



INSIDE THE VAULT

The Salem Witchcraft Trials
with Dr. Karin Wulf

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024



How to Participate

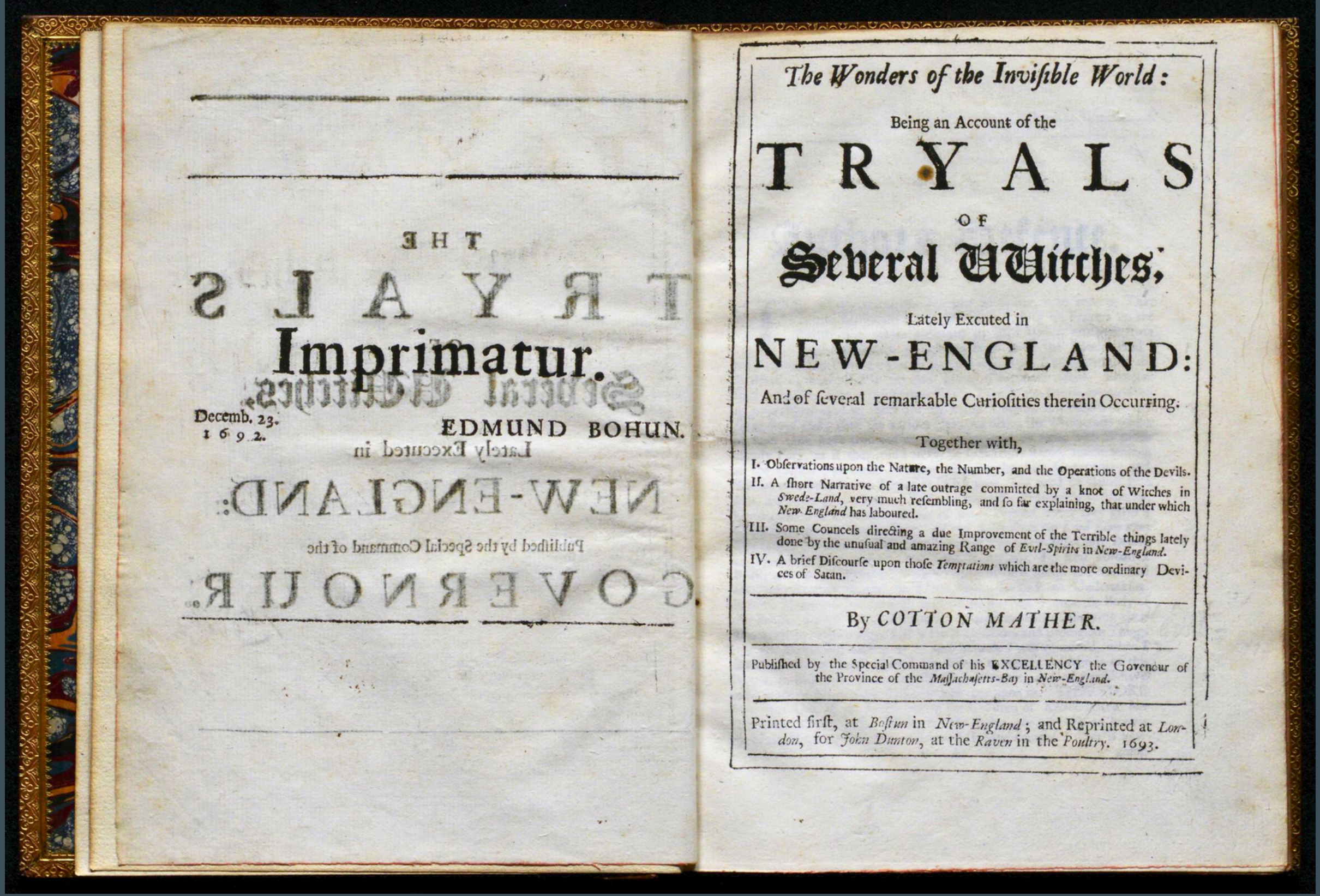


- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

Today's Documents



The Wonders of the Invisible World by Cotton Mather, London, 1693.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00264)

Dr. Karin Wulf



Karin Wulf is currently the Director and Librarian at The John Carter Brown Library and Professor of History at Brown University. She's a historian of gender, family and politics in eighteenth-century British America. Her current book *Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. Before coming to the JCB and Brown in 2021, she was the Executive Director of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture from 2013-21 and Professor of History at William & Mary.

