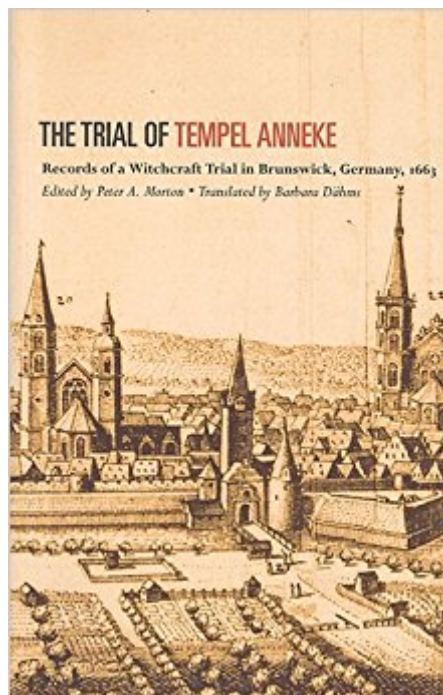




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# The Trial Of Tempel Anneke: Records Of A Witchcraft Trial In Brunswick, Germany, 1663



## Synopsis

The accused was Anna Roleffes, known as Tempel Anneke. She was arrested on the charge of witchcraft in June of 1663. She was found guilty and was executed on December 30th that same year. Her trial was long and involved, with many witnesses from several towns and villages. Consisting of direct translations of the trial testimony, *The Trial of Tempel Anneke* portrays a large and varied cast of characters including trades people, farmers, local nobility, village drunkards, and Tempel Anneke herself. Tempel Anneke was in several ways typical of those accused of witchcraft, yet from the testimony she emerges as a complex and controversial figure. She was literate and owned a few books and herbals; she prided herself on her medical and pharmaceutical knowledge and until the final stages of the trial when her confession was extracted under torture, she was sharp, assertive, and even witty in her responses to questioning. This English translation offers direct archival insight into the workings of 17th century law, contemporary understandings of justice, perceptions of natural and magical causes, and above all, the social history of the period. While other witchcraft materials exist, this is the only text available in English that allows students to follow a witchcraft trial from beginning to end. Highly readable, this astonishing narrative is perfectly suited to being read as a complete document. The useful additions of introduction, appendices, glossary, and index provide readers with important background information so that they can engage directly with the material.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Most, if not all, readers will come to this book seeking accurate information about a trial that deals

with an event and a mindset very distant from our own. The translation offers exactly that: it affords us a glimpse at the judicial and legal complexities that governed this witch trial, the interrogations, and the final prosecution of the accused. Helpful footnotes shed light on some of the more obscure procedures, provide names not immediately familiar, and enlighten us about unfamiliar colloquialisms. All this makes the book an excellent primary source for undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as for scholars who may not have access to the archive or who cannot read German.' (Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft)'Peter A. Morton's edition of the papers relating to [Tempel Anneke's] case, which are ably translated by Barbara Dahms, provides an excellent insight into how the dynamics of a witch-trial operated. The subject matter is not sensationalized, and, as Morton makes clear in his introduction, The Trial of Tempel Anneke is not going to revolutionize our understanding of the European witch-hunts. But the reader willing to stay with the texts of Anneke's trial will be left with a clear impression of how suspicions could build against a supposed witch, how the evidence of witnesses demonstrated that witchcraft and magic were firmly imbricated in the popular culture of the period, and how the accused witch would find her certainty in her innocence destabilized and eroded, a process aided by but not entirely attributable to torture.' (The Times Literary Supplement)

Peter A. Morton is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Humanities at Mount Royal University. Barbara Dahms is a translator.

Excellent retelling of a 400 year old murder case..I mean witch trial..

If you want to read a firsthand account of a famous medieval witch trial this is it. The historical record here is rich and spellbinding.

Well Written. Helped in my class.

as expected

Besides the Joan of Arc and Salem trials, the trial of Tempel Anneke is the only other witchcraft trial to be translated into English. Do you know why this is? Do you know why there is also a complete lack of reviews for this book as of 9/27/13? That's because these witch trials should be an embarrassment to ALL Christians. This is clear evident documentation of how delusional religious

minds of this period led to the deaths of thousands of innocent people. Tempel Anneke was just one of those people and her trial was typical in what transpired. The Trial of Tempel Anneke edited by Peter Morton is an excellent, well-made documentation of an authentic witchcraft trial in Brunswick, Germany 1663. Through this book you will get to witness the questioning and torture process that eventually led to a confession and death of an innocent woman who had been so thoroughly worn out and beaten down that she confessed to actually making a pact with Satan. This woman, as a product of these times, believed so strongly in religion that she accepted the fate of having to die for her sins against Christianity. It's a truly sad account of how the power of religion was able to control so much of these people's lives at this time. The legal faculty of the University of Jena in Germany, formed a judgment of guilty for Tempel Anneke that would also be approved by the Higher Court which would lead to her execution on December 30th, 1663. Here is what she was found guilty of:

1. Renouncing the costly sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Trinity, the sacrament of Baptism, and the entire Christian doctrine
2. Swearing to be Satan's own and submitting to him
3. Receiving the mark of Satan on her body
4. Learning sorcery
5. Visiting the Devil's dances
6. Having sex with the Devil (truly unbelievable!)
7. Sending the power of Satan into a man's leg so that the leg wasted away
8. Sending the power of Satan into people's animals so that they died
9. Putting salamanders, that came to her after having sex with Satan, in a pot under a man's door so that when he came out the Devil would fly into his head and he would become lame (again, unbelievable)
10. Being whispered to by Satan so that she could tell a man where his belongings were
11. Bewitching a child

