this is indeed a ghost word, then this form and definition would be



based on the etymological conjecture: - from driry, a 16th & 17th century form of dreary, representing Old English dreorig, a derivative of dreor gore, falling blood! This etymology involves a number of problems: the word driry never had the meaning "(pertaining to) dripping blood"; the Old English word dreor did not continue into the Middle English period, let alone modern English; a hybrid compound of an obsolete native English word with a Greek ending is unlikely (though see spealomancy); and generally -mancy compounds take a noun as their first element, not an adjective. If this is wrong, then I am unable to suggest any other etymon, as driri- corresponds to no Greek or Latin word recorded in the major dictionaries of those languages. That it may represent a word of some other language is highly unlikely.

**DRYMIMANCIE:** The meaning of this word is a mystery. Perhaps the best definition to give it would be: Medical diagnosis through examination of bodily fluids. Possibly it referred to a medical diagnosis through examination of the bile or vomit, or, perhaps, sweat, or even suppurating pus. The term comes into English in Sanford's 16th century translation of Agrippa, where it appears in New Latin as drimimantia. The exact meaning of the first element of the compound, i.e. drimi-, as used here, is not known. It represents the ancient Greek adjective drimys sharp, acrid, pungent. Used in Hippocratic texts to describe various bodily fluids and fluxes, but not used specifically for any one thing. In ancient Greek the word drimyphageo to live on acrid food, though what exact diet this referred to I do not know.

**DUBJED:** Tibetan term for Catoptromancy.

**DUKKERIN, DUKKERING:** Romany term for Divination.

## E

**EGROMANCY:** modern form used by Sir Richard Burton, based on a Middle English form of nigromancy meaning "magic"; not actually referring to a species of divination. Etymology Citations: Middle English Citations: modern In Dictionaries It is essentially a variant of negromancy with loss of initial n. A similar process happen in Old French where the word igromancie appears. The loss of the initial n may be the result of metanalysis, i.e. the mis-analysing of a negromancy as an egromancy, however the use of word as a count noun is less common.

**ELEAOMANCY:** Accord to Wedeck: divination "by observation of liquid surfaces". A rare word, the more common term being lecanomancy. It is presumably derived from the Greek *elaion* (olive-oil), though the usual, "regular", combining forms from this Greek root are *elaio-*, *elæo-* and *eleo-*. Often oil was dropped into water when used for divining, and a mixture of water and oil (called in ancient Greek *chytla*) for rubbing into the skin after bathing, was possibly used in divination.

**ELECTROMANCY:** A variant form, presumably erroneous, of alectromancy.

**ELEMENTAL DIVINATION:** Divination via the four elements (elements as defined in divination) as follows Aeromancy (wind), Pyromancy (fire), Hydromancy (water), and Geomancy (earth).

**EMPYROMANCY:** Ancient Greek divination by observing the fire and smoke of burnt sacrifices. Other terms for this are libanomancy and knissomancy. Also, cf. pyromancy and hieromancy. From ancient Greek *empyron manteia* divination from *ta empyra* burnt sacrifices. From *empyros* burning, fiery, on fire.

**ENOPTROMANCY, ENPTOMANCY:** Divination via mirrors. See Catoptromancy. There is some conjecture about the form of this word. Clearly this form would be derived from the ancient Greek *enoptos* visible in (a thing), seen in (something). The OED states that this is merely an error for enoptromancy occurring in some dictionaries.

I would tend to agree that it is probably an error, and there are basically three reasons for this:

1. Most similar compounds have an ancient Greek noun as their first element, not an adjective;
2. The earliest form includes the r - see Smedley, and,
3. The word occurs in French as *eaccute*; *noptromancie*.

Recorded firstly in Smedley, from whence it made its way into 19th century dictionaries. The (most probably erroneous) variant form *enoptomancy* found favour early on, but no longer appears in dictionaries. Webster's 2nd edition records it, but it has been dropped by the 3rd edition. From French *eaccute*; *noptromancie*, from Greek *enoptron* a mirror.

ENTOMANCY, ENTOMOMANCY: Divination interpreting the appearance and behavior of insects. A form of augury. To this may be referred the various omens of popular folklore, such as crickets bringing good luck, and ladybirds indicating visitors.

Also, here we may note the old superstition of the death-watch. Recorded since at least the 17th century, this was a clicking or ticking noise like that of a watch, which was believed to portend the death of someone in the house within the next twelve hours. It was for many years unknown exactly what it was that produced the noise, however, it was eventually discovered to be a certain beetle that made the sound, apparently its mating call, by striking its head against a hard surface. The ancient Greeks had numerous beliefs about portentous insects. Ants were meant to have presaged the death of Cimon, and, also, the great wealth of Midas was foretold by ants coming to him as a boy while asleep and dropping grains of wheat into his mouth.

According to Potter, bees "were esteemed an omen of future eloquence", and he cites the well-known story of Plato, who, as a baby in the cradle was visited by a swarm of bees which alighted on his lips, thereby predicting his gift of oratory. Obviously this is playing on the idea of words as sweet as honey, mellifluous speech. In fact Plato was known later as the Athenian Bee. An identical tale is told of St. Ambrose. The most obvious insect related to fortune telling would, however, have to be the mantis. This is the ancient Greek name for the insect, and, is identically the same as the word mantis meaning, a diviner. According to Suidas this insect was a type of slow, green, locust. It had long, thin fore-feet, and was possibly, though not necessarily, the same as our praying mantis, though exactly what insect it was is unknown. Apparently it was observed for divinatory purposes. Unfortunately not a lot more is known about it and why it deserved its name. Our modern praying mantis is so-called from the prayer-like attitude of the front-legs, but this is only a modern appellation, dating back to the 17th century. This word is quite uncommon, and is not recorded in OED or other dictionaries. It quite probably was invented quite recently, as the sole citation suggests. From Greek entomos an insect.

EROMANCY: a "bad form of aeromancy", and gives the first two citations as here. Etymologically I guess this is correct, however it does represent the

pronunciation better. The latter two citations are even worse forms since they don't even fit their definitions well. What is being described is rather a specific form of hydromancy known as lecanomancy.

**EXTISPICIUM:** See Aruspicy. A tool used in the practice of exitispicium, exitispicy, aruspicy, haruspicy.

**EXTISPICY:** See Aruspicy.

**EYCHNOMANCY:** A misspelling of lychnomancy.

## F

**FELIDOMANCY:** Divination by cats. Not recorded in OED or other dictionaries. Derived from New Latin felidæ the cat genus, from Latin felid-, stem of felis a cat.

**FENG SHUI:** (Chinese, feng shui: "wind and water"): The ancient Chinese practice of studying and following the natural currents of the Earth to ensure the proper alignment with them so that Qi is not disrupted. Feng Shui is used to determine the suitability and layout of homes, businesses, burial grounds and temples.

**FIZNOMANCY:** A variant spelling of physiognomancy.

**FLOROMANCY:** Divination via omens taken from flowers. It is based on the belief in which states flowers radiate vibrations, react to a sympathetic or hostile environment and are affected by electric shocks. See anthomancy and botanomancy. Derived from Latin flor-, combining form of flos flower.

**FOLIOMANCY:** Either a. divination by leaves of a book, a form of bibliomancy, or b. divination by tea leaves, otherwise called tasseomancy.

Not in OED or other dictionaries. Derived from Latin folio, ablative of folium a leaf.

**FRACTOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the structure of fractal geometric patterns.

**FRONTIMANCY:** A jocular nonce-word for a supposed method of divination using the lines on the face.

## G

**GASTROMANCY:** is an ancient form of ventriloquism whereby the voice is lowered to a sepulchral tone and prophetic utterances are delivered in a trance state. Divination by interpreting the sounds or signs on the belly. Gastromancy is most frequently reported as a voice emanating from the belly and it has been dismissed by most occult investigators as a form of ventriloquism and trickery. An ancient description of another gastromancy technique described placing a child in front of a glass filled with water and illuminating the glass. Divination was done by interpreting the images in the glass.

1. Divination by looking into large-bellied, bulbous glasses and noting magical visions appearing in them. Similar to crystallo-mancy.
2. Divination by words spoken in the belly, (and according to Gaule) by signs on the belly.

From New Latin *gastromantia* (Agrippa), French *gastromancie*, from the ancient Greek *gastro-*, combining form of *gaster* the belly, also the wide part of a bottle. Cf. the ancient Greek *gastromanteuomai* to divine by the belly. New Latin: *gastromantia*. Rare: (unexplained) *gastronomancy*

**GELOSCOPY, GELOMANCY:** is the divination from the tone of someone's laughter. Divination by interpreting laughter. From the ancient Greek *gelos* laughter.

**GEMATRIA:** A system of discovering truths and hidden meanings behind words, using numerical values for letters of the alphabet. Each letter corresponds to a number. The numerical values of words are totaled and interpreted in terms of other words with the same numerical value. Gematria dates back to the 8th century B.C. Babylon, and has been used by most mystics since that time including the Magi, Gnostics, and Quabbalists. *Notarikon* is a form of gematria in which the first and last letters of a word or phrase are put together to create a new word, or to turn a word into a phrase. *Temurah* is a form of gematria that creates anagrams through systematic letter substitutions. See also: Numerology.

**GENETHLIALOGY:** is divination by the influence of the stars at birth. Divination by interpreting the influence of the stars at birth to predict the future. A form of astrology.

**GEOMANCY:** is the study of figures on the ground and the influence of the Earth's "currents". Divination by interpreting the Element of Earth. Forms include

scattering and throwing dirt, gravel or sand, interpreting lines or figures traced in earth, and observation of earth formations. Ley line interpretation and Feng Shui are forms of Geomancy.

1. (Generally) Any divination involving earth, dirt, or the ground.
2. (Specifically) A mode of divination by interpreting random dots, pricks and/or lines made on the ground. This meaning is the earliest to appear in English. It dates back to Middle English times.
3. A mode of divination which uses figures and lines formed by a number of dots made at random. This was prevalent in the 17th century, and within the Renaissance world view was held as a science, having the same status as alchemy and astrology, being incorporated into the prevailing concepts of natural philosophy then in existence. Many different systems existed, most of which were intimately related to the sciences of alchemy and especially astrology. In most geomantical texts the dots were represented by asterisks. Curiously this practice is quite removed from any association or actual working with the soil, being done wholly on paper. Its relationship to the previous definition is due to the transferal of the dots on the ground to paper. This was done in order to raise it to a 'scientific' or 'intellectual' pursuit by taking away the feel of 'magic' involved in the earlier open-air practice. (1655)
4. A method of divination by means of the figure made by a handful of earth or pebbles thrown down at random. (1855) The Chinese practice of feng shui. Not actually a form of divination, but rather, a system whereby the relationship of a building, structure, etc., to the surrounding geographical features determines the prospects of that thing and the people associated with it, both the living and the dead. This is a very ancient practice in Chinese culture and is still prevalent. The Century Dictionary was the first to attempt to incorporate this meaning into its definition of geomancy. This is an admirable effort which also attempts to relate the literal sense of the word geomancy (earth divination) to all meanings at once. As yet, no dictionary actually offers a separate definition to cover this important and quite distinct sense. Also called Chinese geomancy. (1899)
5. Any harmonious relationship between humans and the landscape, especially that which influences building, town planning, and, in particular, the construction and placement of ancient monuments, such as ancient stone circles, pyramids, etc. This meaning arises from a contemporary movement

which has seen a revival of earlier occult arts, and a synthesis of these with other New Age concepts. Texts dealing with this subject maintain the notion that the ancients possessed a now-lost knowledge of harmony with the earth. (1973).

