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## Junkfood for the Soul

*Magic Storytelling during Esoteric Workshops*

“These are not natural events; they strengthen from strange to stranger” (Shakespeare, *The Tempest* 1, 5)



Many folklorists will be familiar with the emblem of the 10th congress of the ISFNR in Innsbruck in 1992<sup>1</sup>. They will have recognized it as Flammarion's woodcut, which has been identified and interpreted by Nils-Arvid Bringéus as a 19th century fabrication, pretending to be an original from the 16th<sup>2</sup>. However,

- <sup>1</sup> This paper was first delivered at the 10th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research in Innsbruck, July 1992. I would like to thank Lutz Röhrich, Frederick Wyatt and Klaus Roth for their critical comments.
- <sup>2</sup> Bringéus, Nils-Arvid: *Volkstümliche Bilderkunde*. Munich 1982 (Orig.: *Bildlorestudiet av folkliga bildbudskap*. Stockholm 1981), 84 sq. Many scholars still regard the picture as an original, e. g. Castiglioni, Arturo: *Le monde de la magie*. In: *L'univers des sciences occultes*. Paris 1975 (German: *Die Renaissance der Geheimwissenschaften*, 1979), 160. Here the illustration is titled: "A scholar advances into the world thereafter. Engraving, early 16. c., Source: Musée des Arts Décoratifs" . .