

Witchcraft Myths In American Culture

Richard S. Ross III

Witchcraft Myths In American Culture:

Witchcraft Myths in American Culture Marion Gibson, 2012-08-21 A fascinating examination of how Americans think about and write about witches from the real witches tried and sometimes executed in early New England to modern re imaginings of witches as pagan priestesses comic strip heroines and feminist icons. The first half of the book is a thorough re reading of the original documents describing witchcraft prosecutions from 1640 1700 and a re thinking of these sources as far less coherent and trustworthy than most historians have considered them to be The second half of the book examines how these historical narratives have transformed into myths of witchcraft still current in American society writing and visual culture The discussion includes references to everything from Increase Mather and Edgar Allan Poe to Joss Whedon the writer director of Buffy the Vampire Slayer which includes a Wiccan character and The Blair Witch Project Oz as American Myth Alissa Burger, 2014-09-24 Since the publication of L Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz in 1900 authors filmmakers and theatrical producers have been retelling and reinventing this uniquely American fairy tale This volume examines six especially significant incarnations of the story Baum's original novel the MGM classic The Wizard of Oz 1939 Sidney Lumet's African American film musical The Wiz 1978 Gregory Maguire's novel Wicked The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West 1995 Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman s Broadway hit Wicked A New Musical 2003 and the SyFy Channel miniseries Tin Man 2007 A close consideration of these works demonstrates how versions of Baum's tale are influenced by and help shape notions of American myth including issues of gender race home and magic and makes clear that the Wizard of Oz narrative remains compelling and relevant today

Folkloric American Witchcraft and the **Multicultural Experience** Via Hedera, 2021-02-26 Witchcraft and magic in America is an inherently multicultural experience and the folklore of our ancestors from every country converges here at a crossroads It s a complicated history one of uncertainty and fear displacement and enslavement merging and migration Our ancestors may not have agreed on how they saw the world or the magic that inhabits the world but they shared a very real fear of Witches Hags Devils charms and spells witchery is rooted in our deepest superstitions and folklore The traditions of people and their cultures stretch and intersect across the country and this is where the unique traditions of American witchcraft and magic are born As practitioners seek to revive and reconstruct the paths of our ancestors we ve begun to trace the interconnected roots of witchcraft folklore as it emerged in the Americas from the blending of people and their faiths For multiracial practitioners this is part of our identity as Americans and as witches of this country Folkloric American Witchcraft and the Multicultural Experience is an exploration of the folklore magic and witchcraft that was forged in the New World **Before Salem** Richard S. Ross III,2017-05-15 Decades before the Salem Witch trials 11 people were hanged as witches in the Connecticut River Valley The advent of witch hunting in New England was directly influenced by the English Civil War and the witch trials in England led by Matthew Hopkins who pioneered techniques for examining witches This history examines the

outbreak of witch hysteria in the Valley focusing on accusations of demonic possession apotropaic magic and the role of the clergy Although the hysteria was eventually quelled by a progressive magistrate unwilling to try witches accounts of the trials later influenced contemporary writers during the Salem witch hunts The source of the document Grounds for Examination of a Witch is identified The Craft Miranda Corcoran, 2023-07-01 In recent years teen witches have become highly visible figures Fictional adolescent witches have headlined popular television shows like The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina 2018 2021 and American Horror Story Coven 2013 2014 while their real life counterparts have become minor celebrities on Instagram and TikTok As such now is the ideal time to revisit Andrew Fleming s 1996 supernatural horror film The Craft A cult favourite especially amongst young women The Craft is a story about teen witches that employs the conventions of occult horror to explore themes of power friendship and responsibility This entry in the Devil's Advocates series is a deep dive into the history production and meaning of The Craft Situating The Craft within the teen horror revival of the 1990s Miranda Corcoran analyses the film within the context of nineties popular and political culture while also discussing its treatment of issues such as race gender sexuality and class Delving into the history of witchcraft beliefs and persecutions this book also investigates how The Craft modifies the archetype of the witch and traces the film's influence on subsequent popular culture The Witch of Pungo Scott O. Moore, 2024-05-22 The authoritative cultural history of Virginia s most famous accused witch In 1706 Grace Sherwood was ducked after her neighbors in Princess Anne County accused her of witchcraft Binding and throwing her into the Lynnhaven River they waited to see whether she would float to the top evidence of her guilt or sink proof of her innocence Incredibly she survived This bizarre spectacle became an early piece of Virginia folklore as stories about Sherwood the Witch of Pungo spread Her legend still looms large in Tidewater In 2006 Governor Tim Kaine even issued an informal pardon of Sherwood read aloud by the mayor of Virginia Beach before the annual reenactment of Sherwood's ducking This is the first book to explore Grace Sherwood's life and cultural impact in depth Anyone interested in colonial Virginia American folklore and the history and legacy of witch trials will find much to enjoy in this spellbinding book Witchcraft and Demonology in South-West England, 1640-1789 J. Barry, 2011-12-13 Using south western England as a focus for considering the continued place of witchcraft and demonology in provincial culture in the period between the English and French revolutions Barry shows how witch beliefs were intricately woven into the fabric of daily life even at a time when they arguably ceased to be of interest to the educated Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories in American History Christopher R. Fee, Jeffrey B. Webb, 2019-05-24 This up to date introduction to the complex world of conspiracies and conspiracy theories provides insight into why millions of people are so ready to believe the worst about our political legal religious and financial institutions Unsupported theories provide simple explanations for catastrophes that are otherwise difficult to understand from the U S Civil War to the Stock Market Crash of 1929 to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York Ideas about shadowy networks that operate behind a cloak of

secrecy including real organizations like the CIA and the Mafia and imagined ones like the Illuminati additionally provide a way for people to criticize prevailing political and economic arrangements while for society s disadvantaged and forgotten groups conspiracy theories make their suffering and alienation comprehensible and provide a focal point for their economic or political frustrations These volumes detail the highly controversial and influential phenomena of conspiracies and conspiracy theories in American society Through interpretive essays and factual accounts of various people organizations and ideas the reader will gain a much greater appreciation for a set of beliefs about political scheming covert intelligence gathering and criminal rings that has held its grip on the minds of millions of American citizens and encouraged them to believe that the conspiracies may run deeper and with a global reach The Voices of Women in Witchcraft Trials Liv Helene Willumsen, 2022-03-28 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 Witchcraft in Colonial Virginia Carson O. Hudson, 2019-08-26 The Emmy Award winning screenwriter examines spine tingling tales in chapters called The Beliefs The Law The Experts and The Witches Bristol Herald Courier While the Salem witch trials get the most notoriety Virginia s witchcraft history dates back many years before that Colonial Virginians shared a common belief in the supernatural with their northern neighbors While the witchcraft mania that swept through Salem Massachusetts in 1692 was significant fascination with it has tended to overshadow the historical records of other persecutions throughout early America The 1626 case of Joan Wright the first woman to be accused of witchcraft in British North America began Virginia s own witch craze Utilizing surviving records author local historian and screenwriter Carson Hudson narrates these fascinating stories

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