

## Notes for *The Century of Deception*

### Chapter One: 'Lately Arrived from Formosa', pp. 13-32.

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- 'Lately Arrived from Formosa' title: *The Spectator*, 16 March 1711. Actual quote is 'lately arrived from Formosa'.
- 'the best man he had ever known' and 'sit with him at an alehouse': *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D. including a Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides by James Boswell, Esq. A New Edition with Numerous Additions and Notes* by John Wilson Croker. In Five Volumes. Vol. IV, London, 1831, p. 172.
- George Psalmanazar birth date comes from *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Psalmanazar, George (1679–1763).
- Brought up in Southern France: *Memoirs of \*\*\*. Commonly known by the Name of George Psalmanazar; A Reputed Native of Formosa*, Written by himself In order to be published after his Death, London, 1764 [hereafter known as *Memoirs*], pp. i-ii. An advert included in the book states: 'From circumstances however there is little reason to doubt, but that he was a native of France: indeed he spoke the French language so well, beyond what is usual when attained by grammar or travel only, that we do not question to say, He was a Frenchman. His pronunciation had a spice of the Gascoign accent, and in that provincial dialect he was so masterly, that none but those born in the country could equal, none though born there could excel him.'

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- Catholic and 500 miles: *Memoirs*, p. 71: 'As for my parents and relations they were Roman Catholics.'
- 'uncommon genius for languages': *Memoirs*, p. 73.
- Avignon as a tutor: *Memoirs*, p. 104.
- Sexual overtures: *Memoirs*, p. 108: 'she was a sprightly lady, and her spouse somewhat heavy, though not old, I soon found by her behaviour, and her parting beds with him soon after my coming, that she would have been better pleased I had transferred my care from them [her sons] to her.'
- His dismissal: *Memoirs*, p. 111.

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- 'pity and admiration': *Memoirs*, p. 113.
- Success of his deception: *Memoirs*, pp. 116-20.
- Wooed by his cousin: *Memoirs*, p. 123.
- 'by no means to stay longer than a year from her, unless I could convince her that it was very much to my advantage': *Memoirs*, p. 123.
- Foreign pronunciation: *Memoirs*, p. 132.
- Going to low countries: *Memoirs*, p. 140.

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- 'fertile fancy to work upon': *Memoirs*, p. 136.
- Pretending to be Japanese: *Memoirs*, p. 138.
- A forged Irish certificate: *Memoirs*, pp. 138-9.
- Avoiding punishment: *Memoirs*, p. 147.
- Arriving at Cologne: *Memoirs*, p. 142.
- Calling himself Salmanazar: *Memoirs*, p. 169. The King was actually called Shalmaneser, from 2 Kings 17:3.
- 'desirous of being admired and taken notice of': *Memoirs*, p. 174. On p. 219 of the *Memoirs* Innes told him he should pretend to be older as he seemed too young to be as knowledgeable as he was about Formosa.
- Arriving in Sluis in Holland: *Memoirs*, p. 175.
- Innes befriending: *Memoirs*, pp. 178-9.
- Conversion: *Memoirs*, p. 179.
- Desire to leave the army: *Memoirs*, p. 181.
- 'What a consummate wretch must this Innes have been! Psalmanazar himself was an honest man in comparison': *The Monthly Review; or, Literary Journal*, vol. 32, December 1764, p. 445.

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- Sentences from right to left: *Memoirs*, p. 136.
- Translate a passage from Cicero: *Memoirs*, pp. 184-5.
- 'learned gentlemen' and 'ministers': *Memoirs*, p. 183.
- 'an abominable piece of irreligion': *Memoirs*, p. 183.
- 'to Oxford, to teach the Formosan language to a set of gentlemen': *Memoirs*, p. 192.

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- Sceptical clergymen: *Memoirs*, p. 194.
- His strange diet: *Memoirs*, p. 194.
- Dangerous voyage: *Memoirs*, p. 194-5.
- 'dreadful shipwreck' of his 'soul': *Memoirs*, p. 195.
- Landing at Harwick: *Memoirs*, p. 195.
- Translated *The Jesuits' Intrigues*: Entry in *Universal Historical Dictionary*, Volume 1, George Crabbe, 1825, under Compton, Henry (Ecc.)

