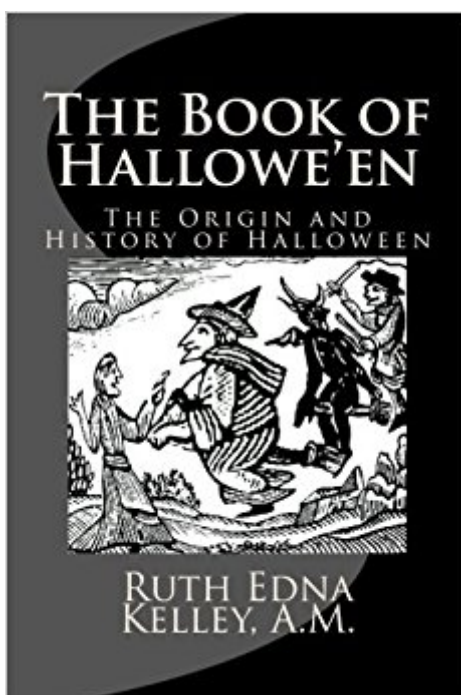


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# The Book Of Hallowe'en: The Origin And History Of Halloween



## Synopsis

Since its original publication in 1919, Ruth Edna Kelley's THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN remains the all time classic exploration of Halloween history, from the mysterious year end rites of the ancient Celts, to the autumnal reign of Samhain, the Druid god of death, to the coming to Europe of Christianity and "All Saints Day," to the charming early 20th Century Halloween beliefs and customs of Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, France, Germany and America. Filled with Halloween poems, games and tried and true ancient methods for divining the future (especially for discovering the identity of one's future spouse!), THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN opens a captivating window into the past of one of today's most beloved holidays. Table of Contents Publication Information and Dedication Preface Chapter I. Sun-Worship. The Sources Of Hallowe'en Chapter II. The Celts: Their Religion And Festivals Chapter III. Samhain Chapter IV. Pomona Chapter V. The Coming Of Christianity. All Saints'. All Souls'. Chapter VI. Origin And Character Of Hallowe'en Omens Chapter VII. Hallowe'en Beliefs And Customs In Ireland Chapter VIII. In Scotland And The Hebrides Chapter IX. In England and Man Chapter X. In Wales Chapter XI. In Brittany and France Chapter XII. The Teutonic Religion. Witches Chapter XIII. Walpurgis Night Chapter XIV. More Hallowtide Beliefs and Customs Chapter XV. Hallowe'en in America Four Poems

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Vintage Volume of Halloween History! Originally published in 1919, Ruth Edna Kelley's THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN remains the all time classic exploration of Halloween history, from the mysterious year end rites of the ancient Celts, to the autumnal reign of Samhain, the Druid god of

death, to the coming to Europe of Christianity and "All Saints Day," to the charming early 20th Century Halloween beliefs and customs of Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, France, Germany and America. Filled with Halloween poems, games and tried and true ancient methods for divining the future (especially for discovering the identity of one's future spouse!), THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN opens a captivating window into the past of one of today's most beloved holidays. This Better Days Books edition of THE BOOK OF HALLOWE'EN is a quality reprint containing the full text of the original 1919 edition, along with a new full color cover inspired by a genuine vintage Halloween card from the era. Often imitated, but never equaled, Ruth Edna Kelley's THE BOOKS OF HALLOWE'EN remains the most complete, fun and fascinating exploration of the Halloween holiday available in this or any Century. Vintage Halloween and antiquarian book collectors, rejoice!

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Ruth Edna Kelley (8 April 1893 - 4 March 1982) was an American librarian and author. She is chiefly remembered for *The Book of Hallowe'en* (1919), the first book-length history of the holiday. Kelley was born in Massachusetts, the only child of Charles F. Kelley, a carpenter, and his wife Mary. She grew up in Lynn, Massachusetts, and received a master of arts degree. Her other book was *A Life of Their Own* (1947), which dealt with immortality and spirituality. Kelley died in Marblehead, Massachusetts at the age of 88.

The Book of Hallowe'en is about what you'd expect--or at least, it was exactly what I expected. It's basically a bunch of traditions from over Europe briefly explained, and a few from the USA, too. There's not a whole lot of depth, but there is a very long references section which can probably provide that depth. It seems to have been factual for it's time (around 1919), though the ways we view facts and history and primary sources have all changed, so I don't know how well it holds up nowadays as a factual document. My complaints are few, but I'll mention them; first the lack of depth that I mentioned, which sometimes made me feel as though I was just reading a long list of anecdotes. Second, I'm not sure how to consider some of their sources. There were plenty of quotes from tradition songs, and then there were quotes from fiction like Peter Pan, and I couldn't tell if the author was analyzing the newer stuff to portray new depth, or if they were using fiction as a primary source, or what. If you enjoy books like this, either in style or in topic, I also recommend *Folk Lore Superstitious Beliefs in the West of Scotland within This Century*.

This is the story of Halloween past which barely exists anymore. Read this book and discover that

Halloween was once a day of mischief, oracles, ghost stories and fire. Things have changed so much and trick or treat is barely mentioned here. Read this book to discover a history which people don't know. Some of these poems and customs are not politically correct so bare in mind this book comes to us from 1919. So read this book and remember did I ever have Halloween like that?

What a joke. This book has been photocopied from a paperback book and bound in a hard back cover. Do not waste your money on this. Returning today!!

Was very excited for this book. It is hard to read, and lacks depth. I'm never 100% sure what I'm actually reading. I got this to read to my teenagers, and it's just a mess. Very, very confusing!!

Was looking for more information about the history of Halloween in America - this fell short

Terrible quality! Pages just bad photocopies!

love it

This book is disjointed. Quotes from different sources are interspersed with the main text of the book, some of which don't seem to fit. The format sometimes makes it a little difficult to follow.

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