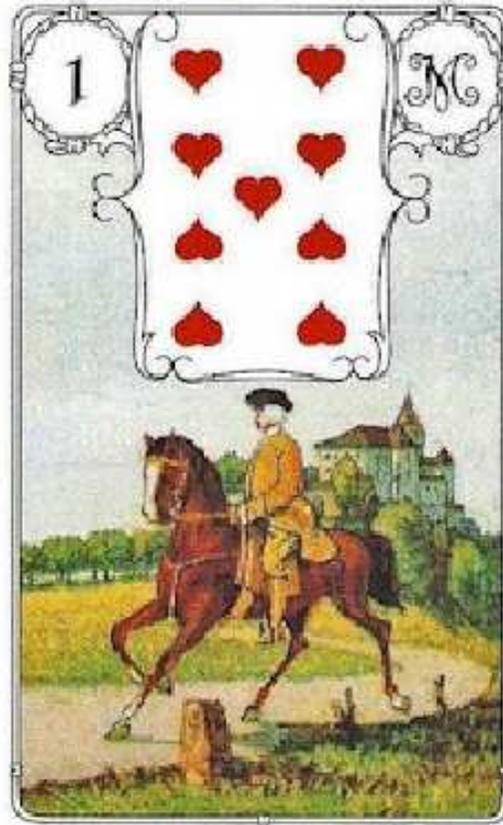


Introduction to Lenormand Cartomancy



The petit Lenormand oracle is a 36-card deck that developed in the nineteenth century as a game and a fortune-telling tool. Lenormand cards each contain a single, simple symbol, not the complex layered symbols of tarot. Many readers consider them to be less psychological and more straightforward than tarot in the way they answer questions. This presentation includes a brief history of Mademoiselle Lenormand and the cards which were named after her, as well as some very basic techniques for working with this interesting and historical cartomantic system.



Denver Tarot Meetup
Tuesday, August 14, 2012

History of Mademoiselle Marie Anne Lenormand



Portrait of Mlle. Lenormand by J. Champagne

She was educated in a series of convents and was eventually apprenticed to a milliner.

At the age of 14, she moved to Paris and took a position in a shop, where she learned bookkeeping which gave her the means to go into business for herself as a fortune teller. She read cards, palms, horoscopes and interpreted dreams. She rented an office at the Rue de Tournon.

Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand was born in Alençon, Normandy on 27 May 1772 and died in Paris on 25 June 1843. She had a sister and a brother.

Her parents both died when she was young. She was placed in a Benedictine convent and immediately predicted that the mother superior would lose her position in the convent, and when that happened she also predicted the name, age and other particulars of the woman who would take her place. There were many candidates for the position and no decision had yet been made, but at last when a successor was chosen, the young clairvoyant proved to be correct.

She was very well-read and studied the history of divination and other esoteric arts.



5 Rue de Tournon, Paris was once the storefront of Mlle. Lenormand. It is now a jewelry store.



Robespierre at the fortune teller Lenormand.

She wrote her memoirs, a biography of Josephine, and a number of other books.

She was imprisoned several times, due to the strict anti-fortunetelling laws in France and because she often rubbed people the wrong way since she was not afraid to say what she saw. Nonetheless, due to her relationship with people of influence, she was never imprisoned long. She amassed a great fortune and owned much property. She eventually retired to Alençon, where she was born. She died at the age of 71.

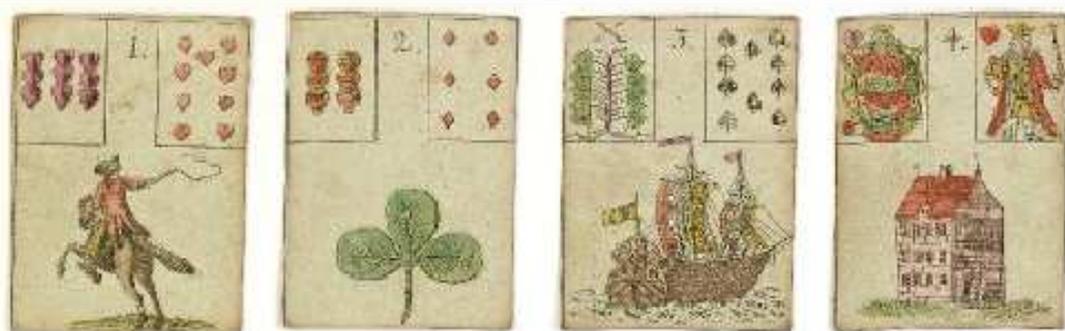
Lenormand in prison Belgium 1821, Portrait by A. Champion, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

