

## Notes for *The Century of Deception*

### Chapter Nine: 'A Chinese Temple Rising Out of The Clouds', pp. 213-232.

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- 'A Chinese Temple Rising Out of The Clouds' title: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 23 August 1784: 'represented a Chinese Temple rising out of the clouds.'
- 'Grand and Magnificent Air Balloon, the Chinese Temple': *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, 4 August 1784.
- 'filled in an instant': *Ibid.*

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- 'inflammable air': *An Account of the First Aërial Voyage in England, In a Series of Letters to His Guardian*, Chevalier Gherardo Compagni, Vincent Lunardi, London, 1784, pp. 11-12: 'There are two methods of filling a Balloon for ascension; and it is remarkable, that the method first discovered and executed by Messrs. Montgolfier, is the most hazardous and difficult to apply to use. It is effected, as a chimney is heated, by a common fire; and a Balloon of this kind is a moving chimney, closed at the top, made of light materials, and raised by the elasticity which is always given to air by fire. This requires a constant application of fire to the contents of the Balloon, which is a difficult operation; and the least error in the application may be the occasion of consuming the apparatus, and endangering the lives of those who trust to it. I have chosen inflammable rather than elastic air for my guide. It is a substance produced by the action of vitriolic acid on metals or semi-metals, and is similar to that vapour which takes fire in mines, and carries terror and destruction wherever it approaches. This you will say is changing one hazardous instrument for another, but the chances of setting fire to the elastic Balloon, or of not applying the heat so equally as to answer the purpose of ascension, are numerous; those of exploding an inflammable Balloon, arise only from thunder clouds; and if proper attention be paid to the weather, they are not numerous or difficult to be avoided; besides inflammable air being *seven* times lighter than atmospherical air, and rarified air not more than *three* times lighter, the Machine must of course be proportionally larger in the use of the latter than in that of the former.'
- Buy an engraving: *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, 4 August 1784.
- Image sold: *New Aerostatic Machine, Being 65 Feet High, and 120 in Circumference, in which M. Le Chev. de Moret will go up*. Reproduced as Plate 37 in *Aeronautical Prints & Drawings*, With text by Lt-Col. W. Lockwood Marsh, London: Halton and Truscott Smith, Ltd., 1924. Text on p. 20: 'There is some reason for believing that the extraordinary looking object in Plate 37 really does represent the appearance of a balloon which was built by Count Moret, and announced to ascend from a garden in Chelsea on 11 August, 1784, the date given on the print being incorrect'. 'The reason for believing that the balloon may actually have been constructed in the curious shape is that Herr E. Fuld, in his "Uit de Eerste Jaren der Luchtvaart in Nederland, 1700-1808," reproduces a Dutch print of a *Luchtbal* launched in Holland on 11 December, 1783, which bears a very remarkable resemblance to Moret's balloon.'
- Accurate representation: *The Public Advertiser*, 12 August 1784 described it as having 'the Appearance of a Temple, with a Cupola'.

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- 'to pay for seats at the balloon' and 'in less than a minute they who gaze at a mile's distance will see all that can be seen': *The Life of Samuel Johnson including a Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides by James Boswell*, A New Addition with Numerous Additions and Notes by John Wilson Croker, In Two Volumes II, New York: George Dearborn, 1837, p. 417, Letter to Mr Hoole dated 13th August, 1784.

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- First fine day afterwards: *The Whitehall Evening-Post*, 12 August, 1784 refers to his 'apology'. *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, 11 August 1784 gives notice of rescheduling the flight due to bad weather.
- 30,000: *The St James's Chronicle; Or, British Evening-Post*, 10-12 August 1784.
- £50 or £80, *The London Chronicle*, 10-12 August 1784: 'about one hundred of the most inquisitive and liberal paid their money to have admission to the garden, where the machine was preparing, from whom the Chevalier might receive in guineas, half-guineas, and crowns, about 50l.' *The General Evening Post*, 10-12 August, 1784: 'The Second part of the Bottle-Conjurer was played off yesterday at the Bowling-green, Chelsea, by the Foreigner who advertised to go up with the Air Balloon. It is said he collected near 80l. from the spectators, with which he got clear off.'
- Charles James Fox: *The St James's Chronicle; Or, British Evening-Post*, 10-12 August 1784. 'The Company were admitted into the Ground at One o'Clock, led by Lord North, Mr Fox, and the principal Appendages of the *unfortunate Coalition*.'
- Bear the weight of the air: *The London Chronicle*, 10-12 August 1784.

