

Sarah F. Williams

To the Tune of Witchcraft:

Witchcraft, Popular Song, and the Seventeenth-Century English Broadside Ballad

Table 1. A Selection of Ballads Set to the Melody “Fortune My Foe” on the Subjects of Murder, Witchcraft, Christian Warning, Supernatural Events, Treason, and Crime

Ballad Titles	Dates	Catalogue Number ^a	Subject
A Mournfull Dittie on the Death of Certaine Judges and Justices of the Peace and Divers Other Gentlemen, Who Died Immediatly after the Assises, Holden at Lincolne	1590	ESTC ID S120639	Crime, death, judgment
The Lamentacion of John Parker Whoe for Consenting to the Murder of John Bruen Was Hanged in Smithfield the 28 of June 2 Yeres after the Fact Was Committed to the Tune of Fortune	1592	lost--licensed July 15, 1592, SR, II, p. 616	Murder, crime
A Godly Song, Entituled, A Farewell to the World, Made by a Godly Christian, Named Thomas Byll, Being the Parish Clerke of West- Pelton, as He Lay upon His Death-bed, Shewing the Vanitie of the World, and His Desire to Be Dissolved	1601-40	EBBA ID 30084	Christian warning
The Lamentation of Master Pages Wife of Plimmouth, Who Being Enforced by Her Parents to Wed Him Against Her Will, Did Most Wickedly Consent to His Murther	1609?	EBBA ID 20054	Murder, crime
The Araignment of John Flodder and his Wife, at Norwidge, with the Wife of One Bicks, for Burning the Towne of Windham in Norfolke, Upon the XI. Day of June Last 1615. Where Two of Them Are Now Executed, and the Third Reprived Upon Further Confession	1615	EBBA ID 20056	Murder, crime
Anne Wallens Lamentation, For the Murthering of Her Husband John Wallen	1616	EBBA ID 20053	Murder, crime
Save a Thief From the Gallows, and He'l Hang Thee If He Can, or, the Merciful Father, and the Merciless Son	1624	EBBA ID 20811	Murder, crime
Titus Andronicus Complaint	1624	EBBA ID 20040	Murder, Shakespearean subject
An Excellent Song Wherein You Shall Finde Great Consolation for a Troubled Minde	1628	EBBA ID 30070	Christian warning
The Lamentation of Edward Bruton, and James Riley, Who for the Bloody Murder Committed on the Bodies of Henry Howell, and His Wife, upon Queenes Downe, Were Executed and Hanged in Chains, Neere the Same Place on the 18. day of March, 1633	1633	EBBA ID 30324	Murder, crime
[The] Complaint and Lamentation of Mistresse Arden of [Fev]ersham in Kent, Who for the LoVe of one Mosbie, Hired Certaine Ruffians and Villaines Most Cruelly to Murder Her Husband; with the Fatall End of Her and Her Associats	1633	EBBA ID 30458	Murder, crime

The Godly End, and Wofull Lamentation of One Iohn Stevens, a Youth, that Was Hang'd, Drawne, and Quartered for High-Treason	1633	EBBA ID 30327	High treason
A Cruell Murther Committed Lately Upon the Body of Abraham Gearsy	1635?	EBBA ID 30326	Murder, crime
Saint Bernards Vision. or, A Briefe Discourse (Dialogue-Wise) betweene the Soule and the Body of a Damned Man Newly Deceased Laying Open the Faults of Each Other: with a Speech of the Divels in Hell	1640	EBBA ID 30253	Christian warning
A Most Wonderful and Sad Judgment of God upon One Dorothy Mattley, Late of Ashover in the County of Darby	1661	ESTC ID R41518	Crime, judgment
Truth Brought to Light	1662	ESTC ID R185755	Witchcraft
A Ballad of the Strange and / Wonderful Storm of Hail, / Which Fell in LONDON on the 18th. of May 1680	1680	ESTC ID R234332	Wonders
Witchcraft Discovered and Punished	1682	ESTC ID R228715	Witchcraft
Criminals Cruelty. Giving a Just and True Account of One John Wise, Who Together with Richard Jones, and Charles Tooley Yet Untaken, . . . Did Commit That Barbarous and Unnatural Murther on Elizabeth Fairbank	1684	EBBA ID 20771	Murder, crime
The Bloody-Minded Husband; OR, The Cruelty of John Chambers, Who Lately Lived at Tanworth, in Warwickshire, and Conspir'd the Death of Wife	1684	ESTC ID R234354	Murder, crime
The Wonder of this Present Age. / OR, An Account of a / MONSTER	1685	ESTC ID R187737	Monstrous wonder
DISNY'S Last Farewell. Being an Account of the Execution of William Disney Esqr, Who Was Drawn, Hang'd, and Quartered, on Monday the 29th of This Instant June, 1685	1685	EBBA ID 20772	High treason
A Looking-glass for Traytors, or, High Treason Rewarded Being a Full Account of the Examination of the Second Person That Was Executed in Novem. 1678	1678	ESTC ID 210824	High treason
The Bloody Murtherer: OR, the Sorrowful Lamentation of James Selbee, Who Was Executed at Goodman's-fields, on the 2d of May, for the Murther Which He Committed on the Body of MRS. Bartlett	1691	EBBA ID 20814	Murder, crime
The Distressed Gentlewoman	1691	ESTC ID 234283	Witchcraft

^a Abbreviations: English Broadside Ballad Archive, ebba.english.ucsb.edu (EBBA ID); the English Short Title Catalogue, estc.bl.uk (ESTC ID); Edward Arber, ed., *A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554–1640 A.D.*, 5 vols. (London: Privately Printed, 1875–94).