

The Trial of Tempel Anneke: A Case Analysis on the Implementation of Witchcraft Prosecution Guides

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This paper analyzes the trial of Tempel Anneke, a German woman accused of witchcraft in 1633, to investigate the extent to which court officials followed witchcraft prosecution guidelines. Several scholars dismiss the validity of witchcraft trials since they often included torture, but this paper argues that witchcraft trials followed a strict criminal process to ensure fairness for the accused. Very little English-language scholarship has examined how local courts implemented criminal codes like the *Constitutio Criminalis Carolina*. This research explores how court officials used the Carolina to carry out witchcraft trials despite their lack of a formal legal education. Using the trial as a case study and comparing it to primary sources such as the Carolina and the *Malleus Maleficarum*, a general guidebook for prosecuting witches, this paper examines how court officials interpreted and executed guiding documents. Although it is not representative of every witchcraft trial, Tempel Anneke's case demonstrates how court officials can follow a rigorous trial process while still taking liberties in the trial processes when the guiding documents were unclear.