WITCHES
AND PAGANS:
WOMEN IN EUROPEAN
FOLK RELIGION, 700-1100

MAX DASHU

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The Webs of Wyrd


Wyccecræft


Names of the Witch


völur

Seeresses in the Norse sagas: staff-women, staff-names, and distaff-symbolism. Archaeology of women buried with staffs, by country. Seiðr and galdr: “a chant came to her lips.” Shamanic trance, flight, and yawning.

**RUNES**


**CAILLEACHAN, DÍSIR, AND HAGS**


**THE WITCH HOLDA AND HER RETINUE**

Women who go by night with “Diana, goddess of the pagans”—or other goddesses. The witches’ ride, from *Corrector sive Medicus* to the Canon Episcopi, 850-1100. Spread of the Herodias legend, and its possible roots in Haera, Ero, Mother Earth. “The witch Holda,” and Frau Holle, Perchta: the spinning Old Goddess of the Winternights. Wendish Pši-Polnitsa. Penitential interrogatories: “Is there any woman who?” The timeless spinning of
Berthe, the Swanfooted; la Reine Pédauque; and St Néomaye. Women who lay tables for the Fates. From Mother Earth who nurtures all, to Luxuria, “Sensuality.”

**Witch Burnings**


**völluspá**


**Conclusion**

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