



Representing witches' lovesickness on the Early Modern French stage

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Abstract: Between 1550 and 1650, five French plays show witches in love. Studying their emotions and bodies in light of contemporary medical texts on melancholy allows one to diagnose them as suffering from lovesickness. But their love restricts the witches' powers, as they are unable to make themselves loved, nor to heal themselves from their illness. Thus, the witch's ethos seems to be incompatible with a lover's part.

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