

H.C. Erik Midelfort: Witch hunting in southwestern Germany  
1562-1684. The social and intellectual foundations.  
Stanford University Press 1972 \$ 11.50

The book represents one of the most detailed regional studies of witch hunting ever made. In bringing together material on the economic, political and cultural history of southwestern Germany on the one hand an attempt is made to place witch hunting in a broader perspective. In bringing together material on a number of witch trials on the other hand attempts are made to portrait the patterns and the dynamics of witch hunting on the local level. The book is noteworthy for its intelligent use of available data and its analysis beyond mere impressionistic descriptions. Statistics are given with regard to the volume of the devils literature over time (as an indicator of the popular fascination with the subject) and with regard to the social characteristics of suspects in different phases of the witch hunt.

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