

Sympathetic, helpful, happy witches ? Stereotypes ? Feminist icons ? The image of witches has changed !

By Louna Tapin for *Charles Tellier News*, January 24th, 2025

To what extent has the image of witches changed ?

In this article we will see that the image of the witches has changed. Now, when we talk about witches we can think there are friendly, beautiful, helpful witches, moreover we can talk about feminism and feminist icons.

When we were children, witches were ugly, mean, they were scary. In the poems or sings for babies, witches eat children, they are not friendly with children. Now, we can say that witches are helpful, beautiful, and they used their power to help people like Minerva in Harry Potter, a witch who helps students and the university for the happiness and health of people, we can see that with Wallow, she helps her friend Buffy who fight vampires. The witches have changed, they are not mean, they help people. We can say, they are not traditional witches, they don't have a black dress, not every time a cat, not spider... they are not wicked and outsiders. The witches we see in class are all pretty and they want the happiness, they were powerful and they serve to help.

About witches, we can also talk is a feminism because, the woman was stick on this character. Stereotypes has invented of this. Women aren't witches. The power of women is not the power of witches. When we talk about witches, we talk about women, they represent the feminist icon. Moreover, women can be happy and beautiful. We talk about the image of witches, that changed, like in 1792 in Salem, where the Salem Witch Trials has done. It's an injustice by three women suspected to be witches, they are condemned to prison .

To conclude, the image of witches has changed because now, they are pretty, cheerful and helpful and we talk about feminism, stereotypes and injustice.

The evolution of the figure of the witch : how ?

Written by Papillon Anaïs, *Charles Tellier News*, Friday 24th January 2025

To what extent has the image of witches changed?

Witches are famous for being dangerous, mean, villainous or ugly. But it's not true, right ? Historically, witches were wicked because people feared witches and they prepared magic potions.

A lot of witches were executed between February 1692 and May 1693 in Massachusetts. The Salem Witch Trials imprisoned one hundred person and 14 women and 6 men have executed. However, in the 20th century, a lot of witches series have appeared like "Charmed" in 1998 or "Vampires Diaries" in 2009 where the witches have helped or have put themselves in danger to protect their family, their friends or others. In Charmed, there is a character called Piper. She is beautiful with long brown hair. These witches have become icons for the female power. For example, the quote "We are the daughters of the witches, you weren't able to burn" is a powerful slogan of the female icon.

Finally, at the beginning witches were executed or imprisoned. Today, witches are feminist icons which represent powerfulness, independence and female sexuality.

What is the new image of the witch?

by Launay Colleen, Charles Tellier News, 24th Jan 2025

The new image of the witches in the world of today.

Today, we are speaking of the witches of the past and new image. We go see the Trial of the Witches Salem, the witches stereotypes, after we go see modern witches with examples, and finally the feminist.

To begin, we go see the Trial of the Witches Salem. The trials began in February 1692 and finished in May 1693. During that year, the villagers fear starvation and disease, moreover, there were tense relations between villagers and battles between Native Americans and settlers. However, a hundred people have been imprisoned but 14 women and 6 men have been executed. After stereotypes arrived. For children, witches are wicked with green skin, a black cat and forever with a broom. But with movies and series the image changed, the modern witches helps their friends, nice girl. After, feminists and witches are alike because they have a similar fight to fight, Christina Lerner say "witches-hunting was quite simply «woman-hunting»". The movement existed for example #MeToo and #Times Up.

To conclude, the image of the witches of the past is wicked, others are modern. It is a fight for women and witches. The image has changed with time.

The evolution of the figure of the witch

By Jade Rémy, Charles Tellier News, Friday, February, 7th

How has the perception of witches changed overtime ?

The perception of witches changed overtime because in the past, witches were considered as outsiders and now they are use as feminisms icons.

In the past, witches was see as outsiders and strange persons. In village, witches was not like. In Salem, the inhabitants did the Salem Witch Trials to judge three women who were witches. There are witch hunting which was organized before the trial. During the witch hunts, there were twenty death : six men and fourteen women. The witches are not accepted in society.

