

Rehabilitated: Anna Goeldi, the “Last Witch”

Waltraud Maierhofer
monday
OCTOBER

26

12:00 to 1:00

Iowa City Public Library . Meeting Room A



Criminal injustice has long been an important subject in popular culture. The accusation of the maid Anna Goeldi as a “witch” and her execution in Glarus, Switzerland in 1782 was a judicial scandal in eighteenth-century Europe and the subject of several publications at the time. In 2008 she was finally officially rehabilitated by the Swiss Parliament and the canton. This decision was preceded by a bestseller novel of 1982, a film of 1991, extensive research by historians and law historians, and many legal appeals. This lecture considers the latest and decisive legal arguments for the case as a miscarriage of justice and examines how the preceding popular novel and film argued its case by employing the means and modes of fiction.

Waltraud Maierhofer is a Professor of German at the University of Iowa. Her latest publications include an introduction to German literature (*Deutsche Literatur im Kontext*, 2009) and the article “Another Play On Salem Witch Trials: Lion Feuchtwanger, Communists, and Nazis” (forthcoming in *Comparative Drama*). Together with Mary Bryant (MFA UI, 2009) she is working on an English translation of the novel discussed in this talk by Eveline Hasler, *Anna Goeldi—The Last Witch*.



Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served!

This event is sponsored by University of Iowa International Programs, Iowa City Public Library and the Stanley-UI Foundation Support Organization.

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