

(Download pdf) A Dictionary of Superstitions

A Dictionary of Superstitions

From Oxford University Press

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From Oxford University Press : A Dictionary of Superstitions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Superstitions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an interesting reference book to have for bored rainy days or for writing promptsBy DanThis is an interesting reference book to have for bored rainy days or for writing prompts. The theme of the dictionary's entries has an inherent sense of history, belief, and questioning what we think we know.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy Blue CanoeMy degree's in religious studies, I bought this as a supplemental source of information. Typically, scholarly types are a little leery of "superstition", but I was pleasantly surprised by this book's integrity and thoroughness. I also haven't found any indication yet of religious bias where the author is claiming the rituals or practices of another religion "superstitions".0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy CarolAnn GriffinOK

Is it good or bad luck to mention a pig to a fisherman? What does it portend when you break a double-yolked egg? How many frogs do you need to cure whooping cough? Ranging from the familiar to the bizarre, and including everything from spells and omens to rituals and taboos, this delightfully informative dictionary covers a wide array of popular superstitions, touching on virtually every aspect of human culture. They embrace family life and the lore of farmers, sailors, miners, and actors; offer advice on the signs to observe when contemplating a journey or a marriage; reveal the significance of animals, plants, stones, colors, food and drink, the elements, and heavenly bodies; and

outline the precautions to be taken after a death in the house or during a thunderstorm. Each entry is arranged alphabetically according to its central idea or object, and illustrated with a selection of chronologically ordered quotations that indicate the history and development of each belief. Superstitions have never before been treated in such depth or on such a scale. An entertaining volume for anyone curious about the beliefs of the past, *A Dictionary of Superstitions* also makes a valuable contribution to the study of folklore, providing the first systematic account of beliefs that form an integral part of our social life.

From *Library Journal* This one-volume reference work on superstitions does not compare favorably with such works as Edwin Mona A. Radford's *Encyclopedia of Superstitions* (Greenwood, 1969. reprint). Its two major flaws are a failure to spell out clearly at the beginning of each entry exactly what superstition is being covered and a tendency to plunge immediately into ancient examples of folk wisdom or incidents on the subject. This is not so much a dictionary as a trove of historical examples of superstitious behavior. As such, it has a very limited appeal to advanced scholars and limited appeal to libraries. It could, however, serve as a back-up for those who want further information not found in works like that of the Radfords.- Gordon Stein, Univ. of Rhode Island Lib., Kingston Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. ` from previous edition a browser's delight' *Sunday Times* `wholly admirable, highly readable ... a memorable piece of work' *Literary* `for those who presumed they had little but magpies and spilt milk to worry about, it offers a whole new insight into the potential terrors of everyday life' *Books* `Touch wood, cross-fingers, this book will be a success ... it certainly deserves to be' *Scotsman* About the Author About the Editors: Iona Opie is noted for her pioneering work on children's folklore and games. Moira Tatem is a former school teacher and an expert on superstitions.