

The Witchcraft Sourcebook

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this collection of trial records laws treatises sermons speeches woodcuttings paintings and literary texts illustrates how contemporaries from various periods have perceived alleged witches and their activities

the witchcraft sourcebook now in its second edition is a fascinating collection of documents that illustrates the development of ideas about witchcraft from ancient times to the eighteenth century many of the sources come from the period between 1400 and 1750 when more than 100 000 people most of them women were prosecuted for witchcraft in europe and colonial america during these years the prominent stereotype of the witch as an evil magician and servant of satan emerged catholics and protestants alike feared that the devil and his human confederates were destroying christian society including trial records demonological treatises and sermons literary texts narratives of demonic possession and artistic depiction of witches the documents reveal how contemporaries from various periods have perceived alleged witches and their activities brian p levack shows how notions of witchcraft have changed over time and considers the connection between gender and witchcraft and the nature of the witch s perceived power this second edition includes an extended section on the witch trials in england scotland and new england fully revised and updated introductions to the sources to include the latest scholarship and a short bibliography at the end of each introduction to guide students in their further reading the sourcebook provides students of the history of witchcraft with a broad range of sources many of which have been translated into english for the first time with commentary and background by one of the leading scholars in the field

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the witchcraft reader offers a wide range of historical perspectives on the subject of witchcraft in a single accessible volume exploring the enduring hold that it has on human imagination the witch trials of the late middle ages and the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have inspired a huge and expanding scholarly literature as well as an outpouring of popular representations this fully revised and enlarged third edition brings together many of the best and most important works in the field it explores the origins of witchcraft prosecutions in learned and popular culture fears of an imaginary witch cult the role of religious division and ideas about the devil the gendering of suspects the making of confessions and the decline of witch beliefs an expanded final section explores the various revivals and images of witchcraft that continue to

flourish in contemporary western culture equipped with an extensive introduction that foregrounds significant debates and themes in the study of witchcraft providing the extracts with a critical context the witchcraft reader is essential reading for anyone with an interest in this fascinating subject

the fourth edition of the witch hunt in early modern europe written by one of the leading names in the field is the ideal resource for both students and scholars of the witch hunts for those starting out in their studies of witch beliefs and witchcraft trials brian levack provides a concise survey of this complex and fascinating topic while for more seasoned scholars the scholarship is brought right up to date the witchcraft sourcebook now in its second edition is a fascinating collection of documents illustrating the development of ideas about witchcraft from ancient times to the eighteenth century along with commentary and background by brian levack including trial records demonological treatises and sermons literary texts narratives of demonic possession and artistic depiction of witches the documents show how notions of witchcraft have changed over time and consider the connection between gender and witchcraft and the nature of the witch's perceived power available to purchase as a bundle together these two books make the perfect collection for students and lecturers of witchcraft and witch hunts in the early modern period

discover the hidden depths of the sabbath take flight for a mesmerizing exploration of an event long shrouded in fear and mystery the witches sabbath kelden presents an in depth examination of the sabbath's historical and folkloric development as well as its re emergence within the modern practice of witchcraft from discussions on the folklore of flight and the events of nocturnal gatherings to enchanting rituals and recipes you'll find everything you need to not only understand the nature of the legendary sabbath but also journey there yourself offering impressive research and compelling stories from across europe and the early american colonies this book is the ultimate resource for discovering an oft misunderstood and overlooked aspect of witchcraft includes a foreword by jason mankey author of the horned god of the witches

stories about witches are by their nature stories about the most basic and profound of human experiences healing sex violence tragedies aging death and encountering the mystery and magic of the unknown it is no surprise then that witches loom large in our cultural imaginations in academia studies of witches rarely emerge from scholars who are themselves witches and or embedded in communities of witchcraft practitioners the witch studies reader brings together a diverse group of scholars practitioners and scholar practitioners who examine witchcraft from a critical decolonial feminist perspective that decenters europe and departs from exoticizing and pathologizing writing on witchcraft in the global south the authors show how witches are keepers of suppressed knowledges builders of new futures exemplars of praxis and theorists in