- 'with great humanity': *Memoirs*, p. 195.
- 'if there was the least Suspicion of his being a Cheat': *The History of the Works of the Learned*, April 1704, p. 245.

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- 'with his usual candour and generosity' and 'deserved to have been condemned to the flames': *Memoirs*, p. 214.
- 'the town was hot in expectation': *Memoirs*, p. 217.
- Two months to write it: *Memoirs*, p. 217.
- 'one might have imagined ... fellow as I was': *Memoirs*, p. 215-6
- 'should be wholly new and surprising' and 'should in most particulars clash with all the accounts other writers had given of it': *Memoirs*, p. 217.
- Full title is *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa*. By George Psalmanaazaar, a Native of the said Island, now in London, London, 1704 [hereafter known as *Historical*, 1704 to distinguish it from the second edition, *Historical*, 1705].
- 1704: *The History of the Works of the Learned* reviewed it in their issue of April 1704.
- Father de Rode: *Historical*, 1704, p. 4.
- Exploring the world: *Historical*, 1704, p. 8.
- 'Judicious and Honest Guide': *Historical*, 1704, p. 36.
- 'the Church of England': *Historical*, 1704, p. 37.
- 'the Errors and Superstitions of my Pagan Religion': *Historical*, 1704, p. 37.

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- Emperor Meryaandanoo: *Historical*, 1704, p. 150. According to an article by Takau Shimada, entitled 'Where are Meryaandanoo, Chazadijn and Tampousama Derived from?' p. 32, (see <https://core.ac.uk/reader/71784360>, accessed July 2021) Meryaandanoo is a derivation from Mary, Anne and Danoo, which itself derives from dono, a way of addressing a Prince.
- Enforced old laws: *Historical*, 1704, p. 161.
- King and Queen ... 'Country Bumpkin': *Historical*, 1704, pp. 224 & 230.
- 'some Letters gutturally as the Formosans do': *Historical*, 1704, p. 266
- Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments: *Historical*, 1704, pp. 271 and 273-6.
- Burnt alive: *Historical*, 1704, p. 163.
- Adulterers: *Historical*, 1704, p. 163.
- Dogs tearing body to pieces. *Historical*, 1704, p. 166.
- 'a profound Peace': *Historical*, 1704, p. 166.
- Sublime God: *Historical*, 1704, p. 168.
- 18,000 boys sacrificed: *Historical*, 1704, p. 176 [misnumbered as p. 178].

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- Plucking out their hearts: *Historical*, 1704, p. 176.
- bride aged ten to fifteen, *Historical*, 1704, p. 218.
- 'improbabilities': *Memoirs*, p. 217.
- Second edition: *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa*, by George Psalmanaazaar, a Native of the said Island, now in London. *The Second Edition corrected, with many large and useful Additions, particularly a new Preface clearly answering every thing that has been objected against the Author and the Book*, London, 1705 [hereafter known as *Historical*, 1705.]
- 'avarice of the proprietor': *Memoirs*, p. 220.
- Published 1705: Advertised in *The London Gazette*, 28 June, 1705.
- Psalmanazar was urged to make 'such alterations and vindications' that 'promote the sale, and satisfy at once the curiosity of the public': *Memoirs*, p. 220.
- Legal to kill spouse: *Historical*, 1705, p. 18.
- Eating heart: *Historical*, 1705, p. 72.
- Eating human flesh: *Historical*, 1705, p. 112.
- Worshipping devils: *Historical*, 1705, pp. 61-3.

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- 'unmerciful Criticks have rais'd against me and the Book': *Historical*, 1705, 1st page of 2nd Preface.

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- Saving sons from sacrifice: *Historical*, 1705, pp. 27-8.
- Sacrificing daughters: *Historical*, 1705, p. 29.
- Writing 2nd Edition: *Memoirs*, p. 226.
- Sent by Bishop of London: *Memoirs*, p. 221.
- Church music: *Memoirs*, p. 223.
- All night working: *Memoirs*, p. 224.
- 'kind of gravity, which I was not willing to part with': *Memoirs*, p. 225.
- Gout in Formosa: *Historical*, 1704, p. 253.
- 'good-natured and charitable disposition': *Memoirs*, p. 200.

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- 'inclined to drinking nor gaming': *Memoirs*, p. 161.

