

Conjuring Spirits Texts And Traditions Of Medieval Ritual Magic

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Rewriting Magic Claire Fanger 2015-03 "Examines the text and background of *The Flowers of Heavenly Teaching*, an autobiography by the fourteenth-century Benedictine monk John of Morigny. Explores how the author negotiated the categories of magic and heresy in relation to Christianity"--Provided by publisher.

De vertroosting van Memoria Johanna Elisabeth van Gijzen 2006 Geschiedenis van de middeleeuwse theorieën over het geheugen en de herinnering.

Locations of Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern

Europe Kocku Von Stuckrad 2010 Addressing discourses of perfect knowledge in Western culture between 1200 and 1800, this book integrates the study of Western esotericism in a larger analytical framework of European history of religion.

Esoteric Transfers and Constructions Mark Sedgwick 2021-04-07 Similarities between esoteric and mystical currents in different religious traditions have long interested scholars. This book takes a new look at the relationship between such currents. It advances a discussion that started with the search for religious essences, archetypes, and universals, from William James to Eranos. The universal categories that resulted from that search were later criticized as essentialist constructions, and questioned by deconstructionists. An alternative explanation was advanced by diffusionists: that there were transfers between different traditions. This book presents empirical case studies of such constructions, and of transfers between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the premodern period, and Judaism, Christianity, and Western esotericism in the modern period. It shows that there were indeed transfers that can be clearly documented, and that there were also indeed constructions, often very imaginative. It also shows that there were many cases that were neither transfers nor constructions, but a mixture of the two.

Magic and Medieval Society Anne Lawrence-Mathers 2014-05-30 *Magic and Medieval Society* presents a thematic approach to the topic of magic and sorcery in Western Europe between the eleventh and the fifteenth century. It aims to provide readers with the conceptual and documentary tools to reach informed conclusions as to the existence, nature, importance and uses of magic in medieval society. Contrary to some previous approaches, the authors argue that magic is inextricably connected to other areas of cultural practice and was found across medieval society. Therefore, the book is arranged thematically, covering topics such as the use of magic at medieval courts, at universities and within the medieval Church itself. Each chapter and theme is supported by additional documents, diagrams and images to allow readers to examine the evidence side-by-side with the discussions in the chapters and to come to informed conclusions on the issues. This book puts forward the argument that the witch craze was not a medieval phenomenon but rather the product of the Renaissance and the Reformation, and demonstrates how the components for the early-modern prosecution of witches were put into place. This new Seminar Study is supported by a comprehensive documents section,

chronology, who's who and black-and-white plate section. It offers a concise and thought-provoking introduction for students of medieval history.

Grimoires Owen Davies 2010 The first ever history of magic books - or grimoires - from the ancient Middle East through to the modern day, from harmless charms and remedies to sinister pacts with the Devil.

Communication, Translation, and Community in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period Albrecht Classen 2022-08-22 Die neue englischsprachige Reihe zur Mediävistik strebt eine methodisch reflektierte, anspruchsvolle Verbindung von Text- und Kulturwissenschaft an. Sie widmet sich den kulturellen Grundthemen der mittelalterlichen Welt aus der Perspektive der Literatur- und Geschichtswissenschaft. ‚Grundthemen‘ sind die kulturprägenden Denkbilder, Weltanschauungen, Sozialstrukturen und Alltagsbedingungen des mittelalterlichen Lebens, also z. B. Kindheit und Alter, Sexualität, Religion, Medizin, Rituale, Arbeit, Armut und Reichtum, Aberglauben, Erde und Kosmos, Stadt und Land, Krieg, Emotionen, Kommunikation, Reisen usw. Die Reihe greift wichtige aktuelle Fachdiskussionen auf und stellt ein Forum der interdisziplinären Mittelalter-Forschung dar. Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture steht Sammelbänden ebenso offen wie Monographien. Intention ist immer, kompendienhafte Werke zu zentralen Fragen der mittelalterlichen Kulturgeschichte vorzulegen, die einen soliden Überblick über einen geschlossenen Themenkreis aus der Perspektive verschiedener Fachdisziplinen vermitteln. Im Ganzen bietet die Reihe so eine Enzyklopädie der mittelalterlichen Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte und ihrer Hauptthemen. Es werden ca. zwei Bände pro Jahr erscheinen.

