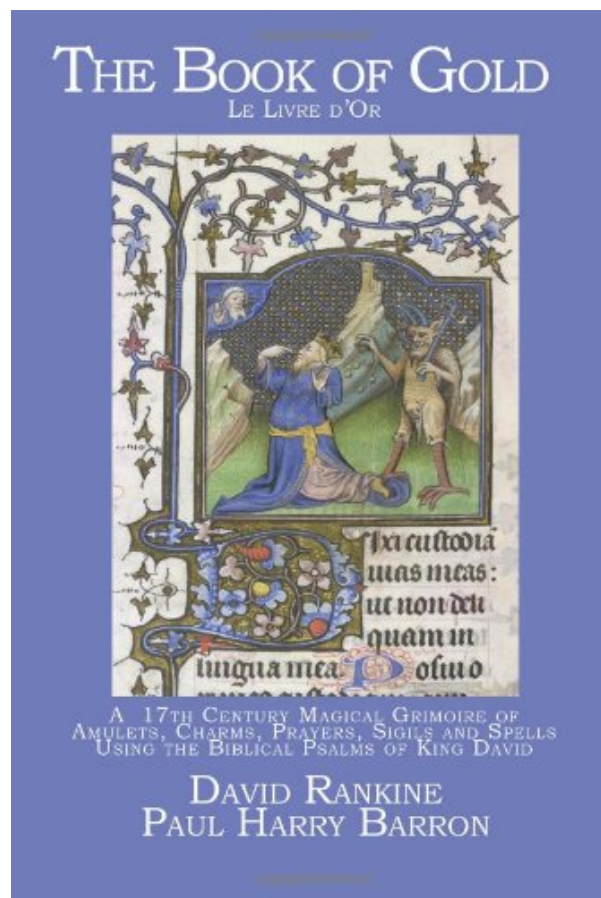


# THE BOOK OF GOLD THE MAGIC & SPELLS OF THE BIBLICAL PSALMS BY DAVID RANKINE



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# THE BOOK OF GOLD

LE LIVRE D'OR



A 17TH CENTURY MAGICAL GRIMOIRE OF  
AMULETS, CHARMS, PRAYERS, SIGILS AND SPELLS  
USING THE BIBLICAL PSALMS OF KING DAVID

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## **About the Author**

David Rankine (Wales) has been practicing magic for twenty-five years. He gives regular talks and workshops around Europe. For more information, visit [www.ritualmagick.co.uk](http://www.ritualmagick.co.uk).

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# **THE BOOK OF GOLD THE MAGIC & SPELLS OF THE BIBLICAL PSALMS BY DAVID RANKINE PDF**

Le Livre d'Or (The Book of Gold) is a unique 17th century French magical work comprising numerous amulets, charms, prayers, spells and sigils for working with the Biblical Book of the Psalms of King David. Written in a simple style akin to a medieval Book of Secrets combined with magical practices from the ancient world, Le Livre d'Or brings together practices which have their roots in major works from the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Genizah, to the Greek Magical Papyri and Sepher Shimmush Tehillim (Magical Use of the Psalms). Now translated into English for the first time, this exceptional text demonstrates the significance of the Psalms as a unifying and vital thread throughout the development of Western magic. From Sweden to Syria, Britain to the Baltic, the use of appropriate Psalms has spread as a significant part of popular folk and religious magic, and Le Livre d'Or is an inimitable example of the transmission of divine power through the written and spoken word. Le Livre d'Or was originally bound as part of Lansdowne MS 1202 with a 17th century French copy of the most important of grimoires, the Key of Solomon. The extensive commentary by David Rankine and Paul Harry Barron emphasises the place of the Psalms within the Grimoire tradition, detailing their extensive apotropaic, amuletic and coercive uses in works such as the Book of Abramelin, the Key of Solomon and the Goetia. The editors also illustrate how the magic of the Psalms has underlain and cross-fertilised numerous traditions over the last two thousand years, from Hellenic magicians, early Christians and Jews of the ancient world to practitioners of the medieval Grimoires and Renaissance Cunning-folk. Whether it was for benevolent or malefic results, Le Livre d'Or provided the appropriate Psalm verses and relevant techniques. This previously ignored work is an outstanding example of eminently practical magic which not only draws on such major works as the Heptameron and the Steganographia, but also many of the divine names found in the Kabbalah. From Saints to spirits, characters to Creeds, Le Livre d'Or shines forth as a significant and reclaimed chapter in the Western Esoteric Traditions.