This was during the Reign of Terror period of the French Revolution. She read for many famous people during that time, including leaders of the French revolution (Marat, Robespierre and St-Just), Empress Josephine, and Czar Alexander. It is even said that she read for Napoleon himself and discussed her interpretation of his palm in one of her books. She wrote her



History of the Lenormand Cards

Although it is reported that Mlle. Lenormand eschewed props including cards, many first-hand accounts describe her readings with clients, including her use of cards. She used a deck of her own devising, and although there is no surviving copy, secondhand accounts refer to a pack of playing cards with astrological symbols drawn on them. In his book Celebrities of London and Paris, Captain R. H. Gronow describes a reading with Mlle. Lenormand, in which she uses “several packs of cards, with all kinds of strange figures and ciphers depicted on them.”



Cards from the Game of Hope, 1800. From the collection of the British Museum.

number, landing on cards which might indicate good fortune, providing for the payment of tokens to the player or advancement further along the path. Or the roll could result in bad fortune, such as having to retreat a number a spaces, pay a fee or toll, or lose a turn. Some cards or landing spaces were neutral, providing for no additional forfeit or reward. The instructions for the Game of Hope suggest that the thirty-six “illuminated sheets” could also be used “to play an entertaining game of oracles.”

There were two styles of card decks named after Mlle. Lenormand. *Le Grand Jeu de Mlle. Lenormand* was first published by Grimaud in 1845, two years after her death, and consisted of 54 cards with images of constellations, geomantic figures, letters, playing card insets, images from mythology and alchemy, flowers, and other divinatory symbols.

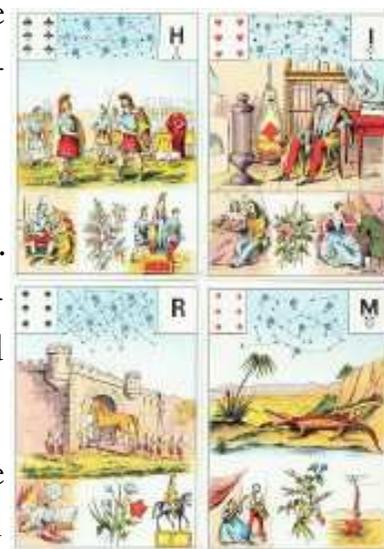
Publishers who wished to capitalize on the notoriety of Mlle. Lenormand re-branded the Game of Hope as *Le Petit Jeu de Mlle. Lenormand*. *Le Petit Jeu* was sold as a 36-card deck used for fortune-telling. Like *Le Grand Jeu*, it became popular in the mid-1800s, after Mlle. Lenormand’s death.

It is a possibility that Mlle. Lenormand designed her decks based on the work of Jean-Baptiste Alliette (1738-1791), known as Etteilla. He designed a particular style of working with playing cards for divination. In his book, Etteilla, ou la seule manière de se récréer avec les cartes (1770), he details how to modify a deck of playing cards to be used as an oracle.



The popular Dondorf style of Lenormand oracle cards. Cards with this artwork were published as early as 1880 and are still in print.

The first example of a Lenormand deck is currently in the collection of the British Museum. It is derived from a German game called the Game of Hope published in 1800. The cards were used as a game board and laid out in order. The players would roll dice and move the specified



Le Grand Jeu de Mademoiselle Lenormand, 1845.

Mlle. Lenormand was considered a plain-looking woman who played the role of pythoness to the hilt. It seems in character to imagine her not with the pretty and dainty cards ladies played with after dinner, but consulting hand-marked playing cards bearing the secrets of her illegal art.