Explanations for Salem: European Background



- In waves of violence across the 15-17th centuries
- Process influenced by different legal systems
- All originating in ideas about devilry or the Devil

Explanations for Salem: Social Conflict

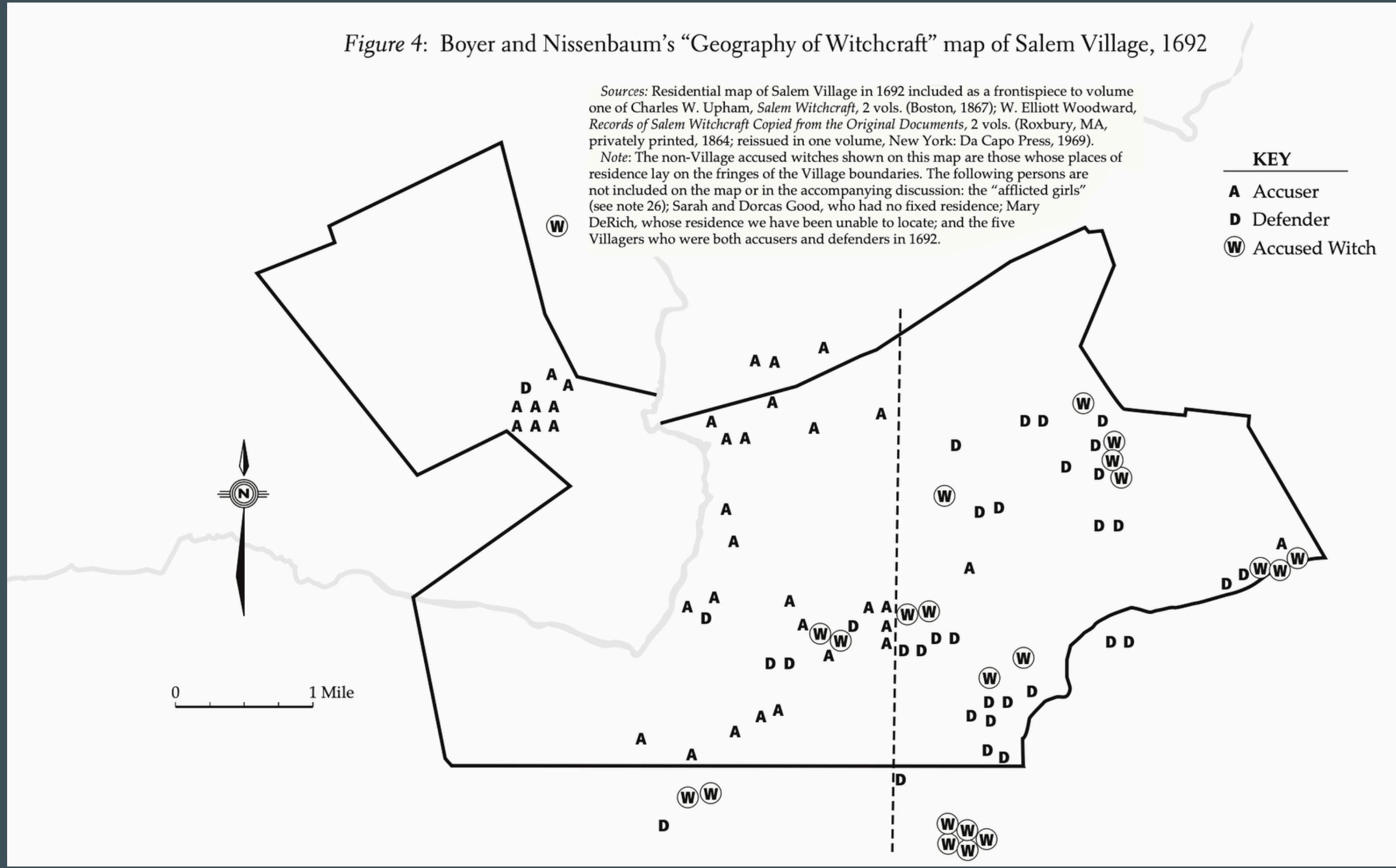


Figure 4: Boyer and Nissenbaum's "Geography of Witchcraft" map of Salem Village, 1692

Sources: Residential map of Salem Village in 1692 included as a frontispiece to volume one of Charles W. Upham, *Salem Witchcraft*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1867); W. Elliott Woodward, *Records of Salem Witchcraft Copied from the Original Documents*, 2 vols. (Roxbury, MA, privately printed, 1864; reissued in one volume, New York: Da Capo Press, 1969).

