

# Strange Times...

## THE PROPHECIES OF MOTHER SHIPTON

Editor's Note: This rare collection of Mother Shipton's prophecies was sent to us by a NEXUS reader who told us that, thirty years ago [now 55 years ago], she painstakingly transcribed them and managed to smuggle them out of the Mitchell Library (now the State Library of New South Wales). They were accompanied by several of the more commonly published verses. The originals were kept in a locked room, along with many other volumes of prophetic writings deemed unsuitable for viewing by the general public.

To our knowledge, this particular translation had never been made available to the public before appearing in NEXUS, first in 1991 and again in 1995.

Following some background on Mother Shipton, we present the verses that were found in that book, in the order they were found, and have inserted in bold some attempts at clarifying or interpreting events past, and events to come.

### Mother Shipton: A Legendary Myth or a Legendary Woman?

by Susan Larison Danz,  
MotherShipton.com

Very few verifiable details about the life of Mother Shipton are known. Even the time frame of her life and death can at best be approximated (often given as 1488–1561 based on historical references). Although many resources online and in book form claim to know authoritative facts

about the intricacies of Mother Shipton's life, the origin of many of these "facts" have been called into question by historians. Indeed, many historians, even in Great Britain, are not convinced that Mother Shipton is any more than a legendary, mythical figure.

Sceptics continue to rapidly and conclusively dismiss Mother Shipton as a "fraud" in the present day (and have done so in the past as well), so it is wise to be discerning regarding the logic, agenda and depth of some of those analyses and whether they take into account varying interpretations of the historical record.

It is important to steer clear of an "all or nothing" approach when analysing the older resources on Mother Shipton. Many sources clearly contain unreliable—indeed even intentionally fraudulent—information, particularly since they were created during the dubious days of notorious "witch hunts".



But there are also jewels of verifiable truth to be found in these very same sources. Just because a portion of an account is clearly embellished does not make the entire source a fraud.

There is no clear evidence Mother Shipton's name was Ursula Sonthiel, Ursula Southeil or any variation thereof. However, it is quite likely her maiden name was Ursula Soothtell, as that name appeared just as early as the others in references, and there is some logic to the idea that if she was a soothteller, she may be named after her work (like "miller" or "smith"). Also, Ursula was a name often given to "witches".

There is evidence in the historical record indicating her last name may have become Shipton when she married into the Shipton family in the Yorkshire area.

When it comes to studies of Mother Shipton, one British historian stands apart from all the rest. His name is Dr Arnold Kellett (1926–2009), a historian from Yorkshire, England who dedicated ten years of unbiased, in-depth research and detective work into the life of Mother Shipton.

If you are seriously interested in the history of Mother Shipton, there is absolutely no comparison to Dr Arnold Kellett's insightful, unbiased, well-researched book *Mother Shipton: Witch and Prophetess* (2002). Dr Kellett lived in the very area of England said to be the home of Mother Shipton, and he spent many years researching and writing about not only her life, but also the history of the area, including Knaresborough and York.

Although Dr Kellett calls into question many commonly accepted "facts" regarding Mother Shipton and tends to be quite sceptical regarding several of the prophecies attributed to her, he does make an excellent, academically sound, logical case for her existence.

He also is able to make an insightful historically based case that at least a couple of the prophecies attributed to Mother Shipton did indeed appear to exist before the actual events prophesied. In another case, he points out details that are missing from an important early prophecy that would almost certainly have been present if concocted later with hindsight.

### **The Mother Shipton Prophecies**

A carriage without horse will go  
Disaster fill the world with woe.  
In London, Primrose Hill shall be  
In centre hold a Bishop's See

Around the world men's thoughts  
will fly  
Quick as the twinkling of an eye.  
[The electrical telegraph was used  
around the globe from the 1840s.]  
And water shall great wonders do  
How strange. And yet it shall come  
true.

[The first steam engines began  
production in 1712, and hydro-  
electricity started in the 1840s.]

Through towering hills proud men  
shall ride  
No horse or ass move by his side.  
[Railways, trains and tunnels  
boomed in the 1840s.]  
Beneath the water, men shall walk  
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall even  
talk.

[Working submarines began in  
1866, and deep sea divers were  
walking on the sea bed then too.]  
And in the air men shall be seen  
In white and black and even green.  
A great man then, shall come and  
go  
For prophecy declares it so.