their own right throughout they account for the vastly different national political economic and cultural contexts in which the witch is currently being claimed and repudiated offering a pathbreaking transnational feminist examination of witches and witchcraft that upends white supremacist colonial patriarchal knowledge regimes this volume brings into being the interdisciplinary field of feminist witch studies contributors maria amir ruth asiimwe bernadette barton ethel brooks shelina brown ruth charnock soma chaudhuri carolyn chernoff saira chhibber simon clay krystal cleary adrianna l ernstberger tina escaja laurie essig marcelitte failla d ferrett marion goldman jaime hartless margaretha haughwout patricia humura apoorvaa joshi govind kelkar oliver kellhammer ayça kurtoğlu helen macdonald isabel machado brandy renee mccann dev nathan mary jo neitz amy nichols belo allison or ap pierce emma quilty anna rogel karen schaller jacquelyn marie shannon shashank shekhar sinha gabriella v smith nathan snaza shannon hughes spence eric steinhart morena tartari nicole trigg katie von wald tushabe wa tushabe jane ward

the concept of performativity has risen to prominence throughout the humanities the rise of financial derivatives reflects the power of the performative sign in the economic sphere as recent debates about gender identity show the concept of performativity is also profoundly influential on people's personal lives although the autonomous power of representation has been studied in disciplines ranging from economics to poetics however it has not yet been evaluated in ethical terms this book supplies that deficiency providing an ethical critique of performative representation as it is manifested in semiotics linguistics philosophy poetics theology and economics it constructs a moral criticism of the performative sign in two ways first by identifying its rise to power as a single phenomenon manifested in various different areas and second by locating efficacious representation in its historical context thus connecting it to idolatry magic usury and similar performative signs the book concludes by suggesting that earlier ethical critiques of efficacious representation might be revived in our own postmodern era

this magisterial account explores the fear of witchcraft across the globe from the ancient world to the notorious witch trials of early modern europe the guardian uk the witch came to prominence and often a painful death in early modern europe yet her origins are much more geographically diverse and historically deep in the witch historian ronald hutton sets the european witch trials in the widest and deepest possible perspective and traces the major historiographical developments of witchcraft hutton a renowned expert on ancient medieval and modern paganism and witchcraft beliefs combines anglo american and continental scholarly approaches to examine attitudes on witchcraft and the treatment of suspected witches across the world including in africa the middle east south asia australia and the americas and from ancient

pagan times to current interpretations his fresh anthropological and ethnographical approach focuses on cultural inheritance and change while considering shamanism folk religion the range of witch trials and how the fear of witchcraft might be eradicated a panoptic penetrating book malcolm gaskill london review of books

from fairy tales and fiction to tiktok the specter of the witch has cast a long shadow over women and popular culture witchcraft gendered perspectives traces the history of and evolution of the term witch across six centuries tracing the history of witchcraft from the publication of the malleus maleficarum to its contemporary representation and reclamation this volume takes a gendered and intersectional approach to the cultural and historical shifts which have both demonized and democratized the witch online and in public discourse amongst these are the witch trials in scotland england and america literary and screen re imaginings of the witch the rise of wicca as an alternative religion witchcraft gendered perspectives is an invaluable resource for graduate and undergraduate students across gender studies queer history religious studies media studies and european and north american history

