

# No 1 witch quits in 'magic' row

Daily Mirror, 2/7/1964.

**H**OUSEWIFE Sybil Leek, Britain's high priestess of white witchcraft, has resigned as president of the Witchcraft Research Association after a row about her interest in **BLACK MAGIC**.

Mrs. Leek, 41-year-old mother of two, said at her home in New Milton, Hants, yesterday:

"Many members feel that my past associations with black magic are detrimental to them.

"I have never disguised the fact that I knew Aleister Crowley (the Black-magic 'king' who died in 1947) and that certain aspects of his work in occultism merit a better appreciation than is accorded to him today.

"For many years I have been studying the psychology of black magic, and I do not feel I can give up the research."

## Fiction

She added: "It is inevitable that my researches have led me to associate with practising members of black magic.

"These researches have been purely undertaken in the idea that someone should be able to present a true thesis on black magic as it is today rather than the second-hand concept which is so popular in fiction."



Britain's No. 1 witch . . . Mrs. Leek with her jackdaw.

## TOP WITCH

### QUITS IN

### BLACK

### MAGIC ROW

Daily Mirror, 2/7/1964  
By KEITH DEVES 1964

**H**OUSEWIFE Sybil Leek resigned as president of a witches' association yesterday because of a row over her research in black magic.

Members of the Witchcraft Research Association resented her link with people who practise the Black Mass.

The 500 members of the Association, who use a mailing address in London's Great Russell Street, claim they are white witches and warlocks and do good by healing.

### Priestess

Mrs. Leek, a founder-member of the five-month-old group, admitted yesterday that she knew Aleister Crowley, once known as 'The Worst Man In The World.'

Crowley, who died in 1947, held Black Masses for many years in England and abroad, and was said to have made human blood sacrifices.

Mrs. Leek, 41-year-old high priestess, of four bands of witches in the New Forest, Hampshire, said she had met people involved in black magic only because she was researching into the subject.

She went on: "These researches were undertaken purely with the idea that someone should be able to present a true thesis on the subject."

### No secret

"I first met Aleister Crowley when I was 12.

"I have never disguised the fact that I knew him.

"Certain aspects of his work in occultism merit a better appreciation than is accorded to him."

Mrs. Leek added: "I have seen many Black Masses, but I have never taken part."

"D. SKETCH" JULY 2, 1964

# Sybil quits the witches' circle

**F**ORTY-YEAR-OLD housewife Sybil Leek yesterday resigned as president of the Witchcraft Research Association.



MRS. SYBIL LEEK  
"Rather annoyed."

At her home in New Milton, Hants, Mrs. Leek, homely mother of two, said: "Many members of the association feel that my past associations with black magic are detrimental to the present day participants.

"For many years I have been studying the psychology of black magic, and I do not feel I can give up the research."

### Black magic

She added: "It is inevitable that my researches have led me to associate with practising members of black magic.

"But these researches have been undertaken purely in the idea that someone should be able to present a true thesis on black magic as it is today rather than the second-hand concept which is so popular in fiction."

The letter of resignation was due to reach the association's headquarters in Bloomsbury yesterday.