In water, iron, then shall float  
As easy as a wooden boat.  
Gold shall be seen in stream and  
stone  
In land that is yet unknown.  
[Australia or North America?]

And England shall admit a Jew  
You think this strange, but it is true.  
The Jew that once was held in scorn  
Shall of a Christian then be born.  
[In 1290, King Edward I expelled all  
Jews from England, so this verse  
likely refers to either Benjamin  
Disraeli who in 1874 became the  
only British Prime Minister to have  
been of Jewish birth, or Nathan  
Mayer Rothschild who settled in  
England in 1798.]

A house of glass shall come to pass  
In England. But alas, alas  
[The Crystal Palace, London, was  
destroyed by fire in 1936.]  
A war will follow with the work  
Where dwells the Pagan and the  
Turk.

These states will lock in fiercest  
strife  
And seek to take each other's life.  
When north shall thus divide the  
south  
And Eagle build in Lion's mouth  
Then tax and blood and cruel war  
Shall come to every humble door.

Three times shall lovely sunny  
France  
Be led to play a bloody dance.  
Before the people shall be free  
Three tyrant rulers shall she see.

Three rulers in succession be  
Each springs from different dynasty.  
Then when the fiercest strife is done  
England and France shall be as one.  
[After hundreds of years of conflict,  
England and France were friends  
by the end of the 19th century.]

The British olive shall next then  
twine  
In marriage with a German vine.  
[In 1714 the throne went to the  
(Germanic) House of Hanover

starting with George I; and in 1840  
Queen Victoria married her first  
cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-  
Coburg and Gotha, another  
German royal family line.]  
Men walk beneath and over streams  
Fulfilled shall be their wondrous  
dreams.

For in those wondrous far-off days  
The women shall adopt a craze  
To dress like men, and trousers wear  
And to cut off their locks of hair.  
They'll ride astride with brazen brow  
As witches do on broomstick now.  
[Refers to times when it was  
customary for women to only ride  
side-saddle on horses.]

And roaring monsters with man  
atop  
Does seem to eat the verdant crop  
[Combine harvesters]  
And men shall fly as birds do now  
And give away the horse and  
plough.  
There'll be a sign for all to see  
Be sure that it will certain be.  
Then love shall die and marriage  
cease  
And nations wane as babes  
decrease.

And wives shall fondle cats and  
dogs  
And men live much the same as  
hogs.  
In nineteen hundred and twenty six  
Build houses light of straw and  
sticks.  
For then shall mighty wars be  
planned  
And fire and sword shall sweep the  
land.

When pictures seem alive with  
movements free  
When boats like fishes swim  
beneath the sea  
When men like birds shall scour the  
sky  
Then half the world, deep drenched  
in blood shall die.  
[Seems to describe the beginning  
of the TV era followed by World  
War II.]

For those who live the century  
through  
In fear and trembling this shall do.  
Flee to the mountains and the dens  
To bog and forest and wild fens.

For storms will rage and oceans roar  
When Gabriel stands on sea and  
shore  
And as he blows his wondrous horn  
Old worlds die and new be born.

A fiery dragon will cross the sky  
Six times before this Earth shall die  
Mankind will tremble and frightened  
be  
For the sixth heralds in this  
prophecy.  
[Widely interpreted as a comet, but  
it could also describe electrical,  
plasma or solar discharge activity.]

For seven days and seven nights  
Man will watch this awesome sight.  
The tides will rise beyond their ken  
To bite away the shores and then



The mountains will begin to roar  
And earthquakes split the plain to  
shore.

And flooding waters, rushing in  
Will flood the lands with such a din  
That mankind cowers in muddy fen  
And snarls about his fellow men.

He bares his teeth and fights and

kills  
And secrets food in secret hills  
And ugly in his fear, he lies  
To kill marauders, thieves and spies.

Man flees in terror from the floods  
And kills, and rapes and lies in  
blood  
And spilling blood by mankind's  
hands  
Will stain and bitter many lands

And when the dragon's tail is gone  
Man forgets, and smiles, and carries  
on  
To apply himself—too late, too late  
For mankind has earned deserved  
fate.

His masked smile, his false grandeur  
Will serve the Gods their anger stir.  
And they will send the dragon back  
To light the sky—his tail will crack  
Upon the Earth and rend the Earth  
And man shall flee, King, Lord, and  
serf.

