**The Horned Lord**

Intro: Me, Dave, helper. Article about the Horned Lord in Witches & Pagans 39.

Slide 1 Representation of the Horned God in the British Isles & mainland Europe, but also some antlered deities from around the globe. The Horned Lord represented in art since Upper Paleolithic times, but ceremonies honoring him existed in the British Isles right up until the 20th Century! Revived, & carry into the future

Slide 2 The **name** “Cernunnos” Cern – Horn, Nun or Non – deity, commonly given by academics to any “Celtic”-based horned or antlered spiritual entities. However, horned / antlered spirits or deities are found **worldwide** – wherever there are cervids – deer & goats. Cernunnos comes from just 3 inscriptions, most famous from France. Other names on slide.

Slide 3 **How to tell** if it’s him? – Male, Hunting posture (earlier) or seated (later); Horns or antlers; w/ other animals – deer, dogs, boar, snakes, rats; w/ wealth (Roman); torc jewelry (later); found in “Celtic” countries

Me **Modern Revival** – Dr. Margaret Murray *God of the Witches* 1933, Gerald B. Gardner, Robert Cochrane. “Devil” in witch trials may’ve been someone doing hoodening, or covering themselves with animal skins for ritual purposes.

Questions???

Slide 4 **Gardner** 1949 spelled “Kernunno”. Gardner wrote Cernunnos worshipped by common people as god of the hunt, who was an aspect of a “higher power” that they really could not understand. Gardner and Doreen Valiente viewed Cernunnos as “our Lord, the horned one” equated with “dread lord of the shadows” Folk magick, amateur anthropologist, folklorist – trads from New Forest & SE England

Robert **Cochrane** Buca, (not Cornish H20 Spirit), Brit Trad W’craft. Priest avatars, “man in black, “devil”, “magister” could be from Murray or ceremonial magick. Trads from SW England, Cornwall, Wales.

Me **SHOW STANG** Stang / Ermula / Gwellyn / Nithing Pole / Moon Rake, altar of Buca. Purpose

**Ancient History** – is it “horned god”? Shaman, hunting rite, or just Uncle Bob

Slide 5 **The Sorcerer**  Upper Paleolithic / Mesolithic cave art in Cavern of Trois-Frères in what is now Montesquieu-Avantès, in southwestern France. Later Dr. Ronald Hutton said not antlered, other archeologists Henri Breuil & Jean Clottes who actually saw the image – yes, antlers part of cave wall.

Slide 6 Other **Mesolithic** Images: Other images found in other locations in Europe – Lascaux, Bone in Cresswell Craigs UK, Val Camonica Italy, petroglyphs Spain, dolmens Ireland & Scotland, frontlets (helmets) England as well as USA

**The Hunter** 1940 in the Lascaux cave complex, Montignac in the Vézère Valley of France, one of 600+ . Similar image etched on bone in the Pinhole Cave in the Cresswell Craigs of Derbyshire, England, found 1928. 15,000 years old (?)

**Val Camonica** Italy, 200,000 petroglyphs, Camunni over 8,000 years, from late Bronze Age to La Tène period to Middle Ages. Many hunters with weapons & deer or wild cattle. Antlered figure, w/ torc & wavy snake hand. Archeologists believe **earliest** depiction that can actually be considered as **Cernunnos**, because of the symbols he bears. 400 B.C.E., during the Iron Age, before Romans in Italy.

**Frontlets** 21 skull-caps, red deer bones and antlers, in peat moss at the Mesolithic site of Star Carr, in North Yorkshire, England – most important excavation – made to be worn, found 1950s Important as first known ritualized folkplay. (avatar BIFT)

Rock **pictographs** USA, Huicholi people, found at the “White Shaman” site along the Pecos River, what is now Texas. Petroglyphs Ute people, Utah.

Me. Image has quite a history and has existed for a long time!

Questions???