Middle English and Early Scottish: geomance, geomanci, geomansi, geomansy, geomanty, geomensie, geomensy, geomensye, geomese, geomesie, geomessie, gemensye, geemessye. Surviving into Early modern English: geomancie, geomantie. New Latin: geomantia. From Old French geomancie, from Latin geomantia, from Late Greek geomanteia, the ancient Greek geo-, combining form of ge the earth, the ground, land.

**GIROMANCY:** A Middle English variant of gyromancy.

**GRAPHOLOGY, GRAPTOMANCY, GRAPHOMANCY:** is the analysis of character through handwriting. Divination and character analysis by interpreting handwriting. A variant of Graptomancy. From the ancient Greek graptos written.

**GYROMANCY:** is a divination procedure where a person walks in a circle marked with letters until they become dizzy and stumble at different points, thus spelling out a prophesy. Divination by walking or whirling in a circle until dizzy and interpreting the point of the person's fall. The circle used is often laid out with letters. Some sources include Dervishing (whirling into an ecstasy) as a form of gyromancy.

1. Divination where people walk on a circle of letters until dizzy, the letters they stumble on being significant. Hence identical in form, but with a different agent, to alectryomancy.
2. Divination by whirling a nicked coin on a circle of letters.

Probably from Middle French gyromancie, from New Latin gyromantia, from Medieval Latin \*gyromantia, from the ancient Greek gyros a ring, a circle, a spiral. In New Latin - Cælius Calcagninus, *Compendium amatoriæ magiæ* (ed. Froben Bale, 1544) "Gyromantia, quotiens ex circulis in lævam dextramve declinantibus futura conjiciunt." Gyromancy, Giromancy, Giromantie.

## H

**HALOLMANCY:** Divination via salt. See Alomancy. What particular method of divination this word originally was applied to is unknown, however, in Frazer's

Golden Bough (x. 244) we find that in the Isle of Man on Halloween the housewife fills a thimble full of salt for each member of the family and each guest; the contents of the thimblefuls are emptied out in as many neat piles on a plate, and left there over night. Next morning the piles are examined, and if any of them has fallen down, he or she whom it represents will die within the year.

This, of course, is in the days when salt did not come with an anti-caking agent added. Also, this word could refer to the unlucky omen designated by the spilling of salt. This, nowadays, is expiated by throwing a little of the spilt salt over the shoulder. This superstition dates back to Roman times. Also in the erroneous form Alomancy. Clearly a modern word, as the first element is the New Latin combining form halo-. This is normally used to form scientific words to do with either "salt" or "the sea", and in chemistry signifies the presence of "halogen". It is not to be found in any word before the early 19th century (the earliest being halogen and haloid dating from the 1840s). The New Latin halo- comes from the ancient Greek combining form of hals salt. The word also appears in French as halomancie.

HAKATA: Bones, dice, seeds or shells used for divination.

HARUSPEX: See Ariolater.

HARUSPICATION: is fortune-telling by means of inspecting the entrails of animals, as practiced by priests in ancient Rome.

HARUSPICY: See Aruspicy.

HEARING DIVINATION: This type of divination is done in the nomadic areas of Tibet and other isolated places, where there may not be a diviner available to consult. Before proceeding with the divination, a piece of juniper is tied to a shoulder blade with wool, white cloth or string. The diviner then places the shoulder blade in the left pocket of his cloak and walks out of his dwelling. The first word he hears outside will indicate the turn of events. If this divination is being performed with regard to someone who is ill, then negative words such as 'long' would suggest a protracted recovery. On the other hand, words such as 'good' will indicate a quick recovery. These words can be applied to any other circumstances about which the diviner is seeking an answer with the word 'good' always having a positive connotations while others like 'nothing' having negative significance. From among the above, Dough ball divination is regarded as the most reliable. But due to the length of the preliminary rituals, it is only conducted on



very important occasions. Some lamas are able to make predictions using no overt means of divination, but through direct inspiration from the deity. Though the result is the same, they would not usually claim to be performing divination.

**HEMATOMANCY:** Divination via blood. From Greek haimato-, combining form of haima blood.

**HEPATOMANCY, HEPATOSCOPY:** Divination by examining the liver of an animal. A form of aruspicy (divination with animal entrails). A rare word for divination by the liver of an animal or bird sacrificed for the purpose. The usual term for this is hepatoscopy which ultimately comes from the ancient Greek hepatoskopia. Here the author has taken the first element hepato- and grafted it onto -mancy in order to get the new form. The putative hepatomanteia never existed in Greek.

**HEROMANCY:** An early variant of aeromancy.

**HIDROMANCY:** Divination by sweat. Derived from the ancient Greek hidros sweat. Also an early modern English variant of hydromancy. 1595 Polimanteia: But I intend not to entreat particularlie of many other kindes of Diuinations, as Orneomantie, Hieroscopie, Hidromantie, and many like kindes, because these properly cannot serue to iudge of the change, or ruine of Common wealths, contenting my selfe to note out those which concerne the subiect of this particular matter.

**HIEROMANCY or HIERSCOPY:** is divination by observing object of ancient sacrifice. Divination by interpreting sacrificial objects such as burnt offerings or slaughtered animals. Similar to aruspicy (interpretation of animal entrails). Divination by sacred things, as sacrificial offerings, esp. by inspection of their entrails; haruspicy. Potter quoting Clemens Alexandrinus Stromateis. By some [hieromancy] was feigned to have been first occasioned, or very much improved, by the death of the Delphian Sibyl, whose body being reduced to earth, imparted first to herbs, and by their means to beasts, which fed on them, a power of divining: as also those other parts of her, which mixed with the air, are said to have occasioned the divination by ominous words. From New Latin heiromantia, from the ancient Greek hieromantia, from hieros holy, sacred.

**HIPPOMANCY:** is a form of divination from the stamping and neighing of horses. Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of horses especially by

taking note of their neighing, stamping, etc., even their sweating. Derived from New Latin hippomantia, from Greek hippos a horse. A form of augury.

**HOROSCOPE:** An astrological chart for a specific person or group that charts and correlates the signs of the zodiac as they are crossed by the sun, moon and planets and the position of planets in the twelve astrological houses.

**HOROSCOPY:** is the practice of casting of astrological horoscopes. Divination and character analysis by interpreting a horoscope

**HYDATOSCOPY:** Divination by interpreting rainwater. A form of Hydromancy.

**HYDROMANCY:** is divination by water including the color, ebb and flow, or ripples produced by pebbles dropped in a pool. Divination by interpreting water including its color, ebb and flow, or ripples produced by pebbles dropped in a pool. Also known as Ydromancy. Originally in Middle English this word was spelled ydromancy (from Middle French ydromancye). This form is a result of the h being etymologically restored during the Renaissance under the influence of better knowledge of Latin and Greek, and under the influence of the New Latin hydromantia. Ultimately it comes from Late Latin hydromantia, from the ancient Greek \*hydromanteia, from hydro-, combining form of hydor water. In ancient Greek the word hydromantis diviner by water, was recorded. Middle English: hidromancy, idromance, idromancie, ydromance, ydromaunce.

Surviving in modern English: hydromancie, hydromantie, hydromanty, ydromancy. New Latin: hydromantia.

**HYOMANCY:** According to Shipley, divination by the "tongue bone", or "as the tongue wags".

What exactly Shipley means I am not sure. The two definitions seem to be referring to quite different things. Divination by the hyoid bone, or as he calls it, the tongue bone, could refer to the practice of cephalonomancy. Divination as the tongue wags could refer to logomancy or labiomancy. It is obvious that in his treatment of the -mancy words Shipley is flippant because of the contempt in which he holds such practices. Thus his definitions are not very reliable. Derived from the New Latin combining form hyo-, referring to the hyoid bone, a bone running from the root of the tongue to the larynx, from New Latin hyoides, from the ancient Greek (osteon hyoeides) the hyoid bone (so named since it is shaped like the Greek letter upsilon (υ;))]

HYPNOMANCY: Divination via hypnosis.

## I

I CHING: The I Ching ([ɪ tʃɪŋ]) Original Title: 易, or Classic of Changes, is an ancient divination text and the oldest of the Chinese classics. Possessing a history of more than two and a half millennia of commentary and interpretation, the I Ching is an influential text read throughout the world, providing inspiration to the worlds of religion, psychoanalysis, business, literature, and art. Originally a divination manual in the Western Zhou period (1000–750 BC), over the course of the Warring States period and early imperial period (500–200 BC) it was transformed into a cosmological text with a series of philosophical commentaries known as the "Ten Wings." After becoming part of the Five Classics in the 2nd century BC, the I Ching was the subject of scholarly commentary and the basis for divination practice for centuries across the Far East, and eventually took on an influential role in Western understanding of Eastern thought.

The I Ching uses a type of divination called cleromancy, which produces apparently random numbers. Four numbers, 6 to 9, are turned into a hexagram, which can then be looked up in the I Ching book, arranged in an order known as the King Wen sequence. The interpretation of the readings found in the I Ching is a matter of centuries of debate, and many commentators have used the book symbolically, often to provide guidance for moral decision making as informed by Taoism and Confucianism. The hexagrams themselves have often acquired cosmological significance and paralleled with many other traditional names for the processes of change such as yin and yang and Wu Xing.

The core of the I Ching is a Western Zhou divination text called the Changes of Zhou (周易 Zhōu yì). Various modern scholars suggest dates ranging between the 10th and 4th centuries BC for the assembly of the text in approximately its current form. Based on a comparison of the language of the Zhou yi with dated bronze inscriptions, Edward Shaughnessy dated its compilation in its current form to the early decades of the reign of King Xuan of Zhou, in the last quarter of the 9th century BC. A copy of the text in the Shanghai Museum corpus of bamboo and wooden slips (recovered in 1994) shows that the Zhou yi was used throughout all levels of Chinese society in its current form by 300 BC, but still contained small variations as late as the Warring States period. It is possible that other divination

systems existed at this time; the Rites of Zhou name two other such systems, the Lianshan and the Guizang.

**ICHNOMANCY:** Divination via footprints. From ancient Greek *ichnos* a track, footprint.

**ICHTHYOMANCY:** is divination using fish. Divination interpreting the appearance and behavior of fish. A form of augury (divination by interpreting the appearance or behavior of animals); Divination interpreting the entrails of fish. A form of aruspicy (divination by interpreting animal entrails). From New Latin *Ichthiomantia* (Agrippa), *F ichthyomantie*, from ancient Greek *ichthyo-* combining form of *ichthys* a fish. In Greek the word *Ichthyomantis* a diviner by fish, already existed. *Ichyomancy*, *Ichthiomancy* (Urquhart), *Ichthyomancy*, *Ichthyonomancy* (Blount).

**ICONOMANCY:** Divination via icons or images. (The use of Idols). From ancient Greek *eikon* likeness, image.

**IDOLOMANCY:** Divination via idols. Divination by interpreting idols, images or figures. A Gaulean term for divination by idols. Not (until very recently) recorded elsewhere except in reproducers of Gaule's list, and dictionaries. Mentioned by some of the more recent popular texts on divination. From Late Latin *idolum*, from ancient Greek *eidolon* a false god, an idol.

