

Special points of interest:

- In many cultures, **owls** have been and in some cases still are associated with secrecy, darkness, destructiveness, malice, and death. According to the **Hottentot** people of Africa, an owl hooting in the night is an omen of death.
- Some have claimed that **EVPS (Electronic Voice Phenomena)** are the recorded voices of ghosts or spirits. Debunkers attribute other reasons for the noises, such as sociological, cultural, or technical factors.
- Until about the 12th century, The **Roman Catholic Church** taught that **witchcraft** didn't exist. However, in later times, this attitude changed, producing tragedies such as the **Salem Witch Trials**.



During the **Salem Witch Trials**, some 'witnesses' claimed to have seen the accused 'witches' talking to animal and other **familiars**, supernatural beings which could become visible or invisible to human beings.

Plainfield Public Library
800 Park Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-757-1111
plainfieldnj.info

A Halloween Pathfinder

Plainfield Public Library Pathfinder

October 2010

Overview Commentary

Have you ever wondered just where our perennial holiday celebrating ghosts, goblins, and things that go bump in the night really came from? Perhaps you are going to host a block Halloween party at your home or organization, and you need some ideas for crafts, games, and special treats for the kids (or for those who are young at heart). Has someone invited you to a party this year and you need a costume, but can't come up with any good ideas? Do you need some DVDs to watch with your friends until at least the witching hour? Need to get some ideas on how to carve your pumpkin? Do you simply want to read scary stories to your children instead of taking them out on Halloween? Or perhaps you would like to settle down in your favorite chair and read a good title on the most haunted night of the year!

Whatever your needs or interests, your library has many informational and recreational materials about the spookiest holiday of the year!

Boo!



The library has all of the books belonging to the popular **Twilight** series by Stephenie Myers available. It also has many of the **Harry Potter** series books on hand. Or, perhaps you'd enjoy a classic such as **Dracula** or a **Stephen King** novel such as **Carrie**, **The Shawshank Redemption**, **Cujo**, or an anthology of **Edgar Allan Poe's** stories?

Some Highlighted Resources

- **175 Easy-to-do Halloween Crafts: Creative Uses for Recyclables**, by Sharon Dunn Umnick, call # J 745.5 EAS
- **The Great and Wonderful Halloween Book**, published by Barrons Educational Series, Inc., call # 745.594 JOH
- **Death Makes a Holiday: A Cultural History of Halloween**, by David J. Skal, call # 394.264 SKA
- **El Día de Muertos**, by Ivar Da Coll, call # JP SPANISH DACOLL I



Above: A *sid mound* is shown, one of the elements of an earlier *Celtic* version of Halloween called *Samhain*. Contemporary people have revived it.



Above right: This kind of decorating is typically seen in the modern *Latin* holiday know as *Día de los Muertos*; it is similar but not identical to Halloween.



"Double, double
toil and trouble;
fire burn
and cauldron
bubble."



from *Macbeth*
by *William Shakespeare*



During the *Medieval Period*, previously positive attitudes about using herbal medicines to treat illnesses changed when the *Catholic Church* influenced perceptions about people who could use such healing arts. Those who possessed this kind of skill were often accused of practicing *witchcraft* and executed by burning.

In-house Books & DVDs

- *Flirt*, by **Laurell K. Hamilton**, call # **FICTION HAMILTON L**
- *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, written by **Gregory Maguire**, CD version narrated by **John McDonough**, call #s **CD FIC MAG** (talking book) and also **FICTION MAGUIRE G** (printed book)
- *American Gothic: New Interventions in a National Narrative*, by **Robert K. Martin**, call # **813.087 AM35**
- *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, by **James Rollins**, call #s **CD FIC ROL** (talking book) and **FICTION ROLLINS J** (printed book)
- *Simply Handmade: 365 Easy Projects for Every Occasion*, published by **Meredith Press**, call # **745.594 SIM**
- *The Happening*, published by **20th Century Fox Home Entertainment**, directed by **M. Night Shyamalan**, call # **DVD DRH**
- *Coraline* by **Neil Gaiman**, call # **FIC GAIMAN N** and also call # **DVD FAC** for the film by **Universal** based on **Gaiman's** book

Articles

- **Pierleoni, Allen**. "Between the Lines: Author tracked down sites linked to *Dracula* and *Vlad the Impaler*." **Sacramento Bee**, **The (CA) 05 Apr. 2010**: Newspaper Source. EBSCO. Web. 2 July 2010.
- "The science of Hallowe'en." **Economist** **349.8092 (1998): 89**. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Web. 2 July 2010.
- **Stone, Philip**. "Meyer: the new J K Rowling?." **Bookseller** **5400 (2009): 31**. Literary Reference Center. EBSCO. Web. 2 July 2010.
- **Henican, Ellis**. "Newsday, Melville, N.Y., Ellis Henican column: Anti-Halloween attacks are downright ghastly." **Newsday**, **(Melville, NY) 17 Oct. 2007**: Newspaper Source. EBSCO. Web. 2 July 2010.

Online Resources

- www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html
- www.jkrowling.com/en/index.cfm
- www.loc.gov/folklife/halloween.html
- <http://njdevilhunters.com>
- www.stephenking.com/index.html
- www.laurellkhamilton.org
- www.poppyzbrite.com/biblio.html
- www.daveofthedead.com
- www.poestories.com
- www.virtualsalt.com/gothic.htm
- www.marthastewart.com/halloween-crafts
- www.halloweencostumes.org
- www.celebrations.com/halloween-party-ideas
- www3.niu.edu/newsplace/nndia.html
- www.cliveharker.info