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- Burning cork and straw: *The St James's Chronicle; Or, British Evening-Post*, 10-12 August 1784. 'Three hours were spent in Preparations, and in expanding the Balloon by Means of Fire made with Cork and Straw.'
- Strain on the cords: *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.
- Contraption rising: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 23 August 1784.
- 'three tedious hours of preparation': *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.
- Panting for breath: *The London Chronicle*, 10-12 August 1784.
- 'found more attractions in the earth than the air, and immediately came to the ground': *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784.
- Compassion towards Moret: *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.

- ‘the mob’: *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.
- The gates: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784: ‘and that part of the audience who are not remarkable for their philosophy, resolved to have satisfaction of the deceiver, and for that purpose pulled down the gates, burst into the garden, and, with the rapacity of hounds tore their prey into a thousand pieces;’
- Burst through the fences: *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784: ‘the mob which were scrambling on the tops of the hedges and trees which surrounded the place, burst through the fences, and in three minutes the balloon was turned into a bonfire.’
- Trophies: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784: ‘content with marching off with pieces of the Balloon, as trophies of their victory.’
- Fire: *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784: ‘the rest of the balloon, together with the benches, furniture, &c. was consigned by the irritated and disappointed mob to a still more inflammatory element.’ *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784: ‘the seats, pales, and everything they could lay hold of that was consumable, were committed to the flames.’

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- Limbs and watches: *The Public Advertiser*, 12th August 1784.
- Escaped serious injury: *The John Marsh Journals: The Life and Times of a Gentleman Composer (1752-1828)*, Sociology of Music No. 9, USA: Pendragon Press, 1998, p. 323: ‘On the next day (...) we left Greenwich & went to Kensington to stay a few day’s with Harvest’s, in our way to which, having heard of a balloon to be launch’d near Chelsea by the Chevalier de Morét we took it in our way & waited about 2 hours whilst it was filling to see it but at length we were disappointed the machine being too weighty & clumsily made to ascend in consequence of w’ch the mob broke in & demolished it, the Chevalier (after being as much exhausted in blowing the fire etc. & superintending the process of filling the balloon as was the patience of the mob) making his escape by a backway to a saddle horse there reserved for him in case of failure, or he might have been demolish’d too...’
- meteorologist: *The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.

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- Foreigner: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 12 August 1784. He was called French – ‘this celebrated Frenchman’ – when he was in fact Swiss.
- Flight never intended: *Ibid.* ‘thus concluded the first boasted flight into the English air, and which, although it did not answer what was expected, by floating with, the cavalier beyond the clouds, and which perhaps was never intended.’
- Bottle-Conjurer: *The General Evening Post: The General Evening Post*, 10-12 August, 1784: ‘The second part of the Bottle-Conjurer was played off yesterday at the Bowling-green, Chelsea, by the Foreigner who advertised to go up with the Air Balloon.’
- ‘bubbled’: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 16 August 1784: ‘at the expense of a credulous and easily bubbled people’.
- *The Whitehall Evening Post: The Whitehall Evening Post*, 10-12 August 1784.
- ‘the old trade of bumming the people’: *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, 17 August 1784.
- *The Morning Post and Daily Advertiser: Ibid*, 18 August 1784: ‘The abortive and ignominious attempt of the former was treated by them with every mark of contempt and indignation, and life itself must have atoned for his presumption, had he not escaped’.
- *The Public Advertiser: The Public Advertiser*, 27 August 1784: ‘You have already been duped by one Frenchman, the Chevalier de Moret; and now Mess. *Blinkard* and *Booby* hope for another dive into your pockets.’
- *The New Mode of Picking Pockets: The New Mode of Picking Pockets, Catalogue of Political and Personal Satires, Vol. VI, no. 6652, pp. 166-7.* Also Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Call Number: PC 1 - 6652-X, published August, 1784.

