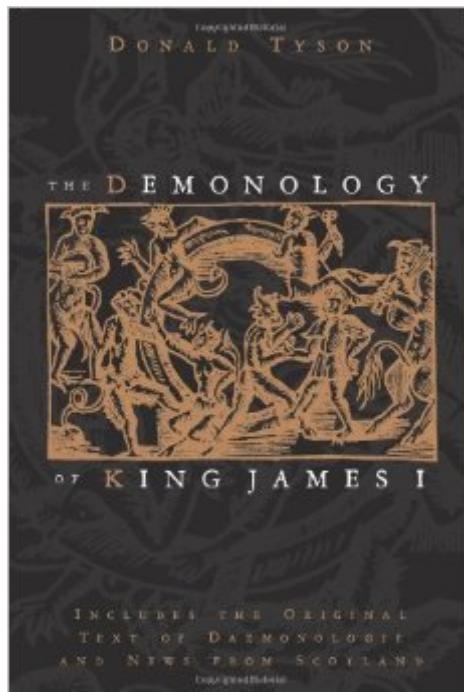


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The Demonology Of King James I: Includes The Original Text Of Daemonologie And News From Scotland



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Customer Reviews

Initial disclaimer: I'm approaching this book strictly from an historical, cultural, and psychosocial standpoint. Those with theological interests in demons in the service of Satan, guardian spirits, revenants, lists of black, white, and gray magic spells, etc. are likely to gain little or nothing from this review or from the book, for that matter; despite the title, file this one under "witchcraft." From the late 1400s to the late 1700s, tens of thousands of people were executed for witchcraft in Europe; the most infamous contemporary book, the *Malleus Maleficarum* (Hammer of Witches), was first published in 1486. James I (1566-1625) came along midstream, so to speak. In late 2014, the British media jumped on the discovery of protective witchmarks (hidden scratches made under floorboards, in ceilings joists and within a fireplace) in a bedroom used by James. These would have been created just after James made certain first-time occult practices a capital offence in 1604 (shortly after he became king of England and Ireland) and after the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. *Macbeth*, with its ghost scene and the three witches (or weird sisters), probably written between 1599 and 1606 and first performed in 1611, was consistent with James and the times. While the *Daemonologie* in its original and modernized versions and *News from Scotland* (original and modernized versions as well) make up the bulk of the book, I was mainly interested in the introduction, "James and the Witches" (pp. 1-43) and, particularly, the explanatory notes following each chapter. From those we learn the following, for example: For Jacobean science, a

meteor was any natural atmospheric phenomenon.

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