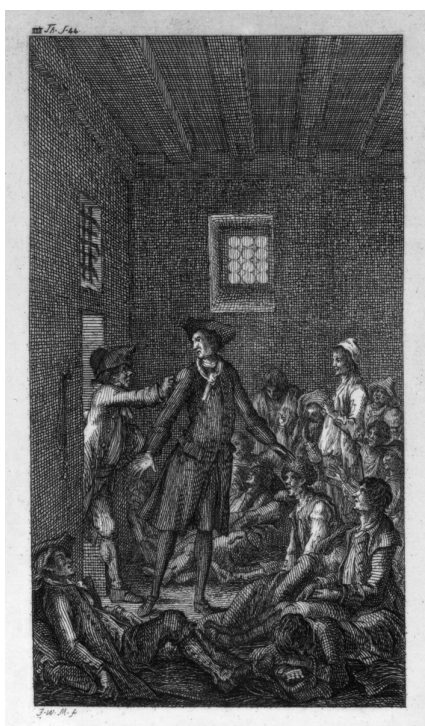


A Clergyman and Other Prisoners in Jail (1779)

Abstract

This 1779 etching by German artist Johann Wilhelm Meil (1733-1805) depicts a heterogenous population of imprisoned people. Both men and women, young and old are shown crowding around a pastor imprisoned with them. The barred windows identify the space as a prison while the destitute condition of the other prisoners hints at their poor treatment. The image was inspired by Friedrich Nicolai's satirical novel *Leben und Meinungen des Herrn Magisters Sebaldus Nothanker* [*The Life and Opinions of Master Sebaldus Nothanker*], whose protagonist is a Protestant pastor.

Source



Source: Johann Wilhelm Meil, *A Clergyman and Other Prisoners in Jail*, etching, 1779. Staatliche Museen Berlin Kupferstichkabinett. Photo: Volker-H. Schneider.

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