



# The Discovery of Witches

*Matthew Hopkins*

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### **The Discovery of Witches Details**

Date : Published May 16th 2012 (first published 1647)

ISBN :

Author : Matthew Hopkins

Format : Kindle Edition 26 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Witchcraft, European Literature, British Literature, Religion, Literature, 17th Century

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### **Justin Howe says**

More a pamphlet than a book, it's largely a question and answer tract on Hopkins' witch finding methods and casually brings up torture, imps, and the differences between devil's marks and hemorrhoids. All in all if the magistrates sought to intimidate Hopkins with their question, they failed, because he turned their questions around and made the whole case an advertisement for his abilities and services.

You can download a copy at [Project Gutenberg](#).

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### **Johnny Edwards says**

Very quick and interesting read. Its hard to believe the tactics used in order to say some one was a witch or not. In my opinion Hopkins the witch finder was just a serial killer, However people did believe differently then we do today and were a lot more superstitious which caused them to do the things they did to so called witches. If your interested in how they went about determining rather or not a person is a witch then this is a book for you.

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### **Jeanette says**

Interesting read. Written in original language so needs deciphering a bit, but a bit scary to think matthew hopkins actually got away with this, and sad for all those people unjustly accysed, tortured and killed as witches.

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### **Matthew Cooper says**

A very short book, taking the form of question and answer on the practice of discovering witches. This book is quite unusual in that it is written by Matthew Hopkins, the infamous "Witchfinder General", who was responsible for the deaths of a number of women in the 1600's believed by him to be witches. Obviously, this book is not intended to be entertaining, but is simply a transcript of an interrogation by judges of Hopkins, with these notes being taken down by Hopkins himself. It gives a good impression of peoples thoughts on the matter at the time (interestingly the judges are perfectly happy to accept that the devil is a real figure, but less convinced of his claim that these women are witches). It also gives an insight into how they discovered witches, things that were inadmissible as evidence (such as claims of flying on broomsticks). It is basically the work of somebody who is quite troubled, and completely unwilling to accept that they were at fault. Recommended for anyone who is interested in the subject, as this is very short and probably the best example of such a document as it is written by the actual witchfinder.

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### **Emma-jane Stevens says**

Fascinating reading. I hated every expression in it but couldn't help but read on to discover yet more crazy explanations.

It is a fascinating piece of propaganda to back up the horrific things that were being done to "witches" at the time. You truly can't understand the crazy thoughts going on in people's heads during the witch hunts without reading something like this.

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### **Kitty says**

Really, \*really\* interesting read. After reading this I'm still not sure whether or not Hopkins genuinely thought he was doing God's work. I'm leaning towards no, he was making too much money while doing so, and despite his upbringing he always struck me as the type who was more interested in developing his image as a gentleman of means rather than a man of God ... still, even if he didn't believe in The Cause there were those who read this who surely did. Highly recommended.

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### **Clint says**

Not nearly as freaky as I wanted it to be, it IS the real life full on Witch-Finder General's little treatise on how he finds witches. It was nice to see that even at this time people were starting to realize what a full-on fucking lunatic thing witch-finding was (is?), as this is mainly his attempts to answer questions posed by doubters of his craft. Too bad witches aren't real, I'd really like for this guy to be dragged to Hell by a few of them.

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### **J.T.K. Gibbs says**

Disturbing.

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### **0xADADA says**

A good intro to the wild world of medieval witch trials.

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### **Jules says**

Although only a few pages long, I found this report to be absolutely chilling. Matthew Hopkins was the Witchfinder general and seems to have been absolutely convinced of the righteousness of his cause. The questions seem to have been put to him and these are his answers. This was a real man, with a real conviction. Horrific.

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## Essi says

Selittelyn makua :D

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## Patrick says

"All that the witch-finder doth is to fleece the country of their money, and therefore rides and goes to townes to have imployment, and promiseth them faire promises..."

This is a fascinating pamphlet in which Matthew Hopkins; the self-appointed 'Witchfinder General'; tries to justify his persecutions by answering some of the accusations levelled against him. It is impossible to know exactly what he really believed but, when it came time for him to have to defend himself against his detractors, his days as a homicidal religious zealot were numbered. That was all too late for his victims who had been tortured and executed. (Despite his assertion to the contrary, his mission was also very lucrative!) Well worth spending ten minutes or so to read...

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## Otto Hahaa says

Öh, mitä tästä nyt sanoisi? Toisaalta on hauskaa, että tällaisiakin historiallisia kuriositeetteja käännetään suomeksi, toisaalta voi kysyä, että onko tämä jo kuriositeeteissakin laskettuna kovin vähäpäätöinen juttu (hmm, jos minulla olisi osoittaa joku parempi käänösaihe, olisi kritiikkini purevampaa). Matthew Hopkins ei liene ollut erityisen mukava mies, eikä hänestä saa esim. väärinymmäretettyä sankaria millään.

Lukukokemus ei siis ole mieltäylentävä, vaan sitä kauheampi mitä vähemmän modernin ironisesti asiaa miettii. Kirjanen on toki ihan kivasti designattu ja painettu. Käännös on sujuva, mutta jääin miettimään, onko hyvä idea jättää otsikkoon ja sinne tänne tahallaan vanhahtavia muotoja ("Noitain").

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## Alexandre says

### **The questions it purports to answer are much more enlightening than the answers themselves.**

This is a very interesting book. I was turned to it while reading Good Omens which makes mention of Matthew Hopkins the self-proclaimed Witchfinder General.

In this book, Matthew Hopkins answers his critiques and while his answers are interesting, the questions reveal a much more sophisticated and nuanced view of witch hunts by his contemporaries than they are often credited for. For instance, concern is expressed that sleep deprivation amounts to torture and that like all torture or its threat, it causes false confessions. Hopkins also grants to his critiques that a claimed witch mark could be the result of a medical condition.

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## **Bonnie says**

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I came upon the mention of this interrogation after watching 'Bell, Book, and Candle' and then researching the name Pyewacket (the cat familiar name in the movie.)

A question and answer interrogation between Hopkins, the "Witchfinder General" from the 1600's, and those who were judging his actions as 'witchfinder'. Who the interrogating magistrates are is never revealed but the read is very informative of the thoughts at the time concerning witches.

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