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The definitive compilation on witchcraft and witch hunting in the early modern era exploring significant people, places, beliefs, and events.

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Editorial Review

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This excellent set does not cover the entire Western witchcraft tradition but rather the period from the late fourteenth to the late eighteenth centuries, with an emphasis on witch-hunting and its social and political ramifications. It is intended to "bridge the gap between scholars and the general public by making the vast scholarship on witchcraft readily available." The more than 750 entries range in length from a couple of columns to several pages and are alphabetically arranged. Each entry is signed and provides both *see also* references and bibliographic references, generally scholarly publications in various languages. The encyclopedia is very much an interdisciplinary and international effort. More than half of the 170 contributors are from outside the U.S and the UK.

Entries cover beliefs; notable individuals, places, and events in the history of witchcraft; and relevant topics in the arts, folklore, law, religion, sociology, and more. Writers and magicians like John Dee and Heinrich Kramer appear, as do skeptics like Reginald Scot, author of the first major work on witchcraft written by an English author. *The Sabbat* and *Salem* have good entries. Some topics on earlier and later periods--for example, *Laws on witchcraft, ancient; Contemporary witchcraft (post 1800); Nazi interest in witch persecution*--are covered, but except for entries on modern researchers of the witch-hunting period, there are no contemporary biographies. Illustrations are in black and white and include maps, engravings, and photographs. The alphabetical list of entries and index are repeated in each volume.

At the price, and given its scholarly nature and limited scope, larger public libraries with a strong interest in historical witchcraft will want to consider adding this set. Academic libraries with early modern history collections or interest in witchcraft as a social and political phenomenon will also find the encyclopedia very useful. *Kathleen Stipek*

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Review

"[L]arger public libraries with a strong interest in historical witchcraft will want to consider adding this set. Academic libraries with early modern history collections or interest in witchcraft as a social and political phenomenon will also find the encyclopedia very useful." - **Booklist**

"Compared to other works on witchcraft . . . the *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition* provides significantly more entries . . . and greater coverage. . . . Due to the ongoing interest in witchcraft and occult sciences, this encyclopedia will be a welcome purchase in most medium-sized and larger academic and public libraries. For libraries serving religious institutions and seminaries, it is a required purchase since it provides a balanced, historically based discussion of witchcraft in the Western world." - **Reference & User Services Quarterly**

"The more than 700 entries by over 250 scholars are well written, each including cross-references and bibliographies. . . . Recommended. All collections, particularly those supporting history, religious studies, and gender studies at the lower undergraduate level and above." - **Choice**

"Richard Golden successfully makes the scholarship on witchcraft accessible to high school students. . . . It offers a scholarly yet accessible approach to a captivating subject that has endured for centuries. Highly recommended." - **Library Media Connection**

About the Author

Richard M. Golden is professor of history and director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX. He can be reached via email at rmg@unt.edu.

Users Review

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