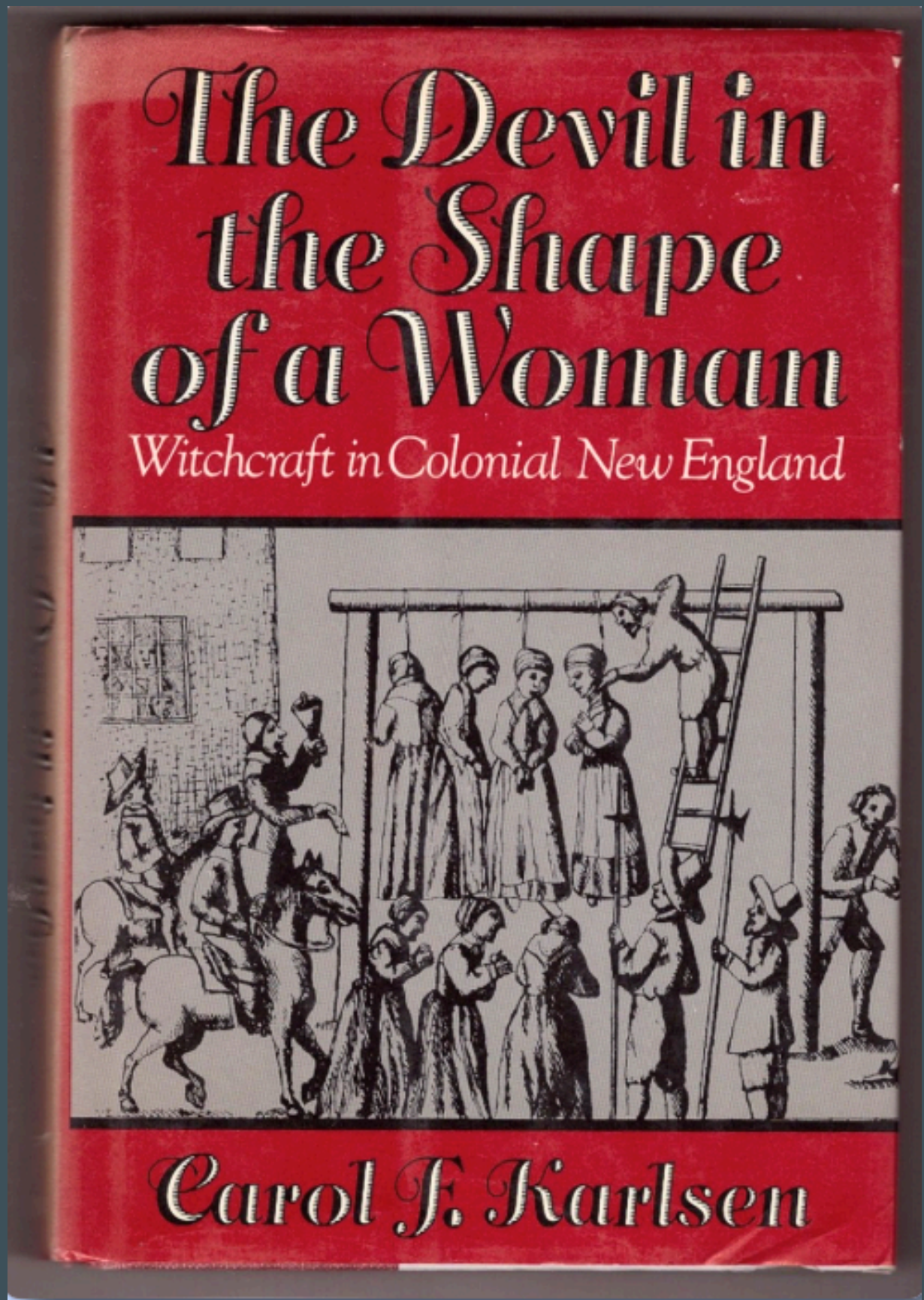
Note: The non-Village accused witches shown on this map are those whose places of residence lay on the fringes of the Village boundaries. The following persons are not included on the map or in the accompanying discussion: the "afflicted girls" (see note 26); Sarah and Dorcas God, who had no fixed residence; Mary DeRich, whose residence we have been unable to locate; and the five Villagers who were both accusers and defenders in 1692.