Meanings of the 36 Petit Lenormand Cards from Helen Riding

Card	BD=Belgian-Dutch - Droesbeke	F=French - Steinbach	G=German - Kienle	G=German - Treppner	SG=Swiss-German - Fiechter
1 Rider	messages	news, new situations	news	news	news
2 Clover	quiet happiness, hope	luck, opportunities	small happiness	luck	luck, hope
3 Ship	travels	travel	short journey	travel	long journey
4 House	home, prosperity	home, family	domestic area	home	home
5 Tree	health	life, health	life	medicine	health
6 Clouds	obstacles	temporary confusion	lack of clarity	ambiguity	lack of clarity
7 Snake	ominous events, betrayal, envy	difficulties, bad omen	female person card	woman	betrayal, falseness
8 Coffin	end, death, serious illness	major life changes	negative health, death	illness	end, disease, sorrow
9 Bouquet	gift, perfect happiness	beauty, joy	great happiness	surprise	invitation, present
10 Scythe	danger, break, sudden end	decisive action, shock, accidents	sudden ending	danger	danger
11 Whip	discord,	arguments, sex, physical activity	big troubles	conversations	arguments
12 Birds	difficulties, thoughts	conversation, companionship	small troubles	telephone calls	nervousness, telephone calls
13 Child	child	childhood	person card	child	child
14 Fox	distrust, shrewdness	work, cunning	cleverness or falseness	falsehood	falseness, cunning
15 Bear	mother, strength	finances, nutrition	male person card	official person	power, strength, wealth
16 Stars	birth, success	guidance, ideals	intuition, soul	esotericism	success
17 Storks	change	changes	change	change	changes
18 Dog	faithfulness, friendship	friend, trust	person card	friend	friendship, reliability
19 Tower	life-story	government, corporation, legal matters	school, workplace	office, authority	authorities, isolation
20 Garden	environment, creativity	public	public	public	public
21 Mountain	enemy, resistance	delay, obstacle	obstacle	barriers	blockage
22 Crossroad	choices	choices, decision	new ways, decisions	decision	decision, alternatives, choice
23 Mice	loss, theft	stressful times	loss	loss	loss, sorrows, theft
24 Heart	love, happiness	love	love	love	love
25 Ring	wedding, union	contract, agreement	marriage	connection	partnership, marriage
26 Book	studies, secrets	unknown, education, knowledge	knowledge, secret	secret	secret, unknown
27 Letter	messages, documents	written news, document	written contact	message	message
28 Man	male person card	male person card	male person card	male person card	male person card
29 Woman	female person card	female person card	female person card	female person card	female person card
30 Lily	father, support	peace, maturity	excitement or stress, sexuality	sexuality	family, harmony, sexuality
31 Sun	wealth, optimism, determination	success, happiness	success	luck	success, energy, optimism
32 Moon	professional success	emotions, creativity, intuition	emotions, honour	fame	success, intuition, soul
33 Key	new beginning, solution	solution, success, spiritual forces	power, work	security	certainty
34 Fish	wealth, profit	commerce, self-employment	money	money	money
35 Anchor	longing, security	long-term goals, perseverance	long journey	work	work, stability
36 Cross	suffering	pain, sorrow, despair	future, faith	grief, pain	test, karma