Knowing Demons, Knowing Spirits in the Early Modern Period Michelle D. Brock 2018-07-31 This book explores the manifold ways of knowing—and knowing about—preternatural beings such as demons, angels, fairies, and other spirits that inhabited and were believed to act in early modern European worlds. Its contributors examine how people across the social spectrum assayed the various types of spiritual entities that they believed dwelled invisibly but meaningfully in the spaces just beyond (and occasionally within) the limits of human perception. Collectively, the volume demonstrates that an awareness and understanding of the nature and capabilities of spirits—whether benevolent or malevolent—was fundamental to the knowledge-making practices that characterize the years between ca. 1500 and 1750. This is, therefore, a book about how epistemological and experiential knowledge of spirits persisted and evolved in concert with the wider intellectual changes of the early modern period, such as the Protestant Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment.

Defining Nature's Limits Neil Tarrant 2022-10-21 A look at the history of censorship, science, and magic from the Middle Ages to the post-Reformation era. Neil Tarrant challenges conventional thinking by looking at the longer history of censorship, considering a five-hundred-year continuity of goals and methods stretching

from the late eleventh century to well into the sixteenth. Unlike earlier studies, *Defining Nature's Limits* engages the history of both learned and popular magic. Tarrant explains how the church developed a program that sought to codify what was proper belief through confession, inquisition, and punishment and prosecuted what they considered superstition or heresy that stretched beyond the boundaries of religion. These efforts were continued by the Roman Inquisition, established in 1542. Although it was designed primarily to combat Protestantism, from the outset the new institution investigated both practitioners of "illicit" magic and inquiries into natural philosophy, delegitimizing certain practices and thus shaping the development of early modern science. Describing the dynamics of censorship that continued well into the post-Reformation era, *Defining Nature's Limits* is revisionist history that will interest scholars of the history science, the history of magic, and the history of the church alike.

Devotions 1461 The main text consists of prayers to the Virgin Mary. It is followed by the Office of the Angels, commencing at leaf 85, in a different hand. Nicholas Watson suggests in his essay in Clare Faranger's book *Conjuring Spirits: Texts and Traditions of Medieval Ritual Magic* (1990) that the manuscript is a copy of a work by Jean de Morigny, the first part composed between 1304 and 1307 and the second part composed before 1315. Manuscript is bound in reinforced vellum with "Codex" stamped on spine and slipcased with "Prayer book. c 1460" stamped on spine. Manuscript contains 12 illustrations and decorations executed by an amateurish other hand, all near the front.

Christian Demonology and Popular Mythology Gábor Klaniczay 2006

Esoterie Kocku von Stuckrad 2014-05-06 De meest uiteenlopende zaken vallen vandaag onder de term `esoterie, zoals tarotkaarten en horoscopen, de relatie met krachtdieren binnen het neo-sjamanisme, mystieke ervaringen onder invloed van verdovende middelen, of de natuurreligieuze ideeën van de nieuwe heksenreligie. Maar niet alles wat tegenwoordig `esoterie wordt genoemd, is deel van dezelfde traditie. Vanuit religiewetenschappelijk perspectief delen de aanhangers van verschillende verschijningsvormen van esoterie de zoektocht naar een absolute, verborgen kennis die hun door een mystiek visioen, door een goddelijke autoriteit of door persoonlijke ervaring zal worden geopenbaard. Deze zoektocht kent een lange traditie. Kocku von Stuckrad beschrijft helder en levendig de oorsprong van de esoterie bij de antieke Pythagoreeërs en de geschriften van de mysterieuze Hermes Trismegistus; ook volgt hij haar ontwikkeling in de filosofische traditie van de islam, de joodse Kabbala en de Europese Renaissance tot aan de hedendaagse New Age. Volgens Von Stuckrad is de esoterie allesbehalve een duister zijspoor van de Europese geestesgeschiedenis. Ze heeft eerder juist een onuitwisbaar stempel op de grote theologische en natuurwetenschappelijke discussies gedrukt en de esoterie dient dan ook serieus te worden genomen als een belangrijke rode draad in de Europese godsdienstgeschiedenis. -Kocku von Stuckrad is hoogleraar Religiewetenschap en Decaan van de Faculteit Godgeleerdheid en Godsdienstwetenschap bij de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Invoking Angels Claire Fanger 2012-02-01 "A collection of essays examining medieval and early modern texts aimed at performing magic or receiving illumination via the mediation of angels. Includes discussion of Jewish, Christian and Muslim texts"--Provided by publisher.

