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histories you can trust this history provides a readable and fresh approach to the extensive and complex story of witchcraft and magic telling the story from the dawn of writing in the ancient world to the globally successful harry potter films the authors explore a wide range of magical beliefs and practices the rise of the

witch trials and the depiction of the devil worshipping witch the book also focuses on the more recent history of witchcraft and magic from the enlightenment to the present exploring the rise of modern magic the anthropology of magic around the globe and finally the cinematic portrayal of witches and magicians from the wizard of oz to charmed and buffy the vampire slayer

presents a comprehensive reference guide with more than 480 entries on the subject of witchcraft

the routledge history of witchcraft is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary study of the belief in witches from antiquity to the present day providing both an introduction to the subject of witchcraft and an overview of the on going debates this extensive collection covers the entire breadth of the history of witchcraft from the witches of ancient greece and medieval demonology through to the victims of the witch hunts and onwards to children s books horror films and modern pagans drawing on the knowledge and expertise of an international team of authors the book examines differing concepts of witchcraft that still exist in society and explains their historical literary religious and anthropological origin and development including the reflections and adaptions of this belief in art and popular culture the volume is divided into four chronological parts beginning with antiquity and the middle ages in part one early modern witch hunts in part two modern concepts of witchcraft in part three and ending with an examination of witchcraft and the arts in part four each chapter offers a glimpse of a different version of the witch introducing the reader to the diversity of witches that have existed in different contexts throughout history exploring a wealth of texts and case studies and offering a broad geographical scope for examining this fascinating subject the routledge history of witchcraft is essential reading for students and academics interested in the history of witchcraft

the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries was a period of witchcraft prosecutions throughout europe and modern scholars have now devoted a huge amount of research to these episodes this volume will attempt to bring this work together by summarising the history of the trials in a new way according to the types of legal systems involved other topics covered will be the continued practical use made of magic the elaboration of demonological theories about witchcraft and magic and the further development of scientific interests in natural magic through the neoplatonic and hermetic period amongst the topics included here are superstition and belief in high and popular culture the place of medicine witchcraft survivals in art and literature and the survival of persecution

this fascinating volume delves into the history of witchcraft and demonology witchcraft and black magic gives an extensive history of what montague summers deems to be satanic practises first published in 1946 this handbook gathers vivid detail from a wealth of sources and references that enhance its overview of black magic montague summers research explores numerous court records personal accounts and classic works of literature as well as taking evidence from the bible a

devout catholic summers writes about witchcraft in great detail examining historic events such as the salem witch trials with a close eye the chapters in this chilling volume include what is witchcraft how does one become a witch the familiar in human shape and animal witchcraft at cambridge and oxford the origins of witchcraft the library of witches the magus 1801 of francis barrett sympathetic magic complete with an introduction to the folklore and history of witchcraft read co books has republished this classic guide to black magic in a brand new edition a must read for conspiracy theorists and those with an interest in the historical background of witchcraft

see the history of witchcraft magic and superstition come to life with this spectacular supernatural book from alchemy and modern wicca to paganism and shamanism this enchanting book takes you on a mystical journey that will leave you spellbound this is the perfect introduction to magic and the occult this reference book on witchcraft is packed with informative engaging and accessible text and lavish illustrations special features on aspects of magic such as oracle bones of ancient china the knights templar and magic at the movies and plants and potions such as mandrake and belladonna examine topics in great detail quick fact panels that explore magic origins key figures key deities use in spells structures of religions and more this indispensable witchcraft book explores the common human fascination with spells superstition and the supernatural it provides you with a balanced and unbiased account of everything from japanese folklore and indian witchcraft to the differences between black and white magic and dispelling myths such as those surrounding the voodoo doll and ouija expect the unexpected with a history of magic witchcraft and the occult it will open your eyes to other worlds discover forms of divination from astrology and palmistry to the tarot and runestones explore the presence of witchcraft in literature from shakespeare s macbeth to the harry potter series and the ways in which magic has interacted with religion whether you re a believer or a sceptic this richly illustrated history book provides a fresh approach to the extensive and complex story of witchcraft magic and the occult

exploring the elements of reality in early modern witchcraft and popular magic through a combination of detailed archival research and broad ranging interdisciplinary analyses this book complements and challenges existing scholarship and offers unique insights into this murky aspect of early modern history

this classic of esoterica explores witchcraft sorcery necromancy damnation satanism and every variety of magic written by the field s foremost scholar it features colorful little known anecdotes about witches devils and their arts it also provides numerous historical accounts of witch trials and surveys the role of witches in literature

the old craft of the witches was a close order its members were sworn to secrecy although some records were kept very few of these still exist today in early

ecclesiastic and in mediaeval literature however references to witchcraft are numerous this book endeavours to set out in an interesting manner the story of the craft from earliest times the book's three hundred and twenty pages contain fourteen comprehensive chapters witchcraft a primitive cult initiation and ceremony spells the evil eye and possession practical witchcraft witchcraft on the continent werewolves and vampires blood and fire in england demons and mascots witch hunting cameos a typical english witch trial witchcraft in america witchcraft phantasmagoria a typical witch tract the last phase this book will prove a fascinating read for anyone interested in the occult arts and will provide much information to historians of this hitherto arcane subject

