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978-0-521-81345-7 - *Malleus Maleficarum*, Volume I: The Latin Text and Introduction
Henricus Institoris and Jacobus Sprenger

Frontmatter

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MALLEUS MALEFICARUM

Volume I

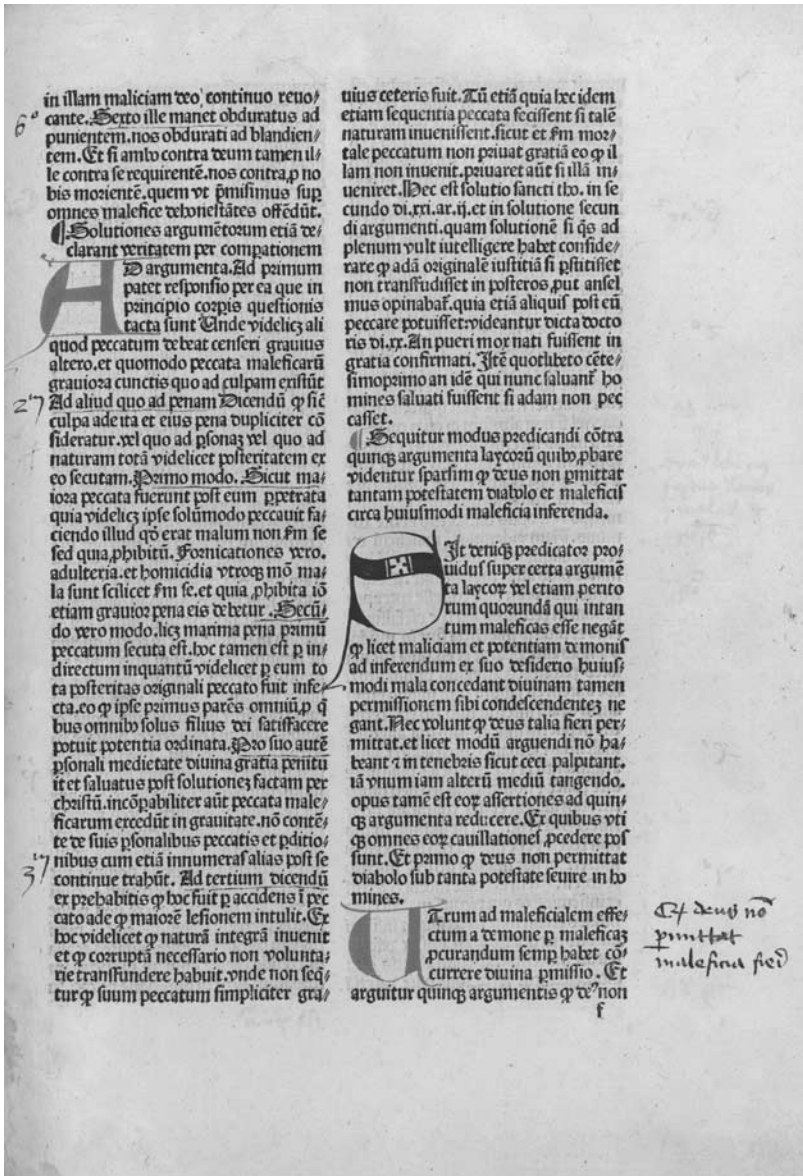
The *Malleus Maleficarum* is the most famous early modern text on witches and witch hunting. Often known as the ‘Hammer of Witches’, the *Malleus* consists of a demonstration of the existence of witchcraft and a discussion of both the practice of witchcraft and cures for the injuries caused by it, together with a recommended method of exterminating it judicially. It was republished twenty-six times in the early modern period, and remained a standard text on witchcraft for centuries. Yet this key text has never before been available in a reliable modern scholarly edition. This fully annotated edition is based on the first edition of 1486–7 and presents the Latin text together with a full textual apparatus. The extensive introduction discusses the authorship, method of composition, and intellectual background of the work. The second volume provides the only accurate English translation available, together with detailed explanatory notes. This important edition makes this vital text accessible to historians of the period and offers extraordinary insights into the attitudes and prejudices inspired by the fear of witches.