Demons and Illness from Antiquity to the Early-Modern Period Siam Bhayro 2017-02-06 *Demons and Illness from Antiquity to the Early-Modern Period* explores the relationship between demons and illness from the ancient world to the early modern period. Its twenty chapters

range from Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt to seventeenth-century England and Spain, and include studies of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The True History of Merlin the Magician Anne Lawrence-Mathers 2012-11-27 Analyzes the historical impact of Merlin from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries, during which time he was considered a political prophet and historical figure, and explores how the meaning of his magic evolved over the centuries.

Magical Manuscripts in Early Modern Europe Daniel Bellingradt 2017-08-31 This book presents the story of a unique collection of 140 manuscripts of 'learned magic' that was sold for a fantastic sum within the clandestine channels of the German book trade in the early eighteenth century. The book will interpret this collection from two angles – as an artefact of the early modern book market as well as the *longue-durée* tradition of Western learned magic –, thus taking a new stance towards scribal texts that are often regarded as eccentric, peripheral, or marginal. The study is structured by the apparent exceptionality, scarcity, and illegality of the collection, and provides chapters on clandestine activities in European book markets, questions of censorship regimes and efficiency, the use of manuscripts in an age of print, and the history of learned magic in early modern Europe. As the collection has survived till this day in Leipzig University Library, the book provides a critical edition of the 1710 selling catalogue, which includes a brief content analysis of all extant manuscripts. The study will be of interest to scholars and students from a variety of fields, such as early modern book history, the history of magic, cultural history, the sociology of religion, or the study of Western esotericism.

The Occult World Christopher Partridge 2014-12-05 This volume presents students and scholars with a comprehensive overview of the fascinating world of the occult. It explores the history of Western occultism, from ancient and medieval sources via the Renaissance, right up to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and contemporary occultism. Written by a distinguished team of contributors, the essays consider key figures, beliefs and practices as well as popular culture.

Routledge Revivals John M Jeep 2017-07-05 First published in 2001, *Medieval Germany: An Encyclopedia* provides a comprehensive guide to the German and Dutch-speaking world in the Middle Ages, from approximately C.E. 500 to 1500. It offers detailed accounts of a wide variety of aspects of medieval Germany, including language, literature, architecture, politics, warfare, medicine, philosophy and religion. In addition, this reference work includes bibliographies and citations to aid further study. This A-Z encyclopedia, featuring over 500 entries written by expert contributors, will be of key interest to students and scholars, as well as general readers.

The Witch Ronald Hutton 2017-08-01 This "magisterial account" explores the fear of witchcraft across the globe from the ancient world to the notorious witch trials of early modern Europe (*The Guardian*, UK). The witch came to prominence—and often a painful death—in early modern Europe, yet her origins are much more geographically diverse and historically deep. In *The Witch*, historian Ronald Hutton sets the European witch trials in the widest and deepest possible perspective and traces the major historiographical developments of witchcraft. Hutton, a renowned expert on ancient, medieval, and modern paganism and witchcraft beliefs, combines Anglo-American and continental scholarly approaches to examine attitudes on witchcraft and the treatment of suspected witches across the world, including in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Australia, and the Americas, and from ancient pagan times to current interpretations. His fresh anthropological and ethnographical approach focuses on

cultural inheritance and change while considering shamanism, folk religion, the range of witch trials, and how the fear of witchcraft might be eradicated. "[A] panoptic, penetrating book."—Malcolm Gaskill, London Review of Books

Unlocked Books Benedek Láng 2010-11-01 "Presents and analyzes texts of learned magic written in medieval Central Europe (Poland, Bohemia, and Hungary), and attempts to identify their authors, readers, and collectors"--Provided by publisher.

Founding Feminisms in Medieval Studies Laine E. Doggett 2016 Essays using feminist approaches to offer fresh insights into aspects of the texts and the material culture of the middle ages.

