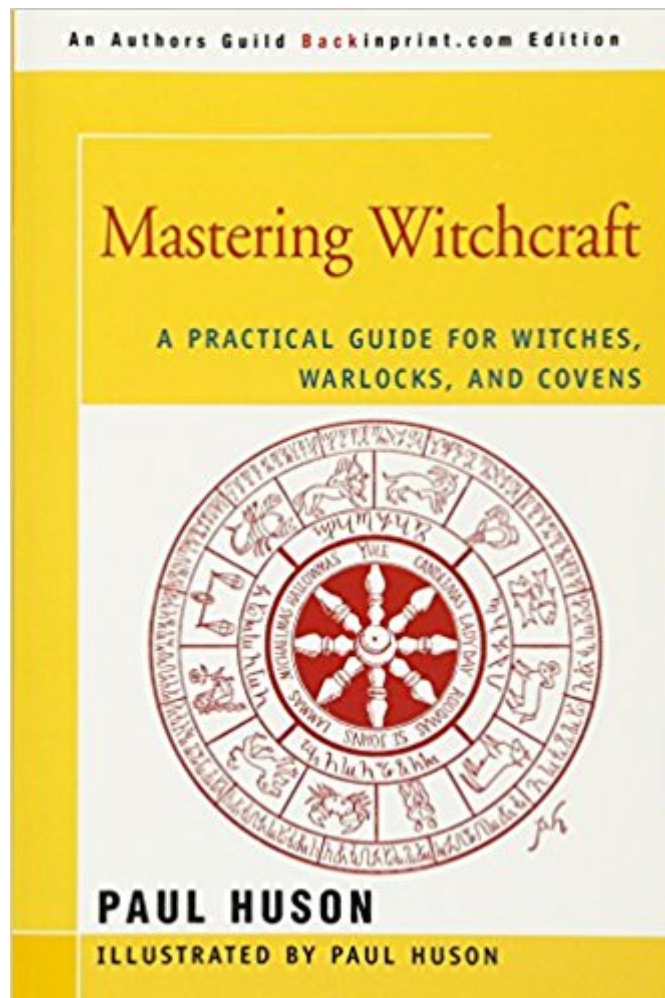




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# Mastering Witchcraft: A Practical Guide For Witches, Warlocks, And Covens



## Synopsis

An enduring classic since its publication in 1970, *Mastering Witchcraft* is one of the best how-to manuals for those wishing to practice traditional European Witchcraft as a craft rather than a New Age religion. Starting from first principles, Huson instructs the novice step by step in the arts of circle casting, blessing and banning, the uses of amulets and talismans, philters, divination, necromancy, waxen images, knots, fascination, conjuration, magical familiars, spells to arouse passion or lust, attain vengeance, and of course, counter-spells to exorcize and annul the malice of others. "A genuine vade mecum."-The Catholic Herald.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born in England, Paul Huson received occult training from the Society of the Inner Light and the Order of the Stella Matutina. He has authored *Mystical Origins of the Tarot*, *The Devil's Picturebook*, *Mastering Herbalism*, *How to Test and Develop Your ESP*, *The Coffee Table Book of Witchcraft and Demonology*, and two fiction works, *The Keepsake*, and *The Offering*.

Huson does a wonderful job covering the lapse of time from the early occult to present day witchcraft. He then proceeds to provide the reader with ample introductory terms and methods of getting acquainted with their witch tools.

Middle Age European craft explained at it's finest.

Its a wild book, lot of information.

A must have for anyone looking for a well rounded start. No dogma here , just real knowledge of the craft. Highly recommended.

A TRUE guide to REAL Witchcraft. This book \*might\* seem a little complex if you're a beginner; HOWEVER, nothing good is comes EASY my friends!!! I cannot express how amazed and dazzled I am by the outcomes I had after performing some of the spells/rituals. THEY WORK. Of course, I'm NOT a beginner. But I think if you take the time to re-read some of the things you do not understand, you WILL have success. STUDY first because this is NOT some simple little WICCAN book!!! This is Old Crone GRAY Witchcraft (neither all white NOR all black magick). I will tell you this though: I'm TEN times a stronger, more knowledgeable Witch for having studied this book. Best to you...

Its a very good book to have on witchcraft. This is not a wiccan book. It arrived three days before it should have :).

THIS BOOK IS THE REAL DEAL,NON OF THAT WICCAN,HARM NO ONE STUFF SO POPULAR TODAYWITCHCRAFT FOR THOSE WHO PRACTICE THE CRAFT OF THE OLD SCHOOL/TRUE SCHOOL!!!!HELD UP VERY WELL,HAS SOME HOODOO WHICH IS A GREAT THING AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNEDTHIS ALONG WITH MODERN MAGICK AND A FEW OTHER CLASSICS CAN HELP ANYONE GROW IN DIFFERENT AREA'SOF THE CRAFT..

