

# Magical Practice and Belief, 1800-present

One-day conference: 25 April 2003

There are many humanities scholars working in the field of magic from a wide variety of perspectives, but they have few opportunities to meet and develop their mutual understanding of a complex range of religious, historical, and literary phenomena. Major literary, philosophical, and religious figures and movements of the past few centuries were indebted to various aspects of magical practice and belief. This conference will provide a venue for encouraging new scholarship that cuts across a range of disciplines as well as new scholarship in particular disciplines that would be of interest to other scholars of magic. This will be an interdisciplinary conference that will make the study of magic available to a broad range of interested scholars.

9:30-10:00     *Registration*

10:00-10:05     *Welcome*

10:05-10:45     *Keynote Lecture*

[Professor Ronald Hutton](#) (University of Bristol)

'A General Framework for the History of European Magic'

10:45-11:00     *Coffee/Tea Break*

11:00-11:30     *Session One*

[Owen Davies](#) (University of Hertfordshire), 'Witchcraft Accusations in France 1850-1990'

11:30-12:00     [Ann Heilmann](#) (University of Swansea)

'That Blavatsky Woman Started It: Theosophical Desire and the Female Artist in Sarah Grand's New Woman Fiction'

12:00-12:30     Dionysios Psilopoulos (American College of Greece), 'The Book of the Law, A Vision, and the Equinox of the Gods'

12:30-2:00     *Lunch*

2:00-2:30     *Session Two*

[Joanne Pearson](#) (University of Cardiff), 'Rebel Angels: Magic and the Academy'

2:30-3:00     Hannah E. Sanders (Norwich School of Art and Design), 'Playing with Power-Teenage Witchcraft in Contemporary Britain from the Screen to the Scene'

3:00-3:30     Julia Mannherz (University of Cambridge)  
'Popular Occultism in Late Imperial Russia'

- 3:30-4:00      *Tea/Coffee Break*
- 4:00-4:30      *Session Three*  
Julian Vayne 'Two Worlds and In-between: Concepts and Use of Space in Modern Magick'
- 4:30-5:00      [Melvyn Willin](#) (University of Bristol), 'The Magic of Music in 21st Century Paganism & Witchcraft'
- 5.00-6.00      *Wine Reception*

To attend the conference:

Please send a cheque for £10.00 (payable to 'The University of Bristol') to:

*Alison Butler*  
*University of Bristol*  
*Department of Historical Studies*  
*13 Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1TB.*

Please include your name and address and a contact number (plus e-mail address if available). The conference fee will include refreshments.

Registration is free for postgraduates but you must send a photocopy of a valid student card to the address below to reserve a seat. The deadline for registration is April 4, 2003.

Any enquiries should be made to: [Alison.Butler@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.Butler@bristol.ac.uk)

#### [Directions to the University](#)

Accommodation:

There are a number of bed and breakfast places in Clifton (university area) and some modern hotels in the centre. Clifton is ca. 10 minute walk away, the centre 15-20 minute walk.

#### *City Centre*

Jurys Hotel Bristol, Prince St  
Tel (0117) 923 0333 // Fax (0117) 923 0300

Bristol City Travel Inn Metro, Haymarket  
Tel 0870 238 3307

Holiday Inn Express, Temple Gate  
Tel (0117) 930 4800 // Fax (0117) 930 4900

At weekends these hotels have single room rates of ca. £50-60 incl. breakfast.

### *Clifton*

There are three hotels of the Clifton Hotels Group on St Pauls Road. At weekends these hotels have single room rates of ca. £45-55 incl. breakfast:

#### Clifton Hotel

Tel (0117) 973 6882 // Fax (0117) 974 1082

#### Seeley's Hotel

Tel (0117) 973 8544 // Fax (0117) 973 2406

#### Washington Hotel

Tel (0117) 973 3980 // Fax (0117) 973 4740

There are also a number of guest houses, largely in the Clifton area:

#### Tyndalls Park Hotel (Tyndalls Park Road)

Tel (0117) 973 5407 // Fax (0117) 923 7965

#### Westbourne Hotel (St Pauls Road)

Tel (0117) 973 4214 // Fax (0117) 974 3552

**Bristol Tourist Office (0117) 926 0767 or 946 2222**

*The conference is being partially funded by the University of Bristol Alumni Foundation and the Royal Historical Society.*