- 'a youth of so much sense and learning for his years, so seemingly free from ambition and other vices, could be abandoned enough to be guilty of such abominable an imposture and impiety': *Memoirs*, pp. 200-1.
- 'ready and retentive memory': *Memoirs*, p. 75.
- 'inadvertently in conversation': *Memoirs*, p. 218.
- 'could never be persuaded to lessen it': *Memoirs*, p. 218.
- Formosa was part of Japan: *Historical*, 1704, pp. vii-x, citing a debate at the Royal Society with Father Jean de Fontenay on 2 February 1704.
- 'I seldom found myself at a loss for a quick answer': *Memoirs*, p. 138.
- 'very fair': *Memoirs*, p. 197.
- 'looked like a young Dutchman': *Exoticism in the Enlightenment*, Edited by G S Rousseau & Roy Porter, MUP, 1990, p. 200. The note cites the minutes of the Royal Society, 11 May, 1703, British Library Add. MS. 4223, f. 24.

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- Kept inside: *Memoirs*, p. 197.
- The Englishman in Formosa reprisal is told as an anecdote in *New Joe Miller; or the Tickler*, Vol. II, Second Edition, London, 1802, pp. 160-1.
- 'idiom and pronunciation were so mixed and blended': *Memoirs*, p. 198.
- 'very short' and 'I never heard of a distinguish'd time from Day and Night': *Historical*, 1705, 2nd Preface.

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- Thirty-seven: *Historical*, 1705, 2nd Preface, Object 18: 'Whensoever (says *Candidius*) a Woman under the Age of 37 finds her self with Child, she must send for one of the Preistesses (Men he says have no share in divine Offices) who lays the breeding Woman upon the skins of wild Beasts, and then jumps and dances upon her Belly till she miscarrieth.' In a later book which Psalmanazar contributed to, he seemed to suggest that they had to be over the age of 37 to have children. *A Complete System of Geography: A Complete System of Geography. Being a Description of All the Countries, Islands, Cities, Chief Towns, Harbours, Lakes and Rivers, Mountains, Mines &c. of the Known World*, In Two Volumes. Vol. II, Emanuel Bowen, London, 1747, p. 251: 'nor are the Women suffered to bring forth Children till after the 37th Year of their Age: If they are found pregnant before that time, the Juibus or Priestesses are sent for (for they have no Priests in this Island, according to our Author;) and there, by dint of jumping and stamping upon her Belly, make her cast forth her Fruit.'
- 'a more barbarous Custom than what I affirm of the humane Sacrifices': *Historical*, 1705, 2nd Preface, Object 18.
- Dr James Pound anecdote: Cited in *The Pretended Asian: George Psalmanazar's Eighteenth-century Formosan Hoax*, Michael Keevak, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2004, pp. 32-3.
- 'many persons of ingenuity and learning' and 'it must be a real language, and no counterfeit, much less invented by such as stripling as Psalmanazar': *The Gentleman's Magazine*, January, 1765, p. 9.

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- Formosan version of the Lord's Prayer: Cited in *The Pretended Asian*, p. 88. It appeared in Benjamin Schulze's *Orientalisch-und Occidentalischer Sprachmeister*, Leipzig, 1748.
- 'that all the learned of Europe, though they suspected, could not detect': *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, Edited by W S Lewis, Yale University Press: <http://images.library.yale.edu/hwcorrespondence/> [accessed July 2021], Vol. 16, p. 131, 23 May 1778.
- 'good Christian': Cited in *The Pretended Asian*, p. 33. Keevak references *The Great Formosan Impostor* by Frederick Foley for the relevant correspondence.
- 'free-thinkers': *Memoirs*, p. 228.
- 'their supposed disregard for Christianity': *The Monthly Review; or, Literary Journal*, Vol. 32, December 1764, p. 447.
- 'Various have been the Opinions of Men about this Gentleman, some looking upon him as an impostor': *The History of the Works of the Learned*, Volume 6, April 1704, p. 244.
- 'still taken to be a Cheat in London': *Remarks and Collections of Thomas Hearne*, Vol. I, July 4, 1705 - March 19, 1707, Edited by C E Doble, Oxford, 1885, p. 17, Entry on 28 July 1705.
- Letters to John Locke as early as February 1704 show amusement at Psalmanazar's claims. Citing 'one who says he comes from Formosa' and 'I could make you very merry with what I have heard': *The Correspondence of John Locke*, Edited by E S De Beer. In Eight Volumes, Volume Eight, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989, p. 216, Sir Hans Sloane to Locke, 26 February 1704.
- 'Rogue': *Ibid*, p. 305 Anthony Collins to Locke, 27 May 1704.
- 'account lately given of it by Mr George Psalmanasaar': *Exoticism in the Enlightenment*, Edited by G S Rousseau & Roy Porter, MUP, 1990, p. 208. Minutes on 13 June 1705. The original reference came from *The Great Formosan Impostor*, Frederick Foley, p. 20. I contacted the Royal Society and they were unable to find the relevant minutes – although they did find the letters written by Mr Griffith (Refs EL/N1/80 and EL/N1/81 in the Royal Society Archive).

