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THE CRUCIBLE

A USC Libraries Exploration

Ross Scimeca

To add to your enjoyment and understanding of **The Crucible**, the USC Libraries present a selection of books and articles that illuminate key issues in Arthur Miller's 1952 play and the historic circumstances of the 1692 Salem witchcraft trials.

Visions and Voices will present **two performances** of the play, on October 12th and 13th, in the Bing Theatre on the University Park Campus.

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Claudia B. Johnson, **Understanding The Crucible: A student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents**, (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1998). The book is available at Doheny Library under call number PS3525.I516C7345 1998.

Arthur Miller, **The Crucible**, edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom (Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2004). The book is available at Leavey Library under call number PS3525.I5156C7337 2004.

The Salem Witchcraft Trials

Peter Charles Hoffer, **The Devil's Disciples: Makers of the Salem Witchcraft Trials** (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996). The book is available at Doheny Library under call number KFM2478.8.W5H64 1996.

Mary Beth Norton, **In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692** (New York: Vintage Books, 2002). The book is available **online** and in hardcopy at Doheny Library under call number BF1575.N67 2002.

Ergotism: A Theory

Did a fungus play a role in the 1692 Salem witchcraft trials? Linda R. Caporael offers a physiological explanation for the events in "Ergotism: The Satan Loosed in Salem?" In her well-documented article, she argues that a fungus in the barley crop contributed to the hysterical atmosphere by causing convulsive ergotism among the people of Salem.

Caporael's article is available **online**. It first appeared in **Science**, Volume 192 (2 April 1976).

PBS revisited Caporael's theory in an **episode** of the **Secrets of the Dead** series.

Questions

For research assistance or additional information about these topics, please contact philosophy and humanities librarian Ross Scimeca at scimeca@usc.edu.