Magical Thinking Stuart McWilliams 2011-12-08 How do we write about magic? Responding to a renewed interest in the history of the occult, this volume examines the role of magic in a series of methodological controversies in the humanities. In case studies ranging from the 'necromancy' of historiography to the strident rationalism of the 'New Atheism,' *Magical Thinking* sets out the surprising ways in which scholars and critics have imagined the occult. The volume argues that thinking and writing about magic has engendered multiple epistemological crises, profoundly unsettling the understanding of history and knowledge in Western culture. By examining how scholarly writing has contended and conspired with discourses of enchantment, the book reveals the implications of magic - and its scholarship - for intellectual history.

The Transformations of Magic Frank Klaassen 2013

"Explores two principal genres of illicit learned magic in late Medieval manuscripts: image magic, which could be interpreted and justified in scholastic terms, and ritual magic, which could not"--Provided by publisher.

Magic and Impotence in the Middle Ages Catherine Rider 2006-01-26 *Magic and Impotence in the Middle Ages* investigates the common medieval belief that magic could cause impotence, focusing particularly on the period 1150-1450. The subject has never been studied in detail before, but there is a surprisingly large amount of information about it in four kinds of source: confessors' manuals; medical compendia that discussed many illnesses; commentaries on canon law; and theological commentaries on the Sentences of Peter Lombard. Although most historians of medieval culture focus on only one or two of these kinds of source, a broader comparison reveals that medieval writers held surprisingly diverse opinions about what magic was, how it worked, and whether it was ever legitimate to use it. Medieval discussions of magically caused impotence also include a great deal of information about magical practices, most of which have not been studied before. In particular, these sources say a great deal about popular magic, a subject which has been particularly neglected by historians because the evidence is scanty and difficult to interpret. *Magic and Impotence* makes new information about popular magic available for the first time. *Magic and Impotence* also examines why the authors of legal, medical, and theological texts were so interested in popular magical practices relating to impotence. It therefore uses magically caused impotence as a case-study to explore the relationship between elite and popular culture. In particular, this study emphasizes the importance of the thirteenth-century pastoral reform movement, which sought to enforce more orthodox religious practices. Historians have often noted that this movement brought churchmen into contact with popular beliefs, but this is the first study to demonstrate the profound effect it had on theological and legal ideas about magic.

Medicine, Magic and Art in Early Modern Norway Ane Ohrvik 2018-04-02 This book addresses magical ideas and practices in early modern Norway. It examines a large corpus of Norwegian manuscripts from 1650-1850 commonly

called Black Books which contained a mixture of recipes on medicine, magic, and art. Ane Ohrvik assesses the Black Books from the vantage point of those who wrote the manuscripts and thus offers an original study of how early modern magical practitioners presented their ideas and saw their practices. The book shows how the writers viewed magic and medicine both as practical and sacred art and as knowledge worth protecting through encoding the text. The study of the Black Books illuminates how ordinary people in Norway conceptualized magic as valuable and useful knowledge worth of collecting and saving despite the ongoing witchcraft prosecutions targeting the very same ideas and practices as the books promoted. *Medicine, Magic and Art in Early Modern Norway* is essential for those looking to advance their studies in magical beliefs and practices in early modern Europe as well as those interested in witchcraft studies, book history, and the history of knowledge.

The Secret Faith of Maestre Honoratus Maud Kozodoy 2015-08-26 Until the summer of 1391, when anti-Jewish riots spread across the Iberian peninsula, the person subsequently known as Honoratus de Bonafide, a Christian physician and astrologer at the court of King Joan I of Aragon, had been the Jew Profayt Duran of Perpignan. The precise details of Duran's conversion are lost to us. We do know, however, that like many other conversos, he began to conduct his professional and public life as a Christian even as he rejected that new identity in private. What is extraordinary in his case is that instead of quietly making his individual way, he began to write works in Hebrew—including anti-Christian polemics—that revealed his intense inner commitment to remaining a Jew. Forced to reconceptualize Judaism under the pressures of his life as a converso, Duran elevated the principle of inner "intention" above that of ritual observance as the test of Jewish identity, ultimately claiming that the end purposes of Judaism can be attained through the study, memorization, and contemplation of the Hebrew Bible. Duran also conceived of Judaism as a profoundly rational religion, with a proud heritage of scientific learning; the interplay between scientific knowledge and Jewish identity took on a central role in his works. Drawing on archival sources as well as published and unpublished manuscripts, Maud Kozodoy marshals rarely examined facts about the consumption and transmission of the sciences between the medieval and early modern periods to illuminate the thought—and the faith—of one of Jewish history's most enigmatic and fascinating figures.

