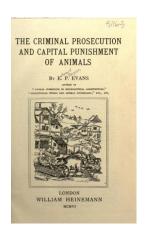
ANIMALS as DEFENDANTS - RATIONALE



- 0. ANIMALS as DEFENDANTS RATIONALE Story Preface
- 1. PEOPLE and ANIMALS in MEDIEVAL EUROPE
- 2. ANIMALS as DEFENDANTS PIGS
- 3. ANIMALS as DEFENDANTS RATS
- 4. ANIMALS as DEFENDANTS RATIONALE



This image depicts the frontispiece of *The Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals*, by E. P. (Edward Payson) Evans (1831-1917), published in London, during 1906, by W. Heinemann. In this work, Evans details the trials of numerous animal defendants througouth the centuries. Click on the image for a better view.

At first glance, it seems that stories about these trials - in which animals were charged as defendants - are just folk tales. It is impossible to fathom how a prosecutor could prove "criminal intent" on the part of an animal defendant.

How would a non-thinking being suddenly become a thinker, capable of forming criminal intent?

On the other hand, a respected French jurist and criminal lawyer - who was called-upon to represent such "clients" - wrote about these types of cases in 1531. Bartholomew Chassenee discussed the type of legal analysis which applied during the centuries when the practice was used.

How did the analysis typically work? If an animal killed someone, for example, people thought that Satan was acting through the animal. Why else would it destroy human life? Sometimes the guilty animals were even excommunicated by the Catholic Church.

In addition to pigs and rats, other Medieval-era animals (and insects) charged with crimes included:

- Horse Flies, in 1121, at Mainz (formerly called Mayence)
- Cockchafers ("May Bugs" with white grubs), in 1320, at Avignon
- Locust (seized from a massive swarm, tried and executed), in 1866, at Pozega (in Slavonia)

E. P. Evans, in his 1906 book entitled *The Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals*, tells us that judging animals extends back in time to ancient Greece. Even inanimate objects - such as a fallen pillar - could become a criminal defendant. The point of the cases was to investigate how terrible events had come about.

The medieval legal system employed some of the most-educated individuals working at the time. Lawyers, and their clerks, would seek to find answers why bad events had occurred. In defending animals, these judicial workers helped to shed light on community calamities.

Lest we, in the "modern" age, get too smug about "unenlightened" medieval people, it might be useful to keep this fact in mind. The last-known case involving an animal defendant "standing" trial happened in Switzerland ... in 1906.

READ MORE ABOUT IT via Evans' book - The Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals (1906)

and

Check out this excellent bibliography

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ANIMALS-as-DEFENDANTS-RATIONALE-Animals-as-Defendants

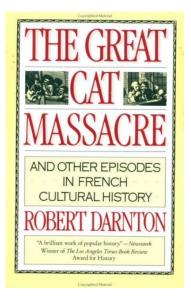
See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ANIMALS-as-DEFENDANTS-RATIONALE-Animals-as-Defendants

Media Stream

Sources of Information	Dates	Animals	Places
Gazette des Tribun- aux, Jan. 23, 1845	1845	Dog	Paris
" " "	1864	Pig	Pleternica in Slavonia
Krauss, quoted by Amira, p. 573	1866	Locusts	Pozega in Slavonia
" " "	,,	Grass- hoppers	Vidovici in Slavonia
Desnoyer : Recher- ches, etc., p. 15	19th cent.	Locusts	Catalonia
Allg. deutsche Strafrechts-zeitung, 1861, No. 2. Also Pertile: Gli animali in giudizio	"	Cock	Leeds in England
Cretella: Gli Ani- mali sotto processo in Fanfulla 1891, No. 65. Cf. Amira, p. 569	"	Wolf	Calabria
New York Herald and Echo de Paris, May 4, 1906 ¹	1906	Dog	Délémont in Switzerland

³ In this latest record of such prosecutions a man named Margewas killed and robbed by Scherrer and his son, with the fierce an effective co-operation of their dog. The three murderers were trie and the two men sentenced to lifelong imprisonment, but the dog as the chief culprit, without whose complicity the crime could no





Animal Charged with Crime - 1906

Image online, courtesy Archive.org website.

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The Great Cat Massacre - French Cultural Episodes

Book cover, courtesy Amazon.com

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 $\underline{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Great-Cat-Massacre-French-Cultural-Episodes}$

Mainz - Horse Flies as Defendants, 1121

Image of Mainz (Mayence), Germany, online courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. LOC reproduction number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-00838

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Biting Horse Fly - Criminal Defendant

Photo of Hybomitra sp. horse fly by zxc6789, online via Flickr. Copyright, zxc6789, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Photo taken in Malinmäki, Oulu Province, Finland on 11 July 2010.

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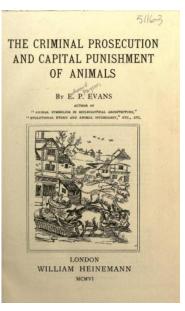












Cockchafers - May Bugs - Criminal Defendants

Photo of cockchafter by photosan0, online via Flickr.

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Cockchafer White Grubs - Criminal Defendants

Photo of cockchafer larva by Falko Zurell, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Avignon - May Bugs as Defendants

Photo of Avignon by Jean-Marc Rosier, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Locust - Executed in 1866

Photo of locust - taken on 2 August 2007 - by Steven A. Nichols.

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Pozega - Locusts as Defendants

Image of Pozega, Croatia online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Locusts - On the Ground and in the Air

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