**IDROMANCIE:** A Middle English form of hydromancy.

**IGRAMANCIE:** A Middle English form of Nigromancy. See also Egromancy. *Igramansie*, *Igramansy*, *Igrimansie*.

**INTERPRETATION OF INCEDENTAL SIGNS:** When a practitioner is setting up a or preparing the yield for a retreat, certain occurrences in his environment can be interpreted as indicative of his future accomplishments. These can be either positive or negative. Positive signs indicating that the practitioner will receive the Buddhas' and Bodhisattvas' blessing include: seeing cranes, geese, ducks, swans, pheasants and other auspicious birds flying overhead or hearing their calls; overhearing the sounds of drums, of stringed instruments, flutes, gongs, bells; people reciting auspicious stanzas including such words as victorious, accomplished, excellent, happiness, success, give it, take it, fruitful, great, numerous and glorious. Negative signs indicating impending obstacles include: hearing the chatter of monkeys, squeaking of mice howl of wolves, bray of

donkeys; low of buffaloes; having one's path crossed by snakes or scorpions; encountering people in mourning, hearing them express words like defeat, decline, die, sick, get rid of something, alas, difficult, unsuccessful and meaningless. In such instances, the practitioner should interrupt his practice and move to another site. In general, when setting out on a journey or some other enterprise the following would be considered good omens, or signs of success: meeting elaborately dressed men, women and children; pregnant women, cows with their calves properly dressed bhikshus, illustrious people, Brahmins dressed in white, beautiful bejewelled women, young girls playing together, elephants, smart carriages, and people holding religious symbols such as the wheel, vase, garland, lotus, umbrella, or banners. Signs of failure would be indicated by the following: losing luggage; encountering wicked, frightful, worn out or ragged persons; having one's road blocked; seeing collapsed houses, something catching fire, or having things break.

**IRIDOLOGY:** Divination by interpreting the iris of the eye. (also known as iridodiagnosis or iridiagnosis) is an alternative medicine technique whose proponents claim that patterns, colors, and other characteristics of the iris can be examined to determine information about a patient's systemic health. Iridology is one of many pseudo-sciences of reflexology. See Oculomancy.

## **K**

**KAPNOMANCY, KATOPTROMANCY, KEPHALOMANCY, KEPHALONOMANCY, KEPTOLOMANCY, KLEDONOMANCY:** A variant spelling of capnomancy and cepheleomancy. Arising from a variant transliteration of the ancient Greek letter kappa. Kleidomancy, Kleromancy.

**KNISSOMANCY:** Mackay's term for Gaule's libanomancy, i.e. divination by the burning of incense. From ancient Greek knissa the fatty smoke of a burnt sacrifice, the smell of a victim. This word was coined by Mackay who apparently was not content with the original spelling of Gaule's list. For the most part Mackay's changes were of an essentially cosmetic nature, merely altering a c to a where the word element originally had a Greek kappa, etc. However, in this instance he substituted a completely different Greek word. Why this was done is a mystery, especially since Gaule's original term, libanomancy, both utilises a Greek word, libanos incense, and is even represented in the ancient Greek compound libanomantis an interpreter of incense smoke. Actually, there was, as far as we

know, no ancient Greek \*knissomanteia, \*knissomantis, etc. This word has been copied by later amateur lexicographers into their popular-consumption books. It is not recorded by the OED, or any other Standard English dictionaries.

**KOSKINOMANCY:** A variant spelling of coscinomancy. Arising from a variant transliteration of the ancient Greek letter kappa.

**KRITHOMANCY:** A variant spelling of crithomancy. Arising from a variant transliteration of the ancient Greek letter kappa.

**KYPOMANCY:** A rare word for tasseomancy.

## L

**LABIOMANCY:** A rare word for the art of lip-reading. Seemingly invented for the nonce by Plot in 1686. The only real evidence I have for this word comes from the great OED. Not actually a method of divination. Here the terminus -mancy is being used in its looser sense of denoting the discovery of unknown things without resort to occult powers. Derived from labio-, combining form of Latin labium lip.

**LAMPADOMANCY:** is divination using lights or torches. Divination by interpreting a candle or lamp, usually the flame. A form of pyromancy. Naturally this only refers to naked-flame lamps as are no longer widely used in the Western world. Derived from medieval Latin \*lampadomantia ???, from the ancient Greek lampad-, combining form of lampas a torch. The butter lamp used for divination should be faultless and made of gold, silver or another precious metal. It should be thoroughly cleaned. A wick should be made from a dry and odorless piece of wood, which is neither too thick nor too thin, with a height reaching the brim, and placed in the center of the lamp. Barley should be heaped on it, and melted, purified butter poured over it. Then recite: Om ah hum vajra guru dhe vadakki nihum' od' od li sarva ah lo ke praha dhe naye svan bah a hundred times and think of the question you wish to ask. Then light the butter lamp and observe the shape of the flame. A globular point means safety, a conch shape represents fame, a bright yellow flame indicated no obstacles, a lotus and jewel like flame denotes wealth. A flame with a hook shaped tip means that one will become powerful and one with two points signifies that the person will leave for another place. If the light of the lamp is dim and the flame gutters, it means someone will become one's enemy or that he or she is about to receive a guest from a distant place. The flame separating into two parts indicates separation within one's family. A dark red flame

means the eldest son will die, the middle of the flame turning red and smoke coming from the wick indicates loss of property and the lamp going out without apparent reason means death. Spilling of the melted butter stands for the length of an undertaking.

**LECANOMANCY:** uses a basin of water for divination. Divination by interpreting the sound or image of an object or substance falling into a body of water.

Divination by water in a basin, performed by various means as by dropping gems in the water, or by staring into the water's surface in order to see prophetic images.

Derived from New Latin *lecanomantia*, *leconomantia* (Agrippa), from Late Latin *lecanomantia*, from the ancient Greek *lekanomanteia*, from *lekane* a dish, a pan.

*Lecanomancie*, *lecaunomancy*, *leconomancy*, *leucanomancy*, *licanomancy*.

**LEKANOMANCY:** See *Lecanomancy*.

**LESSER ARCANA:** The 56 suit cards in a Tarot deck that assist in fleshing out the situations indicated by the Trump Cards (Major Arcana), or indicate smaller occurrences in our lives. Also known as the Minor Arcana

**LETNOMANCY:** A spurious word, punning on 'let no man see'. n.d. W.H. Cremer (ed.) *The Magician's Own Handbook* ii. 186: On either side of your little stage whereon you exercise your art the decorations may comprise a shield, ornamented in mock heraldry with the jugglers' insignia - cups, wand, sword, cards, hieroglyphical signs, c., and a comic placard, founded on the following assertions: - "By Desire, there will appear Signor Pucellino, native of Whangfobia, Doctor of Pyrotechny, A.Z.X. and R.S.V.P., Professor of Chiromancy and Letnomancy, known as Light-fingered Hieronimus, who has passed all degrees in every Academy of Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and the Isle of Man, for alegbra, mineralogy, topography, middleography, hydrodynamics, and lowdrodynamicalogismatics, as well as the occult, mystic, and transcendental sciences, such as cabalistics, busology, astrology, superstitions, animal magnetism, alchemy, and divination." From New Latin *libanomantia* (Agrippa), French *libanomantie*, from the ancient Greek *libanomantis* a diviner by incense, from *libanos* frankincense. The variant form *livanomancy* appears only in Gaule. This is presumably a typographical error.

**LIBANOMANCY, LIBRANOMANCY:** is the study of incense and its smoke. Divination by interpreting smoke from incense. A form of capnomancy. Also known as *Livanomancy*. Divination by the pouring out of water. I'm sure that I

have seen this word defined in this way in some work on the occult, but I have not been able to track the reference down again since I made a brief note about the meaning over ten years ago now. Presumably a mistaken definition of libanomancy based on the etymological conjecture, from Latin libans, pp. of libo to pour out.

**LICANOMANCY:** Spelling variant of lecanomancy.

**LITHOMANCY:** is divination using precious stones of various colors. Divination using precious or semiprecious stones either by interpreting light reflected from stones (crystallomancy, scrying) or casting them and interpreting the way they fall (sortilege). Derived from the French lithomantie, from the ancient Greek lithos a stone.

**LIVANOMANCY:** See Libranomancy or Libanomancy .

**LOGARITHMANCY:** Divination by interpreting logarithms. Napier's *Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis descriptio...* was published in 1614. The importance of Napier's idea was quickly recognised and many other mathematicians improved on Napier's work and published further tables, so that by 1628 the logarithms for all the natural numbers up to 100,000 had been computed. Tables of logarithms are, naturally, amenable to calculation, and are reminiscent of other tables used in the 17th century for divinatory purposes, such as those for astrological reckoning, and geomancy. The works of Robert Fludd abound in tabulations and schemata representing his various views of the cosmos and the place of humankind in it. Nonetheless, just how logarithms were employed to determine the future remains a mystery. Even modern writers who try to discuss as many -mancy's as possible, such as Charles Walker and Max Maven, balk at logarithmancy. The word is only recorded in Gaule, and is a blend of logarithm and arithmancy. The word logarithm was coined by Napier (in Latin as *logarithmus*) from a blend of the ancient Greek *logos* a reckoning, a calculation, and *arithmos* a number. The only variant form - *logarithmomancy* - is very recently coined and represents a mere addition of a connective -o- in order to make the word conform to other words ending in - (o)mancy.

**LOGOMANCY:** Divination via words of speech. A rare word for divination by words and discourse. Derived from the ancient Greek *logos* a word, talk, a maxim or proverb, an oracle.



**LUNOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting moonlight on a person's face dusted with silver. A form of Selenomancy.

**LYCHNOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the flames of three candles. Similar to Lampodomancy. Divination using three candles forming a triangle. From New Latin *lychnomantia*, from the ancient Greek *lychnos* a lamp, a light. First occurring in English in the erroneous form: *eychnomancy*. A positive answer to the question asked would be indicated by one flame burning higher than the other two. A wavering flame would indicate a journey. A spiral flame indicated plots by enemies. An uneven flame danger. Sparks would indicate you should be cautious and a sudden extinction indicated bad luck.

## M

**MACHAROMANCY:** Divination by interpreting knives or swords. Divination by swords, daggers and knives. A term appearing only in Gaule and copyists. From the ancient Greek *machaira* a short sword, a dagger. The OED while only having one citation for this word etymologically normalized their headword to the form *machæromancy*. This is based on the fact that commonly the ancient Greek diphthong comes through to English as *æ*. Webster's on the other hand goes all the way and gives three different forms, incorporating yet another possible transliteration of the Greek diphthong, i.e. *ai*. As far as I am aware, given the available evidence, these two forms, *machæromancy* and *machairomancy*, never actually existed in English.

**MACROMANCY:** Divination via the interpreting of the largest object in a set area. Derived from the ancient Greek *makros* large.

**MACULOMANCY:** Divination via spots and stains. According to Shipley a divination by spots, though what precisely he means is uncertain. Max Maven equates it with *meilomancy*, which is a fair enough assumption to make since Shipley's paraphrase *spot* does service as a contextual synonym for 'mole'. However, the usual Latin term for a mole was actually *naevus*, not *macula*. From Latin *macula* a spot, a stain.