The final judgment states "So because of the crimes committed and confessed to she (Tempel Anneke) will be condemned from life to death by fire. However, if she will consistently persist in her confession with felt penitence she will be given mercy in that her head will be cut off with a sword and shall be burned together with the body." What nice guys they were. As long as she didn't try to recant her confession, that was given under torture, then they would just chop off her head before burning her. This trial is clear evidence of the murder of an innocent woman. It's not just Tempel Anneke. This same thing happened over and over again to thousands of innocent people from the time of the Inquisitions through the end of the witchhunts. This is why there are no more English translations of these kinds of trials other than this one. Christians don't want to face the evidence of how absurd this period of time was. To the modern mind all of this is so absurd that it can almost infuriate. How was this sort of delusion acceptable? The power religion held over the people of this time is truly amazing. Look at this list again. Notice, the main accusation and conviction here is not so much witchcraft. It's heresy. Heresy against the Christian religion. Making a pact with Satan. THAT'S what led to her death. Heresy has been pursued since the Roman Emperor Theodosius made heresy

against catholic Christianity punishable with his Edict of Thessalonica in 380 CE. As Tempel was reminded "To honor God the Lord and to tell the truth", she was questioned over and over again as to whether she had learned the ten commandments, how long it had been since she had taken holy communion, whether she had handled the Holy Communion cracker (yes, a cracker) indecently, whether she had made a pact with the devil, how Satan came to her, what did Satan teach her, how often she fornicated with Satan and where did they have sex. She was even accused of Satan coming to her and having sex with her while she was in her cell. Satan was repeatedly referred to as "her lover the Evil Enemy." Tempel Anneke would say before being tortured that "she didn't know the Devil, Jesus Christ may preserve us from that." She would repeatedly make religious comments to her questioner/torturer such as "God should save her", "In the name of God", "I have prayed many a Lord's prayer", and "dear Jesus Christ will save me". Before torture, she would say that "she made no pact with the Devil, she had nothing to do with the Devil." This poor woman would cry and state that "she has no knowledge of that and that it would make God in heaven pity that she should say what she did not know." She would "hit her chest and say she was willing to answer to God that she didn't do it." She would say "With God there is mercy, he would not leave me with Satan, Oh I will not despair." She is even thanked God that it came to all this and that she was brought to her repentance. But, on August 24th 1663, the University of Jena in Germany sent their notice that "The said Anneke Tempel should be questioned again without torture in the presence of the executioner and his torture instruments. And, if she does not confess right away, to question her with torture." And in October the torture began. As the book states "Because Tempel Anneke concealed the truth on various Inquisitionales during the previous Territion so she is taken today at seven in the evening into the deep cellar. The executioner blindfolded her, also he put leg screws on her legs. As the executioner tightened the leg screws again and talked seriously to her, she declared that she would speak the truth." As would be the case in so many other witch prosecutions, Tempel Anneke would now tell them what they wanted to hear to stop the torture and hopefully be saved by God. She confessed to making a pact with Satan and fornicating with him. She says that she met Satan in a granary where Satan told her under the moonlight to step into a circle and cut her finger with a needle to give her blood to Satan. She confessed to letting Satan mark her on her body which was just a scar on her knee. The executioner even made a comment that "it looked like a wound or smallpox scar." This scar was actually examined by a master barber where the scar was prodded with a sharp instrument. The scar, which had become hardened with overgrown skin, did not hurt Anneke when poked at so it was confirmed to be the mark of the Devil. She confessed to letting the Holy Communion cracker slip from her mouth and into her napkin which she later gave to people

she knew so that they could shoot more accurately with their weapons (my head spins from this sort of delusion). She confessed to bewitching children too. She even confessed to blowing inside a pear to make the Devil appear in a pear so that when a child ate it he would become sick. She cried and said that she was sorry with all her heart about her sins. She wanted heartily to repent and be forgiven by God. She believed that as the book states "She behaved wretchedly, saying, there would be mercy with God and the authorities, they would be able to be merciful to her." But that was not to be. After she learned of her fate, she even requested that the court officers be compassionate with her, as is her father in heaven, and allow her to still receive communion before she died. One of her last comments was "Oh if it would only come to an end, I am tired of it all here." Final comments in the trial were that "Anneke Tempel prayed many, many Lord's Prayer, as you can see from her linen cap also cried bitterly today. She wished eternal blessedness and a joyful New Year for the EE Council and the court officers." Then on December 30th 1663, her crimes were read out loud to a public hearing with the primary crime being "Tempel Anneke, has admitted and several times confessed that she renounced the costly sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Holy Trinity, the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, and the entire Christian doctrine, and swore to be Satan's own, and to submit to him, upon that she received from Satan a mark on her body, and learned sorcery. Further has Tempel Anneke admitted several times that she often abused the Holy Host, visited the Devil's or witches dances, and fornicated with the Evil Enemy." Her head was then chopped off and the head and body were burned. Christians should be ashamed and embarrassed by such crimes against innocent people like Tempel Anneke.

I bought an Old-Used book for really cheap because it's just for college use, but it looked brand new. No bent pages or bad binding.

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