

Review: George Everett Hussey Macdonald, *Thumbscrew and Rack*,
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Roman Catholicism on Show

Putting the author's anti-Christ philosophy to one side, the historical documentation of Roman Catholicism's torture of Christians should never be forgotten.

Without the Bible, it is hard to imagine the evil which drove men to design, build, and use such implements as the spider, hot mittens, torture rack, thumbscrew, and iron maiden. That people attribute such things to Christianity is at base a reflection of their desire to find an excuse to take moral high ground against a straw man of the Catholic Church, and so (in their minds) disprove the Bible.

It seems impossible to imagine the pain experienced by victims, yet they did, and many of them had the hope of seeing Jesus straightway in death where the torturer's arm could no longer reach.

The collar of torture was an iron collar with a hundred sharp needle points inside.

Thumbscrews were usable on the wrists, legs (the "leg crusher"), and head (the "iron crown"), or to prize out teeth.

A Frenchman Damians was chained to an iron bed and tortured for interfering with a quarrel between the King of France and the Pope.

Geleyn Cornelius was hung by the thumb with weights, and afterwards roasted alive on a rotisserie.

Jaws were forced open with forceps to pour in molten lead down throats.

Large iron boots were put on red hot or afterwards filled with hot lead.

An iron mask with funnels at the orifices was just to pour in hot lead.

The “iron virgin” was eight feet tall and nine feet wide. After impalement on the spikes, a trap door would open and the body dropped into the water below and floated away. Two spikes were aligned with the eyes, others the chest, and others the abdomen. Until the 15thC one such device was held at *Nuremberg*.