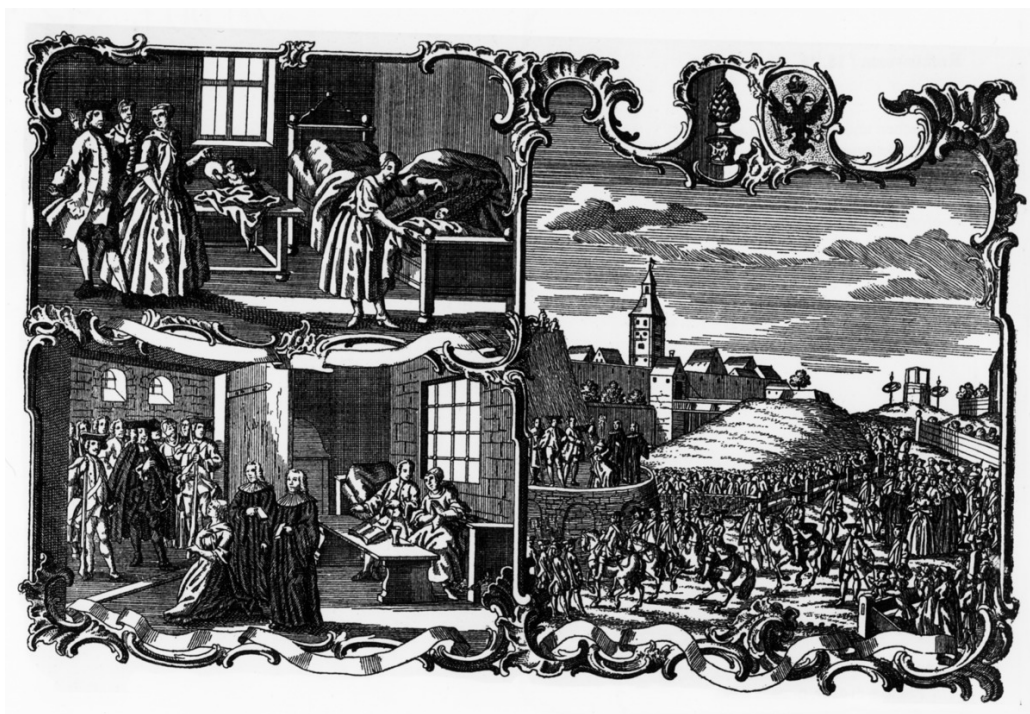


Crime and Execution of a Child Murderess (18th century)

Abstract

Crime rose during and after the Thirty Years War, especially among the itinerant and urban poor. Judicial reactions to women found guilty of infanticide and child murder were often ferocious. For lesser offenses, however, fines or prison sentences might be handed down. The images below come from a broadsheet that was widely distributed among ordinary people. The scenes show (counterclockwise, from the upper left): the murderess' crime, her sentencing, and her public execution. Sentencing and punishment were understood as acts of purification and redemption, both for society and the "poor sinner."

Source



Source: Copperplate engraving by an unknown artist, 18th century.

bpk-Bildagentur, image number 20007342. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

© bpk

Recommended Citation: Crime and Execution of a Child Murderess (18th century), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/the-holy-roman-empire-1648-1815/ghdi:image-2949> [July 16,

2024].