

HAZARDS OF THE DARK ARTS

ADVICE FOR MEDIEVAL PRINCES ON WITCHCRAFT

AND MAGIC

Johannes Hartlieb's

Book of All Forbidden Arts (1456)

and

Ulrich Molitoris's

On Witches and Pythonesses (1489)



Translated by

RICHARD KIECKHEFER

The Pennsylvania State University Press

University Park, Pennsylvania

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	vii
Acknowledgments	viii
List of Abbreviations	ix

Introduction	1
--------------	---

✱ JOHANNES HARTLIEB, *The Book of All Forbidden Arts*

A. Prologue	21
B. Powers of the Devil	23
C. An example from Caesarius of Heisterbach	27
D. Moral exhortation	30
E. Nigramancy (necromancy)	32
F. Geomancy	44
G. Correlation of arts with elements	53
H. Hydromancy	54
I. Aeromancy	60
J. Pyromancy	66
K. Chiromancy	75
L. Spatulamancy	84
M. General prohibition	92

✱ ULRICH MOLITORIS, *On Witches and Pythonesses, in German "Unholden" or "Hexen"*

Letter	93
The chapters of the present treatise	96

PART I

- Question 1. Weather magic 96
Question 2. Harm to people, even infants 100
Question 3. Impotence 103
Question 4. Change of form 105
Question 5. Riding on sticks or wolves 113
Question 6. Intercourse of Devil with women 118
Question 7. Children born to demons and witches 120
Question 8. Foretelling future things 124

PART II

- Question 1 resumed. Weather magic 128
Question 4 resumed. Change of form 138
Question 5 resumed. Riding on sticks or wolves 142
Questions 6–7 resumed. Intercourse of Devil with women, and children
born to demons and witches 145

Epilogue 149

Selected Bibliography 154

Index 156

ILLUSTRATIONS

All of the figures are from Ulrich Molitoris, *De laniis et phitonicis mulieribus* (Reutlingen: Johann Otmar, ca. 1489). Reproduced with permission of the Newberry Library.

- 1 Presentation of the dialogue to Archduke Sigismund (sig. a i^v) 94
- 2 Witch shooting a man with an arrow to make him lame
(sig. a iiij^v) 101
- 3 Witches in animal form, flying (sig. a viij^r) 106
- 4 Male witch riding on a wolf (sig. b ij^v) 114
- 5 Witch embraced by a demon (sig. b iv^v) 119
- 6 Witches at a cauldron, performing weather magic
(sig. c i^r) 129
- 7 Witches gathered for a meal (sig. d i^r) 146