**MAGASTROMANCY:** A beautifully wonderful word for the fabulous divination of the future through astrological calculations and speculations. Coined by the Reverend John Gaule in his railing diatribe against astrology and associated arts in the 17th century. **THE MAG-ASTRO-MANCER, OR THE Magicall-**

Astrologically-Diviner Posed, and Puzzled. It can be neatly glossed as magical astrology. The point Gaule is making with this word is that the concept of astrology as practised in his day involved a belief in magic. This word, though magestically constructed, and powerfully scathing, unfortunately did not find favour, and apart from being recorded by a number of major lexicographers of late 19th and early 20th centuries, has quite disappeared. It did however find slightly greater acceptance than its nearby companion magomancy. The word is concocted from the Latin magus magic, added to astromancy.

**MAGOMANCY:** A word meaning magical divination. A sort of umbrella term for all the magical divinatory practices prevalent in the 17th century. Coined by the Reverend John Gaule. **THE MAG-ASTRO-MANCER, OR THE Magically-Astrologically-Diviner Posed, and Puzzled.** Similar to his magastromancy, this word does not refer specifically astrology, but rather to all the other similar divinatory arts. Not recorded by the OED, nor any other dictionary. Also, all-importantly, this word did not appear in the excerpts taken by Brand in his *Popular Antiquities* of 1777. This is because Brand only reproduced Gaule's actual list of -mancy words. Therefore magomancy was not introduced into the plethora of books on superstition, magic, divination, and the occult, of the following centuries. A beautiful word that died aborning. Derived from mago-, representing the Latin magus magic.

**MAJOR ARCANA:** The 22 Trump Cards depicting dominant occurrences in a Tarot deck.

**MARGARITOMANCY:** is the procedure of using bouncing pearls. Divination using pearls and interpreting the light reflected or the way they fall. Similar to Lithomancy. Derived from Latin margarita a pearl.

**MATHEMANCY:** Divination via mathematics. A word occurring in Shipley, defined as "divination by quantity". Derived from a blend of mathe(matics) and -mancy, following orthography of arithmancy.

**MAZOMANCY:** Divination by the suckling of a baby. Derived from the ancient Greek mazos a breast. Cf. 1979 B. Martin *Dict. Occult*: mammoscopy - a form of divination which draws its deduction from an examination of the female breasts.

**MECONOMANCY:** Divination via behavior of a person during sleep. A word occurring in Shipley with two definitions: a divination by drug induced sleep and the divination by poppies. Derived from the ancient Greek mekon a poppy.

**MEILOMANCY:** A rare word for divination by a person's moles.

**METAGNOMY:** is the divination using "visions" received in a trance state. Divination by interpreting visions received in a trance state.

**METEOROMANCY:** is divination from meteors. Divination by interpreting falling stars (meteors). A form of aeromancy. Divination by meteorological phenomena, such as thunder, comets, meteors. Derived from the ancient Greek meteoros things in the air, aerial phenomena, as meteors, comets, heavenly bodies.

**METOPOSCOPY METOPOMANCY:** is the reading of character using the lines of the forehead. Divination and character analysis through interpreting facial lines and wrinkles, especially of the forehead. Derived from the ancient Greek metopon the forehead, originally the space between the eyes.

**MICROMANCY:** Divination via the studying of the smallest object within a set area. Derived from the ancient Greek mikros small.

**MINERAMANCY:** Divination by found minerals. Derived from a blend of minera and -mancy.

**MINOR ARCANA:** See Lesser Arcana.

**MOLEOSOPHY:** is the study of moles and indicators of a person's character and future indications. Divination and character assessment by interpreting moles on the body

**MOLYBDOMANCY:** draws mystic inferences from the hissing of molten lead. Divination by interpreting molten tin or lead. Divination by molten lead dropped into water. Prognostications were derived from interpretation of the resulting shapes and forms. The occurrence in Bailey's in 1727 pre-dates the OED's earliest citation. From New Latin molybdomantia, from the ancient Greek molybdos lead.

**MOROMANCY:** Foolish divination. A derogatory term for all divination. Derived from French moromantie, from the ancient Greek moros silly, foolish. The only variant, moromantie, occurs in Blount where it is taken exactly from the French

from Cotgrave. Normally Blount modified the ending. I assume in this case it is a mere oversight.

**MYOMANCY:** is the study of the prophetic meaning of behavior of rats and mice. Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of mice. A form of Augury. Derived from the ancient Greek myo-, combining form of mys mouse.

**MYRMOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of ants. A form of augury.

## N

**NAGOMANCY:** A hapax legomenon occurring in Gaule. Here it is synonymous with necromancy. Presumably it is a typographical error nigromancy

**NARCOMANCY:** Divination via sleep. See Meconomancy.

**NATIMANCY:** A jocular nonce-word for a supposed method of divination using the lines on the buttocks.

**NECROMANCY:** Nagomancy: consulting the dead or a spirit to obtain secret knowledge. This is usually done through a medium or channel who contacts the spirit. The divination through express communication with ghosts and or corpses (a deception as these spirits are devils that impersonate others). The spirits of the dead are sought for information because they are supposedly able to access information beyond that available to the living. Necromantic rites are not practiced in Witchcraft or Wicca. Necromancy differs from other forms of divination involving contact with spirits because it is specifically geared to summoning those spirits that are not existing in a "natural" state and therefore they are assumed to be unhappy and/or malicious.

1. Divination through raising the spirits the dead. Also called necyomancy.
2. Black magic; sorcery, witchcraft; magic in general, conjuration.

An adoption of a more etymologically correct form, from Latin (and also New Latin) necromantia, from the ancient Greek nekromanteia, from nekros dead. Replacing the Middle English form nigromancie. 16th Century: nicromancy, nycromancie, nycromancy. 17th Century: necromancie, necromanty, nycromansy. 18th Century: necromancie, necromantie. See also egromancy, igramancie, and especially nigromancy.

**NECRO-PURO-GEO-HYDRO-CHEIRO-COSCINO-MANCY:** A nonce-word meaning, literally, divination utilizing the raising of the dead, fire, earth, water, hands, and sieves. A blend of necromancy, pyromancy, geomancy, hydromancy, cheiromancy and coscinomancy. Note that puro- = pyro-.

**NECTROMANTIA:**

1. The same as necromancy.
2. The art of perceiving the inner or secret nature of things; psychometry, so called.

**NECYOMANCY:** Divination via summoning Satan. Divination through raising the spirits the dead; necromancy. Etymologically, and in ancient Greek (according to Liddle & Scott) these two words are synonymous. Litterally they both mean 'divination through calling up the dead'. Both nekys and nekro mean 'a dead body'. The definitions in Shipley and Byrne derive from the mistake of reading 'devil' to mean '(the) Devil', instead of its earlier meaning of, simply, 'spirit of a dead person, ghost'. In Cockeram in the second part of his book, a backwards dictionary, he defines both 'Diuation by calling vp damned spirits' and 'D. by calling vp deuills and ghostes' separately as 'Necromancy'. And 'necyomancy' appears not in this section. From New Latin, from Latin necyomantia, from the ancient Greek Nekyomanteia, from nekys a corpse. Necyomancie, Necyomantia, Necyomanty.

**NEPHELOMANCY:** See Aeromancy. Divination by clouds. From Greek nephele a cloud.

**NEPHROMANCY:** Divination by kidneys. From the ancient Greek nephros a kidney.

**NOMANCY:** Divination by names; onomancy. From the French nomancie, aphetic variant of onomancie, onomancy, influenced by French nom a name. An early variant form was nomency.

**NOTARIKON:** A form of gematria in which the first and last letters of a word or phrase are put together to create a new word, or to turn a word into a phrase. Gematria is a system of discovering truths and hidden meanings behind words, using numerical values for letters of the alphabet. Each letter corresponds to a number. The numerical values of words are totaled and interpreted in terms of other words with the same numerical value. Gematria dates back to the 8th century B.C. Babylon, and has been used by most mystics since that time including the

Magi, Gnostics, and Quabbalists. Temurah is a form of gematria that creates anagrams through systematic letter substitutions. See also: Numerology.

**NUMEROLOGY/ NUMBEROLOGY, NUMEROMANCY:** is the numerical interpretation of numbers, dates, and the number value of letters. divination by numbers. Numberologists give numerical values to the letters of the alphabet and analyze names for their numerical significance. It is claimed that one's character and future can thus be determined. The system of magick and divination developed by Pythagoras. In numerology, all words, names and numbers may be reduced to single digits which correspond to certain occult characteristics that influence one's life. Numerology is used to analyze a person's character; assess weaknesses, strengths and natural gifts; predict one's future and fate; determine the best place to live; and discover the best times to make decisions and take action. See also: Gematria. Divination by numbers; Numerology; Arithmancy. From the Latin numerus a number. (not to be confused with the scientific study of numbers and math especially in relationship to the Bible)

## O

**OCULOMANCY:** is divination from a person's eye. Divination by interpreting the eye. From Latin oculus an eye. See also Iridology.

**ODONTOMANCY:** Divination via the structure and indentations of teeth. From the ancient Greek odont-, combining form of odoys a tooth.

**OINOMANCY OENOMANCY:** is divination using wine. Divination by interpreting wine.

**OIL-ONOMANCY:** A pretty dreadful new form concocted by Raffel to translate Rabelais' 'onimancy'. It appears to be based on a mistake, for the basic sense of the original French word is divination by fingernails, albeit oil is used in the process.

**OINOMANCY:** Divination by wine, esp. when poured out in libations. From the ancient Greek oinos wine. Recorded only since the 17th century. One could however mistakenly believe that the word dates back to the 15th century if one happened to look up the headword -mancy in the OED. Here the illustrative citation for the Middle English period contains an error. The word ornomancie (See ornomancy) is substituted by oinomancie! œnomancy, oenomancy. New Latin: oenomantia

**OLOLYGOMANCY:** Divination by barking dogs. From the ancient Greek ololygon the croak of a male frog.

**OMEN:** A sign, preferably found in nature, that foretells either good or bad events.

**OMPHALOMANCY OMPHILOMANCY:** IS counting the number of knots in the umbilical cord to predict how many more children the mother will have Divination by interpreting the navel (bellybutton). Originally omphalomancy involved counting the number of knots in the umbilical cord to predict how many more children a mother would have. Divination by inspection of the navel cord of a newborn child. Also, divination of the future number of children by counting the number of knots in the umbilical cord. Or even divination through contemplating one's navel From the ancient Greek omphalos the navel. Omphelomancy, Omphilomancy.

