



## The Queen's Conjurer: The Science and Magic of Dr. John Dee, Advisor to Queen Elizabeth I

By Benjamin Woolley

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A fascinating portrait of one of the most brilliant, complex, and colorful figures of the Renaissance.

Although his accomplishments were substantial -- he became a trusted confidante to Queen Elizabeth I, inspired the formation of the British Empire, and plotted voyages to the New World--John Dee's story has been largely lost to history. Beyond the political sphere his intellectual pursuits ranged from the scientific to the occult. His mathematics anticipated Isaac Newton by nearly a century, while his mapmaking and navigation were critical to exploration. He was also obsessed with alchemy, astrology, and mysticism. His library was one of the finest in Europe, a vast compendium of thousands of volumes. Yet, despite his powerful position and prodigious intellect, Dee died in poverty and obscurity, reviled and pitied as a madman.

Benjamin Woolley tells the engrossing story of the rise and fall of this remarkable man, who wielded great influence during the pivotal era when the age of superstition collided with the new world of science and reason. Written with flair and vigor, based on numerous surviving diaries of the period, *The Queen's Conjurer* is a highly readable account of an extraordinary life.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

British broadcaster and writer Woolley's (*The Bride of Science*) biography of John Dee is an enchanting look into the world of science, magic, politics, and religion of 16th-century England. Dee plotted navigational charts for exploration of the New World and even presented a master plan to Queen Elizabeth on how to build an empire based on naval power. In the scientific world, Dee is probably best known for his mathematics and his amazing library, which contained nearly every significant book of the time and many titles whose significance would not be discovered for years to come. Dee, and particularly his deep involvement in magic and mystery, has been studied on and off over the years. The most notable study is Frances Yates's *Theatre of the World* (1969. o.p.), in which Dee is presented as a the embodiment of the Renaissance. More recent works include Peter French's *John Dee: The World of an Elizabethan Magus* (1984. o.p.) and Deborah Harkness's *John Dee's Conversations with Angels* (Cambridge Univ., 1999). Woolley's book is not a scholarly text but a much-needed compilation and consolidation of current and past research, easily accessible to the average reader. Highly recommended. Eric D. Albright, Duke Univ. Medical Ctr. Lib., Durham, NC  
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From [Booklist](#)

Dee (1527-1608), despite all his accomplishments, is largely forgotten in the history books of England, but now comes Woolley's lively biography of this confidant of Queen Elizabeth I. In his time, Dee advanced the study of mathematics, mapmaking, and navigation, and his interests included alchemy, mysticism, and astrology. Dee's personal library was one of the largest in Europe and contained, for example, 15 sets of books showing planetary positions. Dee's obsessions also included the pursuit of angels and spirits; he claimed to summon the divine secrets of the universe from angels and archangels. Thomas Smith, author of the first biography of Dee (1701), concluded that he was insane. Dee's beliefs proved his undoing, and he subsequently died in obscurity, but Woolley's account of Dee's extraordinary life may be a start in restoring his rightful place in history. *George Cohen*  
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About the Author

Benjamin Woolley, a writer and broadcaster, covers both the arts and the sciences. His previous books include *Virtual Worlds*, an exploration of virtual reality, and *The Bride of Science*, a biography of Byron's brilliant daughter. He lives in London.

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**Sonja Johnson:**

This book untitled *The Queen's Conjuror: The Science and Magic of Dr. John Dee, Advisor to Queen Elizabeth I* to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to

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