

MYTHS, FOLKLORE &

The Ankou - Y Ancw



According to Celtic tradition The Ankou is the last person to die in a village every year and will assume the duty of calling for the dead.

There are different accounts from all over the Celtic world. In Brittany, France they have their own Ankou. They describe him as a tall, haggard figure with long white hair and seen as a skeleton with a revolving head that is able to see everything, everywhere. In Breton tradition, the squealing of wheels outside one's home is supposed to be an Ankou called **The Wheelbarrow of Ankou**. Similarly, the cry of the owl **The Death Bird** is referred to

The Ankou is said to drive a large, black coach pulled by four black horses and accompanied by two ghostly figures on foot. It knocks on the door, which is sometimes heard by the living, or it could release a mournful scream. Whilst the Bretons' Ankou was a skeleton in a white cloak waving a scythe all over the place, the river Towy's Ankou is extremely dark, black as the night and looks like a bat, with enormous wings



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