Epistles of the Brethren of Purity, known as Ikhwān al-Safāʾ, discussed below, for example, included a polemical treatise against those who dismiss magic and oppose the "science of talismans"—that is, the use of materials, particularly metals and plants, that possess certain useful properties hidden from human understanding but evident in their effect on other creatures. To justify their advocacy of astral magic and talismans, the anonymous authorsThese texts were particularly influential and circulated widely; they contain magical elements in the form of descriptions of amulets or instructions in which one finds instructions for creating "wondrous compounds that diffuse the effects of the planets," and indeed the entire seventh chapter of Book Four of the The Goal of the Sage is based Article describing the uses of magic in Ancient Egyptian society. Amulets were another source of magic power, obtainable from 'protection-makers', who could be male or female. None of these uses of magic was disapproved of—either by the state or the priesthood. Only foreigners were regularly accused of using evil magic. These conspirators got hold of a book of destructive magic from the royal library, and used it to make potions, written spells and wax figurines with which to harm the king and his bodyguards. Magical figurines were thought to be more effective if they incorporated something from the intended victim, such as hair, nail-clippings or bodily fluids. Magic in Ancient Egypt. By GERALDINE. PINCH. Discuss various theories of magic in general and the related Egyptian concept of heka, but she never attempts to resolve the quite different approaches. The book discusses chronology, nature, use, form, decoration, manufacture, inscriptions (and their Demotic Magical Papyri for Love Compulsion; Human Identifications with Deities in Egyptian Religious Texts; Libyan-Egyptian interactions. Robert K. Ritner. Multiple ongoing projects on Egyptian Religion and Social History. Article contents. Abstract. Studies in Magical Amulets, chiefly Graeco-Egyptian. By C. Bonner. Pp. xxiv + 334, with 25 pl. Please use the Get access link above for information on how to access this content. Type. Notices of Books. Information. The Journal of Hellenic Studies, Volume 73, November 1953, pp. 187. DOI: https://doi.org/10.2307/628326[Opens in a new window]. Copyright © The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies 1953. Access options. Get access to the full version of this content by using one of the access options below. If you should have access and can't see this content please contact technical support. Full text views.