in a treatise of witchcraft alexander roberts explores the intricate relationship between superstition and societal norms during a time marked by the fear of the supernatural written in a scholarly yet accessible style roberts provides a critical examination of witchcraft through historical context legal documents and personal anecdotes effectively weaving together a narrative that challenges prevalent beliefs of his era the treatise delves into the moral and ethical implications of witch hunting unveiling not only the ramifications for accused witches but also the broader impact on communities gripped by paranoia and hysteria alexander roberts a noted figure in the 17th century was deeply influenced by the sociopolitical upheavals of his time which were exacerbated by religious conflicts and societal fears his background in law and fervent interest in moral philosophy prompted him to write this treatise not merely as a critique but as a plea for reason amidst irrational fear roberts aimed to illuminate the dangers of scapegoating and mass hysteria drawing on widespread empirical evidence and enlightened thought readers interested in the interplay between law morality and societal fears will find a treatise of witchcraft both enlightening and thought provoking it is a crucial work for understanding the genesis of modern legal and ethical standards regarding witchcraft making it an essential read for anyone intrigued by the historical complexities of justice and human rights in this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience hand picked memorable quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

how could a woman be three times accused of witchcraft and go on running a successful farmstead why would men use a frying pan for cattle magic why did witches keep talking about the children what kind of a relation did finnish witches have with authority and power these are among the questions raisa maria toivo addresses in this study as she explores the gender implications of the complex system of household management and public representation in which seventeenth century finnish women and men negotiated their positions from specific case studies toivo broadens her narrative to include historiographical discussion on the history of witchcraft on women's and gender history and on early modern social history shedding new light on each theme toivo contributes to the on going discussion in the european historiography about whether the early modern period witnessed an improvement decline or simply alteration in the conditions of

oppression of women within patriarchal households by using a multidimensional set of roles that could be adopted by women finally she demonstrates convincingly that members of the solid peasant class were not only subject of the newly forming states but also avid users of the court system which they manipulated and put to work in the interests of their own individual household and collective affairs

as dusk fell on a misty evening in 1521 martin luther hiding from his enemies at wartburg castle found himself seemingly tormented by demons hurling walnuts at his bedroom window in a fit of rage the great reformer threw at the devil the inkwell from which he was preparing his colossal translation of the bible a belief like luther s in the supernatural and in black magic has been central to european cultural life for 3000 years from the salem witch trials to the macabre novels of dennis wheatley from the sadistic persecution of eccentric village women to the seductive sorceresses of tv s charmed and from derek jarman s punk film jubilee to ken russell s the devils john callow brings the twilight world of the witch mage and necromancer to vivid and fascinating life he takes us into a shadowy landscape where in an age before modern drugs the onset of sudden illness was readily explained by malevolent spellcasting and where dark winding country lanes could terrify by night as the hoot of an owl or shriek of a fox became the desolate cries of unseen spirits witchcraft has profoundly shaped the western imagination and endures in the forms of modern day wicca and paganism embracing the darkness is an enthralling account of this fascinating aspect of the western cultural experience

the staging of witchcraft and a spectacle of strangeness witchcraft at court and the globe presents a new interest in continental texts on witchcraft coincided with technological advances in the english stage which made a variety of dramatic effects possible in the private playhouses such as flying witches and the appearance of spirits and deities in elizabethan plays this book also evaluates how the technology of the blackfriars playhouse facilitated the appearance of spirits devils witches magicians deities and dragons on stage the study investigates the visual spectacle of witchcraft scenes which intersect with the genre of the plays and it also presents to what extent changing theatrical tastes affect the way that supernatural characters are shown on stage

containing ten essays by anthropologists on the beliefs and practices associated with witches and sorcerers in eastern africa the chapters in this book are all based on field research and new information which is studied within its wider social context first published in 1963

witchcraft and magical beliefs have captivated historians and artists for millennia and stimulated an extraordinary amount of research among scholars in a wide range of disciplines this new collection from the editor of the highly acclaimed 1992 set articles on witchcraft magic and demonology extends the earlier volumes by bringing together the most important articles of the past twenty years and covering the profound changes in scholarly perspective over the past two decades

featuring thematically organized papers from a broad spectrum of publications the volumes in this set encompass the key issues and approaches to witchcraft research in fields such as gender studies anthropology sociology literature history psychology and law this new collection provides students and researchers with an invaluable resource comprising the most important and influential discussions on this topic a useful introductory essay written by the editor precedes each volume

between the age of st augustine and the sixteenth century reformations magic continued to be both a matter of popular practice and of learned inquiry this volume deals with its use in such contexts as healing and divination and as an aspect of the knowledge of nature s occult virtues and secrets

magical phenomenon pagan worship sorcery and religion have all at one time been thought of as witchcraft witches were labeled magical wizards or sorcerers who had powers to conjure ill feeling or will toward non magical people these ideas predate the anglo saxon period this engaging and meticulously illustrated atlas reveals cultural ideas from a global perspective about witches and witchcraft their place in their society and the sometimes cruel punishments they were subjected to sidebars and boxes highlight interesting facts glossary an index and resources for further study conclude this fascinating book

this is the only book of its kind on witchcraft that has been written by a practising witch it is intended to be not merely a history but a guide to the many strange byways of a vast and fascinating subject witchcraft is as old as the human race and it is actively practised today by people of all classes to its devotees witchcraft is more than spells and charms or even secret meetings and rituals it is a philosophy and a way of life it claims to be the oldest form of religion that of nature worship and magic since the last witchcraft act was repealed in 1951 the revival of public interest in witchcraft has been the subject of continuous controversy this book is a serious contribution to the study of a subject too long obscured by prejudice and sensationalism

the only serious study of witchcraft and magic from 1736 to 1951brings together matters ranging from upper class spiritualism to rural witchcraft in an exciting and intellectually stimulating wayessential reading for all social historians and all h

explores the origins and history of witchcraft differences between black and white magic and reasons for the growing popularity of witchcraft today

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