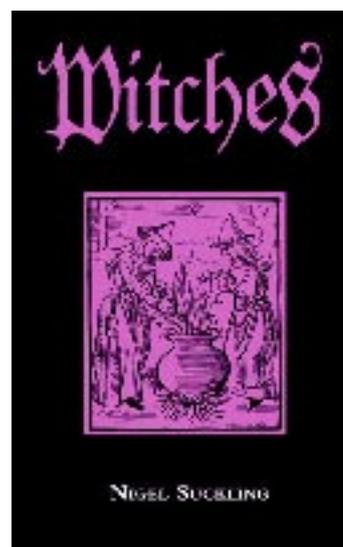


# LEAD TITLE Witches

by Nigel Suckling

Market	Myths and Legends/MBS
BIC Code	FGL / VX
Report Code	NP
Published	21 September 2006
Extent	96 pp, 184 x 114mm
Binding	plc hardback / jacket
ISBN 1904332471	EAN 9781904332473
Price	£5.99
Available	ex-USA/Can/ANZ/SA



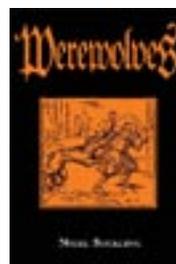
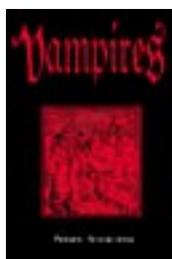
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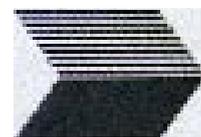


Published by **FACTS, FIGURES & FUN**, an imprint of AAPPL

Distributed by **TURNAROUND** (visit our website at [www.turnaround-uk.com](http://www.turnaround-uk.com))

Unit 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, Wood Green, London N22 6TZ

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# Witches

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One of the most famous witches of non-classical legend is Morgan le Fay, King Arthur's half-sister and nemesis. She first appears in the twelfth century *Life of Merlin* by Geoffrey of Monmouth where she is represented as a healer and shapeshifter, possibly one of the faery folk of ancient Britain. She also ruled over the Isle of Avalon with her sisters.

A useful charm against witchcraft is to bind twigs of rowan, ash and birch together with a red thread and carry them on your person. Their combined virtues will turn away any malicious spell.

In Medieval times the broom or besom was a symbol of domesticity, of the woman's realm. Because most witches were female the broom became their symbol by association.

