Title: Alternative Religions Literature collection
Identifier/Call Number: ARC Mss 84
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Research Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 5.0 linear feet (5 cartons)
Date (inclusive): 1910-2015
Date (bulk): 1960-2000
Abstract: The collection contains books and printed materials on alternative religions and spiritual ideologies. Within these materials are writings describing ideologies, practices, history, and discourse surrounding known 20th century alternative beliefs and figures from related fields.
Language of Materials: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Portuguese, and Croatian.
Physical Location: Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara
Acquisition
Purchased, 2016.
Access note
Open for access.
Use Restrictions
Copyright has not been assigned to the Department of Special Collections, UCSB. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Department of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which also must be obtained.
Scope and Content
The 1960s has been historically conspicuous for a large growth of the development and practice of non-traditional or alternative religious movements. As new religious and spiritual ideas expanded, old ideologies reemerged or diverged into newer lense of interpretation. This collection centers on alternative religions and philosophies consisting mainly of books, booklets, and other printed material, encompassing beyond the sixties revival but rather from the early 1900s to 2012, illustrating the variation in dissementation, hybridity, and evolution of alternative religions. The material span across many fields inquiry from the diversity of Metaphysics, Buddhism, Meditation, Geomancy, Psychicism, Astrology, Tarot, Kabbalah, Theosophy, Shamanism, Paganism, and to other esoteric spiritual studies. The material also includes concepts of gender and sexuality within the context of spirituality. The fear and superstition of alternative beliefs or actions out hegemonic social context at times incite hysteria and/or prejudice and there is a small subset of books detailing how modernity and traditional customs produce socio-cultural tensions in the form of persecution and superstition as a tool for power. Overall, these works traverse between fiction and nonfiction with some literature of erotica, mysteries, biographies, and thrillers surrounding mysticism, magic, the supernatural, or spiritual experience.
While many of themes intersect, the collection is arranged by theme or religious family and works are listed alphabetically.
Arrangement
The collection has been arranged by subject.
Separated Material
Periodical publications were removed from the collection and added to the American Religions Collection preexisting serial collection.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Astrology
Astrology and reincarnation
Booklets
Books
Cabala
Mediation
Mysticism
New Age movement
Occultism
**Alternative Eastern Disciplines 1968-2012**

Scope and Content
Includes literature about meditation, ufology, fortune telling, physiogamy, astrology, and cosmology that are incorporated with traditional disciplines of mediation and Buddhism. Some of the material is written in Chinese and Vietnamese.

Includes:
1. "Gateway to Gedatsu," undated
5. Đoàn Văn Thông, *Những bằng chứng Ve Su Tai Sanh* (the proof of rebirth), 2001
7. Đoàn Văn Thông, *Bí ẩn về hồn ma* (the mystery of the ghost), 2001
8. Dương Đình Lệ Thụ Chí/ Le Thu Chi, *quỷ cốc toán mệnh*, 1990
9. Kuang, Yaopu, *Xiang fa shu yao* [Essentials of physiognomy], 1968
11. Osho [Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh], *Jing Xin*, 1995
13. Vu Thị Hao, "Nu’ tu’ o’ ng," undated

**Indigenous Spirituality 1944-1991**

Scope and Content
Consists of writings relating to folklore, shamanism, and indigenous practices in the Americas and Madagascar.

Includes:
1. Cohen, Alan, "The Decadence of the Shamans or Shamanism as a Key to the Secrets of Communism," 1991
Kabbalah

Scope and Content
Includes literature about the beliefs, practices, and meditation of Jewish mysticism.
Includes:

