

*Updated: 14th December 2023*

Witchcraft

✪ - Recommend reading.

❖ - Light introductory reads to the topic.

🔑 – This item is located in the strong room. Please speak to a member of staff to access.

**General Reading**

✪❖ Bellows, T. - ***Channel Islands Witchcraft: A Critical Survey*.** USA: lulu.com, 2008 [LF 133.4 BEL] – A well-researched appraisal of the subject and one of the few local works not influenced by Margaret Murray’s views. Appendix 2 lists Guernsey’s witch trials between 1563 & 1634

Bichard, F. - **“When witches were burned at the stake”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 10th September 1969*

**🖳** Bott, D. - **“Witchcraft: Les Sorcelleries, March 1787”.** *www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk*, https://www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk/articles/article/witchcraft-les-sorcelleries-march-1787

**🖳** Bott, D. - **“Elie Brevint on witchcraft”.** *www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk*, https://www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk/articles/article/elie-brevint-witchcraft - discusses the views of Elie Brevint, a 17th-Century minister residing in Sark.

Carey, E. – **“Social Life in Guernsey in the Sixteenth Century”.** *La Société Guernesiaise Transactions,* 1920. – p.246, La Vallée de Misere (supposed location of witch burnings). p.249 (witchcraft)

Corbet, D. - **“Local Witchcraft”.** *La Société Guernesiaise Transactions, 1890 –* p.95

Coysh, V. – ***Bygone Guernsey: Part I***. Guernsey: Guernsey Press Co. Ltd, c.1950 [LOC 940 COY] – “Witchcraft” p.27

Curtis, S.C. – **“Trials for Witchcraft in Guernsey”.** *La Société Guernesiaise Transactions, 1937 –* p.109 [also LOC 133.4 CUR]

De Carteret, A.R. – **The Story of Sark**. London: Peter Owen Limited, 1956 [LI 940 DEC] – p.36, mentions the *witches’ seat* or *witches’ stone,* an architectural feature found in some old houses which is actually to do with thatch roofing. See also *Channel Island Houses* by J. McCormack (p.401, thatch drips) and Wikipedia.

✪ De Garis, M. – **“Folklore of Guernsey, Part IV: Witchcraft”.** *The Quarterly Review of the Guernsey Society, Summer 1972 Vol. XXVIII No. 2* (p.37) & *The Quarterly Review of the Guernsey Society, Winter 1972 Vol. XXVIII No. 3* (p.78)

✪❖ De Garis, M. - ***Folklore of Guernsey*.** Channel Islands: La Société Guernesiaise, 1975/1999 [LOC 398 DEG] – p.168 - 185

Dewar, S. - ***Witchcraft and the Evil Eye in Guernsey*.** Guernsey: Toucan press, 1968 [LOC 133.4 DEW]

Heylin, P. – ***A Full Relation of Two Journeys: The One into the Main-land of France. The Other, into Some of the Adjacent Islands*.** London: Henry Seile, 1656 [LF 940.252 HEY] – p.297, a short 17th-Century reference to the presence of witches in Guernsey.

❖ Lake, C. - ***These Haunted Islands*.** Jersey: Redberry (Press) Ltd., 1986 [LF 133.4 LAK]

Linwood Pitts, J. - ***Witchcraft and Devil Lore in the Channel Islands*.** Guernsey: Guille-Allès Library, 1886. [LF133.4 PIT] – contains a number of confessions extracted under torture.

✪ MacCulloch, E. - ***Guernsey Folk-Lore*.** London: Elliot Stock, 1903 [LOC 398 MAC] – Part II, Chapter X & Appendix B

Martin, E.A.W. – **“History of Alderney”.** *La Société Guernesiaise Transactions,* 1937. - p.56/57, article contains a short & scathing mention of superstition & witchcraft in Alderney.

✪ Ogier, D. – **“Glimpses of the Obscure: The Witch Trials of the Channel Islands*”****, The Extraordinary and the Everyday in Early Modern England*, McShane and Walker, p. 177 [LA 940.2 EXT]

Pannett, P. – **“From wags to witches”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 31st October 2001* - Article discusses the three women who were burned at Tower Hill in 1556. Local legend holds they were burned as witches but in fact the execution was on account of their religious views. The article also mentions Guernsey’s last witch trial which was held in 1914.

Vermeulen, G. - **“The truth about witches”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 30th September 2004*

Warren, J.P. – **“Studies in the History of Guernsey: 45. Witchcraft”.** *The Star, 1st November 1955*

- **“Why Aimee Lake was no witch”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 31st October 2006*

🔑 Records of Trials for Witchcraft in Greffe, Guernsey [LOC 133.4 REC]

🔑 **“Guernsey Superstitions as Compared with those of Other Nations: No. X. – Witchcraft”.** *The* *Guernsey Magazine Monthly Illustrated Journal 1880-87*, Guernsey: F. Clarke – September, November & December 1882 and January 1883, discusses Métivier’s musings on local witchcraft.

🔑 **“Guernsey Superstitions as Compared with those of Other Nations: No. XII. – The Magic Cauldron”.** *The* *Guernsey Magazine Monthly Illustrated Journal 1880-87*, Guernsey: F. Clarke – August 1883

❖ Marquand, Henry. – ***Old Sarnia*.** *La Société Guernesiaise Transactions,* 1908. - p.296, article contains a short mention of a first-hand recollection of “How a Guernsey Witch was Exorcised” .p.296

**Contextual Reading**

Although not specifically about local witchcraft, these books provide important context to witchcraft in a wider European context.

