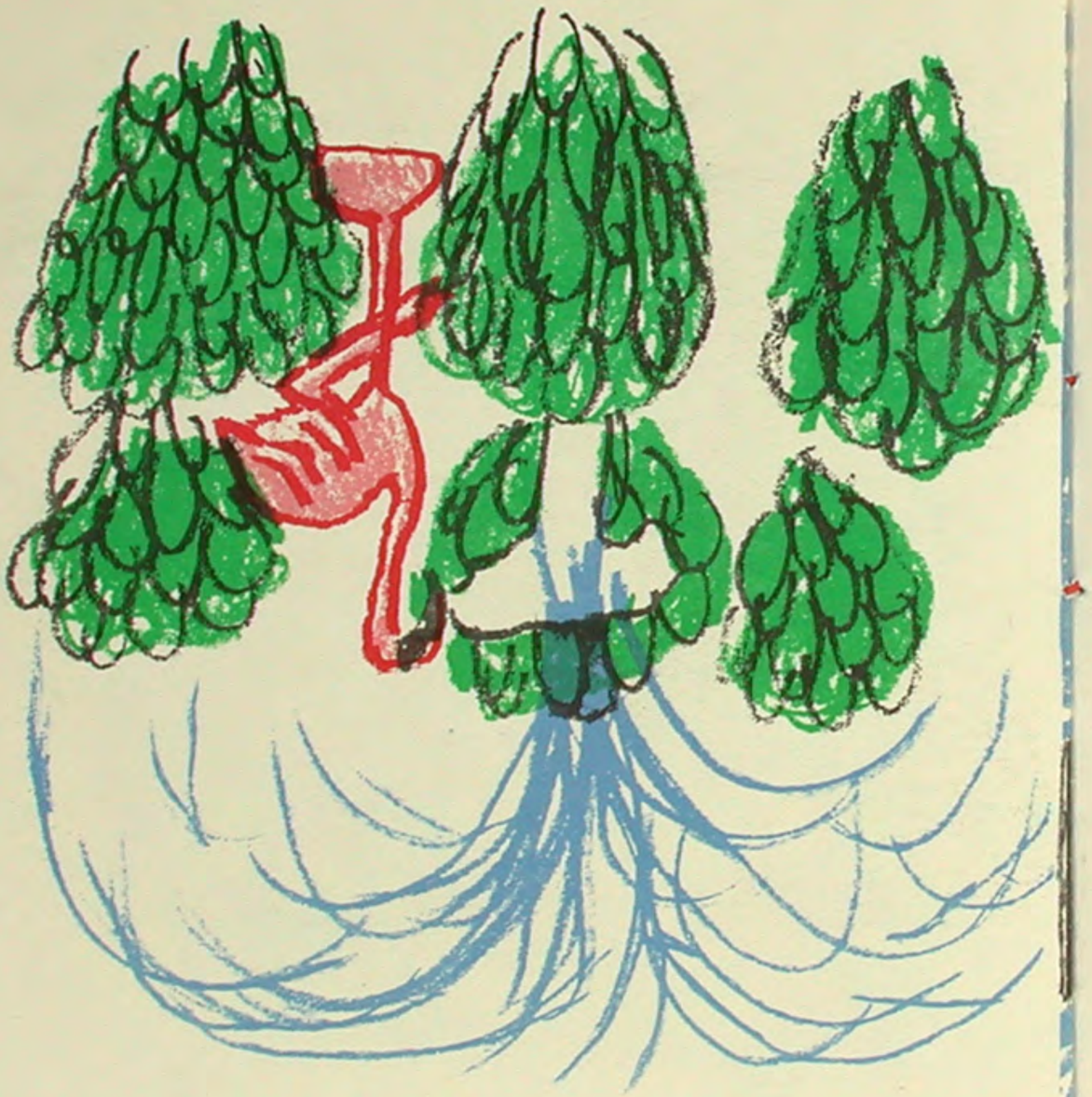
TALISMANS

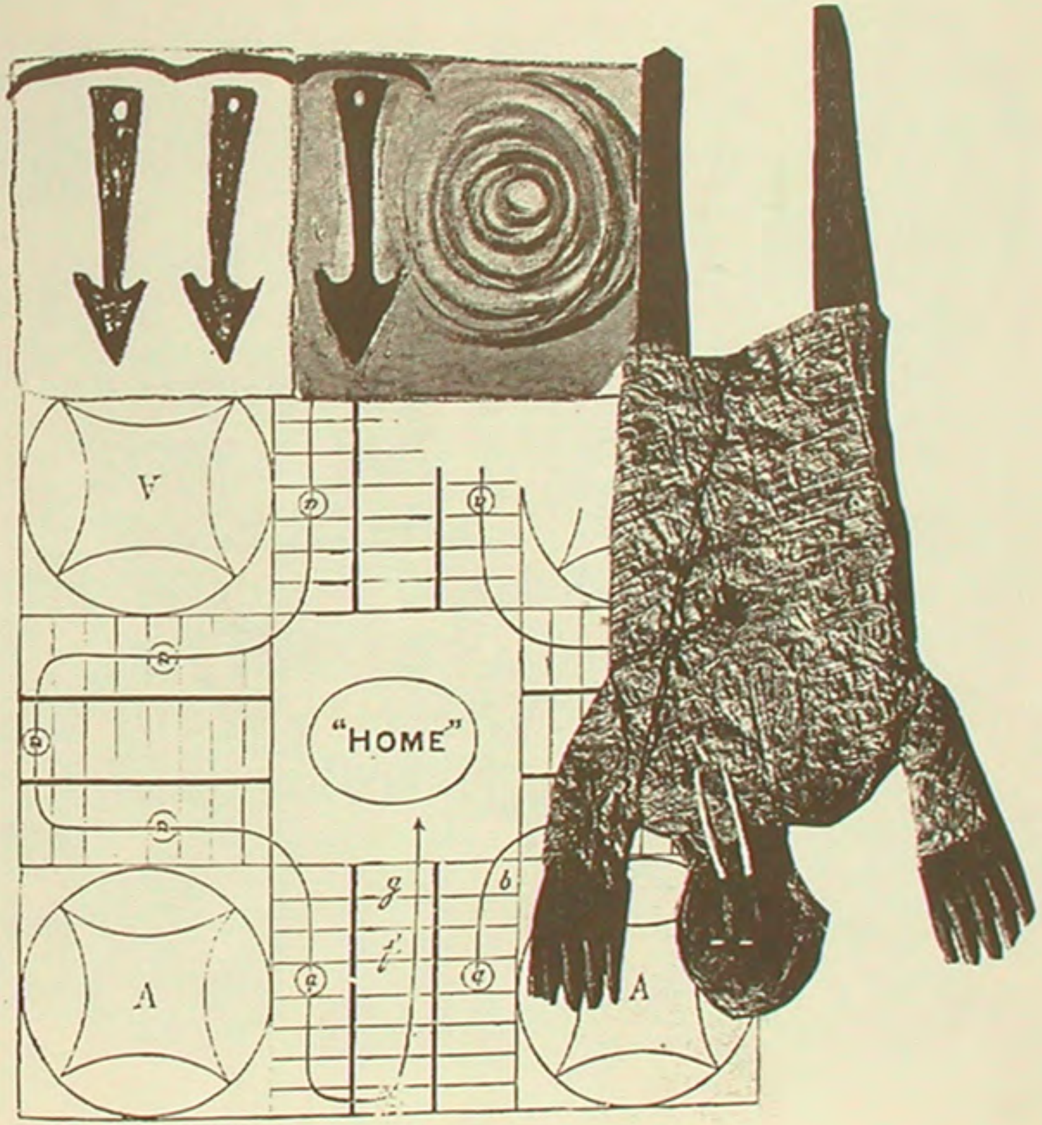
SARA CUSHING

IN COLLECTING THESE IMAGES FROM FOREIGN CULTURES AND COUNTRY BACK-ROADS, I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY FRONT YARD "SHRINES", CURIOUS OBJECTS, MEDIA ICONS, HOWARD FINSTER'S "PARADISE GARDEN" AND FASCINATED BY THE POWER THEY SHARE AS ICONS OF CULTURE. THESE MAN-MADE OBJECTS SHARE AN ABILITY TO AMUSE, ENHANCE, PROTECT OR OTHERWISE ALTER AN INDIVIDUAL'S WORLD AND ACT AS TALISMANS. THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THEIR MAKERS.

