

Archives Unbound: Witchcraft in Europe and America



Archives Unbound

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

Witchcraft in Europe and America

This comprehensive collection on witchcraft, sourced from the Cornell University Library, includes texts dating from the 15th century to the early 20th century. The majority of the material concerns the “classic period” of the 16th to 18th centuries. In addition to these classic texts, the collection includes:

- Anti-persecution writings
- Works by penologists
- Legal and church documents
- Exposés of persecutions
- Philosophical writings
- Transcripts of trials and exorcisms



Witchcraft in Europe and America is a unique collection offering a wide range of writings on the subject of witchcraft. As such, it affords scholars an invaluable opportunity to explore this intriguing historical phenomenon from a variety of perspectives. Included are many rare and fragile manuscripts containing eyewitness accounts and court records of the trials of witches, including harrowing original manuscript depositions taken from the victims in the torture chamber.

These documents, in both original manuscript and in print, reveal the outcome of the more remote doctrinal disputes. Perhaps the most significant of all manuscripts in the Witchcraft collection is the minutes of the witchcraft trial of Dietrich Flade, a sixteenth-century city judge and rector who spoke out against the cruelty and injustice of the persecutions in the 1580s.

The pronouncements of advocates of witch persecution – Binsfeld, Boguet, Del Rio, Remi – can be compared and contrasted to the courageous warning of Bekker, Löher, Loos, Scot, Spee – men who doubted the validity of witch believers and witch trials. Also, numerous dissertations and limited printed works examining theological, legal, social implications of witchcraft are reproduced in their entirety.

This collection unlocks much more than the world of witchcraft alone; spanning the 15th to 20th centuries, it also enables researchers to trace the history and culture of European civilization during the Renaissance and Enlightenment.

The majority of texts are in Latin, English and German, although there are also selected items in French, Italian, Portuguese, Danish, Dutch and Spanish.

Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection