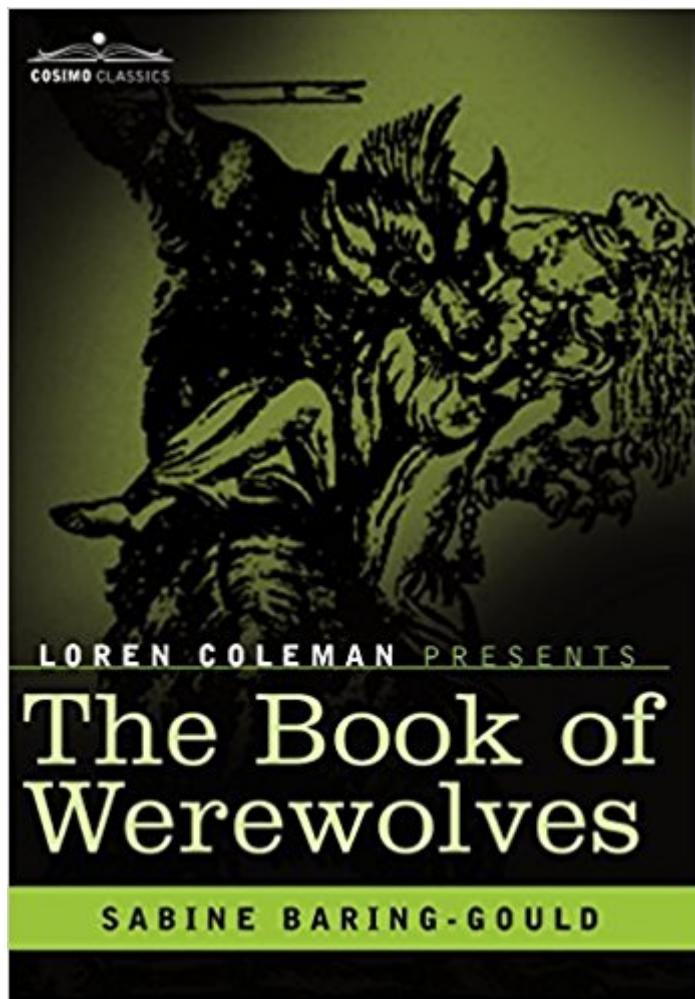


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The Book Of Werewolves



Synopsis

Eclectic British scholar SABINE BARING-GOULD (1834-1924) inspired *My Fair Lady*, wrote the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers," and published more than five hundred literary works. Among his foremost folkloric studies is 1865's *The Book of Werewolves*, the first serious academic study of the shape-shifters of mythological lore. "This work is the most frequently cited early study of lycanthropy and is regarded by most scholars as the foundation work in the field," says cryptozoologist Loren Coleman in his new introduction. "The Book of Werewolves was so visionary that it foresaw that future discussions within werewolf studies would necessarily travel down many side paths. Indeed, midway through *The Book of Werewolves*, Baring-Gould treks into the shadowy world of crimes vaguely connected to werewolves, including serial murders, grave desecration, and cannibalism." This new edition, complete with the original illustrations, is part of Cosimo's Loren Coleman Presents series. LOREN COLEMAN is author of numerous books of cryptozoology, including *Bigfoot!: The True Story of Apes in America* and *Mothman and Other Curious Encounters*.

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Customer Reviews

About the Author: "The Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould (28 January 1834 - 2 January 1924) was an English hagiographer, antiquarian, novelist and eclectic scholar. His bibliography lists more than 500 separate publications. His family home, Lewtrenchard Manor near Okehampton, Devon, has been preserved as he rebuilt it and is now a hotel. He is remembered particularly as a writer of hymns, the best-known being "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and "Now the Day Is Over", and the