SARA CUSHING
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 1993

TALISMAN, N. A SPECIES OF CHARM ENGRAVED ON METAL OR STONE AND SUPPOSED TO EXERT SOME PROTECTIVE INFLUENCE OVER THE WEARER: AN AMULET.

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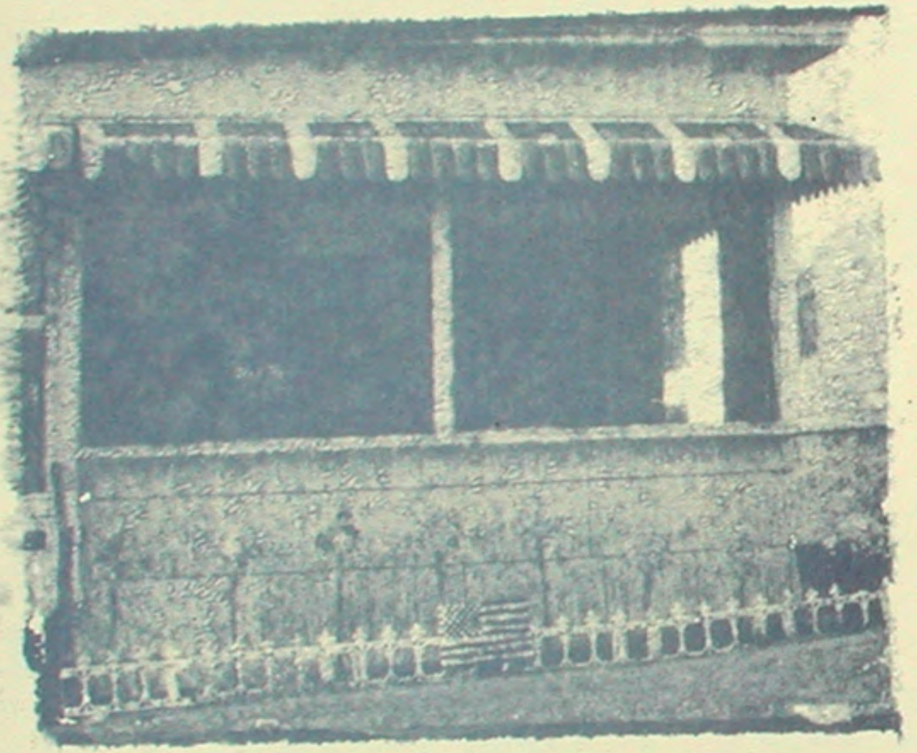
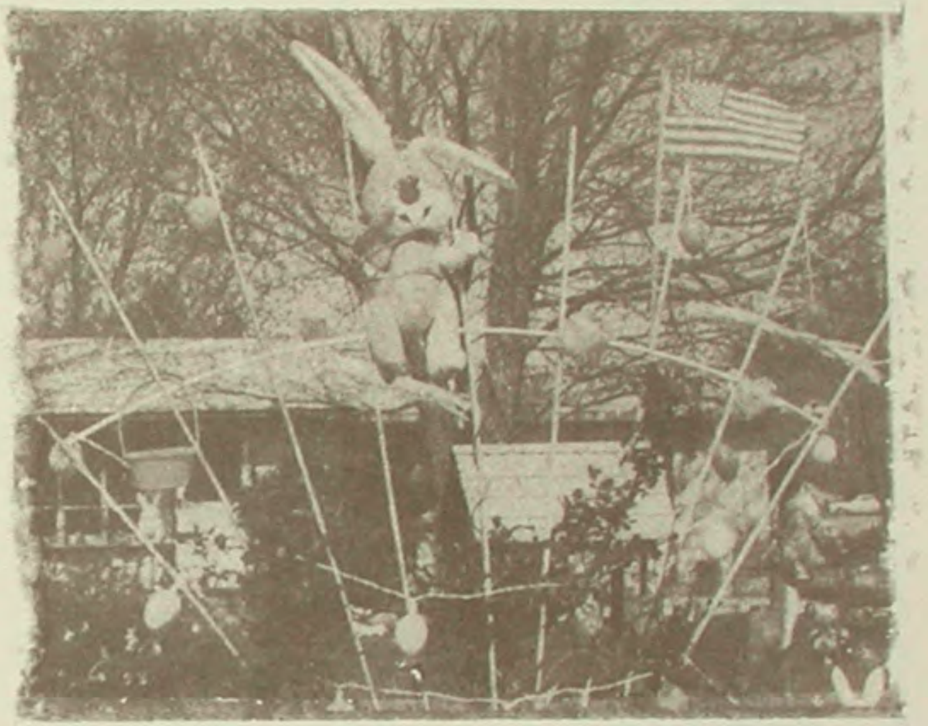
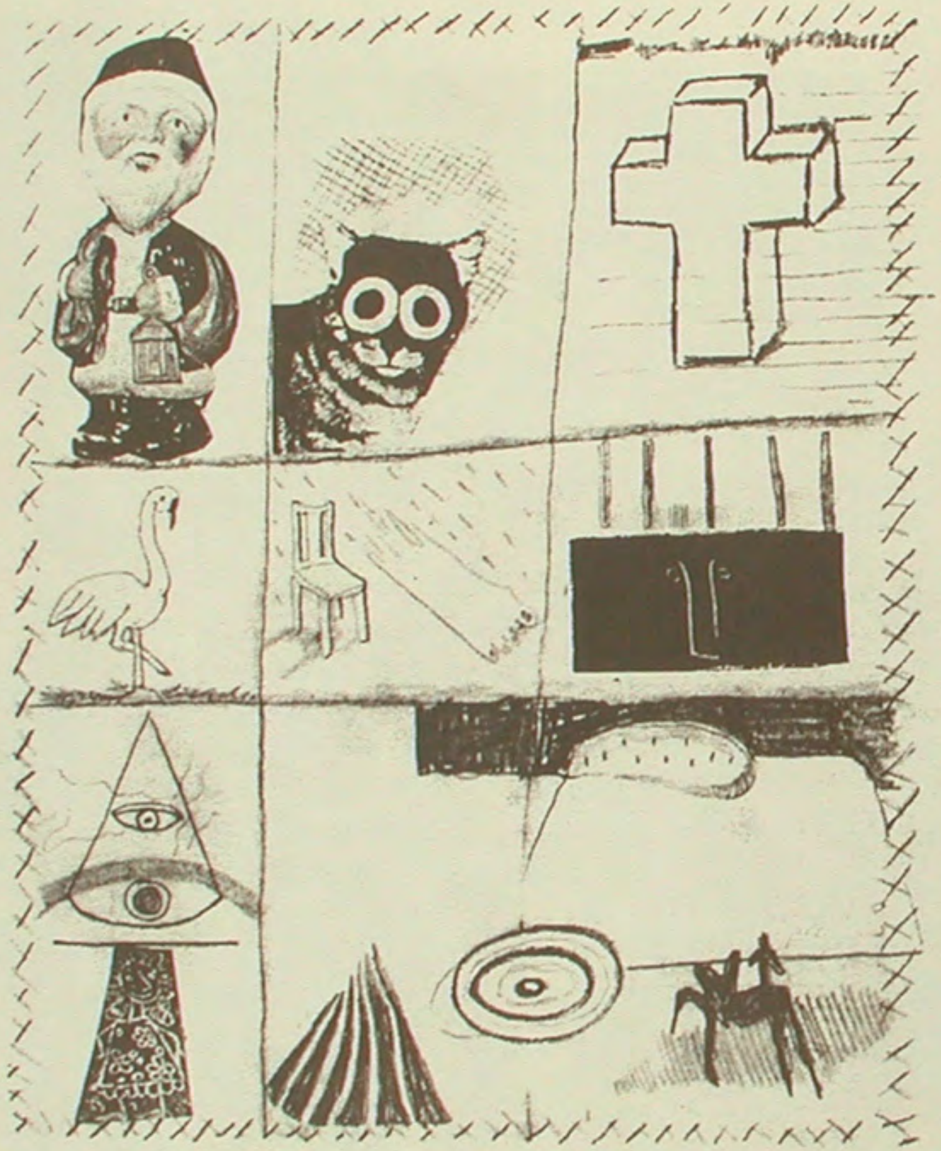


