



Witchcraft

AND SOCIETY IN ENGLAND
AND AMERICA, 1550-1750

Edited by Marion Gibson

Witchcraft And Society In England And America 1550 1750

Marion Gibson



Witchcraft And Society In England And America 1550 1750:

Witchcraft and Society in England and America, 1550-1750 Marion Gibson, 2003 A unique collection of materials including works of literature as well as historical documents that provides a broad view of how witches and magicians were represented in print and manuscript over three centuries It combines newly annotated selections from famous texts such as Macbeth Doctor Faustus and The Faerie Queene with unjustly obscure ones portrayals of witchcraft and magic from private papers court records and little known works of fiction publisher web site *Witchcraft and Society in England and America, 1550-1750* Marion Gibson, 2006-10-12 A collection of materials including works of literature as well as historical documents this work provides a broad view of how witches and magicians were represented in print and manuscript It presents the voices of witches accusers ministers physicians poets dramatists magistrates and witchfinders from both sides of the Atlantic

Witchcraft, the Devil, and Emotions in Early Modern England Charlotte-Rose Millar, 2017-07-14 This book represents the first systematic study of the role of the Devil in English witchcraft pamphlets for the entire period of state sanctioned witchcraft prosecutions 1563 1735 It provides a rereading of English witchcraft one which moves away from an older historiography which underplays the role of the Devil in English witchcraft and instead highlights the crucial role that the Devil often in the form of a familiar spirit took in English witchcraft belief One of the key ways in which this book explores the role of the Devil is through emotions Stories of witches were made up of a complex web of emotionally implicated accusers victims witnesses and supposed perpetrators They reveal a range of emotional experiences that do not just stem from malefic witchcraft but also and primarily from a witch s links with the Devil This book then has two main objectives First to suggest that English witchcraft pamphlets challenge our understanding of English witchcraft as a predominantly non diabolical crime and second to highlight how witchcraft narratives emphasized emotions as the primary motivation for witchcraft acts and accusations *Witchcraft in Early North America* Alison Games, 2012-08-22 Witchcraft in Early North America investigates European African and Indian witchcraft beliefs and their expression in colonial America Alison Games s engaging book takes us beyond the infamous outbreak at Salem Massachusetts to look at how witchcraft was a central feature of colonial societies in North America Her substantial and lively introduction orients readers to the subject and to the rich selection of documents that follows The documents begin with first encounters between European missionaries and Native Americans in New France and New Mexico and they conclude with witch hunts among Native Americans in the years of the early American republic The documents some of which have never been published previously include excerpts from trials in Virginia New Mexico and Massachusetts accounts of outbreaks in Salem Abiquiu New Mexico and among the Delaware Indians descriptions of possession legal codes and allegations of poisoning by slaves The documents raise issues central to legal cultural social religious and gender history This fascinating topic and the book s broad geographic and chronological coverage make this book ideally suited for readers interested in new approaches to colonial

history and the history of witchcraft *The English Exorcist* Brendan C. Walsh, 2020-07-30 In 1598 the English clergyman John Darrell was brought before the High Commission at Lambeth Palace to face charges of fraud and counterfeiting The ecclesiastical authorities alleged that he had taught 4 to counterfeit demonic possession over a ten year period fashioning himself into a miracle worker Coming to the attention of the public through his dramatic and successful role as an exorcist in the late sixteenth century Darrell became a symbol of Puritan spirituality and the subject of fierce ecclesiastical persecution The High Commission of John Darrell became a flashpoint for theological and demonological debate functioning as a catalyst for spiritual reform in the early seventeenth century English Church John Darrell has long been maligned by scholars a historiographical perception that this book challenges *The English Exorcist* is the first study to provide an in depth scholarly treatment of Darrell s exorcism ministry and his demonology It shines new light on the corpus of theological treatises that emerged from the Darrell Controversy thereby illustrating the profound impact of Darrell s exorcism ministry on early modern Reformed English Protestant demonology The book establishes an intellectual biography of this figure and sketches out the full compelling story of the Darrell Controversy *Magic in Early Modern England* Andrew Moore, 2023-05-15 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 *Demonologie* 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 *Historical Dictionary of Witchcraft* Jonathan Durrant, Michael D. Bailey, 2012-10-25 Witchcraft has proven an important if difficult historical subject to investigate and interpret over the last four decades or so Modern historical research into witchcraft began as an attempt to tease out the worldview of ordinary people in 16th and 17th century England but it quickly expanded to encompass the history of witchcraft in most cultures and societies that have existed with scholarly studies now extending back to the time of earliest law code that punished sorcery the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi 1792 1750 B C E and forward to the last witchcraft cases in England those of Helen Duncan and Jane Yorke tried in 1944 There has also been a significant amount of interest in the development of the modern religion of witchcraft or

Wicca as various forms of neo paganism continue to attract adherents The second edition of Historical Dictionary of Witchcraft covers the history of the Witchcraft from 1750 B C E though the modern day This is done through a chronology an introductory essay and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has over 300 cross referenced entries on witch hunts witchcraft trials and related practices around the world This book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about the history of witchcraft *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* Brian P.

Levack,2015-09-25 The Witch Hunt in Early Modern Europe now in its fourth edition is the perfect resource for both students and scholars of the witch hunts written by one of the leading names in the field 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 This new edition includes the most recent research on children gender male witches and demonic possession as well as broadening the exploration of the geographical distribution of witch prosecutions to include recent work on regions cities and kingdoms enabling students to identify comparisons between countries Now fully integrated with Brian Levack s The Witchcraft Sourcebook there are links to the sourcebook throughout the text pointing students towards key primary sources to aid them in their studies The two books are drawn together on a new companion website with supplementary materials for those wishing to advance their studies including an extensive guide to further reading a chronology of the history of witchcraft and an interactive map to show the geographical spread of witch hunts and witch trials across Europe and North America A long standing favourite with students and lecturers alike this new edition of The Witch Hunt in Early Modern Europe will be essential reading for those embarking on or looking to advance their studies of the history of witchcraft [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 *King James and the Theatre of Witches* Dawn Adrienne Saliba,2022-04-08 This book presents a cultural analysis of King James I of

England's evolving perspectives regarding witchcraft and his influence upon the witch plays of Renaissance England. Early on during the Stuart monarch's reign in Scotland 1588-1591 James directed a fevered hunt of witches whom he believed were trying to assassinate him, an event that later came to be known as The North Berwick Affair. He played a direct role in the interrogations, personally approving and at times overseeing the horrific torture of some of the accused. In 1597 the monarch also penned a compendium of witchcraft lore entitled *Daemonologie*, which acted as a manual for identifying, interrogating, and punishing witches. Once the King ascended to the British throne, London-based dramatists endeavored to please their monarch with plays that catered to his interests while at the same time subverting his beliefs in witchcraft lore. The King's works and involvement in witchcraft trials are notably referenced, sometimes satirically, in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Ben Jonson's *Masque of Queens*, Thomas Middleton's *The Witch*, and Dekker, Rowley, and Ford's *The Witch of Edmonton*, all of which respond to the King's philosophical engagement with witchlore. Through the analysis of four Jacobean witch plays and an examination of King James's role within the witchcraft debates and his involvement with contemporaneous witch trials, this work shows how the monarch's various publications on witchlore transmuted stage and culture. Taken as a group, these dramas provide a window into the newly emergent humanism of the Renaissance world and its struggle with gender-driven categories, especially regarding the cultural praxis of accusing, torturing, and executing witches.

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