AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Magical Books

Concepts and Practices

A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP



Compendium rarissimum, c. 1775

21-22 November 2026

HOTEL ASCONA
Ascona, Switzerland

Books of magic, past and present

Join an international conversation on grimoires, ritual manuals and other books of magic, from the medieval period to the present. Hear new research on their production, circulation, interpretation and use, and explore curated displays from specialist book dealers and publishers.

REGISTRATION

A hotel reservation is required to participate.

Reserve directly with Hotel Ascona
booking@hotel-ascona.ch
+41 (0) 91 785 15 15 / hotel-ascona.ch

Event information: esoterikascona.org/2026/05/20/books/

Organised by Prof. Andreas Kilcher and Prof. Tim Rudbøg
with Andrea Biasca-Caroni

Image: Wellcome Collection, PDM

The Programme

Magical Books: Concepts and Practices

21-22 NOVEMBER 2026 / HOTEL ASCONA



Sefer Raziel, 1701

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

10.00-10.15	**Introduction** *Prof. Andreas Kilcher and Prof. Tim Rudbøg*	
10.15-11.15	**Prof. Gal Sofer** *The Jewish and the Christian Raziel*	NEGEV
11.15-12.15	**Prof. Agata Paluch** *Portable Magic: Jewish Books of Secrets and Everyday Kabbalah in Europe*	COLOGNE
12.15-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.30	**Prof. Gerold Necker** *From Concealed Scroll to Open Book and Vice Versa: The Making of Abramelin's Magic*	HALLE
14.30-15.30	**Prof. Sophie Page** *Ritual Magic Books in Medieval Europe*	LONDON
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00-17.00	**Prof. Andreas Kilcher** *Real Fictional Magical Books: The Case of Faust's "Höllenzwang"*	ZURICH

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

10.00-11.00	**Prof. Tim Rudbøg** *The Continued Life of the Grimoire into the 21st Century*	COPENHAGEN
11.00-12.00	**Prof. Christine Lötscher** *Popular Book Magic: Materiality, Mediality, and Desire*	ZURICH
12.00-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-15.30	**ESOTERICA Occult Books** *Rare occult books display and presentation* **Dr Morgan Meis**	

Registration remains open. Reserve directly with Hotel Ascona.

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Image: Sefer Raziel (1701), public domain