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Leeds Central Library Collections Guide

The Supernatural

Our guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items at Leeds Central Library, mainly drawn from our Special Collections. Many others are listed in our online catalogues.

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Please note: * indicates an item from our Special Collections. ID may be required to view these items.

- Essay on Superstition; being an enquiry into the effects of physical influence on the mind, in the production of dreams, visions, ghosts and other supernatural appearances (1830) by W. Newnham Esq. SR 133 NEW*
- Narratives on Sorcery and Magic from the Most Authentic Sources (1851, two vols.) by Thomas Wright, SR 133.4 WRI*
- The History of Magic (1854, two vols.) by Joseph Ennemoser, ‘to which is added an appendix of the most remarkable and best authenticated stories of apparitions, dreams, second sight, somnambulism, predictions, divination, witchcraft, vampires, fairies, table-turning, and spirit-rapping, selected by Mary Howitt’, 133.4 ENN
- The Magic of Jewels and Charms (1915) by George Frederick Kunz, 133.4 KUN
- Voodooos and Obeahs: Phases of West India witchcraft (1933) by Joseph J. Williams, focusing on Haiti, 133.4 WIL
- Old Moore’s Almanack: 1701, 1801, 1901 & 1930 – reproductions with a historical introduction by Richard A. Powell (1973) 133.5 OLD

Jewish demonology and folklore

- The Folklore of the Jews (1937) by Dr. Angelo S. Rappoport, contains the chapters ‘Demonology’ and ‘Magic, Astrology, Augury, Omens and Dreams’ (pp. 39-67) Porton Collection 398 RAP
- A Treasury of Jewish Folklore: Stories, Traditions, Legends, Humour, Wisdom and folk songs of the Jewish people (1949) edited by Nathan Ausubel, contains the chapter ‘Demon Tales’ (pp. 592-620) Porton Collection 398 AUS

Leeds Central Library opening hours

- Mon–Wed 9am-7pm
- Thursday 9am-6pm
- Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-5pm
- Sunday 10am-3pm

Front cover photograph (by Paul Baker) shows a memorial at Lawnswood Cemetery. This and over 60,000 other photos of Leeds are available online at our website: www.leodis.net
Classic histories of witchcraft

- **Malleus Maleficarium** (1489) – the classic German ‘witch-hunter’s manual’, translated in 1928 with an introduction, bibliography and notes by Montague Summers, **SRQ 133.4 SP79**
- **The Discoverie of Witchcraft** (1584) by Reginald Scot – with a 1930 introduction by Montague Summers, **SRQ 133.4 SC81**
- **The Trial of the Lancaster Witches** (1612) – edited with an introduction by G.B. Harrison (1929)
- **A History of Witchcraft in England from 1558-1718** (1911) by Wallace Notestein, **SR 133.4 NOT**
- **MSS on Witches and Witchcraft** (1930s) – handwritten manuscript and newscutting collection by ‘Hick’, **SR 133.409 H524**

Studies by noted figures

- **Daniel Defoe**: A System of Magick; or, a History of the Black Art; being an historical account of mankind’s most early dealing with the Devil; and how the acquaintance on both sides first began (1726) – 1973 reprint with introduction by Richard Landon, **133.4 DEF**
- Also his Essay on the History and Reality of Apparitions (1727) – in The Secrets of the Invisible World Disclos’d, or an universal history of apparitions sacred and profane, under all denominations whether angelical, diabolical or human-souls departed (1792) by Andrew Moreton (aka Defoe’s History of Apparitions)
- **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**: The History of Spiritualism (1926, two vols.)
- **Cotton Mather** (18th century Puritan minister): The Wonders of the Invisible World; being an account of the tryals of several witches lately executed in New-England (1862 edition)
- **Sir Walter Scott**: Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft (1830) – includes 1835 supplement of illustrated plates by George Cruikshank
- **Rev. Montague Summers**: (first translator of Malleus Maleficarium, above): Witchcraft and Black Magic (1945)

Ghosts, poltergeists and other hauntings

- **Haunted Britain**: A guide to supernatural sites frequented by ghosts, witches, poltergeists and other mysterious beings (1973) – a full national gazetteer by Antony D. Hippisley Coxe
- **The Phantom World**: or the philosophy of spirits, apparitions &c. (1850, two vols.) by Antoine Augustine Calmet (a French Benedictine monk)
- **Haunted Houses**: Tales of the supernatural, with some account of hereditary curses and family legends (1907) by Charles G. Harper, fully illustrated
- **Lord Halifax’s Ghost Book**: A collection of stories of haunted houses, apparitions and supernatural occurrences (1936) by Charles Lindley Wood, 2nd Viscount Halifax, Ambassador from Great Britain to the United States. Also available: Further Stories from Lord Halifax’s Ghost Book, both at Y 133.1 HAL
- **The Most Haunted House in England**: Ten years’ investigation into Borley Rectory (1940) by Harry Price
- **Poltergeist over England**: Three centuries of mischievous ghosts (1945) by Harry Price

Ghosts and legends of Yorkshire

- **Haunted Leeds** (2006) by Kenneth Goor
- **Haunted Yorkshire** (1969) by W.R. Mitchell
- **The Hand of Glory**: and further Grandfather’s tales and legends of highwaymen and others, collected by the late R. Blakeborough, edited by J. Fairfax-Blakeborough (1924)
- **The Romance of the Yorkshire Coast** (1928) by Herbert Leslie Gee
- **Friendship Books** – collection of newspaper clippings about the supernatural, focusing on Yorkshire (1920s-1940s)
- **Lord Halifax’s Ghost Book**: A collection of stories of haunted houses, apparitions and supernatural occurrences (1936) by Charles Lindley Wood, 2nd Viscount Halifax, Ambassador from Great Britain to the United States. Also available: Further Stories from Lord Halifax’s Ghost Book, both at Y 133.1 HAL

Magic, superstitions and psychic phenomena

- **A Key to Physic and the Occult Sciences** (1792) by Ebenezer Sibley
- **Gypsy Sorcery and Fortune Telling**, illustrated by numerous incantations, specimens of medical magic, anecdotes and tales (1816), ‘copiously illustrated by the author’ Charles Godfrey Leland, President of the Gipsy-Lore Society, &c. &c., Q 133.3 LEL