"On Magic"

"...most magic is not religious at all and has no connection with religion."

F.C. Grant, Hellenistic Religions, 46

"There is no sphere of magic at once distinguishable from the sphere of religion and science."

A.D. Nock, "Paul and the Magus"

"There is no church of magic."

E. Durkheim, Elementary Forms, 60

"Magic expresses the greater value for man of confidence over doubt, of steadfastness over vacillation...I think we must see in it the embodiment of the sublime folly of hope, which has yet been the best school of man’s character."

B. Malinowski, Magic, Science and Religion, 90

"The fundamental difference between magic and religion is still the same as it always was. On the one hand, we have the religious man, offering his adorations in humble supplication to the Deity...On the other hand, we have the magician, attempting to force the supernatural powers to accomplish what he desires and avert what he fears."

A.A. Barb, "The Survival of the Magic Arts," 101

"The cliche that the religious man petitions the gods while the magician tries to compel them is simply false...Consequently we shall not try to define magic abstractly but shall look at some of the sorts of magicians that circulated...to see what they were supposed to do."

M. Smith, Jesus the Magician, 69

"Evans-Pritchard has shown how fruitfully sorcery can be treated as a 'function of personal relations' and 'a function of situations of misfortune.' Sorcery, therefore, need not be treated in isolation. It is not an unswept corner of odd beliefs surrounding unsavoury practices...:

P. Brown, "Sorcery, Demons...", 18

"...the debate over the relation between magic and religion is a discussion of an artificial problem created by defining religion on the ideal pattern of Christianity. The elements of man’s beliefs and ceremonies which did not coincide with the ideal type of religion were - and are - called magic. Magic became - and still becomes - a refuse-heap for the elements which are not sufficiently 'valuable' to get a place within religion."
O. Petersson, "Magic...," Ethnos 22 (’57) 109f.

"Examination of the concept indicates that the distinction between magic and religion, whether phrased as dichotomy or polarity, is unwarranted. Magic is not an entity distinct from religion but a form of ritual behavior and thus an element of religion."