

Making Witches: Newfoundland Traditions of Spells and Counterspells. By Barbara Rieti. (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008. Pp. xx + 149, coda, notes, index, ISBN 978-0-7735-3360-8)

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Volume 32, numéro 2, 2010

Tourisme culturel
Cultural Tourism

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1006315ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1006315ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Association Canadienne d'Ethnologie et de Folklore

ISSN

1481-5974 (imprimé)

1708-0401 (numérique)

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Citer ce compte rendu

Roubo, K. (2010). Compte rendu de [Making Witches: Newfoundland Traditions of Spells and Counterspells. By Barbara Rieti. (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008. Pp. xx + 149, coda, notes, index, ISBN 978-0-7735-3360-8)]. *Ethnologies*, 32(2), 298-301.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1006315ar>

and Folklore, *Brothers and Beasts* represents not merely a scholarly exploration of how men relate to fairy tales, but also an illustration of the overlap between creativity in stories and in one's own life.

For both this and the previous collection, submissions focused on the need to express the tenderness and urgency of tale-telling in order to prevent losing that personal connection. As Jack Zipes notes in the Afterword, though, this diversity of personal connections leads to a lack of focus and, in this case, no clear "masculine approach" to fairy tales. However, the contribution of *Brothers and Beasts* is to show how fairy tales continue to play a vibrant role in men's lives, since, as Zipes notes, the fairy tale "cannot thrive without innovation, just as we cannot thrive without innovation" (185). The authors in this collection demonstrate that fairy tales remain alive today in their many, often contradictory relationships with the telling of tales, and further show that each engagement both sustains and transforms reader and tale. This anthology demonstrates how men, as creators and receivers of stories, relate to tales and thus provides a precedent for scholars to more clearly understand how tales remain an active, lived part of day-to-day life.

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Making Witches: Newfoundland Traditions of Spells and Counterspells. By Barbara Rieti. (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008. Pp. xx + 149, coda, notes, index, ISBN 978-0-7735-3360-8)

Years in the making, *Making Witches: Newfoundland Traditions of Spells and Counterspells* delves into archives and memories to explore an underrepresented aspect of Newfoundland folklore. As the title implies, Rieti sees witches as being "made," having that designation applied by others when circumstances and behavioral anomalies leave them marginalized and thus open to suspicion within the community. She problematises the term "witch" by recognizing that the "quintessentially dyadic scenario" of witch and victim is in actuality "a one person affair" (3) wherein the victim/accuser asserts the power of the mainstream over the marginalized witch, resulting in alterations to perceptions and treatment of the "witch" within the community. While

the witches themselves do not generally seek the appellation, they may embrace it once so labeled because with it comes the power to alleviate circumstances of poverty in a community that offers little in the way of social services. Throughout the text, Rieti is sensitive to her own uncertain role in this tradition as she amasses narratives *about* witches, but is able to include the voice of just one individual who self-identifies as a witch.

The book is divided into three parts, each successive section more tightly focused than the previous. It begins with "Witchful Thinking: An Overview of Patterns and Themes," which surveys various aspects of witch-related narratives and traditions in Newfoundland. These include economic factors within isolated communities having limited resources, the influence of seers and prophesying for those who make an uncertain living from the sea, as well as accounts of male witches and unlucky "jinkers" who bring misfortune in their wake. She also addresses social and gendered aspects of witchcraft manifestations, some of the psychological implications of spells and measures for retaliating, and the wariness of European settlers regarding the potential for magical consequences should they offend native traders. Citing primarily Mi'kmaq examples in the latter subsection, Rieti is careful to "emphasize that settlers are the source of almost all the available material" (54) and that Mi'kmaq accounts have yet to be examined. This section also looks at the supernatural traveling abilities of Jersey men wishing to visit their homes in the British Isles, the "black heart" or "black art" books thought to convey power to their owners, and touches briefly on the intersection of witchcraft and religion, concluding that among the people she interviewed and the evidence she examined, "Narrative and experience, not theology, supply the best evidence for most people" and that she sees "witching as essentially an areligious phenomenon" (71). Rieti groups these diverse examples together because the various individuals discussed draw their identity as wielders of supernatural power from the people around them, who used "templates of proven utility to produce stories that were malleable according to need, belief, and desire" usually in response to "a breach of social accord" (78). This exploration provides solid groundwork for understanding her more detailed investigations of witches and their communities.

