

Contents

List of Illustrations
Acknowledgements
Introduction

I	Popular Religion	1
	Externals of Official Devotion	1
	Misconceptions about Religion	6
	Orthodox Ideas	21
II	Traditional Medicine	43
	Traditional Healers	43
	Traditional Techniques	47
	Pilgrimages	51
	Pagan Rites	57
	Miracles	63
III	Apparitions and Prodigies	72
	Werewolves and Monsters	72
	Hallucinations	80
	Fairies and Elves	83
	Ghosts	88
	Omens	92

IV	Witchcraft and the Sense of Injustice	100
	Responsibility for Misfortune	101
	Consultation with the Counter-Sorcerer	108
	Primitive Justice	113
	Public Attitudes to the Sorcerer and his Victim	116
V	The Possessed	120
	Social Attitudes to Madness	120
	Influence of Culture on Delirium	122
	Functions and Forms of Madness	124
VI	Prophets and Prophecy	140
	Celestial Letters	140
	Visionaries	150
VII	Demonology and Inventive Magic	165
	Books of Spells	165
	Magic and the Pursuit of Happiness	171
VIII	Fantasy and Fiction: The Vocabulary of Discontent	185
	Folktales	185
	Broadsheets and Chapbooks	192
	Carnival	194
	Tall Stories	198
	Conclusion	215
	Notes	231
	Bibliography	265
	Index	312