

Drawing Planetary Seals from the Kameas

Agrippa of Nettesheim describes in his *Occult Philosophy* seven different magical squares of numbers or *kameas* associated with the seven planets. Together with these are given characters of spirits and intelligences, as well as seals of the planets¹. How the characters and seals are drawn from the kameas is not explained Agrippa's work. In the occult curriculum of the Golden Dawn the method of drawing characters of spirits and intelligences from the kameas is described². However, the planetary seals are explained as "symmetrical design(s) so arranged that its lines pass through every number in the square". This claim can be falsified by some investigation.

The unknown method of drawing planetary seals from the kameas led me to some sleepless nights where I tried to deduce the method. I actually found a very plausible method for the even-numbered kameas (those with 4x4, 6x6 and 8x8 entries). After even more sleepless nights I also found a method for the odd-numbered kameas, but this method seemed less likely to be correct. Later I learned that K. A. Nowotny had found a method for the even-numbered kameas that is the same as mine in essence³. However, he had no good explanation for the odd-numbered kamea seals. The methods I found will be described in this article.

The kameas are squares with numbers or the corresponding Hebrew letters in them. The numbers used are the numbers from 1 to n, where n is the number of entries in the kamea. The number of entries in the kamea is equal to the square of the number of entries in each side of the kamea. Thus the kamea with 16 entries is called the 4x4 kamea. The letters or

numbers are placed in such a way that the sum of every row, every column or every diagonal is the same. For example the sums in the following 4x4 kamea are 34.

4	14	15	1
9	7	6	12
5	11	10	8
16	2	3	13

Now, every kamea with 3x3 entries to 9x9 entries are associated with one of the seven arcane planets. This is due to the sephirothic correspondence of the planets. Thus Saturn that corresponds to the 3rd sephiroth Binah, is associated with the 3x3 kamea; Jupiter that corresponds to the 4th sephiroth Chesed is associated with the 4x4 kamea, and so on.

To draw the seal of Jupiter from the 4x4 kamea, simply count from 1 to 16 (number of entries in the kamea), while pointing one entry at the time. A good place to start the counting is in the upper right entry of the kamea, and then count to the left. When the end of the row is reached, precede with the row underneath, starting at the right. Each time the *number counted* is the same as the *number in the entry*, *mark* the entry. The 4 x 4 kamea will then look like this:

<u>4</u>	14	15	<u>1</u>
9	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	12
5	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	8
16	2	3	<u>13</u>

Now, draw lines between the marked entries, the shortest possible distance. The kamea will now look like this:

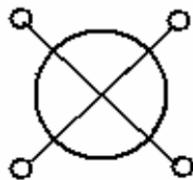
4	14	15	1
9	7	6	12
5	11	10	8
16	2	3	13

Then you may count from the lower left entry to the right. The rest of the entries will then be marked. Drawing a line the shortest possible distance between the entries, will give this figure:

4	14	15	1
9	7	8	2
5	11	10	3
16	2	3	13

Counting in any other directions will not give any more marked entries.

By adding small circles at the end of the straight lines, we will have the seal of Jupiter:



The method becomes even more convincing when the complex seal of the Sun is drawn from the 6 x 6 kamea.

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

Counting from upper right (to the left) will give:

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

Counting from the lower right (to the left) will give:

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

Counting from the upper left (to the right) will give:

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

Counting from the lower left (to the left) will give:

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

Thus we have the seal of the Sun:



The seal of Mercury is drawn from the 8x8 kamea in the same way:

8	58	59	5	4	62	63	1
49	15	14	52	53	11	10	56
41	23	22	44	45	19	18	58
32	34	35	29	28	38	39	25
40	26	27	37	36	30	31	33
17	47	46	20	21	43	42	24
9	55	54	12	13	51	50	16
64	2	3	61	60	6	7	57

Again one has to make some exceptions from the rules, or there would have been a line through 43, 44 and 45. The reason why a cross is chosen through 41, 42, 48 and 49, instead of a circle, may simply be artistic freedom.

