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WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

Second Edition

JAMES SHARPE

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Witchcraft In Early Modern England

Malcolm Gaskill



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Witchcraft in Early Modern England J. A. Sharpe, 2020 Witchcraft in Early Modern England provides a fascinating introduction to the history of witches and witchcraft in England from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century It is essential reading for all students of the history of witchcraft

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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 Instruments of Darkness James Sharpe,1997-08-29

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a range of compelling primary documents this book is essential reading for all students of the history of witchcraft *Marks of an Absolute Witch* Dr Orna Alyagon Darr, 2013-07-28 This work explores the social foundation of evidence law in a specific historical social and cultural context the debate concerning the proof of the crime of witchcraft in early modern England In this period the question of how to prove the crime of witchcraft was the centre of a public debate and even those who strongly believed in the reality of witchcraft had considerable concerns regarding its proof In a typical witchcraft crime there were no eyewitnesses and since torture was not a standard measure in English criminal trials confessions could not be easily obtained The scarcity of evidence left the fact finders with a pressing dilemma On the one hand using the standard evidentiary methods might have jeopardized any chance of prosecuting and convicting extremely dangerous criminals On the other hand lowering the evidentiary standards might have led to the conviction of innocent people Based on the analysis of 157 primary sources the book presents a picture of a diverse society whose members tried to influence evidentiary techniques to achieve their distinct goals and to bolster their social standing In so doing this book further uncovers the interplay between the struggle with the evidentiary dilemma and social characteristics such as class position along the centre periphery axis and the professional affiliation of the participants in the debate In particular attention is focused on the professions of law clergy and medicine This book finds clear affinity between the professional affiliation and the evidentiary positions of the participants in the debate demonstrating how the diverse social players and groups employed evidentiary strategies as a resource to mobilize their interests The witchcraft debate took place within the formative era of modern evidence law and the book highlights the mutual influences between the witch trials and major legal developments

Witchcraft In Early Modern England Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a world driven by information and connectivity, the ability of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such is the essence of the book **Witchcraft In Early Modern England**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep into the significance of words and their effect on our lives. Compiled by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book's key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall effect on readers.

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