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- Promoted to chaplain-general: *Memoirs*, p. 187.
- Innes extracting money: This wouldn't be the last time Innes was involved in nefarious activities. Reverend Dr Archibald Campbell of St Andrew's wrote *An Inquiry into the original of Moral Virtue*, Edinburgh, 1733. He gave the manuscript to Innes who 'published it with his own name to it; and before the imposition was discovered, obtained considerable promotion, as a reward of his merit.' Cited in *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D. including a Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* by James Boswell, Esq. A New Edition with Numerous Additions and Notes by John Wilson Croker. In Two Volumes. Vol. II, New York, 1833, p. 156.
- 'had an almost insurmountable propensity to wine and women': *Memoirs*, p. 227.

- ‘any real scruple at, or fair Objection against’ and ‘divers Reports spread abroad to his prejudice’ and ‘false and slanderous’: *The Daily Courant*, 26 April 1706. Reference to these advertisements as being in the *London Gazette*, were made in *Memoirs*, p. 202
- Another advertisement: *The Daily Courant*, 18 May 1706.
- Monsieur d’Amalvy’s tract: Mentioned on p. 291 of *Historical*, 1705 [pages at end not numbered]. The actual tract was Isaac d’Amalvi, *Eclaircissemens necessaires pour bien entendre ce que le Sr. NFDBR die être arrivé a l’Ecluse en FlAndrés, par rapport à la conversion de Mr. George Psalmanaazaar, Japonais, dans son livre intitulé, “Description de l’isle Formosa”*, The Hague, 1706, cited in footnote 11, p. 126 of *The Pretended Asian*, Michael Keevak.
- ‘so few here in England’: *An Enquiry into the Objections against George Psalmanaazaar of Formosa. To which is added, George Psalmanaazaar’s Answer to Mons. D’Amalvy of Sluice*, London [n/d], p. 59

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- 18 July 1707: *The Daily Courant*, 18 July 1707, states ‘This day is published’. It is not clear whether this booklet was written by Psalmanazar himself or by his supporters or a combination of both.
- February another pamphlet: Publication of *A Dialogue between a Japonese and a Formosan, About some Points of The Religion of the Time*, By G P–m–r, London: Bernard Lintott, 1707. *Post Boy*, 4 February 1707 advert stated it would appear ‘in few days’ time; *The Daily Courant*, 25 February 1707 announced it was ‘lately publish’d’. Both *An Enquiry* and *A Dialogue* continued to be advertised for several months after publication. *A Dialogue* advertisement appears in *The Daily Courant*, 14 June 1707. *An Enquiry* is advertised in *The Daily Courant*, 24 September 1707.
- ‘I had the mortification to find’ and ‘that my fabulous account was as much discredited by the greatest part of the world as ever’: *Memoirs* pp. 202-3.
- ‘mis-spent in a course of the most shameful idleness, vanity and extravagance’: *Memoirs*, p. 231.
- Falling into debt: *Memoirs*, p. 234, ‘often run me into debt’.
- ‘according to the right Japan way’: *The British Apollo*, 17 December 1708.
- ‘White Formosan Work’: *Memoirs*, p. 235. *The British Apollo* advertisement describes it as ‘white Enamell’d Work’ with no mention of Formosa.
- Too high a price: *Memoirs*, pp. 235-6.
- dried up: It is noteworthy that six years later *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa* is still being offered for sale, suggesting that some still considered his story of consequence, see *The Post Boy*, 13-15 March 1717.
- ‘Scene wherein Thyestes eats his own Children, is to be performed by the famous Mr Psalmanazar, lately arrived from Formosa’: *The Spectator*, 16 March 1711. ‘On the first day of April will be performed at the Play-house in the Hay-market an Opera call’d The Cruelty of Atreus. N.B. The Scene wherein Thyestes eats his own Children, is to be performed by the famous Mr Psalmanazar, lately arrived from Formosa: The whole Supper being set to Kettle-drums’.
- Teaching modern languages, tutoring: *Memoirs*, pp. 237 & 239
- Clerk to a Regiment: *Memoirs*, p. 240.
- Painting fans: *Memoirs*, p. 246.
- Translating books: *Memoirs*, p. 249.
- Learning Hebrew: *Memoirs*, p. 250.
- Still believed he was a Formosan: *Memoirs*, p. 247.
- Found religion: *Memoirs*, pp. 258-9.