History – **move forward**

Slide 7 **Gundestrop Cauldron**, most famed & recognizable. Denmark (Jutland), hammered silver, w/ Celtic deities, animals, and a figure identified as Cernunnos. Ram-headed snake, antlers, torc, deer. Seated lotus Likely created by artisans from the civilization of ancient Thrace (what is now northeastern Greece, Southern Bulgaria, and the area of Turkey that juts north of the Sea of Marmara, Bought or stolen by Celts. Votive offering, bog, image inside. 150 to 50 B.C.E

Slide 8 **Pillar of the Boatmen**: *Pilier des Nautes*, square column w/ images of Roman & Gallic deities. One of 3 Roman letters Cernunnos. Bottom of panel broke off around 200 C.E., now missing. Anthropologists speculate that the Horned Lord was seated, because of his position on the carving. Lutetia (what is now Paris) by sailors’ guild, honor Roman king of the Gods, Jupiter.

Slide 9 **Catalaunii coins**, Veneti coins southern Britain, late Iron Age, before Roman conquest. 60 to 30 B.C.E. Petersfield in Hampshire, England, 20 C.E. Alex the Great -Roman, horns for strength & masculinity, for comparison. Numismatic collector magazines $$$. Could be shaman.

Slide 10 A few **Romano-Celtic Horned Lords** There are over **50 more representations** of Cernunnos from the LaTéne period found in Celtic lands **Roman mosaic** “Sea God” Oceanus or Poseidon ?, others say Cern, house in Verulamium 3rd largest Roman city in Britain, C.E. 160-90, now in museum in St. Albans, UK – city sacked by Boudicca. **Latest one** discovered 2018 England in excavation at National Trust’s Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire, England. Copper dated from around the second century C.E Criteria – male, horns, torc, seated, found in “Celtic” country

Me Petered out in 2nd Century C.E. but there is a missing link to today! Get to that in a moment.

Questions???

**Horned Lord worldwide**:

Slide 11 A carved **red cedar mask** from the Spiro Craig Mound of LeFlore County, Oklahoma man with a human nose, mouth and ears, eyes & teeth shells, antlers. The mask is believed to be from the 1200s to 1400s Common Era.

Bull-horned man seated cross-legged in a ruined temple of **Pashupati** in India, believed by archeologists to be a representation of Shiva or Rhudra. Aka Nejamesa. Seated in lotus position like European images. Shamans buried that way.

In **Japan**, dancers wearing antlered masks perform elaborate ritual deer dance called *Shishi-ocbri* – and a similar rite is held in Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal. Might derive from ancient India & present-day Indian folk dance forms. Indian state of Manipur indigenous Meitei people of that area also have a legend about a horned snake called *Poubi Lai*, who resembles Cernunnos’s ram-headed serpent.

Deer masks and totem pole images of Inuit People **Pacific Northwest** USA & Canada. Power animal, messenger, offer selves in sacrifice.

**Yaqui** people of **Mexico**, *Pahkolam* rite, deer-headed, antlered headdresses in honor of animals’ ritualized self-sacrifice, desire to restore balance to the world. The flower world is seen as a paradise where animals and humans peacefully coexist, herd animals offer themselves as food. The *sea ania*, world of beauty, coexists with our realm. Drums & rattles made of hooves and antlers Dance also in southwestern United States.

Questions???

Me **Missing link** in Europe Britain: **Folkplays**

**What it is:** Performance by common people, has ritualized aspect. Assoc w/ astronomic holiday. British Isles. Many of them have horned animal – deer, bull, ram, others w/ horses. Old, or Paganized? Frazer, Murray, Gardner, vs. museum curators & participants. Historians disagree. Deer frontlets Star Carr. Dance, song, drama, audience participation.

Slide 12 **The Dorset Ooser** – also called’Ooser, Grand Wooser, Wooset or “Christmas Bull” used in folkplays on holidays. Could also be symbolic warning / punishment for spouse abuser; ridden on a rail. Town historians & participants in rite speculate’Ooser’s name came from “Woodwose. Mentioned by Murray in *God of the Witches*, & Gardner in the *Meaning of Witchcraft*. Unfortunately, the original ’Ooser head has been lost, but a replica was made 1975, still used in present times Morris Dance Beltane; between jaunts, he’s housed in the local museum.

