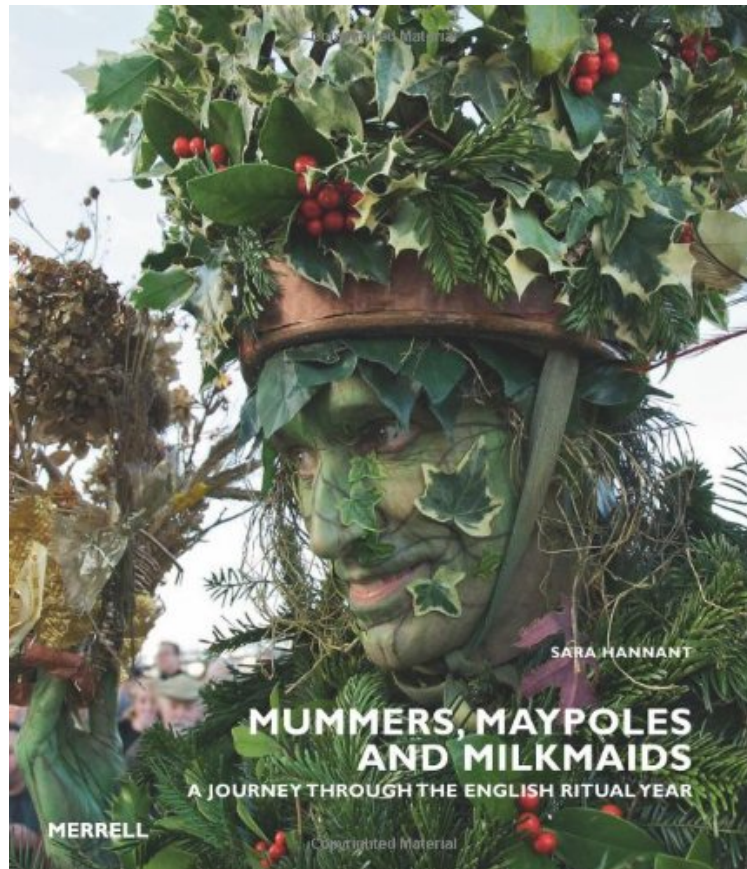


Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids: A Journey Through the English Ritual Year

Sara Hannant

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Sara Hannant : Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids: A Journey Through the English Ritual Year before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids: A Journey Through the English Ritual Year:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Visual Symphony By Jay Fang Just to be clear: This is a coffee table book. It's all about the pictures. There are no encyclopedic entries, no in-depth historical background, and no over-arching cultural analysis of any kind. Instead, this book is a lavish visual treat that will leave you wondering about the contexts of the different photos. The photography and the choice of photos are exquisite. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By MEH Excellent! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it. Great way to see the holidays through ... By Desert_Wind Loved it. Great way to see the holidays through the wheel of the year. I will use this as a tour guide when I make it over to Britain.

In Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, a man covered from head to toe in straw – the 'straw bear' – is paraded through the

streets, accompanied by 250 dancers, musicians and performers, while in Ottery St Mary, Devon, a crowd gathers as townspeople hoist barrels of flaming tar on to their shoulders and carry them until they are too hot to handle. Award-winning photographer Sara Hannant has travelled the length and breadth of the country, capturing the seemingly bizarre regional rituals – costumed processions, symbolic dramatizations, traditional dances and fire ceremonies – that mark the changing seasons. Many of these customs claim an ancient origin, and are kept alive today by local communities. Hannant's vibrant photographs reflect her keen eye for the unexpected, offering a captivating and surprising study of English identity.

Hannant's charming and informative photo essay brings to life this quintessentially English obsession... she captures the warmth, drama, humour and emotion of these quaint events with an artist's eye. An oddly moving book. — F22 (Eyes Wide Open) Magazine
Hannant's eye-catching reportage-style photographs capture the mystery and eccentricity of customs which for her "play such an integral role in the cultural identity of present day England"... — The Countryman
Wonderful photographs - funny, moving, lovely and very human' — Mali Morris, RASara Hannant's remarkable photographs convey, with joy and compassion, the mystery, charm and exuberance of traditional English ritual. — Shirley Collins, President of the English Folk Dance and Song Society
'A picture is worth a thousand words', goes the old adage – and that is certainly true of a new book of photographs of England's seasonal festivities captured by Sarah Hannant. — 'A Bad Witch's' Blog
Sara Hannant's beautiful new book... [with] vibrant and evocative photographs... is an attractive celebration of a wide range of seasonal observation. It deserves to be seen widely and enjoyed. — Humphrey with his Flail: A Folklorist in the Field
Subtitled 'A journey through the English ritual year', this compendium of bizarre feasts and festivals marks the changing seasons. — The Times (UK)