Card Combinations

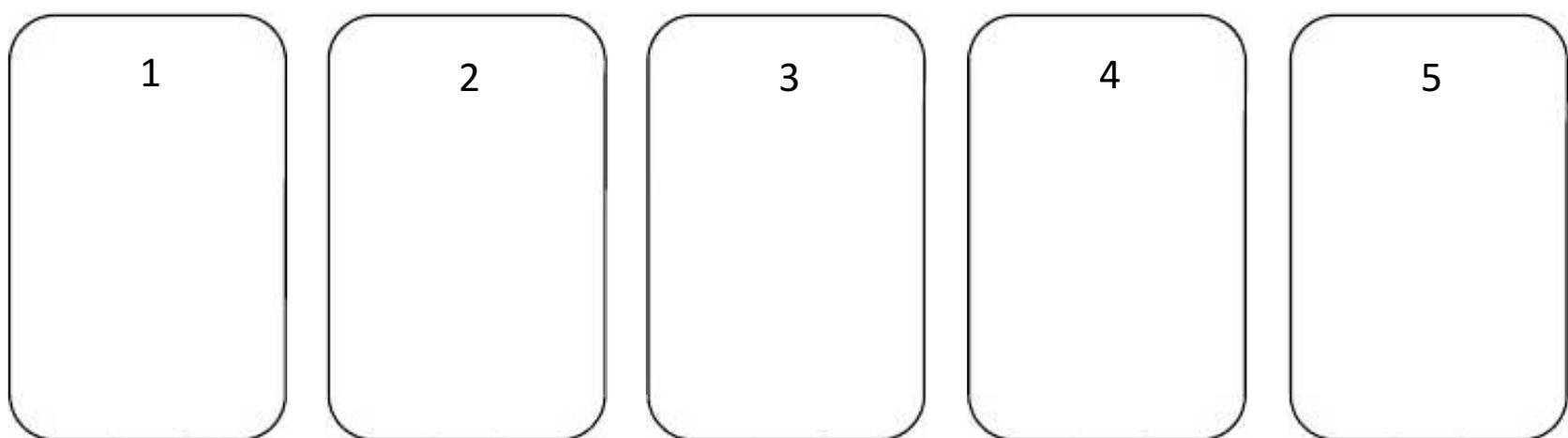
Cards are usually read in pairs in the Lenormand oracle. The card following (to the right of) a card acts like an adjective describing the initial card, similar to how, in many European languages, the adjective follows the noun. There are whole books written on the meanings of particular card combinations, but many Lenormand readers feel that astute use of the standard card meanings can produce an accurate interpretation of card pairs. Cards are not always blended with the adjacent card, though. Sometimes each card will be combined with a central or key card. Another technique is for a card to be matched with the card opposite it, called mirroring.

Charged cards

Charged cards can be called by a variety of terms, including key card, focus card, theme card, topic card, person card, or significator. The charged card is assigned a specific meaning in advance of a reading and represents someone or something specific in the reading. To charge a card, simply set your intention that a specific card refers to a specific thing—such as The Gentleman card refers to the main love interest of the sitter (as opposed to any of the other suitors)

Line of Five

The Line of Five is a simple spread that can use a key card (significator) or not. This process is commonly done with five cards, but is easy to reduce to a line of three or expand to a line of seven or more. Generally an odd number of cards is used.



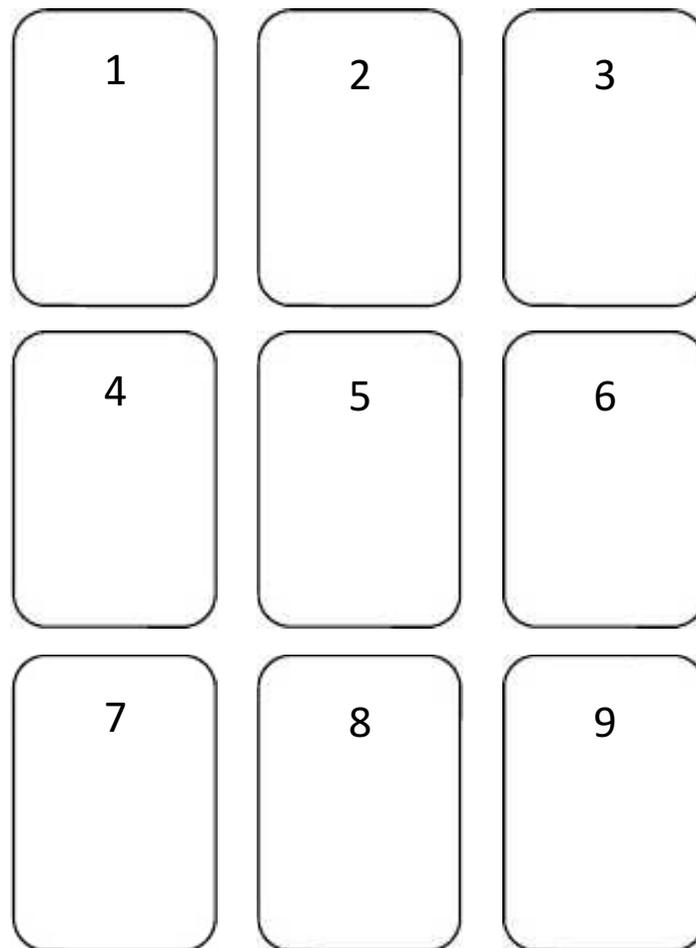
If you would like to use a key card, you can charge (set your intention for) the appropriate card.

