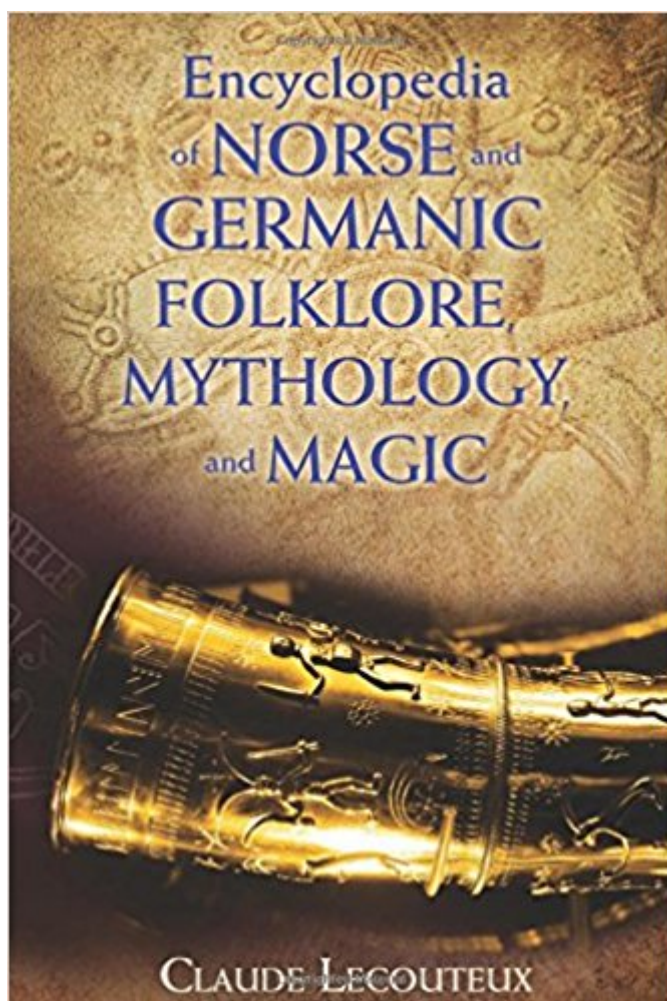


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Encyclopedia Of Norse And Germanic Folklore, Mythology, And Magic



Synopsis

A thorough reference to the many deities, magical beings, mythical places, and ancient customs of the Norse and Germanic regions of Europe

– Explores the legends and origins of well-known gods and figures such as Odin, Thor, Krampus, and the Valkyries, as well as a broad range of magical beings such as the Elf King, the Lorelei, the Perchten, dwarves, trolls, and giants

– Draws upon a wealth of well-known and rare sources, such as the Poetic Edda and The Deeds of the Danes by Saxo Grammaticus

– Examines folktales, myths, and magical beliefs from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and England

The legends of the Norse and Germanic regions of Europe--spanning from Germany and Austria across Scandinavia to Iceland and England--include a broad range of mythical characters and places, from Odin and Thor, to berserkers and Valhalla, to the Valkyries and Krampus. In this encyclopedia, Claude Lecouteux explores the origins, connections, and tales behind many gods, goddesses, magical beings, rituals, folk customs, and mythical places of Norse and Germanic tradition. More than a reference to the Aesir and the Vanir pantheons, this encyclopedia draws upon a wealth of well-known and rare sources, such as the Poetic Edda, the Saga of Ynglingar by Snorri Sturluson, and The Deeds of the Danes by Saxo Grammaticus. Beyond the famous and infamous Norse gods and goddesses, Lecouteux also provides information on lesser-known figures from ancient Germanic pagan tradition such as the Elf King, the Lorelei, the Perchten, land spirits, fairies, dwarves, trolls, goblins, bogeymen, giants, and many other beings who roam the wild, as well as lengthy articles on well-known figures and events such as Siegfried (Sigurd in Norse) and Ragnarök. The author describes the worship of the elements and trees, details many magical rituals, and shares wild folktales from ancient Europe, such as the strange adventure of Peter Schlemihl and the tale of the Cursed Huntsman. He also dispels the false beliefs that have arisen from the Nazi hijacking of Germanic mythology and from its longtime suppression by Christianity. Complete with rare illustrations and information from obscure sources appearing for the first time in English, this detailed reference work represents an excellent resource for scholars and those seeking to reconnect to their pagan pasts and restore the old religion.

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Customer Reviews

“For libraries with specialized collections in anthropology, folklore, and mythology.”
(Library Journal, Patricia D. Lothrop, May 2016)

Claude Lecouteux is a former professor of medieval literature and civilization at the Sorbonne. He is the author of numerous books on medieval and pagan afterlife beliefs and magic, including *The Book of Grimoires*, *Dictionary of Ancient Magic Words and Spells*, and *The Tradition of Household Spirits*. He lives in Paris.

I gave this as a gift and she absolutely loved it. I browsed through it and will probably get a copy to keep.

It's Claude Lecouteux, what is there to be indecisive about? Buy it!

Very information & a good read.

It is absolutely what it says, an encyclopedia. I wish it had pictures. For me, I use it as a reference book, more than actually reading through it.

Excellent information

LeCouteux's work is amazing and this is another example.

I've always been a big fan of Claude Lecouteux's work, and when I heard he was publishing a

reference work relating to Germanic lore, I pre-ordered it at once. It finally arrived, and I've had a chance to look through it. And it is everything I had hoped it would be. The obvious comparisons are going to be made between this work and other reference works on Germanic religion and mythology, such as *A Dictionary of Northern Mythology* (probably the standard in the field, at least in English), *Cassell's Dictionary of Norse Myth & Legend* (Cassell Reference), *Norse Mythology: A Guide to Gods, Heroes, Rituals, and Beliefs*, and to a lesser extent *Encyclopaedia of the Viking Age*. Where Lecouteux's book distinguishes itself from those titles is both in its lack of focus on the Norse material and the Viking era (although it does not distance itself from either), as well as its inclusion of tons of folkloric references, rather than sticking to the same old themes found in Norse and/or Germanic mythology. And that in particular is where this work shines, since this is a focus that all too few such works, let alone *Asatruar* who endeavor to recreate the Germanic mindset, have. That the book was originally written in French (and, I presume, published in that language) gives the entries an international appeal that is so often denied to those of us without fluency in a variety of European languages. The sources span the gamut from Germany, France, Poland, Scandinavia, and even further afield. Just having access to condensed entries based on that broad range of material is a reason to get this book. But to take a few of the more interesting entries as examples of the breadth and depth of the coverage, we have subjects as varied as *Hernoss*, a sort of idol that was still to be found in Norway in the 19th century, a brief discussion of changelings (children who are stolen from their parents and substituted with supernatural children), a lengthy discussion of *Perchta*, and *Ourk*, said to be the name of the leader of the Wild Hunt in a district in the Tyrol. This in addition to the standard entries on Norse gods and mythological themes that one would expect in a book of this type. All in all, this is a fantastic book, and well worth it for the wealth of folkloric sources, as well as the conventional entries informed by folklore, that it brings to the table. I don't think it replaces Simek's Dictionary, but rather it accompanies it well, filling in all manner of gaps. It definitely stands as a worthy addition to any *Asatruar*'s library. Five stars out of five.

This IS just what sounds like: an encyclopedia. Valuable resource. I Love this man's work.

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