desk at which he wrote these hymns is still preserved at the hotel. He also translated the carol "Gabriel's Message" from Basque to English. His education at The King's School, Warwick lasted just a few months in 1846 - he caught whooping-cough and was ordered to go abroad for the sake of his health. He then went up to Cambridge earning the degrees of B.A. in 1857, then M.A. in 1860 from Clare College." (Quote from wikipedia.org) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book may well be dated but it presents the information in a simple to understand fashion. It sticks more to the earth than most works coming out about Werewolves these days. The Book is to the point and the author explains their salient facts and then supports them with stories and legends produced from around the world. Anyone interested in the concept of Werewolves would do well to check out this work. It covers the mythology on lycanthropy from all over the world. It is a factual breakdown into the exact nature of this mythological character. One can imagine that on a darkened night maybe in France or some other part of Europe you are walking on the road and you hear a bone chilling howl. Suddenly a large loping figure appears and it is coming right for you. Werewolf legend and indeed other shapeshifter legends go back all the way to Greek and Roman times. We have instances of the Gods being offended by mortals and changing them into animals of sorts. King Lyacon offended Zeus and was turned into a wolf for seven years. Apuleius story the "The Golden Ass" has him being changed into a donkey and finally being able to change back. The old Norse has their berserkers who could put on a wolf skin and change into a wolf. Other versions of Norse shapeshifting include the witch being able to throw their fetch and take over the body of another animal. Legends abound of people cursed with having to be a werewolf for a certain amount of years and then being able to change back. Others have to change into wolves during certain times of the year. Others are blessed to only have to turn once. Lycanthropy was art of changing into a werewolf. It was the ability not of sorcerers and witches. They would take an ointment that would let them change or give them the feeling of turning into a wolf. At first Lycanthropy was taken seriously but then eventually it was regarded as madness. There are Werewolf like creatures the world over. There are also those who can shapeshifting into other animals. Hyena men of Ethiopia change into that animal. Rakasha are vampire like creatures and there is crossover into the vampire realm from the werewolf realm. In Poland and Slavaopkia they believe that once a werewolf dies he becomes a vampire. Ghouls are jinn that eat corpses like vampires during the day that have the shape of the wolf. I got this book three days ago and have already completed it. Enjoy

Baring-Gould's Book of Were-wolves is enjoyable and worth reading if the topic appeals to you. It explores some (certainly not all) myths and origins of the lycanthropic persuasion in fair detail. However, it is not the most in-depth of werewolf books I've read. Famous werewolf cases and legends covered in other books were skimmed over or skipped completely. One thing about it that caused me to lose a little bit of interest was the tendency to go off on long, storytelling tangents about cases of cannibalism and serial murder, which had little to do with wolf legends in their nature. The Book of Were-wolves is similar in style to Montague Summers' *The Werewolf in Lore and Legend*, with its archaic English writing style and a fundamental Christian undertone always present. This particular volume, I believe, could be forgone if one were to read the book by Summers. However, it is still worth having for an aficionado such as myself who collects werewolf literature. My foremost complaint is not with the content itself; the issue is this particular print of the book. It's oddly shaped and proportioned, more like the size of a tall, thin magazine than a paperback book. This isn't really that important unless you want it to be visually pleasing when set among the other volumes in your occult library, as I do. As in Summers' book, there are some excerpts written in foreign languages and left untranslated. The table of contents gives no page numbers for chapters, so you will need either a bookmark or a good memory of where you left off reading. Just for these minor details, I may order a different copy of the book. If you're a casual reader on the topic with only fleeting interest, I recommend something more along the lines of *Werewolves: The Occult Truth* by Konstantinos. For someone more passionately interested in werewolves who wants to know all there is to know, then you should surely read this book along your way.

This was a strange and fascinating book. In collecting varied myths and stories pertaining to werewolves, the author created a very interesting and absorbing read. There were some editing errors in this version, but they were not terribly serious. The different anecdotes ranged a spectrum from the horrific to the almost comical. It was unlike anything I have ever read before and I think it is a great starting point in looking at the history of the werewolf myth.

The Book of Were-Wolves is a very interesting read. The typos were annoying, but not unintelligible. There are two main sections of this book. Myths and the author's theory. The author believes we can use the term werewolf to describe people that believe they are werewolves and for mentally ill persons that have the uncontrollable urge to kill humans, sometimes to eat other times for their blood. He illustrates his theory with historical crimes. The first section contains the myths of

werewolves and the author went to extreme effort to collect many myths of werewolves and other were-creatures. The second section contains historical trial records on criminals that claimed they were werewolves or were committing other horrors that myth associated with werewolves. I couldn't finish this book because the crimes committed were too obscene for me to stomach. Overall though it was a very interesting book. If you are interested in psychology, myths, or criminal history then you should get this book, especially for free from kindle.

I love reading on mythology of fictional creatures and this book as old as it is, was very intriguing and insightful upon the legends and myths of werewolves around the world and how something so old written long ago can still be relevant today. Sometimes a bit hard to follow due to old grammar, but I found this extremely educational on a mythical standpoint. Will definitely keep in my library!

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