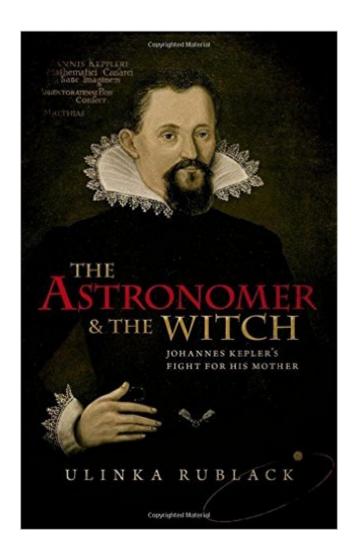
## The book was found

# The Astronomer And The Witch: Johannes Kepler's Fight For His Mother





### **Synopsis**

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was one of the most admired astronomers who ever lived and a key figure in the scientific revolution. A defender of Copernicus's sun-centred universe, he famously discovered that planets move in ellipses and defined the three laws of planetary motion. Perhaps less well known is that in 1615, when Kepler was at the height of his career, his widowed mother Katharina was accused of witchcraft. The proceedings led to a criminal trial that lasted six years, with Kepler conducting his mother's defense. In The Astronomer and the Witch, Ulinka Rublack pieces together the tale of this extraordinary episode in Kepler's life, one that takes us to the heart of his changing world. First and foremost an intense family drama, the story brings to life the world of a small Lutheran community in the center of Europe at a time of deep religious and political turmoil - a century after the Reformation and on the threshold of the Thirty Years' War. Kepler's defense of his mother also offers us a fascinating glimpse into the great astronomer's world view, on the cusp between Reformation and scientific revolution. While advancing rational explanations for the phenomena that his mother's accusers attributed to witchcraft, Kepler nevertheless did not call into question the existence of magic and witches. On the contrary, he clearly believed in them. And, as the story unfolds, it appears that there were moments when even Katharina's children wondered whether their mother really did have nothing to hide...

# **Book Information**

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (December 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0198736770

ISBN-13: 978-0198736776

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.9 x 6.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Law > Legal History

#90 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Germany #147 in Books >

Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Wicca, Witchcraft & Paganism > Witchcraft

#### Customer Reviews

A readable work about the mother of the famed astronomer, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), who was accused of witchcraft in Germany. In 1615, his 73 year old mother, Katharina Kepler was

accused of bewitching several people in town, and over the next six years a continuing trial and imprisonment was challenged by her son. Later, after a year of imprisonment, she was threatened with torture to confess her crimes. Only Johannes and his siblings kept up a steady opposition to the governor's accusations and attempts to have his mother convicted of the crime. This is an interesting account of witch trials in Protestant Germany at the start of the 17th century. There is an examination of the evidence, how it was interpreted, and how it was refuted by one of the better mathematical minds living in Europe at that time. Some of the 24 witnesses were deemed to be irrelevant, but enough were thought competent for the charges to be prosecuted. Kepler spent much of his time trying to refute the witnesses and write up a point by point rebuttal to the accusations, and then reply to the attack of his rebuttal by the prosecution. Finally, it was decided to scare her into confession, not by torture, but by pretending to have sentenced her to torture, and showing her the devices to be used to force her to confess, hoping the mere sight of the devices and descriptions of enhanced interrogation by the executioner will frighten her into revealing her crime. Refusing to be intimidated, she was eventually released after 14 months locked to a chain in a cell, and she died six months later. This is an interesting study of how a witch trial was conducted, the types of evidence and methods of defense used, and how a counter-suit of defamation was used to protect Katharina Kepler.

#### Download to continue reading...

The Astronomer and the Witch: Johannes Kepler's Fight for his Mother Johannes Kepler: Giant of Faith and Science (Sowers) The Scientific Revolution: The Life and Legacy of Johannes Kepler Humble before the Void: A Western Astronomer, His Journey East, and a Remarkable Encounter between Western Science and Tibetan Buddhism The Kitchen Witch: A Year-round Witch's Brew of Seasonal Recipes, Lotions and Potions for Every Pagan Festival Fat Witch Bake Sale: 67 Recipes from the Beloved Fat Witch Bakery for Your Next Bake Sale or Party A Modern Witch: A Modern Witch, Book 1 Witch Song Boxed Set: Volume 1-3 + Bonus Novella (Witch Song Series) The Elements of Color: A Treatise on the Color System of Johannes Itten Based on His Book the Art of Color Galileo: Astronomer and Physicist (Signature Lives: Scientific Revolution) Touring the Universe through Binoculars: A Complete Astronomer's Guidebook (Wiley Science Editions)

Observing the Solar System: The Modern Astronomer's Guide The Backyard Astronomer's Guide Harlow Shapley - Biography of an Astronomer: The Man Who Measured the Universe The Astronomer Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin - A Short Biography: 30 Minute Book, Series 6 Saints Who Battled Satan: Seventeen Holy Warriors Who Can Teach You How to Fight the Good Fight and Vanquish Your Ancient Enemy The Official Fight Promoter Playbook (The Fight Promoter Series 2)

My Fight / Your Fight The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Mother's Extraordinary Fight Against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Mother's Extraordinary Fight against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times

<u>Dmca</u>