Then shuffle as normal.

Being careful not to get the cards out of order, look through the deck for the card you charged. You will now select it and the two cards before it and after it for your reading.

1. First, read the heart, or middle three cards together (2, 3 and 4).
2. Next, read the Past, cards 1 and 2 in combination.
3. Blending cards 4 and 5 comprises the Future.
4. Last, read the mirroring cards 1 and 5, and 2 and 4.

Square of Nine



1. Card one provides the trigger to the situation or what is on the querent's mind. It can be read in combination with the central focus card. The central focus card can be preselected or not. If it's preselected, place it in the middle and deal the other cards around it.
2. Read the four corners blending cards 1 and 9, and then 3 and 7. These provide an overview of the reading.
3. Read the columns. The first column (left, 1, 4, and 7) is the past, the middle column (2, 5, and 8) is the present and the third column (right, 3, 6, and 9) is the future.
4. Each of the three rows is then read as past, present, future. Some readers consider the top row to be conscious factors or thoughts, the middle row to be feelings and emotions, and the bottom row to be the subconscious or external factors.
5. Next, the diagonals are read, 1, 5 and 9 (PPF) and 7, 5, 3 (PPF).
6. Read the inner cross – cards 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 as these tell you the answer to the question or what is really going on and how it will develop.
7. Read the triangles. Cards 1, 3, and 8 blend together, as do cards 7, 9, and 2.

Works Consulted

- 5 Rue De Tournon. Photograph. My Wings of Desire. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://mywingsofdesireblog.blogspot.com/p/lenormand-history.html>>.
- Autorbis. "Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand." Trionfi. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://autorbis.net/marie-anne-adelaide-lenormand>>.
- Cerru, Andy. "Lenormand Theory: Spreads – Line of Five." Andybc - Journal of a Cartomante. Web. 13 Aug. 2012. <<https://andybctarot.wordpress.com/2011/10/13/lenormand-theory-spreads-%E2%80%93-the-quick-answer/>>.
- Cerru, Andy. "Lenormand Theory: Spreads – the 3 X 3." Andybc - Journal of a Cartomante. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<https://andybctarot.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/lenormand-theory-spreads-%E2%80%93-the-3-x-3/>>.
- Cristel, Sandy. "History of the Lenormand Oracle." Sandy Cristel - Traditional Healing & Craft. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <http://www.sandycristel.com/lenormand_history.php>.
- "Das Spiel Der Hofnung." British Museum. The Trustees of the British Museum. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/search_the_collection_database/search_object_details.aspx?objectid=3145089&partid=1&searchText=Das+Spiel+der+Hofnung&numpages=10&orig=%2fresearch%2fsearch_the_collection_database.aspx¤tPage=1>.
- Das Spiel Der Hofnung. Photograph. British Museum. The Trustees of the British Museum. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <http://www.britishmuseum.org/collectionimages/AN01172/AN01172643_001_l.jpg>.
- De LaRose, Donnaleigh. Donnaleigh's Tarot. Web. <<http://www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm>>.
- Dondorf Fortune Telling Cards No. 1 Card Inset Export. Photograph. Lenormand Museum. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://www.lenormand-museum.com/dondorf-fortune-telling-cards-no-1-card-inset-export.html>>.
- Dumas, Alexandre. "The Thirteenth Vendemiaire." The First Republic, Or, The Whites and the Blues, Volumes 1-2. Boston: Brainard, 1894. 18-46. Google Books. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://books.google.com/books?id=SOs-AAAAYAAJ>>.
- Es-Tragon, Steph M., Tali Goodwin, and Marcus Katz. Game of Hope Translation. Tarot Professionals. Tarot Professionals Ltd, 2012. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://www.tarotprofessionals.com/lenormand/GameofHope.pdf>>.
- Ewin, Lord. "Petit Lenormand." Learn Lenormand™. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <<http://learnlenormand.com/reading-petit-lenormand-cards/>>.
- "French Revolution." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Aug. 2012. Web. 13 Aug. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution>.
- Full Size Images Grand Jeu Lenormand #343. Photograph. Cartomancie. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://i632.photobucket.com/albums/uu42/ArloCarto/G-J6s30023.jpg>>.
- Goodrich, Frank B. "Chapter XXVI." The Court of Napoleon. New York: Derby & Jackson, 1857. 318-33. Google Books. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://books.google.com/books?id=HNEJAAAIAAJ>>.