Now, the figure of the witch is changing but there are still many stereotypes like the green skin, the cauldron, the spider, wicked witches... In movies, there are wicked witches, in the child-book. But witches are represented in movies as a powerful, kind, beautiful person, for example in Harry Potter with Minerva Mcgonagall. Moreover, witches are seen as feminist icons. Feminists use the witches image because witches was persecuted in the past and now the witches are a powerful persons as feminists.

In conclusion, the image of witches has evolved in time. In the past, they were seen as different persons and now as powerful persons.

To What Extent Has The Image of Witches Changed?

Written by: Alexander NEWMAN, *Charles Tellier News* - Date : January 24th, 2025

The witch is a fictional character that has existed for hundreds of years. Even today, when someone mentions “witch”, we tend to think of an immediate and stereotypical representation of an mean, ugly woman, like the sorts we come across in cartoons. However, the image of the witch has evolved into a feminist icon. In this article, we will find out how the image of the witch began, and became a feminist icon.

The dark past of witches is especially due to the witch-hunts that took place for example in the town of Salem in the USA in the late seventeenth century. A short but brutal period of court cases and executions, where women were accused of “witch-craft”. Over time, there would be many “witch-hunts”. As time past, female activists like Matilda Josyln Gage asserted that these witch were purely based on misogyny, where groups of men would take a woman away from her home and burn her at the stake, for probably no reason apart from “witchcraft”. And that innocent woman would just be minding her own business. The main reason for these witch hunts was fear of women by men. Fear of women who were just trying to live their own lives, and not be domesticated by a man. They tried to lead by example, and inspire change, and that cost their lives. Society would thus create a stereotype of the witch, creating a negative connotation which would be passed down to generations.

However, in recent years, the witch has been experiencing a comeback in books, movies and TV series. And in these, they are portrayed as strong and independent women, such as Bonnie (from the TV series *The Vampire Diaries*), often with superpowers like pyrokinesis. And with TV being an influential media, the movie industry is trying to change the negative stereotypical representation of the witch, and turn them from super-villains, to super-heroes. This is due to many feminists movements where the granddaughters that the patriarchy could not burn came together to express their anger about this negative connotation, to inspire change.

To conclude, the witch is a fictional character that started as something very dark and negative to a role model for women or anybody.

The Evolution of the Figure of the Witch

Source: Charles Tellier News

ROGER Evan, January 24th, 2025

The evolution of the witch through time: To what extent has the image of witches changed?

Today, the witch has different figures, but since the start of the witch, her figure has changed a lot. The figure of the witch was used in every age and every decade. In the late 19th century, the witch was the target of witch-hunting, and now the subject is reused for manifestations about feminism.

The image of the witch has changed a lot. Before, the witch was a woman who lived independently and was persecuted and burned by men. Today, the witch has become part of pop culture. For children, the image of the witch is a woman who has green skin, a black cat, and makes potions. Moreover, for teenagers, the image of the witch has spread through TV series and films like *Harry Potter*, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, or *The Vampire Diaries*. The witches who have been represented in pop culture are powerful, live in society, and are not the traditional witches. Now, in feminist manifestations, people show cardboard signs with slogans that refer to the witch hunts.

The image of the witch has changed and is used in different situations (TV series, films, manifestations, historical stories). A lot of people argue that the witch is a symbol of feminism.

The evolution of witches over time.

Written by Louise Guibet, January 24th, 2025, Charles Tellier News.

To what extent has the image of witches changed ?

Witches have been seen in many different ways over the years. In fact, witches were considered villainous people, outsiders, ugly... But today, the image of witches has changed.

First of all, between February 1692 and May 1693, happened the Salem Witch Trials. Witchcraft was forbidden. Many Women were accused and assassinated. Many people denounced others to save themselves. Between 1692 and 1693, witches had not a good image. Then, witches had a lot of stereotype, for example they were considered like ugly people, mean, with a wart, a black dress and a black hat. They always had a broom of fly and a cauldron of magic potions. Moreover, they had a black cat and a dark house with spiders.