**ONEIROMANCY ONIROMANCY:** is the interpretation of dreams and their prophetic nature. Divination by interpreting dreams. From the ancient Greek oneiros a dream. Cf oneiromantis foreboding from dreams, an interpreter of dreams. Also spelled Oneiromancie, Oniromancy. Certain individuals are gifted with clairvoyant dreams which they can use as means of predicting the out-come of future events. These dreams usually take place in the latter part of the night, before dawn, and are characteristically very clear. Like other forms of divination, they usually occur as the result of a special relationship with a deity and use either established symbolism that which is particular to the dreamer and easily recognised by him or her. For a practitioner, the following are established symbols of high accomplishment: seeing Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, one's personal deities, and receiving teachings from them; dreaming of being enthroned, putting on a crown, taking a bath, being given vajras and other religious implements; dreaming of having become king, of reading scriptures, of being in temples with holy objects, tigers, dragons, lions, garudas, horses, or ascending into the sky close to the sun and moon; rotating the four continents, easily swimming across the sea, seeing the sun or moon rising, ploughing a field, eating dairy products, and of sitting on a lotus; dreaming of being respected and praised by the gods, by one's parents, spiritual masters, beautiful ladies, and friends; dreaming of wildflower parks, rain, ripe fruit, kings, ascetics, Brahmins, wealthy people, virtuous masters, geese and other auspicious birds. Overcoming obstacles is indicated by dreaming of gold, treasure, precious stones, sound weapons, food grains, ornaments, armour, and of killing one's enemy. The following dreams, although apparently negative, actually

indicated good results, and symbolize the surmounting of obstacles: cutting off one's head, eating human flesh, washing one's body in blood, drinking alcohol, shaving off one's hair, burning one's body, immersing oneself in sewage, surrounding the town with one's entrails, and making love during the day. The following dreams indicated obstacles created by harmful Spirits: meeting tigers, leopards, cats, dogs, pigs, donkeys, mice, scorpions, weasels, snakes, vultures owls, dwarfs, dark, naked thin people, butchers, pale and skinny children, tall naked men, and struggling with any of the above; dreaming of wells becoming dry, of heaps of bones and skulls, and of ruined houses. In general bad dreams are those including the following indications: being chased by soldiers, applying vegetable oil to one's body, talking with crippled or hunchbacked individuals, seeing the sun or moon going down, climbing mountains of sand or twigs, seeing red flowers or camel's back, passing through narrow passages, wandering in a swamp, running downward, breaking the parts of one's body or of things, being defeated by others and engaging in unwholesome actions. These dreams indicate that an individual has very little merit and will have a short life. In such cases, a lama would advise that the person should accumulate merit, meditate on emptiness, and perform peaceful fire ritual offerings before resuming any activity he or she was engaging in.

**ONIMANCY:** Divination via fingernails. See Onychomancy. Variant of Onymancy.

**ONIROMANCY:** Variant of oneiromancy.

**ONOMANCY ONOMOMANCY, ONOMATOMANCY, ONOMAMANCY:** is the study of the meaning of names. Divination by interpreting names. Variant of onomancy. Also, ? the skill of repeating many names by memory. Not 'divination by asses' as some have suggested due to Gk onos ass, see Smedley, Phillips & Chambers. From New Latin onomantia, French onomancie, medieval Latin onomantia, shortening of medieval Latin onomatomantia, from the ancient Greek Onomatos a name. Onomamancy, Onomancie, Onomantia, Onomomancy. Variant of Onomatomancy From medieval Latin onomatomantia..

**ONOMANTICS, ONOMANCY:** applied to personal names, particularly in the sense of occult interpretation. Presumably a conflation of onomastics and onomancy.



**ONYCHOMANCY:** is the study of fingernails. Divination by interpreting the fingernails. The original form was to study the reflection of the sun in the nails of a young boy. See Onychomancy. Divination by observing the fingernails, oiled, and interpreting images seen reflected in the sunlight. From the ancient Greek *onychos* a fingernail. Onuchomancy, Onychomantia, Onycomancy. Erroneous Forms: Onchyomancy (Mackay), Oncyomantia (Brand). See also: Onimancy, Onymancy and Onyomancy. onycomancy, onychomancy, onymancy, onyomancy From New Latin *onimantia*, unexplained shortening of \**onychomantia*. Pictorius Vigillanus: *Onimantici enim fuligine et oleo pollicis unguem vel manus volam, seu palmam in puero tenello, tacito susurramine verborum accedente illinunt, ut hinc spectra videant, aut imagines pro sua re convenientes, quas puer denuo prodat.*

**OOMANTIA and OOSCOPY OOMANCY:** is the method of divination by eggs. Divination by interpreting the shape, color, and patterns (when dyed) of an egg.

1. Divination of the future sex of a child by incubating a hen's egg between the mother-to-be's breasts and noting the sex of the chick.
2. Divination by dropping egg-whites into water.

Commonly in the New Latin form *oomantia*. Cf. *ooscopy*. From New Latin *oomantia*, from the ancient Greek *oon* an egg. Greek did have the word *Ooskopia*.

**OOSCOPY:** Divination by nurturing an egg and observing the hatching of a chick. Often used to determine the sex of an expected child.

**OPHIOMANCY:** is divination from serpents. Divination by observing the appearance and behavior of serpents. A form of augury. Divination from serpents and their manner of coiling up or eating. From New Latin *ophiomantia*, from the ancient Greek *ophio-*, combining form of *ophis* a snake. I have in my files a note that this word was also spelled as *orphiomancy*, but can presently find no evidence for this assertion.

**OPHTHALMOMANCY:** Divination of one's character by observing the eyes. This would be another form of *Iridology*. From the ancient Greek *ophthalmos* an eye.

**ORACLE:** The Modern Oracle respects the traditional enigmatical prophetic verses alongside the more coherent prophetic verses as well. Enigmatical verses for instance needed to be translated for seekers of prophecy for the Oracle of Delphi. Oracles that divine information coherently have no need for interpreters for they are coherent enough during the divining to interpret their own findings. Many see

Oracles do not only have the ability of precognition, but this is only the mainstream version of divining. Oracles at Delphi were chosen based on their potentials to interact with the gods in an entranced state. At Delphi, Oracles would directly inhale ethylene gases and sway in a euphoric trance to enhance intuition. She would continue by answering question in an ecstatic and wild manner in a complete incoherency. They were not necessarily precognitive or clairvoyant before they became oracles, but had the potential to be communicated through. Other Oracles are born with the ability to prophesize and have an unbreakable heritage. These Oracles are raised from early childhood by their spirit guides due to their extensive abilities such as Precognition (future sight), Postcognition (past sight), Clairvoyance (to see the unseen), Clairsentience (to sense the insensible), Clairaudience (to hear the inaudible) and Psipathy (based on still images and detailed emotions). It is their past, their present and future life. At any time they can choose to wander from their growth, their path, but these abilities can be overwhelming to live a normal life for the gifts can outgrow the Oracle.

Oracles never receive all the information asked, rather all the information necessary. They divine what is needed to be known at the time, not necessarily what actually is the truth. Oracles are raised in a community of people and have set belief systems that are ever growing. Oracles offer their prophecies to their community and never ask for anything in return. Oracles, such as the one at Delphi, are allowed to accept donations. The calling and faith of an Oracle is precious to them and their laws are never undermined without consequence. An Oracle does not know all such as in myth, they only learn from what they ask and they only answer in detail if the question was in detail as well. (Vagueness results in vagueness). Basically, they only know what they need to now. For questions of great standing value one "must" choose their question wisely and the format in which it is given. The modern Oracle is an individual who speaks to divine beings such as archangels or gods, but rarely the dead. The Oracle bases their reception of information in the "heavens" not in the "underworld". The modern Oracle is an individual of heritage, a strong belief structure, a community, of charity and of many gifts. Too many individuals believe Oracles to be fictitious and their prophecies if correct are merely seen as an auspicious coincidence. Those who lack in intuitive awareness tend to be a constituent of this belief. Whether or not an oracle is believed by anyone external to their community is irrelevant. It is supremely their only need to be accepted unconditionally by their community. The Oracle in history has been a right-hand to many kings and queens. They are of

great importance to political, financial and generalized community matters. Thus is the same today in the modern world. Many communities all over the world including the USA and Britain have Oracles either as royal advisors equal to that of Shamans. They are also help highly as leaders of smaller communities. In these communities they better their people's futures by foretelling the major movements in their system. They are still seen as priest and priestesses and aide consistently in the ever advancing belief system for the area. Oracles also involve themselves in the societies moral or laws of the community. The Oracle adjoins their localized accepted belief system and formulates just laws accordingly. Since the diviner preforms his or her services without a salary the community takes care of him or her and supplies the oracle with everything she or her requires to continue preforming this great service. Keep in mind a diviner in a community setting is not of control and seizure rather of innovation, growth and revision.

Oracles are not only utilized to look into the future, but to also be utilized in protection and healing. Protection is done spiritually and the healing is both mental, by entering the deep recesses of the mind through their guide's aide, and of a physical nature. However, their primary function is to protect those of their community unconditionally. The term Oracle in Tibet is used to describe the spirit who enters the "medium" rather than the medium. The Oracle in this case would be a medium between the physical and metaphysical spirit world. In Tibet's case they are known as Kutens or "the physical bases". Also in Tibet there was once thought to be thousands of Oracles, but today only a few remain, including those consulted by the Tibetan government. A person who speaks directly to a Deity to divine or prophesize. Also known as Prophet, Theomancer. See Also: Ariolater, Aruspex, Clairvoyant, Diviner, Haruspex, Seer, and Soothsayer. More Information on this site about Oracles

**ORNISCOPY and ORINITHOMANCY:** is the study of omens associated with birds, particularly birds in flight. see **APANTOMANCY** Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of birds, especially their flight or song. A form of augury.

**ORNITHOMANCY:** Divinations via a birds flight and cries. From medieval Latin or New Latin ornithomantia, from the ancient Greek ornithomanteia divination by birds (but, also, = crithomanteia ?), from ornithos genitive of ornis bird.

ORNOMANCY: A early spelling, dating back to the Middle English period, of ornithomancy. This curious form seems to be a shortened version of ornithomancy, but yet is found centuries earlier. It has no parallel in other medieval languages, medieval Latin had ornithomantia, regularly adopted from the ancient Greek ornithomanteia. A similar "earlier" shortening can be seen in arithmancy.

c1500 (?a1475) John Lydgate Assembly of the Gods ll. 862--70: These folowyd Konnyng & the dyr with hym came, With many ooñ moo offryng her seruyce To Vertew at hat nede; but natwithstandyng than Some he refusyd and seyde in nowyse They shuld with hym go, and, as I coude auyse, These were her names: fyrst, Nygromansy, Geomansy, Magyk, and Glotony,

Adryomancy, Ornomancy, with Pyromancy, Fysenamy also, and Pawmestry, And all her sequelys, yef I shult nat ly.

OROMANCIE: An early var. of Urimancy.

ORYCTOMANCY: Divination via the study of excavated objects. From the ancient Greek oryktos dug up.

OSSOMANCY, OSTEOMANCY: Divination via bones. From Latin ossa a bone.

OUIJA, OUIJA BOARD: (French, oui: "yes"; German, ja: "yes"): A divination tool with the alphabet and numbers laid out on a board. Also called a Spirit Board. Produced to look like a child's game: this is a yes-yes board. It is designed to deceive as is all forms of divination.

OURANOMANCY, OUIROMANCY: See Uranomancy.

OVOMANCY: is another type of egg divination. Divination by interpreting the yolk of an egg. See also oomancy. From ovo-, combining form of Latin ovum an egg.

## P

PALLOMANCY: Divination interpreting the movements of pendulum, often used in dowsing. Different forms of pallomancy include: Cleidomancy (using a key); Coscinomancy (using a sieve); Dactylomancy (using a ring); Also known as Radiesthesia. Derived from the ancient Greek pallo to weild, to sway, to swing.

**PALMISTRY / CHIROMANCY:** Palmomancy: is the broad field of divination and interpretation of the lines and structure of the hand. The study of the hand, and the lines of the palm to assess character and foretell the future. See Cheiromancy.