Similar, USA is about “**Ol’ Buck**”, or the Beast of Trent, “old Christmas” festival in Rodanthe on Hatteras Island, North Carolina. Twelfth Night, Christmas Day in old Julian calendar

**Abbots Bromley Horn Dance**, early Sept. in Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. 6 “deer-men” w/ red deer antlers, boy costumed as hunter w/ bow & arrow, cross-dressing “Maid Marian”; type of Morris dance at manors, crossroads, & village pub. Earliest doc 1226, unbroken tradition ever since (exception of English Civil War, 2020 Covid-19 pandemic.) Antlers carried by “deer-men” radio-carbon dated over 1,100 years old, species of cervid now extinct in British Isles. The Horn Dance was mentioned in the *Natural History of Staffordshire* by a Dr. Plot in 1686. Disagreement: “ancient Pagan ritual”, or a “fertility dance”, while others claim it’s performed to commemorate hunting rights being granted to the villagers. You can watch online or in person – tourist event.

Me Stag **Mummers**, past and present. **Hoodening** & hooded animals, aka hodening, masking, guising. Some are animals other than deer – horned

We know **Hoodening** is **older custom**: Christian authorities’ reaction to hooded animal performances. St. Augustine condemned “the filthy practice of dressing as a horse or a stag” 300s during Roman occupation. Church’s Council of Auxerre in 578 “It is forbidden to masquerade as a bull-calf or stag on the first of January.” In 670, Archbishop of Canterbury wrote in *Liber Penitentialis* “If anyone at the Kalends of January goes about as a stag or bull, that is, making himself into a wild animal and dressing in the skin of a herd animal, and putting on the heads of beasts… (he will be served with) penance for three years, because this is devilish”.

Slide 13 Hooded animal tradition endured long time afterward, despite being outlawed numerous times. Wearing an animal skin for dramatic purposes documented several times in Medieval to the Early Modern period. Fools at English royal court clad in a “buckram skin” or cowhide or deer skin. Illuminated manuscript 1400s, Costumed mascot “beastie” w/ Morris dance troupes, Mari Lwyd, Derby Tup. Old horse plays, Kent Hooden Horse. Story of Herne the Hunter mentioned by Shakespeare & Spenser, folk deity. Ooser til 1880s. Abbots Bromley continuous til today. Some revived for ritual, culture, tourists.

Slide 14 Worldwide hooded animals Mamuthones of Italy, represent benevolent demons. Mumming rites in Portugal and Croatia. Rituals in Africa, Asia, the Americas.

Me Does all of this connect to Cernunnos / Horned Lord? I think so! Own family’s stag hunt. Hoodening worldwide: Mamuthones of Italy, benevolent demons.

Questions???

**Brit Traditional Witchcraft**: Avatar by priest. (possession, channeling) Buca Dhu – dark, winter, chthonic & Buca Gwyn – bright, spring, fertility. Two sides of same coin. Like Oak & Holly, but don’t fight. Not the same as Cornish water spirit. Cornish tradition, also Pen Kefal or Pen Glaize like Mari Lwyd. Priest also assoc w/ Tubal Cain – Gofannon – Devil – blacksmith, horses. Deer figure also called Ol’ Horney by Brit Trad witches.

Slide 15 Other **References**: My book Common Magick, available from Llewellyn: Jason Mankey’s *Horned Lord* (Llewellyn) my article in Witches and Pagans Magazine #38 on folk magick & #39 Shamanism. Carlo Ginsburg – Shamanism. Murray – Witch Cult & God of the Witches. Look online for keywords. Will post this lecture & PP on my website – cut article, pix.

**Thanks!** Dave, helper, Kaylyn from Warlocks Inc., Brian Cain & Christian Day who organize & present WitchCon every year.