When I first heard of this book from the lady at my local occult shop I was intrigued. She told me that the book was not Wiccan at all as far as she could remember (although she later revoked this statement after rereading the book). I immediately wondered how a man in the 70s could've created a witchcraft tradition including coven format and developed rituals without ripping off Wicca. I assumed it wasn't so, and didn't buy the book, but I kept thinking about it, and finally ordered it. This is where the description in my title comes in. This is a book of Wiccan philosophy, magic, formality, tools, and tradition-- which simultaneously claims and tries its very hardest not to be Wiccan. The fact that 90% of the positive comments are from such black-cape-swooshing neo-witches claiming that this book is "true witchcraft"-- "unlike that Scott Cunningham form of Wicca", really just shows

their ineptitude at actually reading into what they claim to know about. Chapter 1 has much to teach about pseudohistory of witchcraft, like any book of this sort from the 50s-90s. Everything taught in chapter 1 is stuff that was being taught in Wiccan circles across the western globe, the only difference being Paul Huson tosses in a pinch of H.P. Lovecraft spookiness. All in good fun, but the overwhelming essence of it comes straight from Wiccan covens. Keep in mind that at the time this was published Wicca had been spreading at a rapid rate for 20 years. Chapter 2 explains all about the witches tools, and anyone who has even a little knowledge on the subject can see that they were taken from Gardnerian witches with very little attempt by Huson to change them. He even mentions specifically the Book of Shadows, a Gardnerian term. When he explains why witches during the persecutions didn't have a cup, he is practically taking a quote from Gerald Gardner's mouth. For the runic Inscription on the slightly repronounced "atham-eh", look no further than Stewart Farrar's Wiccan how-to book "What Witches Do" which shows the traditional Wiccan symbols as the same. The next two chapters are about simple spells and methods of divination being taught in the 70s by Alexandrian Wiccan covens everywhere. It seems more than possible to be coincidence that Huson's information mirrors much of what Wiccan covens were teaching. Now we get to chapters 5 and 6, (perhaps the only real chapters worth buying this book for). They deal with magical warfare in a straightforward way that still haven't been published in very many books on Witchcraft. Although the knowledge here is Huson's specialty, he makes it seem like curses are something you're going to have to deal with practically weekly once becoming a witch, which is nonsense. If someone were to form a coven based on the last chapter of this book, it would not match up to the quality of magical or psychic awareness of anyone who formed a coven from even Lady Sheba's "Grimoire". The last chapter of the book borrows almost exactly from British Traditional Wicca; things such as the initiation rituals including the use of the scourge, challenging with the athame, and even, oh, the horror-- a diluted version of "the Charge of the Goddess" as written by Wiccan Priests Doreen Valiente and Gerald Gardner. More things borrowed include taking of the measure + the Gardnerian/Alexandrian myth behind it, a consecration of oil and wine, presentation of the tools and witch name, pulling into the circle from behind with a kiss, "Witch Dances", the "Queen of the Moon" song, published in Gardner's "Witchcraft Today", and more in the finer details. What follows initiation is a thematic Sabbat ritual which I like very much and has some genuine original elements to it. The coven rituals would be fine for a wannabe Wiccan coven if only they weren't so utterly fragmentary. The bit about the Lord's Prayer backwards is fun, and I like the meaning Huson ascribes to it. Nor does the information about curses offend me, and I'm sure most of the people commenting about how this book is somehow more "cool" than Wicca because it

teaches about curses probably haven't researched enough to realize that some Gardnerian coven's do perform curses even today, and that Alexandrian coven's often teach cursing to their students for use in case of emergency. This element is not unique to Paul Huson's witchcraft simply because he says it louder. This book was a fun read, and I got lots of ideas from it. The artwork was also exquisite, and although Huson got 90% of his info from Wicca, the way he presents it is easy for a non-initiated witch to understand... but its reputation as a masterwork of "true witchcraft", that is in all ways better than "Wiccan witchcraft", and that somehow Wicca is a meager comparison to this shining glory that is Huson's "true witchcraft", I'm sure comes from people who have no idea what traditional Wicca really is. All of this said, I give it 4 stars rather than 3 simply because I like it. And this book has many others who like it, and it seems to have a small cult following. But even so, we need to call it for what it is. And that is a Wiccan spinoff. This book was one of the first of its kind, but keep in mind the witch Sybil Leek was publishing years before "Mastering Witchcraft" was published, and Lady Sheba presented her "Book of Shadows" manuscript to Llewellyn the same year this was published, and her "Grimoire" came out around a year later. In summary a fun read, but obvious 70s Wicca ripoff to anyone who's actually studied their Craft.

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