**PANTOMANCER:** A scathing term invented by Gaule for one who divines by anything and everything; an inveterate and constant finder of omens and presages. From the ancient Greek pantos of everything, genitive of pas all.

**PAPYROMANCY:** Divination by interpreting folding paper. A jocular nonce-word. Derived from ancient Greek papyrus paper, referring to the paper used in rolling a joint.

**PEDOMANCY, PEDIMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the footprint of a person, usually encased in clay. A form of podomancy (interpreting the feet). divination by lines on the soles of the feet. [from pedo- combining form from L pedi-, pes foot. The more etymologically 'correct' form should be either pedimancy (from pedi- the 'correct' combining form from Latin pes, ped- em foot) or podomancy (using the combining form from the Greek ποδ-, ποδος (pous, podos)). Here the ped- comes from the Latin root, and the -o- is the usually English connective as seen in numerous other words, especially those ending in -mancy. For these reasons OED labels the word a hybrid. According to Murray it was originally a jocular term used by Gabriel Harvey in his book *Pierce's Super*, in 1593, but later used seriously] (paeligdomancy, pedomancie, podomancy).

**PEGOMANCY:** concerns itself with spring water and bubbling fountains and the omens contained therein. Divination by interpreting sacred pools, springs, wells or fountains. A form of Hydromancy and often used in conjunction with scrying.

**PERIMANCIE:** a Middle English form of pyromancy.

**PESSOMANCY:** Divination by casting or drawing marked stone, rocks, pebbles or beans. A form of Sortilege. Also known as Psephomancy.

**PHALLOMANCY:** divination by observation of a bull's penis. [Gk (phallos) the penis].

**PHRENOLOGY:** is the long practiced study of head formations. See Cranioscopy.

**PHYLOMANCY:** divination by leaves. [NL phyllomancy, MGk omanteia (phyllomanteia), from Gk (phyllon) leaf]

**PHYLLORHODOMANCY:** is a means of divination whereby one slaps a rose petal against the hand and judges the favorability of the omen by the loudness of the sound. Divination by interpreting rose petals. The original form involved slapping a rose petal against the palm of the hand and interpreting the sound made. Divination of luck in love by clapping rose petals against the palm and noting the loudness of the sound made. [Gk (phyllon) leaf + `poov (rhodon) rose].

**PHYLOROMANCY:** Divination by the face. Divination from the general appearance. [ cf Gk phyll- leaf].

**PHYSIOGNOMY, PHYSIOGNOMANCY:** is the study of character analysis through physical features. Divination and character analysis by interpreting the face. Similar to Metoposcopy (interpretation of facial lines). An alternate term for the more common word physiognomy, the study of the face a. to gain insight to a person's character and b. to divine their future. This practice was common in former times, but recently is not so prominent in New Age philosophies. Many works have been written on the subject, the most famous being that of Aristotle. For a pretty poor rationale of the practice see the citation for 1797. As with many early forms of divination, physignomy was conflated with astrology, with certain wrinkles on the face being assigned signs and/or planets, just as in chiromancy. Later refinements of this practice were metoposcopy or metopomancy, and moleosophy or meilomancy. Some suggest that it helped to give rise to phrenology, but I do not think the connection is that close, phrenology being formed on a quite different assumption. The word is a simple compound of physiogno(my) + -mancy. The word physiognomy was borrowed into English in the Middle English period, and there was subject to much spelling variation, occurring occasionally as phisionomie, but more usually with a syllable dropped, as phisonomie, physynomye, fysenamye , or even with two syllables dropped, as in fysnomye, fisnomy and physnomy. The word makes its way into English from the Old French fisionomie or Medieval Latin physonomia, both in turn from the Medieval Latin physionomia, from Late Greek physiognomia. This form actually arises, according to OED, from an erroneous form, appearing in the Eclogae of Stobaeus, of the Greek physiognomonía the art of reading the features, ultimately a compound of physis nature, and gnomon to judge. The modern English form is an educated spelling based on the original ancient Greek. It is remarkable that from the Greek physiognomonía to the Middle English fisnomy there is a reduction from

seven syllables to only three. The variant forms given by Shipley (fiznomancy, phyznomancy) represent possible Middle English or even early modern English forms, though I cannot find corroborating evidence for them. I would like to express my great doubts about them. Hellweg merely copies Shipley. The variant from Collier's Encyclopedia is probably the result of an erroneous transcription. None of these forms, including the headword, appear in OED.

**PIROMANCY:** a Middle English form of pyromancy.

**PNEUMANCY:** divination by blowing, of candles, etc. [Gk (pneuma) wind]

**PODOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the feet. See Pedomancy. (see Reflexology)

**POSTCOGNITION:** This ability can help one to see what has happened in the past, or to see people who have passed on. Some postcognates can see ghosts wandering the earth in search for retribution or the chance to cross over and be at peace. Some also see spirits, ghosts that have passed on and want recognition, or are just wandering about with a loved one they watch over. Some postcognates can see Demonic's and Angelic's as well, though the base of their gift lies with the dead.

**PRECOGNITION:** in an inner knowledge or sense of future events. An an inner knowledge or vision of future events, especially those that appear to be inevitable. Similar to Premonition (a vague image or sense of the event). This ability is usually chaotic in which is not controlled or harnessed rather it's sudden and unexpected. Some use this gift to see the near future, or far into the future for instance anything from what they will look like, what car they will drive to how they will die.

**PREMONITION:** A warning of an impending event, experienced as foreboding, anxiety and intuitive sense of dread. Premonitions tend to occur before disasters, accidents and deaths. Similar to Precognition (a clear image of the event).

**PROPHECY:** A prediction of future events, usually divinely inspired.

**PROPHET:** See Oracle.

**PSEPHOMANCY:** Divination via political elections. Divination by drawing pebbles from a pile. Usually a chicken was employed to do the drawing. [NL psephomantia, Gk (psephos) pebble].

**PSEUDOMANCY:** False or fake divination. Deceptive divination. [medL pseudomantia, from Gk pseudomanteia, from pseudo-, pseud false]. This is the true case of all divination; but not that their outcome is factual or true to the extent of coming to pass; this is the actual deception. The end never justifies the means.

**PSYCHOGRAPHY:** is a form of mysterious writing having a divinatory nature. Spirit communication done unconsciously by an individual often in trance, obsession or possession states. Automatic communication has occurred with people in a fully conscious state without their awareness of the action and distinct personality and knowledge variants (e.g.: fluency in an ancient language) have been documented. Psychography is the term applied to written communication and is also known as Autography and Automatic Writing. Psychography is distinct from Direct Writing where a spirit writes directly without human or mechanical assistance. All forms are distinct from Psychomancy where the diviner consciously summons the spirit for communication.

**PSYCHOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the soul of a person, their values, beliefs and morals. Also known as Soul Reading. Divination through raising the spirits the dead; necromancy. Occult communication between souls or spirits. [Gk Yvxovic (psychomantis) a necromancer, sorcerer; from yvxn (psyche) breath, soul, spirit] (psycomancy).

**PSYCHOMETRY:** is the faculty of gaining impressions from a physical object and its history. Divination by interpreting an object to obtain information about its history and/or owner. Considered to be a form of clairvoyance and often used to locate missing persons or to assist in solving crime. The term was coined in the mid-nineteenth century by Joseph R. Buchanan, an American physiologist.

**PYROMANCY and PYROSCOPY:** are forms of divination by fire or flame, often assisted by substances thrown onto the flames. Divination by fire. Leaves, twigs, or incense are thrown into a fire, and changes in color, shape, and intensity of the flames are interpreted. Divination by interpreting fires, flames or burning objects. There are many different forms of pyromancy including: Botanomancy (burning branches and leaves);Capnomancy (smoke); Causinomancy (burning flammable objects);Daphnomancy (burning a laurel branch); Lampadomancy (lamps or candles); Pyroscopy (burning paper); Sideromancy (burning straw). divination by fire or by forms appearing in fire. [OF pyromance, LL pyromantia, from Gk ?vpomanteia (pyromanteia) from ?vp (pyr) fire] Variant Forms: ME - piromanci,



piromancie, piromancye, piromaunce, pyromancye, pyromanty, perimancie, perimansie, permansie, pernirancy. Surviving into Early modE - piromancy, pyromancie. NL pyromantia. Observing the flames of ritual fire offerings is also a form of divination. First, one invokes the fire god and then observes the flame. A bright, golden, orange colour, a smokeless and soundless quality, the flame burning strongly and turning to the right, or burning upward in a single point, the fire lasting long and giving off a pleasant smell are general positive signs, and indicate that whatever questions one had in mind will be answered in a positive way. When the colour of the flame is Snow white and the fire burns very gently, it mean that one has been cleansed of imprints left by unwholesome actions. The flame turning yellow means that one will become powerful and wealthy. Its turning bright red signifies success in any undertaking and its becoming a clear, smokeless blue colour symbolizes sound health and that one will develop one's lineage. Signs of illness and other misfortune are indicated by the fire blazing fiercely and the flame turning dark smoky, the colour of human flesh, green, that of vegetable oil, dull, pale, having two or three points and a foul smell. When performing a fierce fire offering ritual, though, the above signs are considered to be positive. Signs that are considered to be negative in the case of either peaceful or wrathful rituals are sparks and smoke afflicting the performer of the ritual. Dark flames moving in all directions and blazing in an unsteady way indicate the termination of one's lineage.

**PYROSCOPY:** Divination by interpreting burning paper. Originally, pyroscopy was the interpretation of the stains left on a light surface after burning paper, current practice includes observation of the paper as it burns. A form of pyromancy

## **R**

**RADIESTHESIA:** is the general term for divination using a device such as a divining rod or pendulum. Other forms include "table tipping" which was practiced at the White House in the 19th century, the Ouija board, automatic writing (or superconscious writing), and scrying. See Pallomancy.

**RETROCOGNITION:** Basically Postcognition, but on some occasions it can be post and precognitively based.

**RETROMANCY:** divination by observing things over the shoulder. [L retro backwards]

**RHABDOMANCY, RABDOMANCY:** is divination using a stick or wand. These methods were forerunners of the divining rod. the interpretation of the position of rods, arrows, or staffs for the purpose of divination. Divination using a stick, wand or divining rod. Rhabdomancy is often used in dowsing.

1. (1646) (generally) divination by means of any rod, wand, staff, stick, arrow, etc. (specifically) Used to describe various methods of divination as by a. using sticks to draw lots,
  - a. setting staffs on end and watching them fall,
  - b. divination by arrows (with wooden shafts) - see belomancy.
2. Used in reference to two instances occurring the Bible - Hosea 4:12 and Ezekial 21:21. It is not certain what practises these verses are actually referring to, but it is generally considered to be a divinatory practice. Numbers 17 (almond rod) has also been ascribed to rhabdomancy. None of these practises seem to be found in Ancient Greece. Liddle & Scott are "dubious" about the word's existence in Classical Greek, though, naturally, the word is well attested in Patristic Greek. II. (1649) the use of a divining-rod (the *virgula divina*, or *baculus divinatorius*), a Y-shaped branch of a tree, in discovering ores, springs of water, etc; also known as dowsing, water witching, and, rarely, Bletonism. Often the branch was taken from a hazel tree, a tree which has long had mystic significance - the rods of Moses and Aaron were of hazel, and Apollo gave Mercury a hazel rod. However, any other sort of appropriately shaped branch could be used, and in modern times two separate pieces of wire are often substituted. The method basically involved holding the divining-rod before oneself and wandering over the land, when above the thing sought for the rod moves involuntarily in some manner. This was in extensive use from the 16th century onwards in Germany for discovering ores. Sebastian Münster's *Cosmographia universalis* 1544, and Georg Agricola's *De Re metallica* 1546, provide early evidence of this art. It's use for discovery of subterranean water, hidden treasure, thieves, etc. does not seem to be recorded before the seventeenth century. In modern occultism rhabdomancy is explained as a form of radiesthesia.