The second section of the text, "Hagridden Barrenville", narrows its focus and looks at interrelated neighborhoods in an area believed to be "infested" with witches, and how the size of the town affects how

witches acquire the label. Because Rieti found particularly extensive data referencing the area of Barrenville, she pursued fieldwork there and discovered that it is not only in small, isolated communities that witch traditions flourish. Barrenville is a substantial and prosperous town with a broad repertoire of witch lore. In fact, Rieti believes that the town's size contributes to sustaining and promoting the witch tradition there. The variety of neighborhoods allows for social distance between individuals who scrutinize one another, leading to the assignment of traits according to preexisting templates and traditions. The author also postulates that "the town's size also supported a kind of conceptual formulary in that recurring ideas, motifs, and expressions abound" (80), a redundancy of detail that would wear thin in a less populous setting. This section includes accounts of certain individuals from different informants, though these details are not as inclusive as in the profiles in the third portion of the text.

In the final and shortest portion, "Triptych: Three Portraits", Rieti presents data about specific individuals who have been singled out as local witches within their communities. Described as "assemblages" because Rieti drew on whichever sources mentioned them, in order to flesh out the data, these are admittedly incomplete sketches of the "witches". The subjects here are women and, surprisingly, one provides invaluable firsthand information by agreeing to speak with the author. Rieti provides fuller images of the lives of these women, as well as their character traits, behaviour, and the circumstances that prompt the community's response to them, whether positive or negative. They are wives, mothers, healers, fortunetellers, counselors, undertakers, and markedly forthright. As Rieti puts it, "All three were outspoken, sometimes to the point of aggression or offence; their words, even when benign, broke the bounds of ordinary discourse" (149). These profiles are solid, but the fading of traditions in Newfoundland regarding witches is evident in the gaps that the reader might like to see filled.

On the one hand, the organization of the book works well, with the increasingly specific examples and narratives leading the reader deeper into the details for a more thorough understanding of witch traditions, spells, counterspells and prophecy as they manifest in Newfoundland. On the other hand, the extensive examples and data in the first section, which comprises the first half of the book, are in striking contrast to the ever shorter chapters which follow. The short coda at the end only adds to this effect, giving the book an overall front-loaded feeling and

imparting the sensation that it has simply trailed off. This is, however, more of an aesthetic concern than a significant deficiency and does not detract from the value of the study. This is a fascinating text of interest for its perspectives on gender, marginalization, belief, and the social pressures that intersect with all of these to form a rich and enduring tradition, albeit one with a distinctly darker side.

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Le suicide chez les jeunes. Autochtones et l'effondrement de la continuité personnelle et culturelle. Par Michael J. Chandler, Christopher E. Lalonde, Bryan W. Sokol et Darcy Hallett. (Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 2010, Pp. xiv+212, ISBN 978-2-7637-8766-4)

Les psychologues et chercheurs Michael J. Chandler, Christopher E. Lalonde, Bryan W. Sokol et Darcy Hallett traitent dans leur ouvrage, comme le titre l'indique, du lien qu'il est possible d'établir entre la continuité personnelle et culturelle et le taux de suicide chez les jeunes. Leur ouvrage relie cinq études menées par les chercheurs, traitant toutes de la persistance personnelle et culturelle et/ou du suicide chez les jeunes en général et les jeunes autochtones. Cet ouvrage présente un intérêt certain pour les chercheurs, les citoyens – s'ils ne se découragent pas à la vue d'une table des matières aussi théorique et méthodologique –, mais également pour les communautés autochtones et les membres de l'État, auxquels le chapitre V sur la continuité culturelle pourrait donner des outils pour le futur.

Le chapitre I (Introduction, 13-17) met d'emblée cartes sur table : l'ouvrage traite d'abord et avant tout du phénomène de continuité personnelle et culturelle, c'est-à-dire du paradoxe de la continuité dans le changement, et des efforts faits par les jeunes pour réussir à se percevoir comme des êtres se maintenant dans le temps. Question complexe. Les chercheurs présentent également le deuxième problème d'importance auquel ils s'intéressent et qui est intrinsèquement lié au premier : les coûts et conséquences de l'échec de cette conciliation de la *continuité* et du *changement*, qui se traduisent entre autres par un nombre de suicides plus élevés chez les jeunes que dans les autres tranches d'âge. Enfin, les auteurs s'interrogent en troisième lieu sur le suicide autochtone : comment se fait-il que les taux prennent de telles