an exploration of the historical origins of the witches ointment and medieval hallucinogenic drug practices based on the earliest sources details how early modern theologians demonized psychedelic folk magic into witches ointments shares dozens of psychoactive formulas and recipes gleaned from rare manuscripts from university collections all over the world as well as the practices and magical incantations necessary for their preparation examines the practices of medieval witches like matteuccia di francisco who used hallucinogenic drugs in her love potions and herbal preparations in the medieval period preparations with hallucinogenic herbs were part of the practice of veneficium or poison magic this collection of magical arts used poisons herbs and rituals to bewitch heal prophesy infect and murder in the form of psyche magical ointments poison magic could trigger powerful hallucinations and surrealistic dreams that enabled direct experience of the divine smeared on the skin these entheogenic ointments were said to enable witches to commune with various local goddesses bastardized by the church as trips to the sabbat clandestine meetings with satan to learn magic and participate in demonic orgies examining trial records and the pharmacopoeia of witches alchemists folk healers and heretics of the 15th century thomas hatsis details how a range of ideas from folk drugs to ecclesiastical fears over medicine women merged to form the classical witch stereotype and what history has called the witches ointment he shares dozens of psychoactive formulas and recipes gleaned from rare manuscripts from university collections from all over the world as well as the practices and magical incantations necessary for their preparation he explores the connections between witches ointments and spells for shape shifting spirit

travel and bewitching magic he examines the practices of some renaissance magicians who inhaled powerful drugs to communicate with spirits and of italian folk witches such as matteuccia di francisco who used hallucinogenic drugs in her love potions and herbal preparations and finicella who used drug ointments to imagine herself transformed into a cat exploring the untold history of the witches ointment and medieval hallucinogen use hatsis reveals how the church transformed folk drug practices specifically entheogenic ones into satanic experiences

a book of poetry prose photographs and paintings to honor the sacrifice of those who came before and paid some with their very lives for their different belief appearance capability or livelihood we hope to move you deeply with our words and pictures knowing that as george santayana famously said those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it

women come to the fore in witchcraft trials as accused persons or as witnesses and this book is a study of women s voices in these trials in eight countries around the north sea spanish netherlands northern germany denmark scotland england norway sweden and finland from each country three trials are chosen for close reading of courtroom discourse and the narratological approach enables various individuals to speak throughout the study a choir of 24 voices of accused women are heard which reveal valuable insight into the field of mentalities and display both the individual experience of witchcraft accusation and the development of the trial particular attention is drawn to the accused women s confessions which are interpreted as enforced narratives the analyses of individual trials are also contextualized nationally and internationally by a frame of historical elements and a systematic comparison between the countries shows strong similarities regarding the impact of specific ideas about witchcraft use of pressure and torture the turning point of the trial and the verdict and sentence this volume is an essential resource for all students and scholars interested in the history of witchcraft witchcraft trials transnationality cultural exchanges and gender in early modern northern europe

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 adaptations 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 definitive compilation on witchcraft and witch hunting in the early modern era exploring significant people places beliefs and events encyclopedia of witchcraft the western tradition is the definitive reference on the age of witch hunting approximately 1430 1750 its origins expansion and ultimate decline incorporating a wealth of recent scholarship in four richly illustrated alphabetically organized volumes it offers historians and general readers alike the opportunity to explore the realities behind the legends of witchcraft and witchcraft trials over 170 contributors from 28 nations provide vivid documented descriptions and analyses of witchcraft trials and locations folklore and beliefs magical practices and deities influential texts and the full range of players in this extraordinary drama witchcraft theorists and theologians historians and authors judges clergy and rulers the accused and their persecutors concentrating on europe and the americas in the early modern era the work also covers relevant topics from the ancient near east including the hebrew and christian bibles classical antiquity and the european middle ages

how did the reformation which initially promoted decidedly illiberal positions end up laying the groundwork for western liberalism the english reformation began as an evangelical movement driven by an unyielding belief in predestination intolerance stringent literalism political quietism and destructive iconoclasm yet by 1688 this illiberal early modern upheaval would deliver the foundations of liberalism free will liberty of conscience religious toleration readerly freedom constitutionalism and aesthetic liberty how did a movement with such illiberal beginnings lay the groundwork for the enlightenment james simpson provocatively rewrites the history of liberalism and uncovers its unexpected debt to evangelical religion sixteenth century protestantism ushered in a culture of permanent revolution ceaselessly repudiating its own prior forms its rejection of tradition was divisive violent and unsustainable the proto liberalism of the later seventeenth century emerged as a cultural package designed to stabilize the social chaos brought about by this evangelical revolution a brilliant assault on many of our deepest assumptions permanent revolution argues that