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- Palmer history of printing: *Memoirs*, p. 289. Its full title was: *The General History of Printing, from its first invention in the City of Mentz, to its first progress and propagation thro’ the most celebrated cities in Europe, particularly, its introduction, rise, and progress here in England*, Samuel Palmer, London, 1732.
- *An Universal History, From The Earliest Account of Time: An Universal History, From The Earliest Account of Time. Compiled from Original Authors*, London, 1747. The last volume is titled *The Modern Part of an Universal History, from the Earliest Account of Time. Compiled from Original Writers*, Vol. XLIV, and Last, London, 1766.
- *A Complete System of Geography: A Complete System of Geography. Being a Description of All the Countries, Islands, Cities, Chief Towns, Harbours, Lakes and Rivers, Mountains, Mines &c. of the Known World*, In Two Volumes. Emanuel Bowen, London, 1747.
- ‘the falsehood and imposture of my former account of that island’: *Memoirs*, p. 339.
- ‘now gives us Leave to assure the World, that the greatest Part of that Account was fabulous’ and ‘upon serious Examination, this will be found to deserve as little Credit, as that of our pretended Formosan’: *A Complete System of Geography*, Vol. II, p. 251.

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- Posthumous publication: *A Complete System of Geography*, Vol. II, p. 251: ‘and that he designs to leave behind him a faithful Account of that unhappy Step, and other Particulars of his Life leading to it, to be published after his Death; when there will be less Reason to suspect him of having disguised or palliated the Truth’.
- Piety: *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, James Boswell, London: Charles Dilly, 1799, p. 536: ‘I should as soon think of contradicting a Bishop’.
- ‘regular’: *The Works of Samuel Johnson, LL.D. with an Essay on his Life and Genius*, Arthur Murphy, In Two Volumes, II, New York, 1837, Prayers & Meditations, 1 June, 1770, p. 684.
- ‘he was afraid to mention even China’: *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, James Boswell, Notes by John Wilson Croker, London: John Murray, 1831, Volume IV, p. 173.
- Psalmanazar died on 3 May 1763 aged 84: *The Public Advertiser*, 11 May 1763.

- 'a beastly Fellow'; 'lived on raw Meat, just as it came from the Butcher's' and 'took a monstrous deal of Snuff': *The Public Advertiser*, 20 September 1763.
- Will and Sarah Rewalling: *Memoirs*, pp. 1-9.
- Memoirs first on sale: *The Gazetter and New Daily Advertiser*, 25 January 1765. The *Memoirs* are dated 1764.
- Second edition: *The Gazetter and New Daily Advertiser*, 13 May 1765.
- April 1766: *The Public Advertiser*, 4 April 1766.
- 'the author would be far out of the influence of any sinister motives that might induce him to deviate from the truth': *Memoirs*, p. 6.

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- 'carrying his delicacy very far indeed!': *The Monthly Review; or, Literary Journal*, Vol. 32, November 1764, p. 369.
- 'a faithful account of every thing I could recollect': *Memoirs*, p. 14.
- *A Modest Proposal: A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People from Being a Burden to their Parents or Country*, Dr Swift, Dublin: S Harding, 1729, p. 12. According to the book, after a young person was put to death in Formosa, the carcass was sold 'to Persons of Quality, as a prime Dainty'. Swift refers to him as 'the famous Sallmanaazor'.