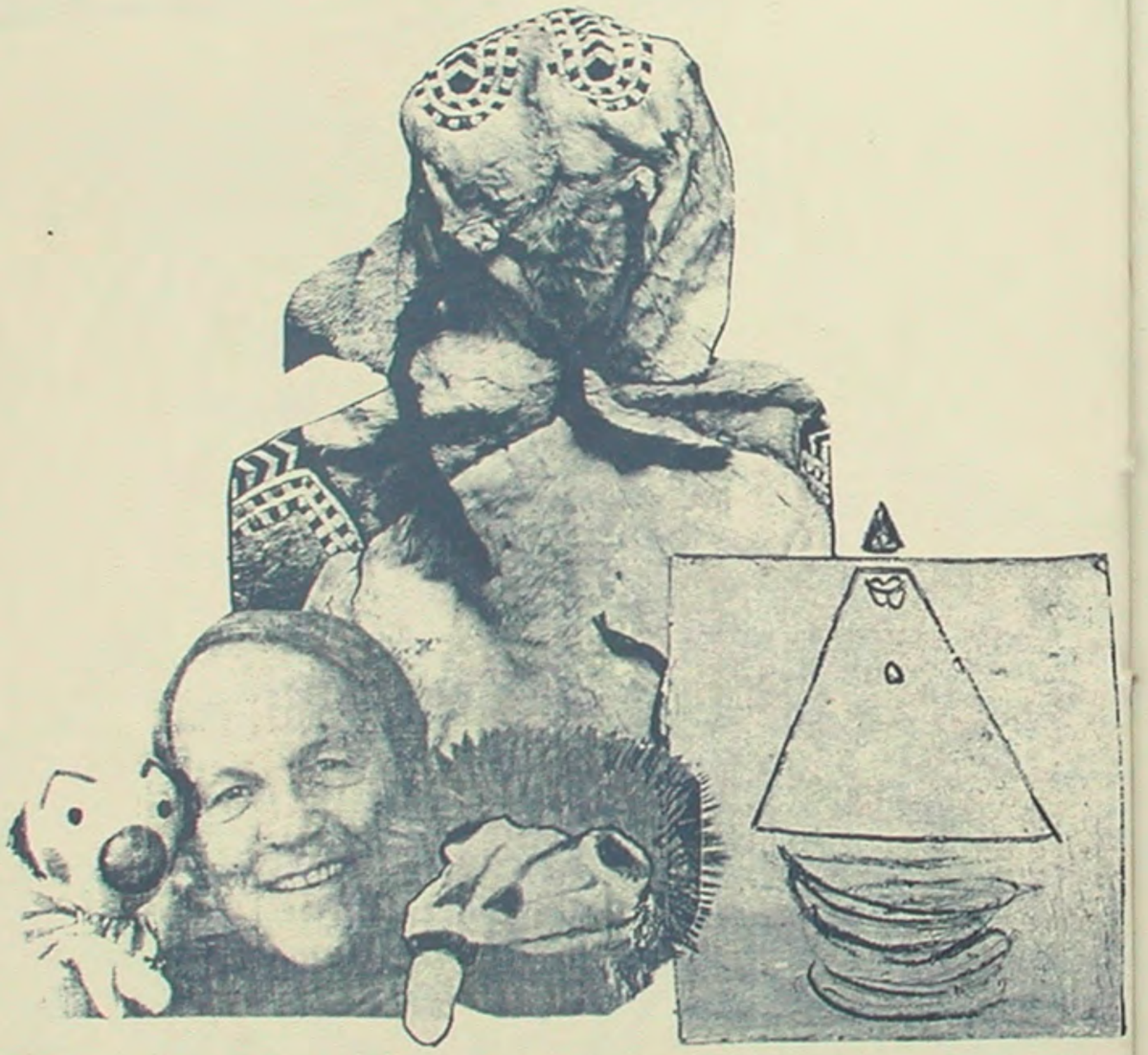
CHARM, N: SOMETHING THOUGHT TO POSSESS OCCULT POWER, WORDS IN METRICAL FORM, A SPELL AMULET OR TRINKET; V.T.: TO INFLUENCE BY AN OBJECT, TO DELIGHT OR ENCHANT.



