

# Book of the Inner Solstice

Description: Folio book, 256 typeset pages written in English (with extensive annotations handwritten in German). Title page lists the printer as being “Hyperborea Publishing, London” and has a publication date of 1895, but no author. The cover is black, with the title stamped on in tarnished silver. The rear cover has a faded sticker featuring a swastika and the characters “HOHL - 1939 - FI - 2418a/Z.” The book will register as having odd harmonics and eldritch subtexts to an arcane scan, but does not appear to be particularly evil.

The Book of the Inner Solstice purports to be a description of seasonal variations *inside* the planet, based on a convoluted breakdown of the internal movements of the sun that exists in the center of the Hollow Earth. By charting those movements and cross-indexing them with seismograph readings, a ‘geomancer’ could accurately chart minute changes in local gravity. The original text piously declares that such changes should only be exploited to increase personal health, dissipate lingering ‘bad influences,’ and generally promote harmony. Presumably, at least: the Book of the Inner Solstice’s text is turgid and difficult to parse. Certainly the Nazi Ahnenerbe researcher analyzing it thought so; anyone who can read German will find his annotations remarkably

(and faintly unpleasantly) helpful. They will also work out fairly quickly that the Ahnenerbe's particular interest in this book was to help them plot out more accurate artillery trajectories.

This actually explains why the book survived the Second World War: the Allies were remarkably meticulous at making sure that all useful Nazi-tainted occult texts got tossed in the nearest incinerator. Fortunately or unfortunately, this text was considered *useless*: its text directly contradicted Nazi pseudoscientist Peter Bender's own Concave Earth theories, and had been long since filed and forgotten by the end of the war. Not even the most dedicated OSS tome-burner was going to bother tracking down texts the Nazis themselves had rejected as ridiculous.

The Book of the Inner Solstice has only recently resurfaced on the occult gray market, but it's making a splash. There's *something* about it that's uncanny, although exactly what is hard to pin down. Maybe it's an interdimensional relic. Maybe there really is a Hollow Earth. Maybe it just spent eighty years next to a *true* magic tome, and can be used to track it down via sympathetic magic.

No matter what the reason, it's up for bid next week in a Milan arcane auction house. Your team will be given enough funds to acquire it, if the price remains reasonable. If it does, buy the book and bring it to our Maltese location at a reasonable pace. See if anybody follows you. If the price doesn't remain reasonable, put a trace on the buyers, and follow *them*.

In either case, keep things discreet. Whatever's going on with the Book of the Inner Solstice is probably not worth risking a firefight in the streets. Or even knockout drops in somebody's champagne. But if somebody else begs to differ... well, that's useful information, too.

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