

Time Capsule III

EN 203 / Major Writers: American / Cole / Fall 2004

Browse the websites listed below (links available in Blackboard under **External Links**) and choose 1-3 artifacts on which to write (if you choose more than one, they need not be from the same site). Then, in a report of 2-3 pages, you will compare your artifact's depiction of some aspect of Salem, Puritanism, or the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 to that presented in one or more of the following: *The Scarlet Letter*; *The Crucible*; *I, Tituba*.

Your report should present a single, unified argument, and should analyze in some depth both the artifact(s) you have chosen *and* the literary text(s) to which you relate them. That is to say, be *specific* in the evidence you discuss—focus on specific details (visual, textual) and examine direct quotations from the literature.

At the beginning of your report, list the URL and a brief description of the artifact(s) you choose to examine. Please include printouts of the artifact(s) with the hard copy of your report, if possible. **Time Capsule III is due on Wednesday, Dec. 8.** Bring your hard copy to class, and e-mail me a copy beforehand. We will devote the class period to discussing your collective findings.

WEBSITE I: Salem Witchcraft Trials Documentary Archive and Transcription Project at the University of Virginia <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/>

This site is chock-full of materials, but a little confusing to navigate. Here are a few tips:

- Under **Documents**, you will find a wealth of sources, including facsimiles of the handwritten transcriptions of testimony, testimony in book form, warrants, and so on.
- Under **Literary Works**, you will find a number of texts; many of them are quite long, but you might be interested in looking at some of Hawthorne's short stories or some of the shorter poetic works.
- On the home page, right column, click on the **Images** link to see various images of the witch trials.
- Under **Notable People**, you can search for people significant in the trials, by name or by category (e.g., "judges," "accused," etc.). For some, you will find links to images (e.g., Giles Corey, Tituba) that would be interesting to analyze.

WEBSITE II: Famous American Trials: The Salem Witch Trials, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/salem.htm>

Everything here is fair game, except for the "Biographies" (3rd link down from top) and the last four links (**The Crucible, You're Accused!, Salem Witchcraft Jeopardy, Bibliography**).