New Age-Metaphysics & Mysticism

Scope and Content
Includes works that span from the metaphysical to mysticism of New Age thought and various movements.
Includes:
1. ed. Hutte, Shireen Mary The Lamp of Hermes; Aries Issue, 15 April-15 May, 1971
2. Bussel, D.J., "Time," undated
4. Silva, Jose, Man the Healer; Learn to Heal, 1986
6. The Church of NNNWM, vol. 1 no. 1, 1998 March
7. Jovanovic, Radisav, "Psihomagnetizam; Kratka Zapazanja I Razmisljania o Prirodnim obelezjima medusobno Privlacinh Osoba" [Psihomagnetizam; Brief observations of natural features mutually attractive person] (croatian), 1979
15. Dickens, William, "Cosmic Light," vol. 5 no. 2, 1970
16. Catala, Rafael, Letters to a Student; Preparation for the Experience (Lessons on Mysticism), 1988
17. Seton, Julia, "Illuminati Lectures," circa 1910
23. Francie [Steiger, Frances], Reflections from an Angel's Eye, 1977
Sexuality and Spirituality

Scope and Content

The bulk of the literature includes gay paganism, GBLT mysticism, and sexual spirituality focused writings. Within that is a lot of fiction works surrounding GBLT erotica and thrillers. Also included, are a few feminist-focused spirituality writings.

Includes:

3. Pagantongue #1, Spring 1995
5. Pagantongue #4, Fall 1996
6. Dorotez, Raji, "Renewal Ceremony; Drawing the God Down Into a Vessel so He Might Allow Worship and Grant Communion," 1998
8. Dorotez, Raji, "The Scarlet Wand; a Grimoire for the Gay Male" (originally titled Magician), 1995
10. Mustapha, Gael, Cinderella's Croning, 1999
11. Marchessault, Jovette Mother Of The Grass [Mère des herbes], 1983 (eng)
12. Ramer, Andrew, Two Flutes Playing; Spiritual Love/Sacred Sex; Priests of Father Earth and Mother Sky, 1985
16. Tan, Cecilia ed., Tales from the Erotic Edge, 1996
19. Taylor, Steve, The Haunted Piano and Other Gya Gothic Tales, 2005
20. Berman, Steven, Trysts; A Triskaidecollection of Queer and Weird Stories, 2001
21. Goran, House by the Sea, 2000
22. Selby, Dennis, Sanctity of There's no Such Thing as a Naked Sailor, 1969
23. McCormack, Derek, Grab Bag, 2004
24. Hartman, Keith, Gumshoe Gorilla, 2001

Paganism and Wiccan

Scope and Content

The literature includes description of beliefs, practices, and community of Paganism and Wicca from the mid to late twentieth century.

Includes:

2. Amber K, "How to Organize a Coven, or Magical Study Group," 1983
7. The Staff of Merlin's Magic Market, Proctor & Gamble and the Black Arts: fact or fiction, 1986
Occultism/Theosophy

Scope and Content

Includes literature regarding Occultism, Theosophy, and forms of Divination

Includes:

1. Aegyptus, *The Micro-Cosmic Mystery*, 1932
9. Harter, Jim, "Images of Darkness and Light; A Surrealist Apocalypse," 1988
10. Moecke, Max, "Hellesh-Wunder [Hellish wonder](ger), 1930
11. Moecke, Max, "Auch du Kannst Hellsehen! Lehrgang II" [Also Can you clairvoyance! course II](ger), 1930
12. Moecke, Max, "Wie ich Hellseher wurde" [As I was clairvoyant] (ger), 1930

Divination

Scope and Content

Whereas the original purpose of tarot cards was for playing games, the tarot themed literature included align with divination. Also included are fortune telling instructions and experiences.

Includes:

3. James, Gloria, *The Prophetess; the Nightmare Curse of Gloria James*, 1986
4. Markum, Leo, "What You Should Know About Fortune Telling," undated
5. Markum, Leo, "What You Should Know About Palmistry," undated

Fear, superstition, and witch hunts

Scope and Content

Includes literature surrounding how superstition and alternative beliefs spark persecution and fear.

Includes:

Box 5

**Supernatural and Mysterious Phenomena Literature**

*Scope and Content*

Includes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction works.

*Includes*

4. Picano, Felice, *Smart as the Devil*, 1976