Goodwin, Tali. Learn Lenormand with TaliTarot: Introduction Course. Tarot Professionals, 2012. P DF.

Greer, Mary K. "Madame Lenormand, the Most Famous Card Reader of All Time." Mary K. Greer's Tarot Blog. 12 Feb. 2008. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://marygreer.wordpress.com/2008/02/12/madame-le-normand-the-most-famous-card-reader-of-all-time/>>.

Hill, Melissa. "Lenormand 101." Lenormand.info. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://lenormand.info/>>.

Jase on Cards. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <<http://jaseoncards.wordpress.com/>>.

Lenormand Cards Study Group. Facebook. Web. 2012. <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LenormandCardStudy/>>.

Lenormand in Prison Belgium 1821 Portrait by A Champion, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Photograph. My Wings of Desire. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Hn33CbJFmF8/Tags3QVRNxl/AAAAAAAAABM8/UvC8f0kkNFA/s1600/Lenormand+in+prison.jpg>>.

"Mademoiselle Lenormand; The Fortune-Teller." Remarkable Women of Different Nations and Ages. First Series. Boston: Jewett and, 1858. 207-17. Google Books. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://books.google.com/books?id=Z4UrAAAAMAAJ>>.

"Marie Anne Lenormand." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 08 Nov. 2012. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Anne_Lenormand>.

Matthews, Caitlin. "Just How Long Have Women Been From Venus And Men From Mars? - On The Origins Of The Petit Lenormand Cards." Soundings. 28 Apr. 2012. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <<http://caitlin-matthews.blogspot.com/>>.

Portrait of Mlle Lenormand by J Champagne. Photograph. My Wings of Desire. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-CecbJzPrWtc/TasIRpUTUvI/AAAAAAAAABPQ/xcJcczuMudc/s1600/Champagne+portrait+NYPL.jpg>>.

"Reign of Terror." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Aug. 2012. Web. 13 Aug. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reign_of_Terror>.

Riding, Helen. "About Lenormand: Significators." My Wings of Desire. 27 Apr. 2011. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <<http://mywingsofdesireblog.blogspot.com/2011/04/about-lenormand-significators.html>>.

Riding, Helen. "Lenormand History." My Wings of Desire. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://mywingsofdesireblog.blogspot.com/p/lenormand-history.html>>.

Riding, Helen. "My Wings of Desire." Lenormand Spreads. Web. 15 Aug. 2012. <<http://mywingsofdesireblog.blogspot.com/p/lenormand-spreads.html>>.

"Robespierre Bei Der Wahrsagerin Lenormand" Photograph. My Wings of Desire. Web. 14 Aug. 2012. <<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-GI5HaDK20CA/TabTJiybr8I/AAAAAAAAABK0/qQDgj-zlvRc/s1600/lenormand-robepierre%255B1%255D.jpg>>.