

Distinguished Lectures in European History
in co-sponsorship with the RCHA

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“The Männel is a root;
it is said to be called an
Allraune.”

March 7, 2024
5:15 PM

Van Dyck Hall
Room 301

Magic, Money, and Medicine in a Saxon Mining Town

Followed by a reception

Open to the public

The point of departure in this talk is a “superstitious and suspicious” object confiscated from a group of women in a Saxon mining town by local authorities in 1696. The subsequent investigation revealed the many hands that had a role in fashioning, using, and interpreting this object and invites us today to examine a material culture of magic, money, and medicine in early modern Saxony. The fact that the object still sits in the Dresden archive today, meanwhile, offers an opportunity to reflect on the power archival objects in historical research and their surprising power to unsettle and inspire us today.

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