CHRISTOPHER S. MACKAY is Associate Professor at the University of Alberta. He is the author of *Ancient Rome: A Military and Political History* (Cambridge, 2004).

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An example of the layout of the *editio princeps* of *Malleus Maleficarum*, fol. 41r.
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HENRICUS INSTITORIS, O. P.
and JACOBUS SPRENGER, O. P.

MALLEUS MALEFICARUM

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
CHRISTOPHER S. MACKAY

Volume I
The Latin Text and Introduction



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*Kelliae meae
coniugi atque adiutrici
optimae*

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page viii
<i>Map 1</i>	ix
<i>Map 2</i>	x
General Introduction	I
Introduction to the Latin Text	173
<i>Bibliography</i>	184
<i>Sigla and Abbreviations</i>	189
Malleus Maleficarum: <i>The Latin Text</i>	191
<i>Appendix</i>	718

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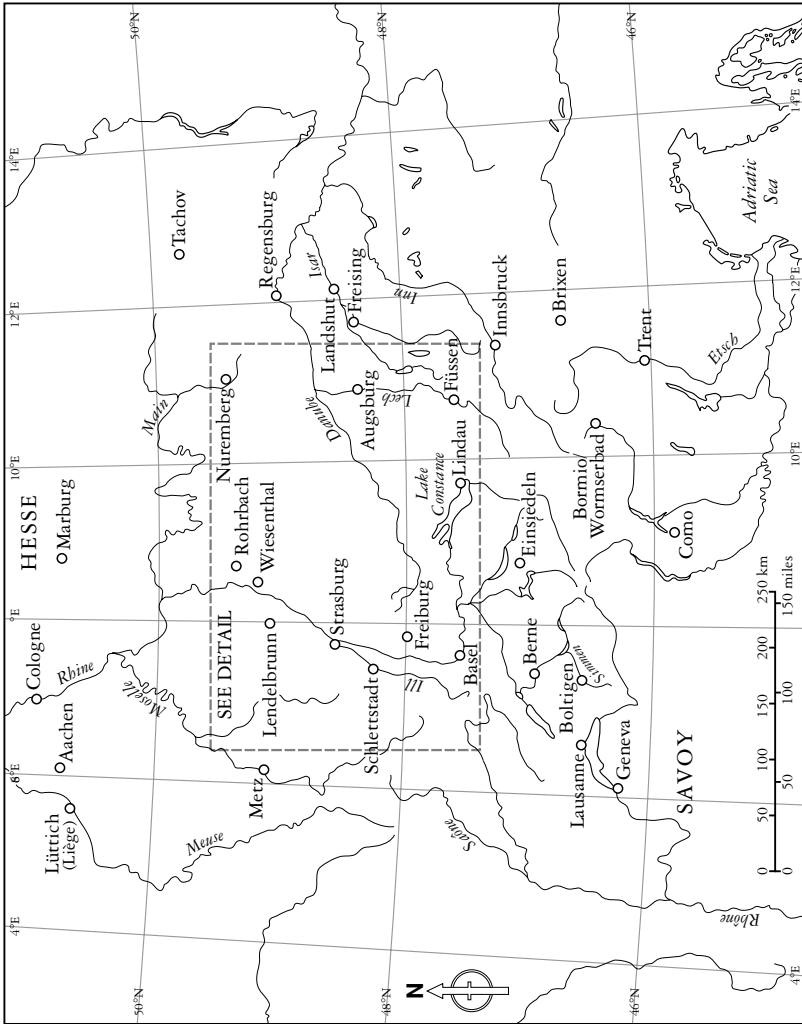
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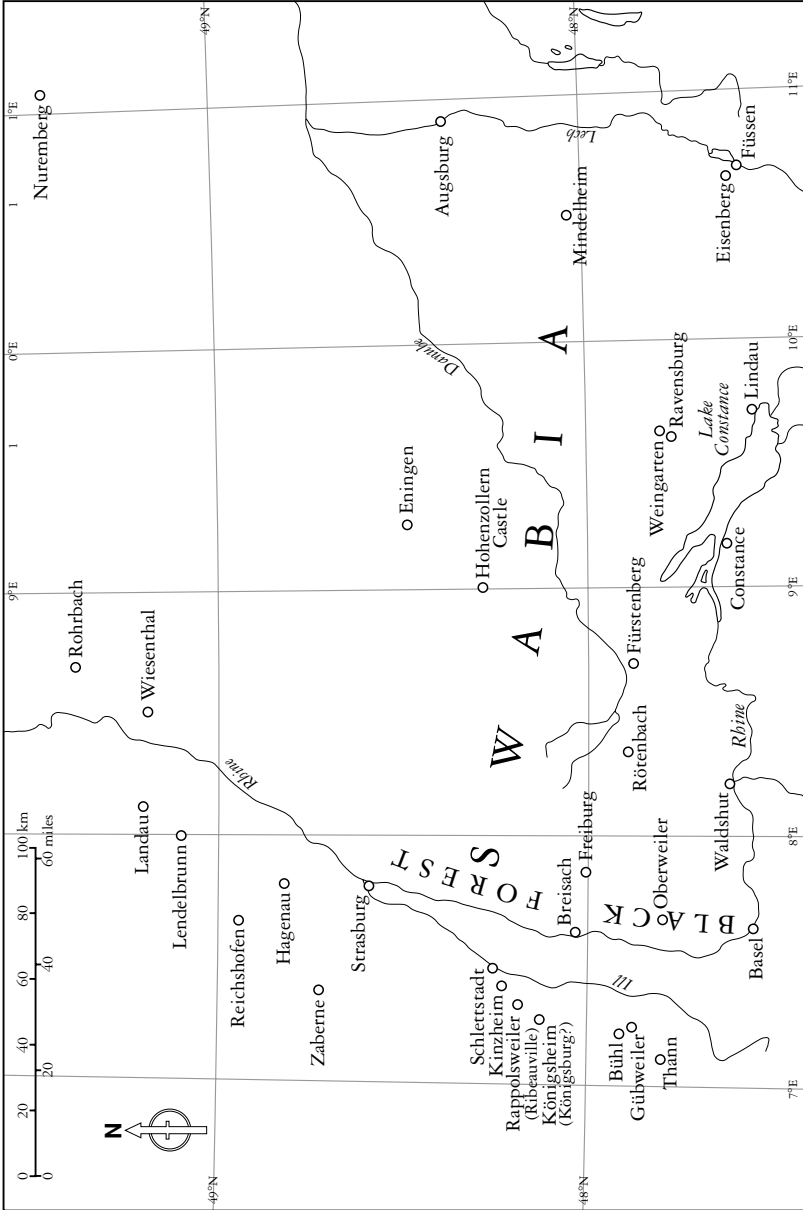
The idea to come up with a new translation of the *Malleus* was first suggested to me in 1998 by Lara Apps and Andrew Gow, who were to provide an introduction and notes. It soon became obvious to me that the project would entail a complete new edition of the Latin text, and eventually the press of circumstances left the entire task to me. First, let me make it clear that while A. Schnyder and the annotators W. Behringer and G. Jerouschek (so often referred to as Behringer *et al.*) are cited mostly to indicate my disagreement on specific points, I have greatly benefited from their work (especially Schnyder's commentary), a fact that may be obscured in my comments, since there is no particular reason to mention agreement. Next, I offer my thanks to Andrew Gow, Richard Kieckhefer, Edward Peters and Jan Ziolkowski for their generosity in providing me with bibliographical assistance; to the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen for permission to use images of their copy of the *editio princeps*, and to Helmut Rohlfing and Martin Liebethuth for their generous assistance in providing those images; to my wife Kelly MacFarlane for prodigious bouts of proofreading (as well as helping with the often infuriating idiocies of Microsoft Word); and to Kelly and to my previous wife Katy Mackay for their moral support during the many years in which this project brought about my voluntary exile in the study.

Map I



Southern Germany and surrounding areas

Map 2



Southern Germany