

Book Reviews

Dave Evans and Dave Green (eds.), *Ten Years of Triumph of the Moon: A Collection of Essays*, Hidden Publishing, 2009, pp. 227, ISBN: 978-0-9555237-5-5. Review doi: 10.1558/arsr.v23i3.370.

Ronald Hutton's *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft* was published in 1999 and revolutionised the academic study of Paganism. Hutton subjected the foundation narratives of modern British Paganism to scholarly scrutiny and revealed the invented nature of this new tradition. The first section of *Triumph* painstakingly detailed the pre- and early twentieth-century precursors of the Pagan revival (Romantics, poets and folklorists, anthropologists and Classicists, enthusiasts for nature and the rural life, and many others). The second section was a survey of Pagan leaders, considering their social and educational influences, contributions to the emergent religion of Witchcraft, and the veracity of their autobiographical narratives.

In *Ten Years of Triumph of the Moon* Dave Evans and Dave Green have assembled a collection of essays that do not directly comment on Hutton's book, but rather muse about the current state of Pagan Studies in the academy (less than secure), offer a range of studies of Paganism, occult and esoteric culture, and give the authors the opportunity to engage in confessional discussion of their religious affiliation (this is not uniform, but is a feature of about half of the contributions).

There are affectionate tributes to Ronald Hutton scattered throughout the volume, and he provides a modest afterword in which he disclaims much of the praise heaped upon him. While there is interesting scholarship in this book (Caroline Tully's 'Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers and Isis', Geoffrey Samuel's 'From Tantric Chakra to Wiccan Circle?', and Amy Hale's 'White Men Can't Dance' in particular), the tone is generally a little too personal and unscholarly, and the choice of a non-academic press confirmed this reader's impression of an 'in-house' conversation between practicing Pagans and scholars of Paganism (some of whom are the same people) that is not really a useful scholarly resource for students, though it certainly sheds light on the place of Paganism and occult studies in the academy in the early twenty-first century, and is valuable as a snapshot of the contemporary academic study of 'alternative' religion.

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