KEY
A Accuser
D Defender
W Accused Witch

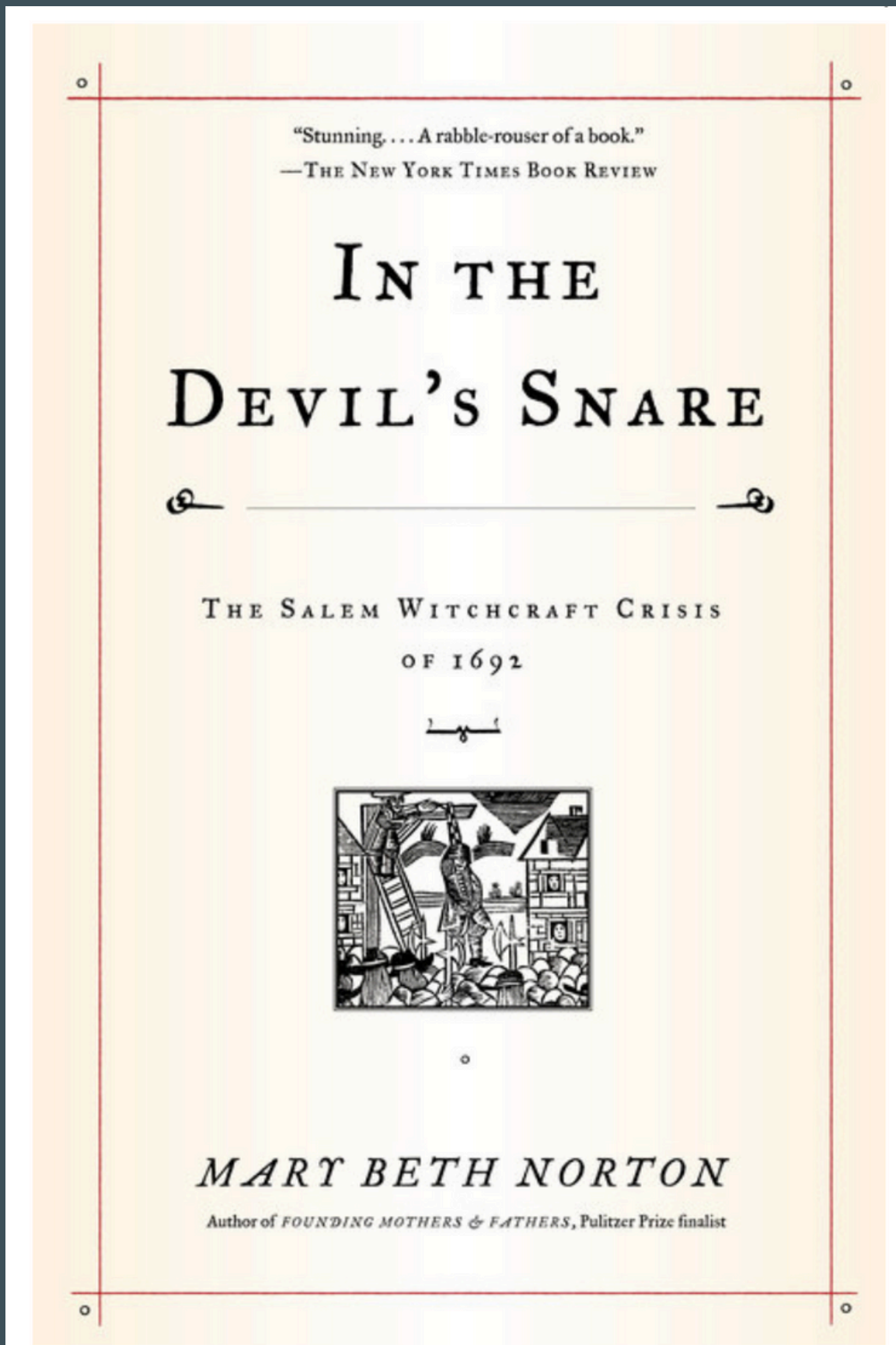


"Geography of Witchcraft" from *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft* by Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, 1974. (Harvard University Press)

