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NEW ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY AT THE SALEM WITCH MUSEUM

SALEM—Seven new artifacts are now on display in the exhibit *Witches: Evolving Perceptions*. As part of our ongoing museum-wide series of renovations, these acquisitions are an exciting step forward as we continue to build a permanent collection.

Among these artifacts are two books with direct connections to the Salem witch trials. A 1650 edition of *A Large and Complete Concordance to the Bible* owned by Judge Samuel Sewall and a 1693 edition of Reverend Cotton Mather's *The Wonders of the Invisible World* are now displayed alongside several other artifacts related to the Salem trials.

In 1697, Samuel Sewall became the first and only magistrate to apologize for his involvement in the witchcraft trials. This verbal index to the Bible includes Samuel Sewall's signature along with the date, April 30, 1717. In contrast, Reverend Cotton Mather's *The Wonders of the Invisible World* offered a court-sanctioned account of the Salem witch trials. Originally published in the fall of 1692, this was the first edition published in London, offering details of the deadly witch panic to a transatlantic audience.

A first edition, second printing, of English physician John Beaumont's 1705 *An Historical, Physiological and Theological Treatise of Spirits, Apparitions, Witchcrafts, and other Magical Practices*, has also been added to our collection of early modern witchcraft texts. This work firmly defended the existence of spirits and reality of witchcraft, includes personal anecdotes of supernatural contact from the author, and contains a peculiar hand-drawn sinister figure in ink.

In addition to these early modern texts, several items relating to the evolving image of the witch have also been added to the exhibit. These include the October 1923 edition of *Life* magazine which features a beautiful young witch astride a vacuum, a 1960 *Wendy the Good Little Witch* comic book, a 1987 cast-signed production information packet for *The Witches of Eastwick*, and a 2008 Wicked Witch of the West Barbie.

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