



# The History of Witchcraft and Demonology

*Montague Summers*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# The History of Witchcraft and Demonology

*Montague Summers*

**The History of Witchcraft and Demonology** Montague Summers

The definitive scholarly account on witchcraft, demonology, diabolic possession and modern spiritualism.

## The History of Witchcraft and Demonology Details

Date : Published October 1st 1999 by Castle Books,US (first published 1926)

ISBN : 9781555218065

Author : Montague Summers

Format : Hardcover 384 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Occult, Religion, Witchcraft, Reference

 [Download The History of Witchcraft and Demonology ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The History of Witchcraft and Demonology ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The History of Witchcraft and Demonology Montague Summers**

---

## From Reader Review The History of Witchcraft and Demonology for online ebook

### Pete daPixie says

My copy is titled just 'The history of witchcraft'. Summers is of the holy Roman church and defends the church sponsored mass murders of the 16th,17th and 18th centuries.

All classes were concerned, he writes, from Pope to peasant, from Queen to cottage gill. Yes, Montague, but what class was put in the flames and by whom?

---

### Nathan Daniels says

Very cool book.

---

### Riju Ganguly says

Are you suffering from insomnia?

Has excessive exercise of logic, based on facts, made you irritable, and made everybody else look like simpletons?

Is the most mind-boggling summer read failing to ensnare you in the trap of narrative offered by the unreliable narrator?

In short, are you feeling bored, but failing to simply doze off?

Look no further.

This book, that pretends to be one of the most erudite one on the subject, but which structures itself around thoughts that might make the village-idiot guffaw, is the ideal remedy.

After reading it, either you would start appreciating the nicer things in life again, or else simply fall asleep, which is also rather refreshing, let me assure you.

Therefore, this book is only for those suffering from above-mentioned ailments, and NOT for those who actually want to study the various facets of witchcraft and demonology.

You've been warned.

---

### Purnacandra Sivarupa says

A lot of people hate Montague Summers, but I have a big, warm, soft spot in my heart for the man. He was clearly either so convinced of his position that he could not imagine any other, or else so unconvinced of his own position that he was trying harder to convince himself of it than his readers. I find Summers to be fascinating not so much for his information (spurious, at the best of times), but for what seems to be his own passion and the fervor with which he writes. His views on witchcraft could just as easily have come from the pen of a cloistered monk in medieval Germany, with the caveat that most medieval people were considerably more aware of what "witches" actually were and wrote against them for openly polemical

reasons more than attempting to produce a real, historically useful record. In sum, Montague Summers is extremely interesting from the perspective of occult history, but not for his factual accuracy as much as his fervent stance against what he saw as a dangerous rise of witchcraft in his own lifetime and society. There's also the sheer entertainment of it.

---

### **Christina says**

Last year, I found this book on my bookshelf and began reading it as background research for the third novel in the Baglady Series: BAGLADY AT LARGE. In that context, I intended merely to employ the witchcraft theme in a light and humorous vein. However, the premise of the History of Witchcraft, was unexpected and thought-provoking. Montague Summers, a pious English clergyman and accomplished writer, truly believed in the existence of witchcraft and refuted the notion that it was nothing more than folklore or ignorant superstition. The History of Witchcraft is extremely well written in a Dickensian literary style. It delves methodically into a trove of detailed information from Biblical times, through to the Mediaeval era and modern times, repeatedly affirming the author's literal belief in witchcraft as a genuine and evil phenomena even in our day.

---

### **Jeffrey Cavanaugh says**

Written in a terribly distracting, archaic academic style. The one saving grace (ha!) was the author's (a Catholic priest) seeming literal belief in The Devil, devil worship, and so on--which was disturbing, sad and comical. It read like something from the medieval era, although the 20's Catholic Church probably wasn't very far removed from that, anyway. An interesting point in that regard was the author's blatant anti-Semitism, in which he connected devil worship with Jews.

---

### **Curtis Runstedler says**

Montague Summers seems entirely convinced that witchcraft happened, but he overlooks the fact that these demonic activities and black magic rituals were largely conceived out of irrational fear. I don't agree with his views on witchcraft at all (I've always been more favourable to magical practice and sorceresses), but I am always amazed with his impressive bibliography and findings. I enjoyed the bits about Pythagorean treatment of demons and his inclusion of the rite of exorcism, as well as the rooster's relationship with witches. I don't know how accurate his information is, and I could argue with him all day long , but this book is very entertaining, to say the least, and introduces the reader to the vast realm of demonological scholarship.

---

### **Nicole Woolaston says**

I read this book as part of my research for a fictional book I'm working on. I was hoping to gain some more insight into Witchcraft. While I did learn a few interesting facts from this book, for the most part, it was a little boring.

---

### **Shea Mastison says**

An historical curio which buys into a lot of the Christian fiction surrounding witchcraft and demonology; likely the same hysteria which prompted Anton LaVey to later say: "The Devil is the best friend the Church has ever had, as it has kept it in business all these years."

---

### **E.M. Markoff says**

I had the opportunity to read this book at my community college. It was an original first printing...it was behind a glass door...I needed to ask for a key!

In short, I detest this man but found this book very interesting because of how extreme his views were and how far this man was willing to go in the name of the church. When you read this book, you have to remind yourself that its content was written with the intention of 'teaching' the reader how to detect/prosecute a witch...He is very serious about what is written in this book. To him, this was not a work of fiction. There are long rants in this book. It is a historically interesting book written by a man who claimed to know much about the occult but knew nothing at all.

---

### **Aaron Meyer says**

A decent history of Witchcraft, not the modern variant but the medieval.

---

### **Clifford Gayo says**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONOLOGY WHICH IS GOOD TO READ AND UNDERSTAND!

---

### **aya says**

Montague Summers is almost hilariously credulous, but this does not stop it from being an entertaining or educational, as long as taken with many grains of salt.

---

### **Eishexe says**

More pseudo-academic religious quibble from Montague. This man writes about the supposedly lewd practices of the devil-worshipping diabolical witch as though he wishes he could have been there. He tends to wander a bit in his writing. One begins to wonder exactly what his point could be, other than "I wish I could attend a Black Mass!"

I rate it high simply by merit of its entertainment value. Having read his entry on werewolves before picking up any of his other works I find it impossible to take anything he says seriously.

---

I see that some other readers on here have it tagged as belonging in Wiccan reference? This book's subject has absolutely nothing to do with the Wiccan religion, its beliefs or its practices. It's Christian propogated folklore, amusing and at one time dangerous.

---