After, the image of the witch changed. Notably with the series and movie. For example, in the series *The Vampires Diaries*, Bonnie is a witch, and she is considered like a heroine of the series. She is a beautiful witch with powerful powers. The other witches like Minerva, Willow and Piper were also good witches.

Today, the witch is considered like a feminist icon, she represents women because she is a strong, independent woman like the women. Many people had a slogan who talked about witches in manifestation.

They became a model of women.

The image of witches changed over time, they were first considered like mean and villainous people, whereas today they were considered like a feminist icon.

Wicked witches, the safe place for feminists ?

Written by Laurine Berthout, Charles Tellier News, 24th January 2025

How have wicked witches become the reference for feminism?

Today, women fight against misogyny. It is a long fight for them. So, they decided to use witches to represent their fight and also take revenge for their struggles in previous centuries.

At first, witches were represented as evil creatures for many years. They were even burned during the Salem Witches Trials, it is the trials for the witches from February 1692 to July 1693. It is an important moment in history because, before that, witches were seen as very dangerous and malefic for people. She was considered an outsider for a long time and was not respected. But in the 19th century, witches became icons in many films or series. For example Piper in *Charmed* or other characters who represent other things, she represents beauty, free, powerful. The typical picture of witches was ugly, with big noses, big stomachs, the broom, her hat and her worm, a black cat, and magical potions started to disappear.

Feminism were inspired by this image and she would like to have the same freedom, powers. Suffragette like Jocelyne, fought against misogyny with this icon. She used the slogan « We are the granddaughters of the witches you weren't able to burn ». On the Internet, movements like « MeToo » are created to help feminists in her fight. She develops also good image of the witches.

To conclude, witches and women are not completely different, she fight for reconnaissance, for freedom, to become powerful. So, with years and time, the image of witches changed with that of women. Witches and women are strong in her fight.

The witches changed

Jade DUFAY, January 21st 2025

To what extent has the image of witches changed ?

Throughout history, witches have been portrayed as mysterious outsiders and powerful figures, often persecuted. They have been associated with stereotypes.

Witches as Outcasts

They are often excluded from society because they embody difference and refuse to conform to social norms. The accused outcasts in Salem, called witches, were often women who did not fit societal norms, widows or the poor. Their differences made them easy targets.

Oppression

The wicked witch stereotype was often used to justify persecution and fear of feminine power. The accused were often women who represented a challenge to a male-dominated society.

Feminine Power

Witches symbolize female emancipation in the face of patriarchal domination. Over time, they have been transformed from feared outcasts into icons of strength and rebellion.

To answer the question, the image of witches has changed because they are now seen as symbols of empowerment and defiance.

Witches, the new feminist icon !

Written by : Tasteyre Louise, Charles Tellier News, 24th January 2025

To what extent has the image of witches changed ?

Historically, before the feminist renaissance in the late 19th century, witches weren't appreciated by society. To start, people knew the Salem witch trials. It's an event that caused witches to be persecuted in Salem of trials. After, witches were known only for witch-hunts ... But, their image has evolved.

Cinematically, after the 19th century and a feminist renaissance, witches weren't the stereotype of the ugly, wicked and mean witch. A lot of series created new characters who represent strong, beautiful women with an important place, often the main character of the series. Witches who were before outsiders, became very appreciated of society. New witches now has a very powerful image, she is independent and subversive. For a long time, Women were compared to witches who were wicked. Women were victims of misogyny throughout the witch hunts. The development of the witch in the cinema allowed women who were persecuted by men to become feminist icons. The vision of women which evolved with the witch is so important that women use it today in strikes with slogans of witches to defend her rights. « We are the granddaughters of the witches you weren't able to burn », is an example of a slogan which remains in memory and it's a really good way to reach people because the aim is to involve women's rights and not do mistakes made in the past. We can do a link between witch's powers and women's rights.

Witch and Woman are the same, they are involved at the same time because the vision of the woman is great today after the witch's evolution. The woman can say thank you to the witch and hello to the new feminist icon .