

HE PLANS A JAMBOREE FOR THE WITCHES OF THE WORLD

By BARRIE HARDING

ISLE OF MAN, Saturday.

FORTY SIX-YEAR-OLD Cecil Williamson, of Herne Bay Kent, has just arrived here to make arrangements for the year's most remarkable get-together.

His plan: An international gathering of witches, wizards, sorcerers and witch-doctors.

Are the islanders perturbed? Not particularly. After all, many Manxmen still put out pitchers of water every night to appease the fairies.

Witch Friends

MR. WILLIAMSON claims to be on speaking terms with at least a dozen witches in Britain. For twenty-five years he has studied the tricks of their trade.

Now he says, he has given up a four-figure income so that he can create a permanent Mecca for them all.

In the granary of an old windmill at Castle-town he is busy constructing a magic circle, complete with strange cabalistic signs. And he will have the magic wand which summons the spirits evil and friendly.

When it is complete, he will send out a clarion call to a coven of witches practising in the south of England.

Who are these witches? One is a woman school-teacher, another a Civil Servant.

"I know of one very attractive girl in the coven," says Mr Williamson.

This coven is concerned solely in calling on spirits who can bring good will.

But some witches lay too much stress on sex, according to Mr Williamson.

He says: "At certain times in the year they observe the fertility rituals, prancing and dancing in the nude. It is rather pathetic in a way, because some of them are quite old."

Does he believe in this mumbo-jumbo? He declares: "I know of one man who killed another, by sticking pins in his photograph—a matter of induced auto-suggestion."

Priest's Foot

MR. WILLIAMSON pays reverent respect to the mummified foot of an Egyptian priest who lived 3,000 years ago. It was used by sorcerers and he acquired it from a collector who gladly parted with it after a long string of bad luck.

Soon Mr. Williamson will be sending hundreds of letters of invitation to all parts of the world.

THE WITCHES WHO ACCEPT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE THEIR RITUALS IN THE OLD WINDMILL WITHOUT HINDRANCE, GIVING ITS OWNER AN OPPORTUNITY OF FIRST-HAND RESEARCH.

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