

WITCHCRAFT AND RELIGION

The Politics of Popular Belief



Christina Larner

Witchcraft And Religion The Politics Of Popular Belief

Malcolm Gaskill



Witchcraft And Religion The Politics Of Popular Belief:

Witchcraft and religion; the politics of popular belief Christina Lerner, 1984 *Crime and Mentalities in Early Modern England* Malcolm Gaskill, 2003-01-30 Crime and law have now been studied by historians of early modern England for more than a generation *Crime and Mentalities in Early Modern England* attempts to reach further than most conventional treatments of the subject to explore the cultural contexts of law breaking and criminal prosecution and to recover their hidden social meanings In this sense the book is more than just a history from below it is a history from within Conversely the book explores crime to shed light on the long term development of English mentalities in general To this end three serious crimes witchcraft coining and murder are examined in detail revealing new and important insights into how religious reform state formation secularisation and social and cultural change for example the spread of literacy and the availability of print may have transformed the thinking and outlook of most ordinary people between 1550 and 1750 Shakespeare Studies J. Leeds Barroll, 1994-12 *Shakespeare Studies* edited by Leeds Barroll a Scholar in Residence at the Folger Shakespeare Library is an international volume published every year in hardcover containing essays and studies by critics and cultural historians from both hemispheres It includes substantial reviews of significant books and essays dealing with the cultural history of early modern England as well as the place of Shakespeare's productions and those of his contemporaries within it Volume XXXI presents a new feature the first in an annual series of articles on Early Modern Drama around the World Specialists in each national drama being presented in other areas of the globe during the time of Shakespeare will discuss the state of scholarly study in each area In this volume Grant Shen discusses late Ming drama in China and Richard Pym writes on drama in Golden Age Spain Full length articles by Gustave Ungerer Patricia Parker Thomas Moisan and Jennifer Lewin deal with *The Merchant of Venice* *Hamlet* *Much Ado about Nothing* and Shakespeare's final plays These are supplemented by review articles by Raphael Falco and David Harris Sacks *Is the Renaissance an Aesthetic Category and Imagination in History* Volume XXXI also includes twenty one reviews of books written by distinguished scholars on topics such as witchcraft vagrancy public devotion in early modern England as well as on editions of the collected works of Elizabeth I **Dangerous Familiars** Frances E. Dolan, 2017-04-15 Looking back at images of violence in the popular culture of early modern England we find that the specter of the murderer loomed most vividly not in the stranger but in the familiar and not in the master husband or father but in the servant wife or mother A gripping exploration of seventeenth century accounts of domestic murder in fact and fiction this book is the first to ask why Frances E Dolan examines stories ranging from the profoundly disturbing to the comically macabre of husband murder wife murder infanticide and witchcraft She surveys trial transcripts confessions and scaffold speeches as well as pamphlets ballads popular plays based on notorious crimes and such well known works as *The Tempest* *Othello* *Macbeth* and *The Winter's Tale* Citing contemporary analogies between the politics of household and commonwealth she shows how both legal and literary narratives attempt to restore the

order threatened by insubordinate dependents **British Women's History** ,1996 This is one of a series of bibliographical guides designed to meet the needs of undergraduates postgraduates and their teachers in universities and colleges of further education All volumes in the series share a number of common characteristics They are selective manageable in size and include those books and articles which are considered most important and useful All are edited by practising teachers of the subject in question and are based on their experience of the needs of students The arrangement combines chronological with thematic divisions Most of the items listed receive some descriptive comment **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 *Women and Religion in England* Patricia Crawford,2014-03-18 Patricia Crawford explores how the study of gender can enhance our understanding of religious history in this study of women and their apprehensions of God in early modern England The book has three broad themes the role of women in the religious upheaval in the period from the Reformation to the Restoration the significance of religion to contemporary women focusing on the range of practices and beliefs and the role of gender in the period The author argues that religion in the early modern period cannot be understood without a perception of the gendered nature of its beliefs institutions and language Contemporary religious ideology reinforced women s inferior position but as the author shows it was possible for some women to transcend these beliefs and profoundly influence history *At the Borders of the Human* Susan Wiseman, Erica Fudge, Ruth Gilbert,2016-07-27 What is what was the human This book argues that the making of the human as it is now understood implies a renegotiation of the relationship between the self and the world The development of Renaissance technologies of difference such as mapping colonialism and anatomy paradoxically also illuminated the similarities between human and non human This collection considers the borders between humans and their imagined others animals women native subjects machines It examines border creatures hermaphrodites wildmen and cyborgs and border practices science surveying and pornography **The Oxford Handbook of Witchcraft in Early**

Modern Europe and Colonial America Brian P. Levack, 2013-03-28 The essays in this Handbook written by leading scholars working in the rapidly developing field of witchcraft studies explore the historical literature regarding witch beliefs and witch trials in Europe and colonial America between the early fifteenth and early eighteenth centuries During these years witches were thought to be evil people who used magical power to inflict physical harm or misfortune on their neighbours Witches were also believed to have made pacts with the devil and sometimes to have worshipped him at nocturnal assemblies known as sabbaths These beliefs provided the basis for defining witchcraft as a secular and ecclesiastical crime and prosecuting tens of thousands of women and men for this offence The trials resulted in as many as fifty thousand executions These essays study the rise and fall of witchcraft prosecutions in the various kingdoms and territories of Europe and in English Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Americas They also relate these prosecutions to the Catholic and Protestant reformations the introduction of new forms of criminal procedure medical and scientific thought the process of state building profound social and economic change early modern patterns of gender relations and the wave of demonic possessions that occurred in Europe at the same time The essays survey the current state of knowledge in the field explore the academic controversies that have arisen regarding witch beliefs and witch trials propose new ways of studying the subject and identify areas for future research

Witch-Hunting in Scotland Brian P. Levack, 2019-07-16 Shortlisted for the 2008 Katharine Briggs Award *Witch Hunting in Scotland* presents a fresh perspective on the trial and execution of the hundreds of women and men prosecuted for the crime of witchcraft an offence that involved the alleged practice of maleficent magic and the worship of the devil for inflicting harm on their neighbours and making pacts with the devil Brian P. Levack draws on law politics and religion to explain the intensity of Scottish witch hunting Topics discussed include the distinctive features of the Scottish criminal justice system the use of torture to extract confessions the intersection of witch hunting with local and national politics the relationship between state building and witch hunting and the role of James VI Scottish Calvinism and the determination of zealous Scottish clergy and magistrates to achieve a godly society This original survey combines broad interpretations of the rise and fall of Scottish witchcraft prosecutions with detailed case studies of specific witch hunts *Witch Hunting in Scotland* makes fascinating reading for anyone with an interest in witchcraft or in the political legal and religious history of the early modern period

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