**RHAPSODOMANCY:** is a means of divination using a book of poetry whereby the book is opened at random and a passage read. Divination by interpreting randomly chosen passages in a book of Poetry. The most common form is opening

a book to a random page to answer a question. The variant of using any book is called bibliomancy or stichomancy and using books by Virgil and Homer is called stoichemancy. [F rhapsodomancie, NL rhapsodomantia, from Gk `pywoc (rhapsodos) reciter of epic poems].

**ROADOMANCY:** See Astromancy. divination by stars. [ OE rodor technical term for the firmament, the fixed stars, but this word did not apparently survive into ME].

**RUNES, RUNIC, RUNOLOGY, RUNEOLGY:** Runes are an alphabetic script used by the peoples of Northern Europe from the first century c.e. until well into the Middle Ages. In addition to their use as a written alphabet, the runes also served as a system of symbols used for magic and divination. Runes fell into disuse as the Roman alphabets became the preferred script of most of Europe, but their forms and meanings were preserved in inscriptions and manuscripts. Also known as the Futhark. An ancient Norse and Germanic alphabet the symbols of which were ascribed magical properties and used mainly for charms and inscriptions, on stone, wood, metal, or bone. More Information

## S

**SCAPULIMANCY:** Divination via the shoulder blade which has been charred or cracked from a fire. It is said that divining from shoulder blades was first done by brown bears who, after killing weasels and mice took out the shoulder blades and examined the lines on them to know whether they were being pursued by hunters. This was observed by hunters, who noticed that the bears sometimes ate the body of their prey and sometimes abandoned it uneaten with only the shoulder blade extracted. Gradually, this form of divination came into use among hunters themselves, as well as among robbers and thieves. It was also very popular among village people. The bone used in the divination must be the right shoulder blade of a slaughtered sheep, as opposed to an animal which has died from disease or been lulled by wild animals. To begin with, the shoulder blade must be cleaned of meat and washed in clean water. The diviner than fumigates it with juniper and holds it up with his or her right hand to be reflected in a mirror. Next, he recited 'Ye dharma' three to seven times and invokes the deities requesting them to give a clear answer. The shoulder blade is then burned in a smokeless fire, Out of the sight of strangers. During the burning, if the shoulder blade makes a rattling sound it means evil spirits are haunting the house. Accompanying clucking sounds would indicate

that they are causing harm and discord in the family. The spine of the shoulder blade falling away very quickly would mean that the above troubles could be dispelled with appropriate rituals. The shoulder blade is divided into different areas which enable the diviner to make quite detailed predictions. These are: one's protector's, Naga's enemy's and kindred's areas. Between the protector's and the kindred's areas are five sections known as the king's, the lord's, the minister's, one's own and the servant's areas. These should be separated by a distance of one finger's breadth. Bubbles in one's own area are a good sign, although if they recede the implications are negative. A crack in the lower part of one's own area indicates weakness in that year, and in the middle part, misfortune and regret. However, a crack on the back signifies invincibility in the face of enemies and evil spirits. A crack in the shoulder blade socket indicates loss of property, though its fullness indicates impending wealth. The shoulder remaining white is a positive sign of imminent action, while its turning to an ash colour is negative and indicates high winds that year. Black stands for heavy sin and yellow for a warm year. The shoulder blade's cracking in many lines indicates a loss of path or an unsuccessful future. Generally speaking white cracks are good indications, black ones are bad and slightly dark ones are of middling negativity. White cracks in one's protector's area indicate that the protector is helping you and black ones show the necessity of performing purifying rituals, lamp offerings, incense burning rituals, hoisting prayer flags and chanting prayers of confession. If the Naga's area or the cracks on it become black one must perform a Naga cake offering beside springs and lakes. A crack appearing in the upper part of one's enemy's area means that he will become powerful and if it is black, it is a bad sign and one must recite sutras and the ritual of the white Umbrella (gDugs dkar), which has the power to clear obstacles. If the kindred area is black one must perform ransom life rituals (Tse sgrub). The division between the king's area and the servant's area are examined in the same way. The shoulder blade's cracking in vertical lines denotes illness and in horizontal lines, that one will be a victim of theft and robbery or that it will take a long time to achieve a goal or accomplish a task.

**SCAPULOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the patterns, cracks and fissures of the burned shoulder blade of an animal. Sometimes considered to be a form of augury (divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of animals). Also known as Spatulamancy. Esp. a sheep's shoulder-blade. [L scapula shoulder-blade] (scapulamancy, scapulimancy)

**SCARPOMANCY:** Divination by old shoes. [It scarpa shoe].

**SCATOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting excrement. A form of Spatalamancy (divination by interpreting skin, bones or excrement). [NL scatomania, from Gk koc, kwp (skatos, skor) dung].

**SCHEMATOMANCY:** Divination via the appearance of people. Divination in which the personal history of a person is inferred from their form and appearance; used to translate the Arabic kiy?fah. [Gk xno-, xn (schemato-, schema) form, outward appearance].

**SCIAMANCY, SCIOMANCY:** Divination by communication with spirits. Distinct from Necromancy in that the spirits are voluntary participants in the divination. Divination by consulting the dead. [LL sciomantia, from LGk kio-, ki (skio-, skia) ghost; cf. OF sciomance, Sp, It sciomancia] (sciamancy, sciamantie, sciomantie).

**SCIOMANCY:** is divination using a spirit guide, a method generally employed by channelers. Divination by consulting the dead. [LL sciomantia, from LGk kio-, ki (skio-, skia) ghost; cf. OF sciomance, Sp, It sciomancia] (sciamancy, sciamantie, sciomantie)

**SCRYING:** is a general term for divination using a crystal, mirrors, bowls of water, ink, or flames to induce visions. See Catoptromancy.(1) Information and Techniques (2)More Information

**SCYPHOMANCY:** Divination by drinking cups. [Gk kvoc (skyphos) cup]

**SEER:** See Ariolater.

**SELENOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the appearance and phase of the moon. [Gk ^nvn (selene) the moon].

**SHAMAN:** A medicine man, priest or healer that reaches past the boundris of herbs into the psychological levels. The can seek out new knowledge to help aid and he can accompany the spirits of the dead on their journey to the afterlife.

**SHOWSTONE:** See Crystal Ball.

**SICOMANCY:** See Sycomancy.

**SIDEROMANCY:** is the burning of straws with a hot iron, the resulting figures having divinatory properties. Divination interpreting straw placed on a hot iron

surface. A form of pyromancy (divination interpreting fire). [Gk in poc (sideros) iron].

**SIDEROMANCY:** Divination via the stars. [from sidero- combining form of L sider-, sidus star].

**SKATHAROMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the tracks of a beetle crawling over a grave, especially that of a murder victim. A form of augury (interpreting the appearance or behavior of animals).

**SMOKE DIVINATION, SMOKE SCRYING:** See Pyromancy.

**SOLMANCY:** Divination via the interpretation of the patterns formed by the rays of the sun.

**SOOTHSAYER:** See Ariolater

**SORTILEGE:** is the casting of lots and the assessment of omens indicated. Divination by casting or drawing lots. There are many types of sortilege including: Astraglomancy (sheep bones); Belomancy (arrows); Bibliomancy (books); Cleromancy (dice); Pessomancy (pebbles); Rhapsodomancy (poetry); Stichomancy (books); Sometimes known as Cleromancy.

**SOUL READING:** See Psychomancy.

**SPASMATOMANCY:** Divination of forecoming diseases by watching the twitching limbs of a person. [Gk o-, (spasmato-, spasma) a spasm].

**SPATALAMANCY:** Divination by interpreting skin, bone or excrement. [a Gaulean mistake for Gk \*i<sup>o</sup>manteia (spatilomanteia), from Gk i<sup>n</sup> (spatile) human excrement, also, parings of leather].

**SPATILOMANCY:** Divination by means of animal excrements and refuse.

**SPATULAMANCY:** See Scapulomancy. Divination by shoulder-blades. [med or modL spatulamancie, from L spatul shoulder-blade] (spatulomancy).

**SPEALOMANCY:** Divination by shoulder-blades. [speal- , from speal-bone shoulder-blade, found only in the phrase 'reading the speal-bone' = divining from a shoulder-blade].

**SPHEROMANCY:** Divination via a crystal sphere. See Crystallomancy. [from sphero- combining form of Gk ip (sphaira) ball].

**SPIRIT BOARD:** See Ouija.

**SPLANCHOMANCY:** See Anthropomancy.

**SPHONDULOMANCY:** Divination by spindles. [Gk ovv<sup>^</sup>oc (sphondulos) the round weight that twirls a spindle; cf Gk ovv<sup>^</sup>ovic (sphondulomantis) divining by a spindle].

**SPHLANCHNOMANCY:** divination by entrails of sacrifices. [Gk <sup>^</sup>yxvov (splanchnon) the inward parts, the viscera].

**SPATULOMANCY:** Divination via the shoulder blades of animals.

**SPODOMANCY SPODANOMANCY:** is divination using cinders or soot. Divination by interpreting ashes, soot or cinders, usually from sacrificial fires or burnt offerings. Also known as Tephramancy, Tephromancy or Tuphramancy. Divination by the patterns of ashes left from a fire. [Gk oc (spodos) ashes].

**STAREOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the Elements. - earth, air, fire, water. [presumably from Gk stereos solid, with a typically Gaulean spelling error; however, if so, Gaule's choice of Greek here is a little poor since the term 'solid' can hardly be applied to three of the four elements].

**STERCOMANCY:** Divination by seeds planted in dung. [L stercus dung].

**STERNOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the area between the breast and belly (solar plexus). Basically only recorded in Gaule, Blount ast Urquhart. [NL sternomantia, Gk pvov (sternon) breast bone. Cf Gk pvovic (sternomantis) one who divines by the belly].

**STICHOMANCY:** is another form of throwing open a book and selecting a random passage for the purpose of divination. See Bibliomancy. Divination by passages from books. [F stichomantie, from Gk ixoc (stichos) row of poetry. The form stoichomancy from Gk oixoc (stoichos), a variant of ixoc (stichos). The form stoiche(i)omancy clearly arises from a confusion, first by Weyer, then by Spence, of stoichomancy with Gk oixiwikoi (stoicheiomaticoi) persons who cast nativities from the signs of the zodiac, (from oixiw (stoicheiomata) signs of the Zodiac, from

oixiov (stoicheion) element)] Variant Forms: (erroneous) Stitchomancy, Stoicheomancy, Stoicheiomancy, Stoichomancy.

**STIGONOMANCY:** Divination by writing on tree bark. A dictionary word. [Gk iywv (stigon) a tattooed or branded person, one who marks (according FastW)].

**STOICHEMANCY:** Divination by interpreting randomly chosen passages in books by Virgil and Homer. A form of Bibliomancy.

