

# THE ROCKFORD REGISTER-GAZETTE

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### WITCHCRAFT IN FRANCE GAINING IN ADHERENTS

#### Sorcery, Black Magic And Devil Worship Have Followers

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(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Paris, Nov. 1. (UP)—A survival of sorcery, witchcraft and the black masses which were practiced in the days of Cagliostro and the Marquis de Sade, is now sweeping many parts of France.

Following the enforced departure some months ago, of Aleister Crowley, known here as the High Priest of Black Magic, frequent cases of devil-worship have come to the attention of the French police. The most popular rendezvous of these votaries of Satan is said to be in the Fountainbleau forests, some 50 miles from Paris, where on moonless nights mystic rites are started as a distant clock strikes 12.

Although these ceremonies occur in various parts of the country, it is said they are all carried out in the same manner. A circle is generally drawn in which the worshippers gather on their knees after marking cabalistic signs on the ground before them. Then bowls of incense are lighted and the priest, standing before a candle-lit altar, invokes the evil spirits.

As a rule the invocations are blasphemous in the extreme. Hymns of praise are sung to the devil. Then the Mephistophelean one is asked to bestow worldly riches upon his followers or to fulfill their sinful desires. In return, they promise to give their souls for eternal damnation.

#### Pacts Signed in Blood

One of the strangest phases of this devil-worship is the almost legal form it sometimes takes. There are many cases in which pacts with Satan are written out on foolscap in documentary style and formally signed in blood. A noted French lawyer, Maurice Garcon, in a recent address before the Paris Institute of

Metaphysics told about some of these contracts he himself had seen.

He declared that most of them revealed an effort on the part of the signatory to cheat the devil of his promised soul, through the insertion of some tricky clause or phrase. The lawyer explained that apparently most of these people regarded his satanic majesty as a most unscrupulous trafficker in evil and that they therefore felt themselves entitled to cheat him.

During his address, Haitre Garcon also related how he had witnessed black masses in France at which evil spirits and even the devil himself were invoked.

### **Sorcery Soured Milk**

There have recently been numerous cases in the provincial courts of farmers charging their neighbors with bewitching children, cattle, milk and harvests. A baker of Fontenay-sous-Bois has just accused a man of having through sorcery made his milk turn sour, thus ruining his business.

In Paris itself, it is alleged that black masses are conducted, but most discreetly and only the initiated are permitted to attend the rites.