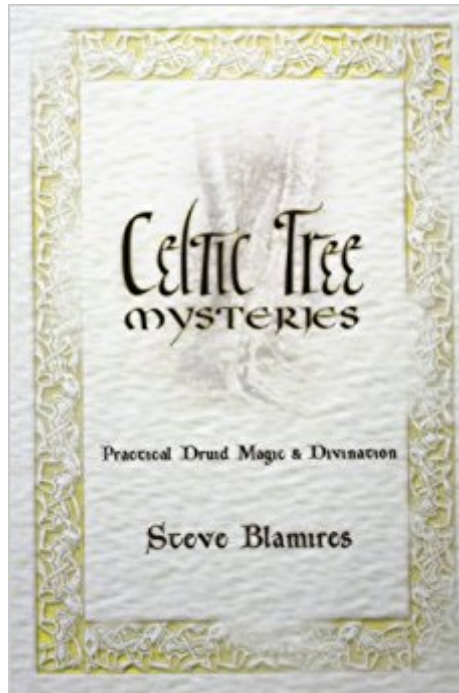




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Celtic Tree Mysteries: Practical Druid Magic & Divination



Synopsis

Trees, and the magic associated with them, manifest the spiritual aspects of the Green World. Celtic Tree Mysteries revives the ancient knowledge and lore of the trees with a practical system of magical ritual and divination. Within the pages of this trusted reference guide, you will find comprehensive instruction and insight on the theory and practice of the Celtic Tree mysteries, including little-known and often misunderstood tenets. Learn the difference between the Ogham script and the Tree Alphabet (and how to use them together for magical purposes). Decipher the physical, mental, and spiritual lessons of the twenty trees of the Ogham, and how to incorporate their wisdom into your life. Find out how to create your own set of Ogham sticks . . . perform Otherworld journeys . . . and discover the deeper, hidden meanings contained within the beautiful, ancient Celtic legends and Green World lore.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Blamires constructs for his readers a base camp in the history and use of the ogham before launching an expedition toward complete understanding of the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of the ogham and the trees they represent. Quite a quest, but Blamires succeeds. Where other popular forms of magic can be slanted toward development of only one aspect, Blamires's study of the threefold nature of the ogham insures that the body of practical magical knowledge gathered on this journey will be useful in all levels of existence.

Steve Blamires was born in Ayr, Scotland, and is one of the foremost Celtic scholars in the world. He is a co-founder of The Company of Avalon, a working magical group offering an in-depth training in the Western Mystery Tradition. He leads spiritual tours to many of the sacred sites of Northern Europe. He has written numerous articles for publications in both the U.K. and U.S. He is the author of the book Celtic Tree Mysteries: Practical Druid Magic & Divination.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. There's a lot of work involved, but worth it! Each tree is explained in detail and how to develop a relationship. Truly amazing and powerful!

Good information well written

I found this book interesting and easily understood. I would recommend it anyone who wants to learn about anything 'Ogham'. I used this book as reference guide for a class I'm working on. This book provided everything I needed.

Great book. Is going to be a huge resource for my Ogham Journey.

Handy book to have, One of those books to have if you are looking for another view on the subject matter.

I am submitting this review of a wonderful book as part of my own work in using it in my studies with the Henge of Keltria and my own studies of the Ogham. I hope this review is as helpful to you as the book has been to me. This is a very deep book, considered as part of a Celtic Wisdom series offered by the publisher. And while I don't particularly like how this publisher works, the books of old are still gems to be kept and held for the information they contain. This book is one such example. And while I say this is part of series, it could be construed to be a total lesson unto itself if the person reading it chooses to undertake the study chapter by chapter, as lessons, rather than chapters of pure reading. This book is not about the healing aspects of trees, at least not like herbal books discuss. This book is about the use of the trees as methods of divination, understanding and the ways to utilize this information to glean bits of the world around us and beyond what we can see in the everyday. Some are taught that the Ogham is a writing system and others a calendar. Neither of these is correct and this book does help to dispel that myth. This book discusses the Ogham, or as it is sometimes commonly know - the Tree Alphabet, working to dispel the myths surrounding the