ENCHANT, V.T. TO ACT ON OR BY SONGS, INCANTATIONS OR RHYMED FORMULAS OF SORCERY. TO CHARM OR DELIGHT IN A HIGH DEGREE.



AMULET, N. GEM, SCROLL OR OTHER OBJECT CARRIED ABOUT THE PERSON, AS A CHARM AGAINST SICKNESS, HARM OR WITCHCRAFT.



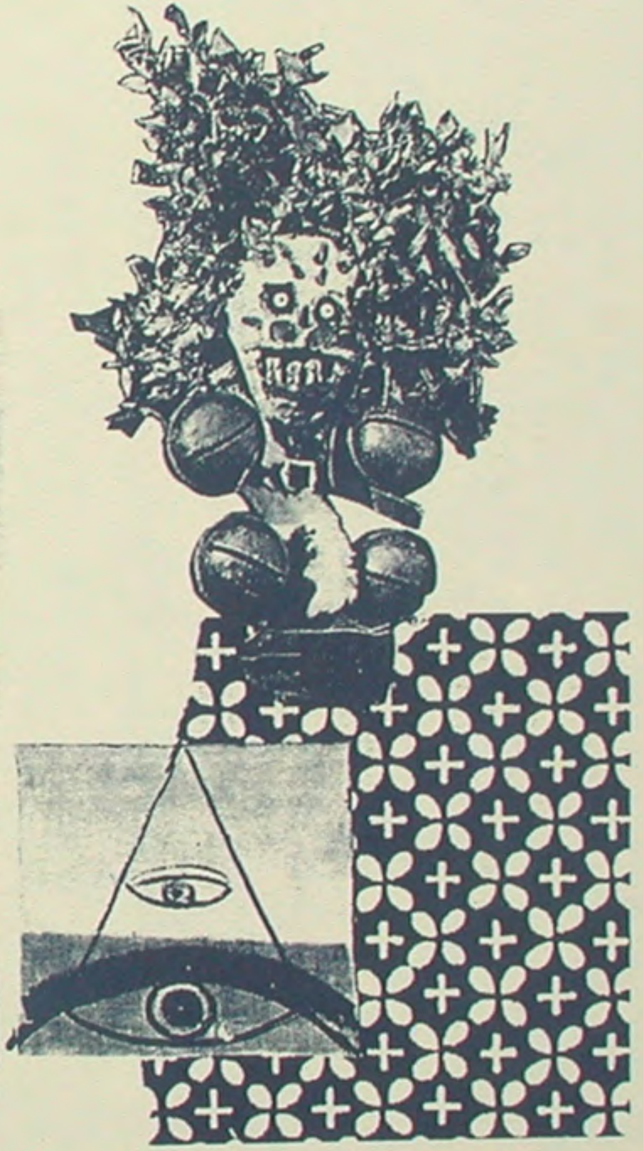
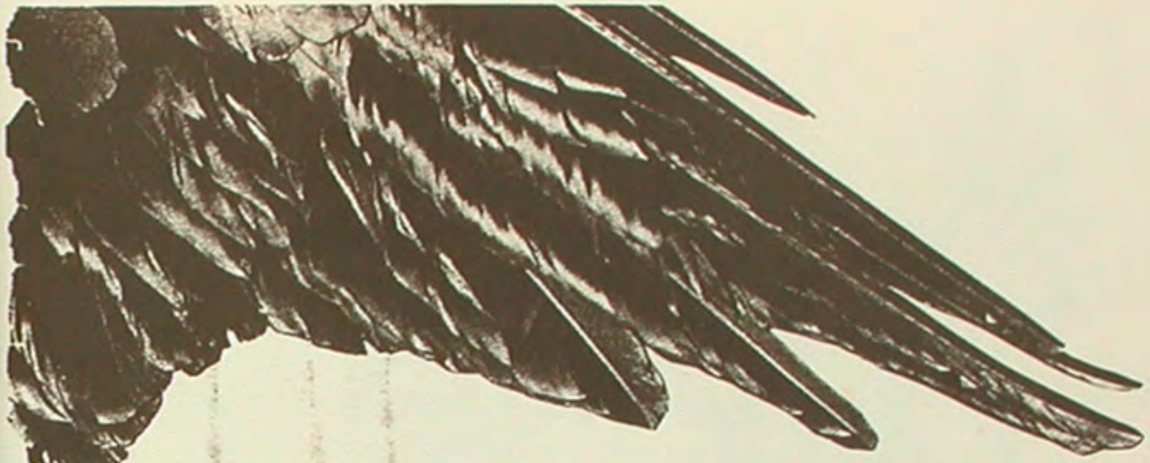


Fig. 1. Front and side views showing mask in position.



INCANTAION, N. A FORMULA
OF WORDS SAID OR SUNG
FOR PURPOSES OF
ENCHANTMENT.

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