

MODEL WITCH PUTS SPELL ON VILLAGE

WITCHCRAFT is casting a disturbing spell on peaceful little Bourton on the Water in Gloucestershire.

Cause of all the trouble—a chamber in a fifteenth-century house on the main street set out as the temple of the witch goddess Tanat.

In dim light a model of a young priestess lies on the altar.

Two will see

It is part of a witchcraft exhibition—said to be the only one of its kind in the world. Villagers have been flocking to see it.

But now the parish council have had complaints from an R.A.F. wing-commander and an anonymous resident.

The council have appointed two to inspect the exhibition and report back.

by
H. de Winton Wigley

I went round to see it yesterday. I found it impressive.

Witch Tanat's temple? The priestess is startlingly lifelike, legs naked and arms outstretched, the rest of her body scantily covered with a light material in red.

Exhibits have been collected over many years by film director Mr. C. H. Williamson, of Windsor, now filming in Spain.

Also on show: A witch with her stock-in-trade in her den, a horrific collection of Mau-Mau ritual objects, including some of the tortures, the figure of a horned god in human form with a goat's head, a voodoo temple, a witches' circle nine feet in circumference and the elements of the Black Mass.

Mrs. Williamson told me: "My husband collected them

during his long travels in Africa and other parts of the world. It has cost a fortune to insure."

Said her daughter: "We only opened in Bourton at Easter and we have had four thousand visitors already. Eight hundred have been children."

The goddess Tanat?

Mrs. Williamson says that though this seems to be the cause of objections she does not propose to take it out of the show.

No objections

Chairman of the parish council Mr. A. Pain, says the exhibition with the possible exception of one of two doubtful objects seems harmless.

Local police report that they have had no objections.

Said the Rector of Bourton, the Rev. J. K. Nettlefold, of the figure in the temple: "After all, you can see such waxworks in the windows of the big stores these days."