But slowly they are routed out  
To seek diminishing water spout  
And men will die of thirst before  
The oceans rise to mount the shore.  
And lands will crack and rend anew  
You think it strange. It will come  
true.

And in some far off distant land  
Some men—oh such a tiny band

Will have to leave their solid mount  
And span the Earth, those few to  
count  
Who survives this [unreadable] and  
then  
Begin the human race again.  
But not on land already there  
But on ocean beds, stark, dry and  
bare

Not every soul on Earth will die  
As the dragon's tail goes sweeping  
by.  
Not every land on Earth will sink  
But these will wallow in stench and  
stink  
Of rotting bodies of beast and man  
Of vegetation crisped on land.

But the land that rises from the sea  
Will be dry and clean and soft and  
free  
Of mankind's dirt and therefore be  
The source of man's new dynasty.  
And those that live will ever fear  
The dragons tail for many year  
But time erases memory  
You think it strange. But it will be.

And before the race is built anew  
A silver serpent comes to view  
And spew out men of like unknown  
To mingle with the Earth now grown  
Cold from its heat and these men  
can  
Enlighten the minds of future man.  
To intermingle and show them how  
To live and love and thus endow  
The children with the second sight.  
A natural thing so that they might  
Grow graceful, humble and when  
they do  
The Golden Age will start anew.

The dragon's tail is but a sign  
For mankind's fall and man's  
decline.  
And before this prophecy is done  
I shall be burned at the stake, at  
one  
My body singed and my soul set  
free  
You think I utter blasphemy  
You're wrong. These things have  
come to me  
This prophecy will come to be.

**The following verses were found on a scroll in a separate jar.  
They appear to have been written at the same time as the verses above.**

The signs will be there for all to read  
When man shall do most heinous deed  
Man will ruin kinder lives  
By taking them as to their wives.

And murder foul and brutal deed  
When man will only think of greed.  
And man shall walk as if asleep  
He does not look—he may not peep  
And iron men the tail shall do  
And iron cart and carriage too.

The kings shall false promise make  
And talk just for talking's sake.  
And nations plan horrific war  
The like as never seen before.  
And taxes rise and lively down  
And nations wear perpetual frown.

Yet greater sign there be to see  
As man nears latter century.  
Three sleeping mountains gather breath  
And spew out mud, and ice and death.  
And earthquakes swallow town and town,  
In lands as yet to me unknown.  
[If we assume that a "sleeping mountain" is a volcano, we have, between Mexico City and Pueblo, Mt Popocatepetl, Mt Ixtacihuatl and, east of Pueblo, Mt Citlaltépetl.  
Translated into English we see:  
Popocatepetl = "Sleeping Warrior";  
Ixtacihuatl = "Sleeping Woman";  
Citlaltépetl = "Sleeping Sentinel".]

And christian one fights christian two  
And nations sigh, yet nothing do  
[Catholics vs Protestants]

And yellow men great power gain  
From mighty bear with whom they've lain.  
These mighty tyrants will fail to do  
They fail to split the world in two.  
But from their acts, a danger bred

An ague—leaving many dead.  
And physics find no remedy  
For this is worse than leprosy.  
[Originally this was widely regarded as referring to the Cold War forming a bipolar world and leaving a legacy of nuclear radiation illness in its wake. More recently though, many are wondering if the "ague" is more likely referring to illnesses resulting from biological warfare research labs; such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (mad cow disease) or whatever COVID-19 is.]

Oh many signs for all to see  
The truth of this true prophecy.

**These verses were on the outer  
wrapping of the scrolls**

I know I go—I know I'm free  
I know that this will come to be.  
Secreted this—for this will be  
Found by later dynasty

A dairy maid, a bonny lass.  
Shall kick this stone as she does pass  
And five generations she shall breed  
Before one male child does learn to read.

This is then held year by year  
Till an iron monster trembling fear  
Eats parchment, words and quill and ink  
And mankind is given time to think.

And only when this comes to be  
Will mankind read this prophecy  
But one man's sweet's another's bane  
So I shall not have burned in vain.

NEXUS first published these verses in the May–June 1991 issue (volume 2, number 3), and again in February–March 1995 (volume 2, number 24).