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The Malleus Maleficarum Of Heinrich Kramer And James Sprenger (Dover Occult)



Synopsis

For nearly three centuries *Malleus Maleficarum* (The Witches' Hammer) was the professional manual for witch hunters. This work by two of the most famous Inquisitors of the age is still a document of the forces of that era's beliefs. Under a Bull of Pope Innocent VIII, Kramer and Sprenger exposed the heresy of those who did not believe in witches and set forth the proper order of the world with devils, witches, and the will of God. Even if you do not believe in witchcraft, the world of 1484 did. Contemporary cases illustrate methods by which witches attempt to control and subvert the world: How and why women roast their first-born male child; the confession of how to raise a tempest by a washwoman suspended "hardly clear of the ground" by her thumbs; methods of making a formal pact with the Devil; how witches deprive men of their vital member; and many others. Methods of destroying and curing witchcraft, such as remedies against incubus and succubus devils, are exemplified and weighed by the authors. Formal rules for initiating a process of justice are set down: how it should be conducted and the method of pronouncing sentence; when to use the trial by the red-hot-iron; how the prosecutor should protect himself; how the body is to be shaved and searched for tokens and amulets, including those sewn under the skin. As Summers says, it was the casebook on every magistrate's desk. Montague Summers has given a very sympathetic translation. His two introductions are filled with examples of witchcraft and the historical importance of *Malleus Maleficarum*. This famous document should interest the historian, the student of witchcraft and the occult, and the psychologist who is interested in the medieval mind as it was confronted with various forces which could be explained only by witchcraft.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation)

Very informative, research oriented read. Good educational book for what was going on at that time in history- good to read and understand the repercussions of. It's amazing how destructive humans are and horrible, how they can warp things that were not meant to be used the way they are in the name of power. More importantly, if you are going to read this book - know the history behind it's writing and the history behind how it was used to take the lives of so many for so little.

AMAZING , THANK U

Please note: This particular version is translated and annotated by Montague Summers. Summers was ABSOLUTELY NOT a Catholic priest, despite some allegations otherwise. He was completely obsessed with the occult, was a friend of Aleister Crowley, and belonged to a secret, subversive order himself. His 1928 translation of the Malleus is very sympathetic to the Inquisitors. YOU HAVE TO read his contributions to this work through that lens and be careful what you believe! That being said . . . The Malleus is highly recommended source material for anyone even remotely interested in the Witchcraft scares and trials of the middle ages. Commissioned by the Pope himself to root out heresy and witchcraft in Northern Germany in the 15th century, Kramer and Sprenger set out to provide comprehensive proof of the existence of witches and advice on how to deal with them. And no, the end result was not always a burning at the stake. Whatever you might think of the conclusions reached, the book is full of delicately crafted logic based on Aristotle and Church fathers, namely St. Augustine of Hippo. Many of the assumptions on which they base their arguments are flawed and have since been proven false. And of course, few still advocate death for the practice of the occult. Nevertheless, it is a brilliant peek into the scholarly mind of the Middle Ages.

Love it!

Arrived as described.

we bought for our son and he loves this

Really, really cool! Bought it for the "cool" factor, and it lived up to the hype. Now, most people probably won't get as much of a kick out of reading something so horrendously out of date as this as I do, but if you do, then this is worth picking up. Great insight into the mindset of these people- it's in a way like they're religious lawyers, so they do a good job of defining their thoughts. Cool, cool book man. Cool book.

As advertised! Thank you!

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