The Devil Philip C. Almond 2014-04-30 It is often said that the devil has all the best tunes. He also has as many names as he has guises. Lucifer, Mephistopheles, Beelzebub (in Christian thought), Ha-Satan or the Adversary (in Jewish scripture) and Iblis or Shaitan (in Islamic tradition) has throughout the ages and across civilizations been a compelling and charismatic presence. For two thousand years the supposed reign of God has been challenged by the fiery malice of his opponent, as contending forces of good and evil have between them weighed human souls in the balance. In this rich and multi-textured biography, Philip C Almond explores the figure of the devil from the first centuries of the Christian era through the rise of classical demonology and witchcraft persecutions to the modern post-Enlightenment 'decline' of Hell. The author shows that the Prince of Darkness, in all his incarnations, remains an irresistible subject in history, religion, art, literature and culture.

Visions in Late Medieval England Gwenfair Walters Adams 2007-02-23 This volume is the first to explore the breadth of vision types in late medieval English lay spirituality. Analyzing 1000+ accounts, it proposes that visions buttressed five core dynamics (relating to purgatory, saints, demons, sacramental faith, and the Church's authority).

Medieval Warfare Helen J. Nicholson 2017-03-14 Warfare in medieval times was never static or predictable - although there were ideals and conventions to follow, in the field commanders had to use their initiative and adapt to the needs of the moment. In this concise, wide-ranging study, Helen Nicholson provides the essential introductory guide to a fascinating subject. Medieval Warfare - Surveys and summarises current debates and modern research into warfare throughout the whole of the medieval period across Europe - Sets medieval warfare theory and practice firmly into context as a continuation and adaptation of practice under the Roman Empire, tracing its change and development across more than a millennium - Considers military personnel, buildings and equipment, as well as the practice of warfare by land and sea

The Language of Demons and Angels Christopher I. Leirich 2003-01-01 This is the first modern study of Agrippa's occult philosophy, revealing it to be a coherent part of his intellectual work. It analyzes the text of "De occulta philosophia," explicating the sophisticated structure and argument of the work.

Magic as a Political Crime in Medieval and Early Modern England Francis Young 2017-10-30 Treason and magic were first linked together during the reign of Edward II. Theories of occult conspiracy then regularly led to major political scandals, such as the trial of Eleanor Cobham Duchess of Gloucester in 1441. While accusations of magical treason against high-ranking figures were indeed a staple of late medieval English power politics, they acquired new significance at the Reformation when the 'superstition' embodied by magic came to be associated with proscribed Catholic belief. Francis Young here offers the first concerted historical analysis of allegations of the use of magic either to harm or kill the monarch, or else manipulate the course of political events in England, between the fourteenth century and the dawn of the Enlightenment. His book addresses a subject usually either passed over or elided with witchcraft: a quite different historical phenomenon. He argues that while charges of treasonable magic certainly were used to destroy reputations or to ensure the convictions of undesirables, magic was also perceived as a genuine threat by English governments into the Civil War era and beyond.

The Lesser Key of Solomon Joseph H Peterson 2001-05-01 Compiled from original manuscripts and fragments in the British Museum Library, Joseph Peterson's new presentation is the most complete and accurate edition of this famous magical grimoire, "The Lesser Key of Solomon the King." He goes to great length to establish the provenance of each part, and possible derivative works, including critical analyses of all major variations, utilizing fresh translations of earlier magical texts such as Johann Trithemius's Steganographia, The Archidoxes of Magic by Paracelsus, and newly discovered Hebrew manuscripts of the original Key of Solomon. Abundantly illustrated, Peterson includes reproductions of the original magical circles, tools, and seals of the spirits with variations of certain drawings from various sources and notae missing from earlier editions. Source list. Appendices. Index.

Magic in the Middle Ages Richard Kieckhefer 2014-11-06 A fascinating study of natural and demonic magic within the broad context of medieval culture.