**STOLISOMANCY:** draws omens from the way people dress. Divination by interpreting people's clothing and style. [from Gk o^ioc (stolismos) clothing, dress, but with spelling error].

**SYCOMANCY:** is performed by writing messages on tree leaves; the slower they dry, the more favorable the omen. A modern variation is to write on slips of paper (always including one blank) and rolling them up. They are then held in a strainer over a boiling pot; the first to unroll will be answered. Divination by interpreting the response of a written question to moisture. Originally, questions were written on fig leaves, the slower the leaf dried out, the more favorable the prediction. Today, sycomancy is done with paper (observing the response to steam) or tree leaves (observing the drying time). Also applies to figs.

1. (Specifically and originally)
  - a. Divination by means of writing messages on fig leaves, or sycamore leaves.
  - b. A mode of divination employing figs.
2. (Loosely) applied to any divination using leaves. [NL sycomantia (Agrippa) divination by fig leaves, from Gk ?vkov (sykon) fig] Varinant Forms: sicomancy, sychomancy, sycomanty.

**SYMBOLOMANCY:** Divination by object occurring on the road. [Gk vo^ov (symbolon) a symbol].

## T

**TAROT:** Divination by interpreting a set of 78 cards which carry pictures and symbols used to connect the diviner with the collective unconscious. The cards can be used to determine the past, present and future of an event or person and can become powerful tools in magickal workings and rituals. The Tarot is divided into the 22 Major Arcana or Trump cards that depict dominant occurrences and the 56



Minor Arcana or Suit cards that assist in fleshing out the situations indicated by the Trump Cards, or indicate smaller occurrences. The Minor Arcana are also known as the Lesser Arcana.

**TAROLOGIST:** A person who divines using Tarot cards.

**TASSEOGRAPHY, TASSEOMANCY:** is the reading of tea leaves that remain in a tea cup once the beverage has been drunk. divination by reading tea-leaves. The dregs of a cup of tea are swirled around inside the cup, then the cup is inverted on a saucer. The seer interprets the patterns of the leaves remaining inside the cup. Divination by interpreting tea leaves and coffee grounds. [F tasse cup]. More Information

**TEPHRAMANCY, TEPHROMANCY:** is divination by ashes obtained from the burning of tree bark. See Spodanomancy. [F tephromancie, NL tephromantia, thephramantia (Agrippa), from Gk τέφρα (tephra) ashes] Variant Forms: tephramancy, tephramanty, tephromancy (Gaule and copyists), tephromantia.

**THEOMANCY:** Divination through direct contact with a Deity. Practitioners are usually referred to as Oracles, Prophets or Theomancers.

1. (Properly) In Greek antiquity, the art of prophecy; oracular divination; divination gained from a person inspired by some divinity. (NB - Bailey says opposite to this).
2. (From a Christian viewpoint [seen in the eyes of the divination practitioner) a mode of pretended divination by the revelation of the Spirit, or by the Scriptures, or, by attempting to summons God by name. Gaule and Blount are particularly scathing on this point. Compare theonomancy. [Gk θεομαντεία (theomanteia) spirit of prophesy, θεομαντικός (theomantis) one inspired with the spirit of prophesy, an oracle, from Gk θεός (theos) god].

**THEOMANCER:** See Oracle.

**THEONOMANCY:** divination by the invocation of the names of God. [Gk θεός (theos) god + ὄνομα, ὄνομα (ono-, onoma) name].

**THERIOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the movement of groups of animals (e.g.: flocks of geese, herds of cattle). A form of augury (divination by interpreting the appearance or behavior of animals). [Gk θηρίον (therion) a wild animal].

**THUMOMANCY:** divination by one's own soul. [Gk *thumomantis* (thumomantis) prophesying from one's own soul (without special inspiration), endowed with a spirit of prophesy (the opposite of *theomantis*), from *thumos* (thumos) the soul]

**TIROMANCY, TYPOMANCY, TYROMANCY:** is a type of divination using cheese. Divination by interpreting the coagulation, especially holes, in cheese.

**TOPOMANCY:** Divination via the shape of an area of land. [Gk *topos* (topos) place].

**TRANSATAUMANCY:** Divination based on something seen or heard accidentally. Even trifling mistakes were accepted as omens by the ancient Romans, and even today many people are apt to attribute their good fortune to chance occurrence or coincidence.

**TROCHOMANCY:** Divination via the interpretation of wheel tracks. [Gk *trochos* (trochos) a wheel].

**TUPHRAMANCY:** See Spodanomancy. See Tephromancy.

**TYLOMANCY:** a mistake in the first edition (1981) of *The Macquarie Dictionary* for xylomancy. Corrected in second edition (1991). The same error occurs in *The Macquarie Thesaurus* (1984)]

**TYPOMANCY, TYROMANCY:** See Tiromancy.

**TYROMANCY:** Divination via cheese. [F *tyromantie*, NL *tyromantia*, from Gk *tyros* (tyros) cheese; cf. *tyromantis* (tyromantis) one who divines by cheese] (tiromancy, tiromantie).

## U

**UMBILICOMANCY:** Divination by the umbilical cord; omphalomancy. From New Latin *umbilicomantia* (Agrippa), from Latin *umbilicus* the navel. 1995 C. Walker Encyc. Secret Knowledge 177: The arts of venamancy and umbilicomancy are divinatory systems linked with childbirth, which he [sc. Barthelemy Cocles] claims to have learned from his mother, a skilled midwife.

**URANOMANCY:** Divination via consulting the heavens. A rare word, recorded only once, in the 17th century, for divination by the stars; astrology; astromancy. From ancient Greek *ouranos* heaven, the heavens, the sky. The variant form

included by Shipley is without other evidence. This form was quite possible in the 17th century, which had ouranography a description of the heavens.

URIMANCY, UROMANCY: Divination by interpreting urine.

URIM V'TUMIM: Divination by interpreting the sacred stones attached to the breast plate of a High Priest.

URINOMANCY: A rare term for the more common Uromancy. The 1979 citation is clearly referring to a 17th century text, however, the title was most likely originally in Latin, as was probably the whole book. It apparently was not one of Fludd's own texts. From urino- combining form of Latin *urina* urine.

UROMANCY: Medical diagnosis gained by inspection of the urine. First recorded in Agrippa where it is used derisively of physicians, along with drymimancy and scatomancy. This medical practise, roughly speaking, is still in use today, but it is not thought of as 'divination' per se. However in earlier times, especially during the Middle Ages and Renaissance when physicians were informed by Galenian principles (i.e. the theory of the four humours), it was a very different diagnostic method. As practiced in former times it was quite a simplistic. In a book by physician Thomas Brain entitled *The Pisse-Prophet* dating from 1655, we are told that, basically, diseases were categorised by uromancers into two types acute and chronic, and that dark coloured urine signified acute diseases, and weak, watery urine signified chronic diseases. Chemical analysis of urine was not performed, rather it was looked at concerning its "severall colours, parts, contents, substance, quantity, [and] smell". Brian points out that such urine colouring does not always signify acute illnesses. Here the physicians were using simple colour metaphor, red = hot, therefore = fever. However, Brian is probably simplifying things in order to discredit them. Certainly urine with any discharge signifies some malady, and clear urine is produced when healthy. This fact gave rise to the old proverb (as recorded in John Florio's *Florios Second Frutes* 1591) "I knowe no better phisick then to piss cleare, that so a man may bid a figg for the phisition".

Yet, uromancy was much more than merely diagnosing disease. Brian says (page 1): The vulgar sort are so strongly prepossesed (by reason of their ignorance) the Physicians can discern (by the Urine) the Disease, the conception, the sex, the parties age, with many other such absurdities, that I fear it will be an hard matter to dispossesse them of that opinion.

Brain as quotes (page A2) a Latin proverb "often heard..spoken from the mouth of many a well-read and experienced man in Physicke, that (Urina est meretrix, vel mendax) the Vrine is an Harlot, or a Lyer..." The practice was also previously known as uroscopy, and, according to Bailey, as late as 1755, was "commonly called the casting of Waters". Rarely, termed urinomancy. From New Latin uromantia, uromantia, from uro- combining form representing Greek ouron urine. Here -mancy refers to 'divination' in its weaker sense of 'successful conjecturing' rather than 'magical/supernatural prediction or insight'. Early modern English: uromancie, vromancie. Latinate forms: uromantica, uromantia. Modern: (influenced by the i in "urine") urimancy.

URTICARIAOMANCY: Divination via the location of an itch sensation. An itch is a desire whether teasing (itching for action) or uneasy (itching for action) etc..

## V

VAASTU SASTRA, VASSTU SHASTRA: Divination with complex mathematical calculations along with the energy lines of the earth. It is a traditional theory of architecture outlining guidelines for building design. The traditional practitioners of Vaastu were called 'Vaastu Shastris' whose area of knowledge extended from philosophy to astronomy. The theory of Vaastu is permanent and not bound by any time barrier. It suggests ways in which we can live in tune with the laws of nature.

VIDEOMANCY: Divination via moving pictures, television, movies ect..

## W

WATER DIVINATION, WATER SCRYING: Information

## X

XENOMANCY: Divination by interpreting by the first stranger found. Divination by observing the first stranger you meet. Cf. schematomancy and apantomancy. This word is a compound based on the ancient Greek xenos a foreigner, stranger.

XYLOMANCY: is divination from pieces of wood, either from their shape when collected or their appearance while burning. Originally this word was used to refer to two oft quoted verses in the Bible; namely Ezekiel 21:21 and Hosea 4:12. These

two verses are not very specific in themselves about the method of divination used. However it is generally believed to be a similar practice to that described at belomancy. In this sense it is virtually synonymous with rhabdomancy. The word is from New Latin xylomantia, derived from the ancient Greek xylon wood.

## Y

**YDROMANCY:** This word represents the Middle English form of hydromancy. This word was originally borrowed from the Middle French (1300--1600) where it appears as ydromancye. French regularly lost an initial h of Latin words, and they were taken thus into Middle English. In the Renaissance the h was learnedly replaced by writers knowledgeable in Latin and Greek. Another Middle English form was ydromaunce which was borrowed directly from the Old French ydromance. The actual headword form ydromancy is not a true form, as it blends the Middle English beginning with the modern English ending. This form only appears in dictionaries. See Hydromancy.

## Z

**ZOOMANCY:** Divination by interpreting the appearance and behavior of animals. Synonymous with one of the definitions of augury. From zoo-, combining form of ancient Greek zoon an animal. The earliest examples of this word are in dictionaries. It is recorded in the Century Dictionary, and presumably they had at least one citation to warrant its inclusion. It was recorded by the OED (under zoo-), but the citation is missing! Though the citation for zoomantist - one who practices zoomancy - is there.

**ZYGOMANCY:** Divination by using weights, the original form of Bibliomancy (being weighed against the Bible) is a form of zygomancy. Derived from Greek zygon a balance for weighing things.

Here ends the list of divination; quite a romantic notion of pseudo-science anti-Christ and otherwise superstitious paganism bent on perverting the truth and bring in more naïve people into their folds. From this expose I would hope to enlighten you to what your children may be practicing or experimenting with. There things have hidden traps made by devils lying in wait to keep people from the truth of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and also to keep them enslaved in darkness and push them to an early death and then in hell as the devils trophies. Plead the Blood!