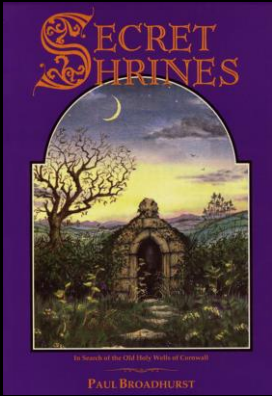


SECRET SHRINES

by Paul Broadhurst



This was Paul Broadhurst's first book, recognised as a beautifully-produced classic work on the phenomenon of sacred springs.

The style of its production, with over 20 full colour plates inserted by hand, led author Colin Wilson to write 'Words and images can never capture the truly magical mode of existence, but they can acknowledge its reality. The words and images that follow are an acknowledgement of this reality'.

Secret Shrines is a fascinating journey through the past and into the present which examines the magical and mystical virtues associated with these anciently sacred springs, and the reasons for their undiminished reputation throughout thousands of years of human history.

For these places are truly timeless, and the natural springs which bubble from beneath the surface of the earth have always been held holy, famous for their miraculous healings and powers of prophecy and as thresholds to other realms. Dim memories of their old importance still hang like a haze around them, in half-forgotten legends and country tales.

Included in the book is an entertaining and informative ramble around the still remote land of Cornwall in search of the old wells and remnants of their ancient sanctity, often just a crumbling ruin, dripping with moss and ferns and penetrated by the gnarled roots of twisted trees. Others are still famous for their magical properties, and boast impressive Gothic-style buildings to remind us of their former significance, while some exist simply as a roadside spring, their waters ignored and neglected.

Yet the resurgence of interest in these places seems to be a reflection of something deeper than fascinating antiquarianism. Perhaps it is more an attempt to experience the planet as a living being in the same way that our ancestors did for such great ages of human evolution. A recognition that the Earth is indeed alive, and that the health, prosperity and future prospects of everything that lives upon it depends on an acknowledgement of this ancient Law.

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Sepia on cream paper, black-and-white photographs
and engravings, over 20 colour plates tipped-in by hand.
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