Davies, O. & de Blécourt, W. (eds.) – ***Beyond the Witch Trials: Witchcraft and magic in Enlightenment Europe*.** Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004. [133.4 DAV]

Gibson, M. (editor) – ***Witchcraft and Society in England and America, 1550-1750*.** Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003 [133.43 WIT]

Gosden, C. – ***The History of Magic*.** London: Penguin Random House, 2020 [133.4309 GOS] – p.386

🔑 Hutchinson, F. – ***An Historical Essay Concerning Witchcraft.*** London, 1718 [STACK 133.4309 HUT] – Written prior to 1706, this is one of the earliest British works debunking witchcraft during the latter years of the witch trials.

Levack, B. - ***The Witchcraft Sourcebook*.** London: Routledge, 2004. [LOC 133.4 WIT] – p.185, Chapter 37: The Confessions of Witches in Guernsey.

Murray, M. – ***The Witch-Cult in Western Europe: A Study in Anthropology***. Oxford: Clarenden Press, 1921 [133.4 MUR] – Murray proposes a witch-cult across Europe with a homogenised belief set. The theory has always been contentious due to lack of unbiased evidence but despite this has still been highly influential in setting the tone for numerous books and theories on the subject.

Seth, R. – ***Witches and their Craft***. England: Odhams, 1967 [133.4 SET] – although written by a local author this book does not discuss the Channel Islands. It does provide a wider historical account of witchcraft as well as discussing numerous famous with trials. Some of the author’s views may be considered dated by modern readers.

**Grimoires**

🔑 ***Le Grand Albert*** & ***Le Petit Albert*** – **grimoires (books of household magic) enormously popular in the Channel Islands and France throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. A curious mixture of esoteric science and totally impractical superstition.**

✪ Davies, O. – ***Grimoires: A History of Magic Books*.** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 [LA 133.43 DAV] – well indexed scholastic work mentioning the *Le Grand Albert* and *Le Petit Albert*.

❖ De Garis, M. - ***Folklore of Guernsey*.** Channel Islands: La Société Guernesiaise, 1975/1999 [LOC 398 DEG] – p.172

❖ MacCulloch, E. - ***Guernsey Folk-Lore*.** London: Elliot Stock, 1903 [LOC 398 MAC] – p.340

Shackleton, S. – **“Dark tales, black books”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 22nd October 2012* – article on Le Grand Albert & Le Petit Albert grimoires.

**“The ‘bad’ books”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 30th September 2004*

**Folk Tales About Witches & Witchcraft**

❖ Dawes, P. – ***Once Upon an Island: A Treasury of Guernsey Folklore***. Guernsey: Blue Ormer Publishing, 2022 [LOC 398 DAW] – A great introduction to local folklore with beautiful illustrations and explanations to the origins of the tales. Sources for the contents are not referenced.

De Garis, M. - ***Folklore of Guernsey*.** Channel Islands: La Société Guernesiaise, 1975/1999 [LOC 398 DEG] – p.255 – 273

MacCulloch, E. - ***Guernsey Folk-Lore*.** London: Elliot Stock, 1903 [LOC 398 MAC] – pp.336 - 386

❖ Mosse, J. & Lemmon, F. - ***Guernsey Legends*.** Guernsey: Blue Ormer, 2018 [LOC 398 MOS] – short illustrated poems & prose.

❖ Wellfair, S. – ***Illustrated Tales of Guernsey****.* Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2023 [LOC 940 WEL] – Chapter 2

❖ Wolley, F. - ***Guernsey Legends.*** Guernsey: Guernsey Press, 1988 [LOC 398 WOL] – pp. 3, 7, 14, 25, 28, 30

***The Vale: 800 Years of a Guernsey Parish***. Guernsey: INK Ltd, 2005 [LOC 940.09 VAL] – The Ville-ès-Pies witch, p.39.

**“Le Vert Vollier d’Cats”.** *The Quarterly Review of the Guernsey Society, Summer 1962 Vol. XVIII No. 2* - p.31, an amusing account of a drunken 19th Century sighting of flying green cats on their way to a Sabbat at Le Catioroc.

**Local Fiction About Witches & Witchcraft**

Cowper, E.E. – ***The White Witch of Rosel*.** London/Glasgow: Blackie & Son Ltd., c.1923.

Coysh, V. – ***Bygone Guernsey: Part I***. Guernsey: Guernsey Press Co. Ltd, c.1950 [LOC 940 COY] – “Witchcraft” p.27, refers to a mention of the evil eye in “Toilers of the Sea” by Victor Hugo.

Katz, W.W. – ***Witchery Hill*.** Toronto; Vancouver: Groundwood, 1984/1995 – young adult fiction.

Métivier, G. **– “La Vieille Marie; ou La Maison Ensorchellaie”.** A poem in Guernsésiais about a witch visiting a house. A translation appears in *The Toad and the Donkey* [LF 848 TOA]

**Modern Witchcraft**

Chandwick, A. - **“Using the force”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 30th September 2004 –* 21st Century witchcraft in Guernsey.

✪❖ De Garis, M. - ***Folklore of Guernsey*.** Channel Islands: La Société Guernesiaise, 1975/1999 [LOC 398 DEG] – p.183, discusses the last witchcraft trial held in Guernsey in 1914.

❖ Lake, C. - ***These Haunted Islands*.** Jersey: Redberry (Press) Ltd., 1986 [LF133.4 LAK] – p.114

Mollet, N. – **“’White witch’ comes to keep occult vandals off our stones”.** *Guernsey Evening Press, 18th July 1996* – Visit of Kevin Carlyon. Also see article from the 8th July 1996.

**Other Resources**

*Newspaper Articles* - The Guernsey Evening Press is available to keyword search from 2006 onwards.