Explanations for Salem: Gender and Warfare

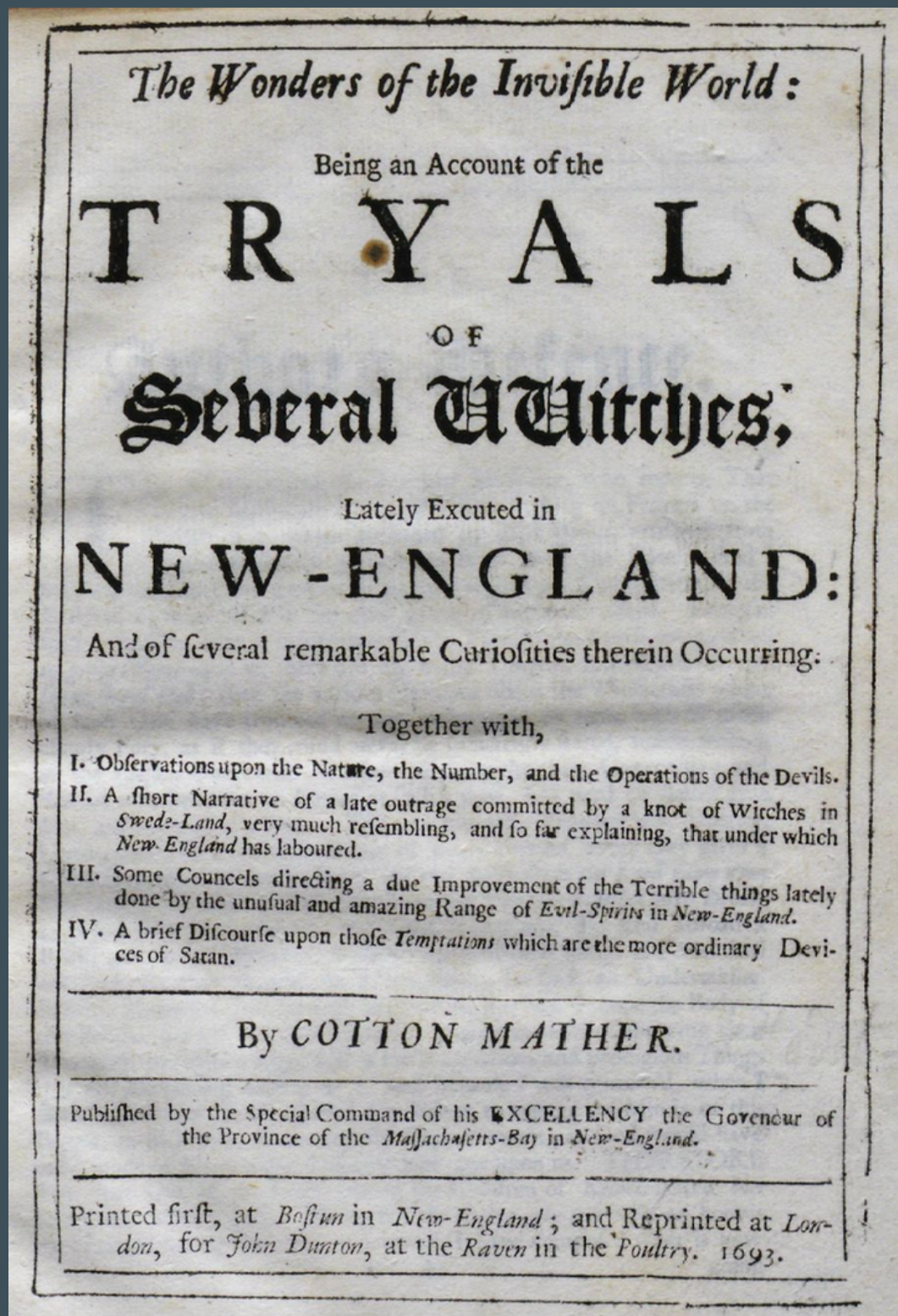


Published by the W. W. Norton & Company in 1998

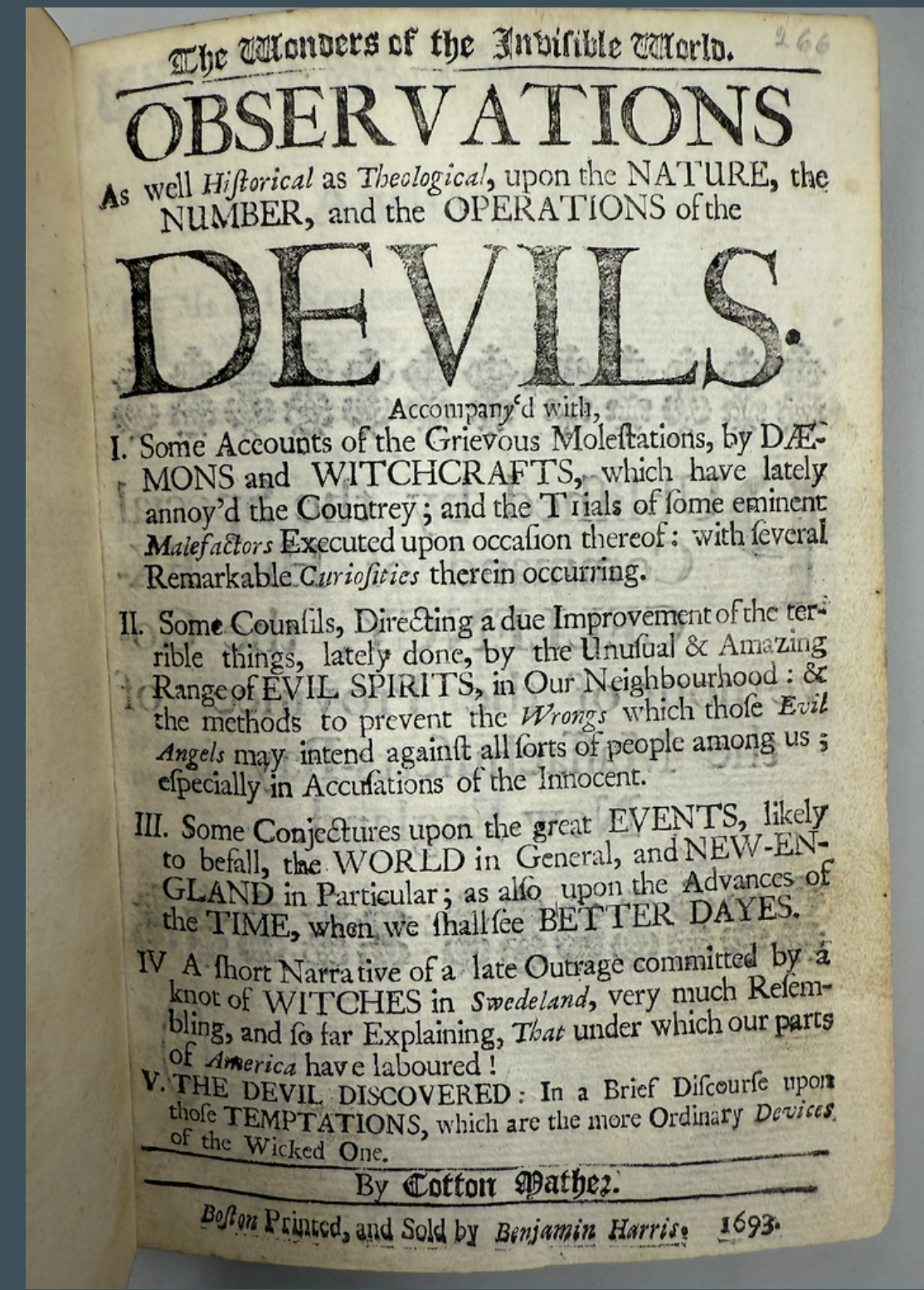


Published by Vintage in 2003

Cotton Mather Responds: Background and Context



- Mather's own background
- Mather's actions
- Multiple editions - What do they suggest?



The Wonders of the Invisible World by
Cotton Mather, London, 1693.

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(The John Carter Brown Library)

Upcoming Free Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: November 7 at 7 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- We will discuss the First Black Cadets at West Point with LTC Rory McGovern, Professor of History at West Point.

BOOK BREAKS: October 6 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Ayesha Rascoe will discuss her book *HBCU Made: A Celebration of the Black College Experience*.