far from being driven by a new strain of secular philosophy the british enlightenment is a story of transformation and reversal of the protestant tradition from within the gains of liberalism were the unintended results of the violent early reformation today those gains are increasingly under threat in part because liberals do not understand their own history they fail to grasp that liberalism is less the secular opponent of religious fundamentalism than its dissident younger sibling uncertain how to confront its older evangelical competitor

the european witch hunt seeks to explain why thousands of people mostly lower class women were deliberately tortured and killed in the name of religion and morality during three centuries of intermittent witch hunting throughout europe and north america combining perspectives from history sociology psychology and other disciplines this book provides a comprehensive account of witch hunting in early modern europe julian goodare sets out an original interpretation of witch hunting as an episode of ideologically driven persecution by the godly state in the era of the reformation and counter reformation full weight is also given to the context of village social relationships and there is a detailed analysis of gender issues witch hunting was a legal operation and the courts rationale for interrogation under torture is explained panicking local elites rather than central governments were at the forefront of witch hunting further chapters explore folk beliefs about legendary witches and intellectuals beliefs about a secret conspiracy of witches in league with the devil witch hunting eventually declined when the ideological pressure to combat the devil s allies slackened a final chapter sets witch hunting in the context of other episodes of modern persecution this book is the ideal resource for students exploring the history of witch hunting its level of detail and use of social theory also make it important for scholars and researchers

this book reconsiders the place of magic at the foundations of modernity through careful close reading of plays spell books philosophical treatises and witch trial narratives andrew moore shows us that magic was ubiquitous in early modern england rather than a decline of magic this study traces a broad cultural fascination with supernatural power in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries poets philosophers jurists and monarchs debated the reality and the morality of magic and by extension the limits of human power in this way early modern english writing about magic was closely related to the scientific and political philosophical writing from the period which was likewise reimagining humanity s relationship to nature moore reads thomas hobbes s leviathan alongside contemporary writing by the notorious witch hunters matthew hopkins and john stearne he reminds us that francis bacon s scientific works were addressed to king james i whose own dæmonologie insists on the reality of witchcraft the

fantastical science fiction of margaret cavendish he argues must be understood within a tradition that includes works like christopher marlowe s doctor faustus and the peculiar autobiography of criminal astrologer simon forman by considering these disparate works together moore reveals the centrality of magic to the early modern project

witchcraft is a subject that fascinates us all and everyone knows what a witch is or do they from childhood most of us develop a sense of the mysterious malign person usually an old woman historically too we recognize witch hunting as a feature of pre modern societies but why do witches still feature so heavily in our cultures and consciousness from halloween to superstitions and literary references such as faust and even harry potter witches still feature heavily in our society in this very short introduction malcolm gaskill challenges all of this and argues that what we think we know is in fact wrong taking a historical perspective from the ancient world to contemporary paganism gaskill reveals how witchcraft has meant different things to different people and that in every age it has raised questions about the distinction between fantasy and reality faith and proof telling stories delving into court records and challenging myths gaskill examines the witch hunts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and explores the reinvention of witchcraft as history religion fiction and metaphor about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

surekha davies invites readers to imagine the lives of historical monsters and to empathize with their often wretched treatment science magazine a history of how humans have created monsters out of one another from our deepest fears and what these monsters tell us about humanity s present and future monsters are central to how we think about the human condition join award winning historian of science dr surekha davies as she reveals how people have defined the human in relation to everything from apes to zombies and how they invented race gender and nations along the way with rich evocative storytelling that braids together ancient gods and generative ai frankenstein s monster and e t humans a monstrous history shows how monster making is about control it defines who gets to count as normal in an age when corporations increasingly see people as obstacles to profits this book traces the long volatile history of monster making and charts a better path for the future the result is a profound effervescent empowering retelling of the history of the world for anyone who wants to reverse rising inequality and polarization this is not a history of monsters but a history through

monsters

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