Magic and Masculinity Frances Timbers 2014-02-21 In early modern England, the practice of ritual or ceremonial magic - the attempted communication with angels and demons - both reinforced and subverted existing concepts of gender. The majority of male magicians acted from a position of control and command commensurate with their social position in a patriarchal society; other men, however, used the notion of magic to subvert gender ideals while still aiming to attain hegemony. Whilst women who claimed to perform magic were

usually more submissive in their attempted dealings with the spirit world, some female practitioners employed magic to undermine the patriarchal culture and further their own agenda. Frances Timbers studies the practice of ritual magic in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries focusing especially on gender and sexual perspectives. Using the examples of well-known individuals who set themselves up as magicians (including John Dee, Simon Forman and William Lilly), as well as unpublished diaries and journals, literature and legal records, this book provides a unique analysis of early modern ceremonial magic from a gender perspective.

The Dictionary of Demons: Expanded & Revised M. Belanger 2021-05-08 This premium-hardcover, limited edition of one the world's most important books on demonology has been expanded to include even more fascinating details about even more demons. Ever since the publication of the original book, author M. Belanger has been collecting material for this expanded, tenth-anniversary edition. The addition of new articles, demons, appendices, and art make the bestselling Dictionary of Demons into an even more comprehensive resource. You will discover an expanded introduction, special extended articles, an update to the Decans of the Zodiac, additional entries on demons that were not previously included, and dozens of new illustrations. These additions explore the roots of demonology, comparative mythologies, and the influence of important source texts. Compiled from intensive research on notorious and obscure sources from the Western grimoiric tradition, The Dictionary of Demons is one of the most complete compendiums of demonic names available anywhere. Presented alphabetically from Aariel to Zynextyur, more than 1,500 demons are introduced, explored, and cross-referenced by theme and elemental or planetary correspondence. This meticulously researched reference work features fascinating short articles on demonology and a wealth of woodcuts, etchings, and paintings depicting demons through the ages.

Children of Lucifer Ruben van Luijk 2016 Satanism adopts Satan, the Judeo-Christian representative of evil, as an object of veneration. This work explores the historical origins of this extraordinary 'antireligion.'

Orality and Literacy Keith Thor Carlson 2011-04-30 Orality and Literacy investigates the interactions of the oral and the literate through close studies of particular cultures at specific historical moments. Rejecting the 'great-divide' theory of orality and literacy as separate and opposite to one another, the contributors posit that whatever meanings the two concepts have are products of their ever-changing relationships to one another. Through topics as diverse as Aboriginal Canadian societies, Ukrainian-Canadian narratives, and communities in ancient Greece, Medieval Europe, and twentieth-century Asia, these cross-disciplinary essays reveal the powerful ways in which cultural assumptions, such as those about truth, disclosure, performance, privacy, and ethics, can affect a society's uses of and approaches to both the written and the oral. The fresh perspectives in Orality and Literacy reinvigorate the subject, illuminating complex interrelationships rather than relying on universal generalizations about how literacy and orality function.

Conjuring Spirits Claire Fanger 1998 Although when most people think of magic they think of demonic magic or necromancy, the nine chapters in this volume mainly examine texts of angelic magic, along with their connections to Christian mysticism and other traditions. Widely practiced in medieval Europe, ritual magic's intellectual legacy remains in such texts as the Ars Notoria, The Book of Angels, and the Secrets of the Philosophers. Topics discussed include: the Jewish influence on Christian magic, an art historian's perspective on the images of ritual practice, the relationship of astrology and magic, and comparative

examinations of different texts. Paper edition (unseen), \$19.95. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Theosophy, Imagination, Tradition Antoine Faivre
2000-02-17 A historical and interpretive study of three aspects of Western esotericism from the Renaissance to the twentieth century.

Magic and Magicians in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Time Albrecht Classen 2017-10-23 There are no clear demarcation lines between magic, astrology, necromancy, medicine, and even sciences in the pre-modern world. Under the umbrella term 'magic,' the contributors to this volume examine a wide range of texts, both literary and religious, both medical and philosophical, in which the topic is discussed from many

different perspectives. The fundamental concerns address issue such as how people perceived magic, whether they accepted it and utilized it for their own purposes, and what impact magic might have had on the mental structures of that time. While some papers examine the specific appearance of magicians in literary texts, others analyze the practical application of magic in medical contexts. In addition, this volume includes studies that deal with the rise of the witch craze in the late fifteenth century and then also investigate whether the Weberian notion of disenchantment pertaining to the modern world can be maintained. Magic is, oddly but significantly, still around us and exerts its influence. Focusing on magic in the medieval world thus helps us to shed light on human culture at large.