

---

New Age Movements, Occultism, and Spiritualism Research Library: Coby

Michael Collection

**MS/150/14/3/002**

---

2018

# Occult Herbalism Outline

Michael, Coby

---

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/5451>

**UUID:** F65ADD29-A324-A5A0-4515-1218AAECC11D

## **Recommended Citation:**

Michael, Coby. "Occult Herbalism Outline." Presented at Elderberry Tree House Shoppe, Fort Wayne, IN, March 24th, 2018. Coby Michael Collection. New Age Movements, Occultism, and Spiritualism Research Library. Archives and Special Collections. Valdosta State University. Valdosta, GA. <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/5457>

This digital asset was provided by Coby Michael to the Valdosta State University, Archives and Special Collections for inclusion in the Coby Michael Ward Collection of the New Age Movements, Occultism, and Spiritualism Research Library.

**Subjects:** Poisonous plants; Magic; Medicine, Magic, mystic, and spagiric; Herbalism--Occult aspects; Workshops (Adult education)--Indiana--Fort Wayne Elderberry Tree House Shoppe (Fort Wayne, Ind.); Outlines and syllabi; Lectures;

## Occult Herbalism Outline

- Entheogens: are plants that connect us to the spirit world
  - They act as Gatekeepers, bridging the gap between this world and the next.
  - Helper spirits that aid us in connecting with the divine, however they are not the only way and should not be depended on.
- The Banes or Baneful Herbs: are the often poisonous and intoxicating plants that are associated with witchcraft and magic.
  - When used in a shamanic context to aid in journeying and spirit work they can be valuable tools for personal growth used as initiatory rites of passage.
  - Due to their poisonous nature and connection to the spirit world these plants became targets of the Church and the newly developing Medical field, often associated with diabolism and malefic witchcraft.
  - *Veneficium* is a Latin term akin to Maleficium, which referred to witchcraft in the Middle Ages. *Veneficium* is synonymous with sorcery and the application of these plants.
  - *Pharmakon*, an earlier Greek term had similar connotations, blurring the lines between magic, medicine, and plant alchemy. In antiquity these practices were viewed as one and the same.
- The Middle Ages and The Witches' Flying Ointment
  - It was during the Middle Ages that the modern form of this herbal lore took shape.
  - Various pieces of mythology were combined into the current body of folklore associated with these plants, based on their preexisting folklore.
  - During the period of the Inquisition, these plants quickly became associated with diabolic withcraft.
  - Conflicted with views of the Church as the only way into Heaven, and also posed a threat to the development of modern medicine.
  - Physicians and clergy weren't the only ones aware of the effectiveness of these plants and likely learned much from local herbalists and cunning folk who had been using these plants for centuries and amassed a great amount of knowledge.
  - Due to this precarious situation cunning folk and herbalists were prosecuted for their practices as well.
    - Since they didn't learn medicine at Church sponsored Universities it was decided that their knowledge must come from the Devil
- *The Witches' Ointment* By Thomas Hatsis is highly recommended, one of the best and most well-researched modern publications on this topic.