

Charles AA Dellschau

by Anthony Spira



Dellschau's story couldn't have been made up. It is one of the classic discoveries of outsider art: voluminous notebooks found in a dump are snapped up by Dominique de Menil. The author turns out to be a diminutive Prussian butcher who landed in Texas; the parchments hold the key to a magical history of secret societies and mysterious formulas, wrapped up in glowing illuminations. These rickety but heroic flying machines generate a heady mix of aspiration, ambition and aeronautics and I love the way **Dellschau** has been co-opted into 19th-century paranormal conspiracies.

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