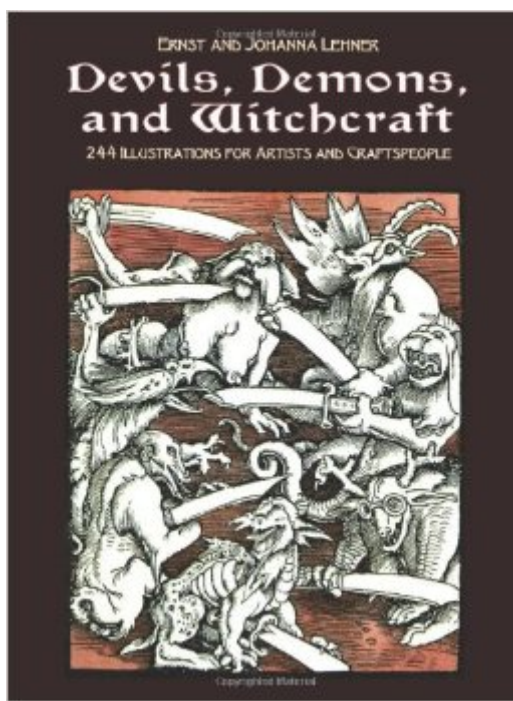


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# Devils, Demons And Witchcraft



## Synopsis

"Throughout history, artists have grappled with the problem of depicting clearly and forcefully the principles of evil and suffering in human existence." With this view, the Lehnars have collected 244 representations, symbols, and manuscript pages of devils and death from Egyptian times to 1931. Reproductions from Dürer, Holbein, Cranach, Rembrandt, and many other lesser-known or unknown artists illustrate the fascinating history. The fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries are stressed. The book is divided into 12 chapters, each with a separate introduction. Most of the illustrations are collected in five of these chapters: Devils and Demons, including Belial, Beelzebub, and the Anti-Christ; Witches and Warlocks, their animals, forms, and rituals; The Danse Macabre, with the Dance of Death Alphabet by Holbein and representations of all classes leveled by the common force of death; Memento Mori, including a skull clock, a macabre representation of the Tree of Knowledge and Death, and the winged hourglass and scythe; and Religio-Political Devilry, the fight between the Papists and the Reformers, and symbols of devils in other political disputes. There are also chapters on the Fall of Lucifer, Faust and Mephistopheles, Hell and Damnation, The Apocalyptic Horsemen, Witch-Hunting, The Art of Dying, and Resurrection and Reckoning. Anyone curious about witchcraft, death, and devils will be interested in this book. It is particularly useful to teachers, artists, and illustrators who need clear reproductions for the classroom, for models, or for commercial uses. Death, devils, and their history are very much with us today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is not meant to be an introduction to Wicca or a history of witchcraft and demonology. It's

intended purpose is simply to provide an illustrated reference work primarily for historians, teachers, artists, craftsman, and authors working in the area of witchcraft and demonology. That being said, the book is divided into twelve chapters, each dealing with various aspects of witchcraft, death, demons, and the occult and providing a plentiful cornucopia of illustrations, woodcuts, copperplates, and artwork representative of the subject at hand. The works of Durer, Dore, and others appear together with illustrations from such famous demonological works such as Colin De Plancy's "Dictionnaire Infernal" and Francesco Maria Guazzo's "Compendium Maleficarum" as well as countless others from ancient to modern times. This is a first class illustrated reference book and will be useful to any number of those interested in the history of illustration of the Dark Arts.

Not only does this book not say anything particularly bad about Wicca or witchcraft, the first sentence of the chapter of Witches and Warlocks explicitly states: "The true practicing witches of the late Middle Ages, Renaissance and later periods were most likely stubborn adherents of pre-Christian pagan religious beliefs in which the deity or deities partook of animal forms." The reviewer who stated that it's books like these that promote religious intolerance against neopaganism obviously just took one look at the title without ever even opening the book. The pictures provide us with a great insight into the mentality of the Christian church throughout history. The favorite works are the ones depicting the four horsemen of the apocolypse. Anyone who is interested in paganism, demonology, Christian history or religion in general should pick this book up. It belongs on the shelf of every neopagan for the same reason as *Malleus Maleficarum* and *Compendium Maleficarum*.

A wonderful book of woodcuts on a fascinating subject, with short and to-the-point commentary. Unlike one of the reviewers, I have found nothing in the book that spreads falsehoods or encourages hatred of the Wiccan religion.

Some of the images are either too light or too sloppy. They look like they were printed with not enough ink in the machine or there was dirt and grit mixed with the ink. Either that or they were copies of copies of copies. Some of them are so bad they should have just left them out instead of insulting the reader with sub-standard material. Also, I was hoping for more demons. I bought this with the understanding that it had images from the *Dictionnaire Infernal*, which has 69 illustrations. This book had only 4 of them. There is some good stuff, but this isn't the "one stop shopping" experience I had hoped for.

This review has nothing to do with how pagans are represented in this book, that is another matter entirely. This review is about the quality and usefulness of the book itself, and I have to say, it is poor quality and mostly useless--at least from the point of view of an artist. The images in this book appear to have been copied from other copies, perhaps by a kindergarten student learning to use a crayon for the first time??? They really are that bad. Some of the images have such poor quality that you can't even really tell what you are looking at, so as far as looking to use them in graphic art, good luck. My honest opinion, is that this book never should have been published as is, since some of the images are so poor that they are basically a slap in the face to the person who buys the book. I understand that not all images are perfect when you have the original and that quality goes down with each generation of copying, but those images should have simply been left out of the book. Thank goodness there is a caption under each image or one would not know if they were looking at Satan's temptation or Mickey Mouse.

I will go along with the two people below me and say that to say this book is an asset to anti-paganism is a generic complaint, and is a real distraction from what this book is about, artwork. Among my huge collection of books concerning European paganism and shamanism, I have several that deal with demonology. And this is one of the best that I have. The fact that this is primarily a picture book is actually a testament to Wicca, because it shows us how demonology and Satanism are mostly products of what happens when the imagination runs loose.

When I was younger, my sister and I would always say how great it would be if there was a book with endless pictures of woodcarvings. Thanks to Paranormal Activity (the book was being read in the movie), I finally found it. It only took me 30 years. There is more to the book than just pictures, but the pictures alone make it worth it. A great find!

There are a lot of illustrations in here; some may be familiar to you, others not. In any event it is a book of illustrations only. It is a great reference book (I'm thinking of Demonologists, practitioners of witchcraft, artists, historians, etc.).

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