magical uses versus the historical uses of the Ogham. It begins in the first chapter with a nice discussion of Ogham's history and its historical significance. There is discussion of the various forms Ogham has been found in, its relationship to the alphabet and then on into its presence in the lore of the Irish and Scots-Gaelic peoples. The author next goes into a very brief presentation of why the Ogham could not be used as a tree calendar, very brief. The author ends the first part of the book by explaining, in detail or so it seems to a beginner, how the Ogham was developed. This is related to lore and language as well as symbolism. I can see where a working knowledge of the use of the language could be of a greater benefit than not knowing any of it. I feel part two is the most fun part of this text. The author begins with lessons on the "levels" of the trees, or their status and station of rank. There is an exercise to begin with and a lovely tree ritual to perform as you go further and is to be done with each tree that is discussed. I think that is part of what makes this book an excellent introduction and envelopment into Ogham, you actually do the work and make it a part of your learning as it should be. It begins at Birch and goes to Yew. Sort of an A to Z of trees if you will. But this is not all trees, but only the ones of the Ogham. And while this is a concise listing and reading, it is by no means a beginner's guide, so to speak. It is and can be quite challenging! I have read it over half a dozen time in the years I have owned this tome and yet I still feel so beginner and find it hard to actually remember all that is contained. Like an onion, each reading reveals a new layer of understanding. The third part goes into the combining of the trees as seen in lore and story. There are myths and stories given and then discussed to help the reader see where and how the Ogham played a part in life of our ancestors. This helps the reader of today begin to see the hidden tidbits of information given within the myths and tales themselves. Not everything is merely as it reads. Again the reader is given a new exercise series to complete, again with each tree. But this time the reader must learn and connect with the tree to find out its connection and relationship with the four basic elements. This helps the reader to understand themselves even better as well. In the next chapter there is the discussion of the Frenzy of Mad Sweeney, a very challenging read to determine what is being said. I would call this a deep lesson in how to understand the hidden meanings. An excellent and challenging lesson in deed. The personal workings are shifted now from the outside connection, to bringing it indoors. A person again goes through all the trees one at a time but while inside, thus opening your home working area to these same energies, in essence bringing this energy into your home and thus into more or all aspects of your life depending on your employment. This section ends with a brief explanation as to why "other" trees are not included, and a very simple and clear explanation it is. It does not discourage one from venturing into this other realm of trees, but advises one to do so once you have a deeper understanding of how the

traditional Ogham works and was intended to work. This work continues with a very brief and basic introduction to the use of Ogham as a divination form. The book ends with an excellent bibliography and discography. It also includes a listing of journals and resources for further study. I found this book an excellent and one of the more accurate writings on Ogham, what it is and what it isn't. It doesn't mislead and tell of it being a purely magical system as so many other books do, but it does educate the reader to the true background and history of Ogham as the basis for a number of difference systems we see used today and all attributed to ancient roots. Truth against the world, if you will. I would recommend and have required it as foundation reading for students of the Ogham as well as Druidic studies. I have read it a number of times yet still feel like a novice when I reread it. It continues to offer me more and more and I highly recommend it.

When I first saw "Celtic Tree Mysteries: Practical Druid Magic and Divination" by Steve Blamires, I thought, "Oh no. Not another silly book about Celtic tree months, or made-up Ogham 'magick'." But, as soon as I glanced at a few pages, I realized that this is an excellent and historically accurate study of Celtic magickal tree traditions. As Mr. Blamires says in his introduction to Celtic Tree Mysteries, "This book is a detailed examination of the Tree Alphabet, one of the most misunderstood of the various forms of practical magic... this book is a practical manual detailing useful and workable information about trees, tree magic, and personal spiritual development." This book begins with "The Origins of Ogham," the series of notches or lines that are carved into standing stones, providing us with important clues to their magical history. Mr. Blamires then introduces us to the Tree Ogham, with insights into its uses and combinations. In Part Two, "Celtic Tree Mysteries" explains the three levels of threes--in the Celtic Triad tradition--and shares important information about each kind of tree that is used in this form of spiritual practice. Mixing history, magic, and practical work, Mr. Blamires keeps the reader well-grounded while sharing profound Celtic spiritual mysteries. If you've been confused by the thicket of popular "tree magic" and confusing Ogham lore, this book will be a welcomed relief. Like all of Blamires' books, this can border on dry academic reading, but if you are tired of fluff and fiction--and "magick" that simply doesn't work--you'll be as delighted as I was to find Steve Blamires' books. No Druid library is complete without this book, and if you're a Solitary or eclectic practitioner, you'll be delighted with the useful and practical information in "Celtic Tree Mysteries." --reviewed by Fiona Broome for "Celtic Lore & Magic"

I first started studying the Ogham tree language three years ago. I am ashamed to say that the

reason was that I thought it would be easy to learn. I searched and searched, and only found three books on the subject, and only one of them went into any detail about the trees. And then THIS book came out (I've had it for about a year). Steve Blamires approaches the trees not as a system of divination or as a language or a set of mathematical figures, as most of the other authors had, but as living breathing images -- archetypes, if you will. He sets forth a detailed way of looking at the trees on both the physical, mental and spiritual levels. This is not a book you will read once and put down and know everything that was in it. This is a book you can read again and again and always find something new. If you are interested in the Ogham or in Celtic mythology or in divination, or just in nature, this is a book that will give you a whole new perspective! I really loved this book!!!!

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