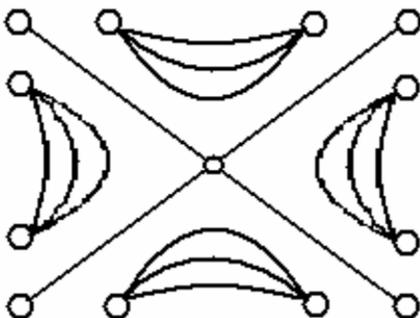
A similar counting pattern applied on the 9x9 kamea will mark these entries:

37	78	29	70	21	62	13	54	5
6	38	79	30	71	22	63	14	46
47	7	39	80	31	72	23	55	15
16	48	8	40	81	32	64	24	56
57	17	49	9	41	73	33	65	25
26	58	18	50	1	42	74	34	66
67	27	59	10	51	2	43	75	35
36	68	19	60	11	52	3	44	76
77	28	69	20	61	12	53	4	45

With some goodwill and ignoring the former rules, this figure can be traced:

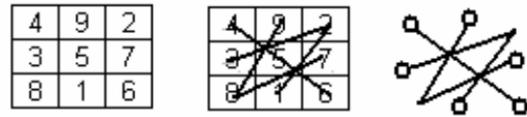
37	78	29	70	21	62	13	54	5
6	38	79	30	71	22	63	14	46
47	7	39	80	31	72	23	55	15
16	48	8	40	81	32	64	24	56
57	17	49	9	41	73	33	65	25
26	58	18	50	1	42	74	34	66
67	27	59	10	51	2	43	75	35
36	68	19	60	11	52	3	44	76
77	28	69	20	61	12	53	4	45

With some circles added, we have the seal of Luna:



Concerning the 3x3 kamea, none of the above methods make the seal of Saturn. It seems that the seal is drawn from the 3x3 kamea simply by tracing lines in a chronological fashion through the numbers in the kamea, tree numbers at the time. Thus one line is

traced through 1,2 and 3, one line through 4, 5 and 6, and one line through 7, 8 and 9, like this:



What is all this good for?

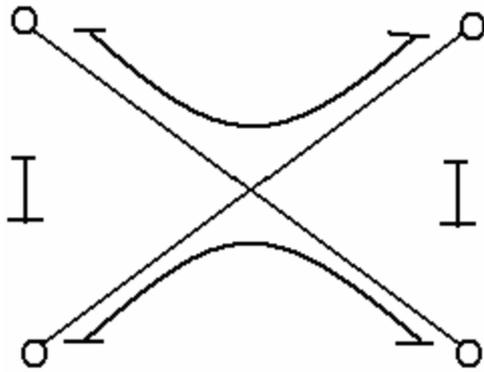
From my own experience, I have found the planetary seals to be quite powerful symbols. Not only have they been used by magicians for centuries and therefore according to some schools of thought, been stuffed with power. They are also, in the same way as the pentagram and the hexagram, symbols of mathematical origin. The symmetry and harmony of mathematical figures is a well-established tool in the western magical tradition, and in my opinion such figures are the best suited for invoking powers from the world of ideas.

If not absolutely necessary, it is in our interest to draw the seals as correctly as possible to maximize their potential in magical work. To do this it is essential to know the correct way of drawing the seals from the kameas.

I am fairly sure the correct way has been found for the even-numbered kameas. The method suggested for the odd-numbered ones however, have too many weaknesses. If anyone could find a better and simpler method, I would be quite happy. But one word of warning: **Do not embark on this if you are not ready to invest a lot of time. These riddles can be quite obsessive.**

Finally I will include a seal drawn from a 10x10 kamea using the method for even-numbered kameas. Only one counting direction is used to keep the seal simple and symmetric. This seal may be used in workings of Malkuth and Terra.

10	9	93	94	5	96	97	98	2	1
11	19	18	84	86	85	87	13	12	90
71	22	28	27	75	76	24	23	79	80
61	62	33	37	35	36	34	68	69	70
50	52	53	44	46	45	57	58	59	41
60	42	43	54	56	55	47	48	49	51
40	39	63	67	66	65	64	38	32	31
21	72	78	77	26	25	74	73	29	30
81	89	88	17	15	16	14	83	82	20
100	99	8	4	95	6	7	3	92	91



References

1. Nettesheym, H.C.A.a. *De Occulta Philosophia Libri Tres*, (1533).
2. Regardie, I. *The Golden Dawn*, p. 496-501 (Llewellyn Publications, 1998).
3. Nowotny, K.A. The construction of Certain Seals and Characters in the Work of Agrippa of Nettesheim. *Journal of the Wartburg and Courtauld Institutes* (1949).

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