

Correspondence between Kevin Begos, Jr., and Alan Liu Regarding the "Small" Edition (no. 85) Given by Begos to Liu (Excerpts from Emails)

(This document rev. 2 May 2023)

21 July 2010 (Begos to Liu)

Alan-

... Also, I had long wanted to give you something for all the work you put into the Agrippa Files, but of course don't have copies of the book to give out.

I did however recently find an additional copy of the ill-fated small edition I can offer you, under the sole condition you agree not to sell it, though you could give it to a library or other public collection at a later date.

I doubt it's worth anything, but still looks sorta cool, and is a minor part of the story.

If you want it, send me your address again....

Best,

Kevin

1 August 2010 (Begos to Liu)

I'll send you the whole package.

Somewhat similar to large box inside, but cloth box, not fiberglass.

9 August 2010 (Begos to Liu)

Alan-

... I shipped the project "as is", the book without the final stage of cutting out the hole for the disk, or gluing the Ashbaugh art in. That whole small edition collapsed when Dennis and I couldn't reach agreement on some things, such as the fact that the small edition didn't have any type of disappearing (or even rub-off) images. Most of the edition was destroyed, but I found a few copies recently.

So technically, it's an "unfinished Agrippa", but still might look cool on a coffee table.

That said, I always liked the small box, w/the pasted old newspapers.
I like the smaller book size, too.

Best,
Kevin

13 August 2010 (Liu to Begos)

Dear Kevin,

Just to let you know that the small edition of Agrippa arrived safely. It's quite beautiful. I hadn't realized that the small edition came in such an elaborate case of its own. I'll have to rewrite the description of the small edition on the site when I get a chance.

In the small book itself, did you originally plan to glue the last pages together and carve out a hollow for the disk (like in the large edition)?

Thank you so much, Kevin.

--Alan

14 August 2010 (Begos to Liu)

Alan-

Glad you like it.

Yes, the finished small book would have the back pages glued together and the cut-out space for the disk.

I didn't check the whole email string on this, but I'd prefer that this book not be photographed, because it is unfinished.

But your point about the elaborate case goes to the heart of the difficulty of the whole project- virtually everything was handmade/custom made, which took tons of time and money, and lead to legitimate differences of opinion about what works and what doesn't.

If Kindle's and iPad's had been available back in 1992 we probably would have had a huge success, selling just an electronic download for \$10 or \$15. But we tried to make both a book object and an electronic book.

Best,
Kevin

14 August 2010 (Liu to Begos)

Thanks, Kevin. I see what you mean about the handmade/custom issue. Most people discuss Agrippa in terms of the relation between the codex book form and digital forms, but the contradiction the book sets up between hand-craft and modern mass production/marketing is probably just as interesting.

If you don't mind, I'd like to photograph the book just for private teaching purposes (for classroom and lecture display), with no photos mounted on the online site. Would that be okay?

P.S. I really like the metal label on the outside of the case, with its distressed-metal look.