

WierdLaws.html ii

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Chapter 1

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1.1 WierdLaws.html

Strange Laws and Customs

In the 1970s it was proposed in Rhode Island to place a \$2 on every act of sexual intercourse.

In 1666 a law was passed in England requiring all corpses be buried in a wool shroud, to support Britain's wool trade.

Common in Europe during the Middle Ages was the practice of trying animals for injuring or killing a human.

It was customary in Ancient Rome for men to place their right hand on their testicles when swearing to tell the truth. Hence the word 'testimony'.

In the Andes, time is often measured by how long it takes to chew a quid of a coca leaf.

Although current Indian law forbids the caste system, many people still hold these notions.

In 1853, Illinois, it became law that any black entering the state and staying more than ten days had to pay a fine of \$50, or be sold into slavery for period to cover that ammount.

Playing cards became the first paper currency of Canada in 1865. In 1765, every pack was taxed one shilling, and they were used for class admission at the University of Pennsylvania. They were used by Napolean as ration cards during the French Revolution.

In the Middle Ages, artists' and trader's guild introduced tough initiation ceremonies. Journeymen in Bergen, Norway, were shoved down a chimney, thrown three times into the sea, and whipped.

In 1795, the National Convention in France introduced a new year consisting of twelve months each of thirty days, with five extra days at the end of each year. Each month consisted of threen ten-day 'weeks'. The system ended in 1805 because of the confusion, mainly due to the abolition of the seven day week.

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