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## **About the Author**

David Rankine (Wales) has been practicing magic for twenty-five years. He gives regular talks and workshops around Europe. For more information, visit [www.ritualmagick.co.uk](http://www.ritualmagick.co.uk).

## **Most helpful customer reviews**

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

A nice edition to the tradition of psalmic magic

By Mattphistopheles

The Book of Gold is truly a golden edition to the library of any magicians with an interest in Psalmic Magic or the Grimoire Traditions. This work is expertly translated and the commentary and appendices alone make it worth the price. Finally a work that catalogs the use of the Psalms throughout various manuscripts of the grimoire tradition in an easy to reference way!

This book will make a great supplement to the practices of a wide variety of magicians from ceremonialists to folk magicians. If you use the Psalms in your work, first you need to get a copy of Sepher Shimmush Tehillim (Magical Use of the Psalms), which is usually included in the The Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses, then you need to buy this book!

So why only three stars then? Because there are two problems with the book that I received. Firstly, and more likely to effect the average reader is the fact that many of the directions for working with the psalms will instruct you to read or write the Psalm out until a certain line of the Psalm.

For example for Psalm 12 it says "If you have fallen asleep in a desert, read this Psalm until 'ne quando dicat'".

Okay, so beyond the question of how someone who is sleeping is meant to read a psalm, basically they are giving you the line in the Psalm (in Latin) where you are meant to stop reading. This is excellent for those who have a working knowledge of Latin or an interlinear Bible at their fingertips and want to spend time cross referencing. However, for those who would like to use the psalms in English, this adds an annoying extra step of research to the process of doing the actual work. I'm all for doing research when it is called for, but I am assuming that David and Paul translated and edited this manuscript so that people could actually use it. Which begs the question, if you want to make it easily usable, which much the rest of it is, why not just translate the line into English as you have the rest of the manuscript? Or at least give the English translation in the commentary following the Psalm. Is that so much to ask?

The regularity with which translators and editors of various Grimoire manuscripts choose to include the Latin wording and conjurations without offering a translation has a tendency to quickly become annoying. Sorry, but we aren't all proficient in Latin and I really would appreciate avoiding the extra step of translating the parts that you have chosen not to illuminate us on. I'm not saying that the Latin should be omitted. I mean, hey, who doesn't love that oh so magical dead language? But at least include translations in the commentary. I'm not speaking just specifically of this author (who does this with some regularity) or this work, but in general. However, this work stands as an example of this type of an approach, which can be somewhat inconvenient at best or make the translator come across as linguistically elitist at worst.

My second issue with my copy of the work is that I have just received it and nearly every third page is either completely or partially unglued. I mean, pages are literally falling out of the book. I know that this isn't the fault of the author or publisher, but the printer. However, the physical quality of the book does play upon my review as well. I plan to exchange it and hope that the poor binding is a fluke. I have purchased other works from Avalonia in the past and not had this problem, so it is most likely a simple error.

That all said, I most certainly enjoy this work and give kudos to David Rankine and Paul Harry Barron for putting it together and translating (most of) it. I would recommend it to friends and students in the future. I'll just make sure to recommend that they procure an interlinear Douay-Rheims Bible while they're at it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful addition to my library!

By Scarlet River

I found this book after reading a blog by one of the authors. It intrigued me, as I come from a Christian background, but have turned my back on it completely, whilst retaining an interest in the Bible and history of the tradition. To find a book like this filled with spells and charms which uses the Psalms from the Bible, from the 17th century and translated into excellent modern English was a wonderful gift. I have tried some of the spells myself now, with good results and will continue to experiment. A rare keeper for my shelves!

I recommend this to people interested in magic, regardless of the religious tradition you follow. Its great to find material like this which is historic, without all the airs and graces usually associated with these types of books. No nonsense, which is what I like about the authors.

Giving it 5 stars with no hesitation. The Latin noted by another reviewer was not an issue, even though I am not a big grimoire adherent, I could understand it and find that using the latin, which would have been Latin in the original copy, had better effects than using the equivalent in English. A simple online translator might help if you never did basic latin at school.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful addition to my library!

By Scarlet River

I found this book after reading a blog by one of the authors. It intrigued me, as I come from a Christian background, but have turned my back on it completely, whilst retaining an interest in the Bible and history of the tradition. To find a book like this filled with spells and charms which uses the Psalms from the Bible, from the 17th century and translated into excellent modern English was a wonderful gift. I have tried some of the spells myself now, with good results and will continue to experiment. A rare keeper for my shelves!

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