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- *The Chevelere Morret taking a French Leave: English Credulity or the Chevelere Morret taking a French leave, Catalogue of Political and Personal Satires, Vol. VI, no. 6652, pp. 165-6, published 17th August, 1784.* Also Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division: LC-DIG-ds-13368.
- ‘inflammable air’: *The Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, 13 August 1784.

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- Montgolfier brothers: *An Account of the First Aërial Voyage in England*, p. 14. According to *Histoire des ballons Et Des Aéronautes célèbres 1783 - 1800*, p. 106 Gaston Tissandier, Paris: H. Launette & Cie, Éditeurs, 1887, ‘Un Français nommé Moret, qui avait lancé à Paris quelques petits ballons libres...’ (A Frenchman named Moret who had launched a few small free balloons in Paris...). Also *Aeronautical Prints & Drawings*, p. 20: ‘it appears that Moret had in fact had some experience with hot-air balloons in Paris.’
- ‘weather prediction, telescope observation of the stars, geographical exploration, military reconnaissance and heavy cargo carrying’: *Falling Upwards, How We Took to the Air*, Richard Holmes, William Collins, 2013.
- ‘genius’: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 12 January 1784.

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- 20 January, *Ibid.*
- ‘incomprehensible infinity of space’: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 6 February 1784.

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- candlelit vigil: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 17 February 1784.
- Print of balloon: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 23 February 1784.
- Six-pence: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 1 March 1784.

- Dr Alexandre: *The Morning Chronicle, and London Advertiser*, 15 March 1784.
- Last week: *Ibid*.
- Closed on 26 March: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 26 March 1784.
- 'to execute some machinery of his own invention': *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 5 April 1784.

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- Selling tickets: *Ibid*.
- Number of subscribers: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 6 April 1784.
- Previously known: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 14 April 1784.

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- Weight of twenty men: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 11 May 1784.
- Tickets to see the construction: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 9 July 1784. An advert is also reproduced, undated, in *An Account of the First Aërial Voyage in England*, p. 8. This states that the balloon will be 'finished in about a fortnight'.
- Two weeks later: *The Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, 26 July 1784.
- Design and building: *An Account of the First Aërial Voyage*, p. 6. There were 'innumerable exhibitions, which are always open in London, and which are means of circulation, convenience, information and utility, almost unknown in every other country'. To pay for his 'design, I have been obliged to adopt this custom'.

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- *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser: The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 4 August 1784.
- In his advertisements: There were at least ten advertisements, with this note, inserted by de Moret in various newspapers between 4 and 9 August, 1784. 'The money collected shall remain in the above hands, and the Chevalier de Moret will take it only after fulfilling of his engagement.'

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- One shilling: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 9 August 1784.
- *Breslaw's Last Legacy: Breslaw's Last Legacy; Or, The Magical Companion...A real Book of Knowledge in the Art of Conjuraton. In which is displayed, the Way to make the Air Balloon And Inflammable Air*, London: T. Moore, 1784.
- Frontispiece: Between the 2nd and the 4th Editions, an addition of a basket with a man inside, would be added to the balloon. See *Breslaw's Last Legacy: The Thomas Moore Editions*, James A Smith, 2013, pp. 106-7.
- 'launched and navigated at *Chelsea Garden* by Chevalier De Moret': *Scrapbook of Early Aeronautica*, William Upcott, Smithsonian Library, p. 4 <https://archive.org/details/Scrapbookearlya2Upco> [accessed July 2021].
- De Moret replaced by Lunardi: *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 22 September 1784. This is reproduced in *Breslaw's Last Legacy: The Thomas Moore Editions*, p. 109 (incorrectly cited as '*The Whitehall Evening Post*').

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- 'when he made that experiment at Chelsea, which in the event proved so unfortunate': *The Morning Herald, and Daily Advertiser*, 23 August 1784.

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- 'rectitude and purity of his intentions': *Ibid*.
- Planted by de Moret: *The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, 24 August 1784.

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- £200: *The Public Advertiser*, 25 September, 1784.
- 'swindler' and 'successless though honest experimenter': *Ibid*.
- 'charlatan': *The Aeronauts A History of Ballooning 1783-1903*, L. T. C. Rolt, London: Longmans, Green & Co Ltd, 1966, p. 66: 'It should have been obvious to the most gullible that the so-called Chevalier was a charlatan.'
- 'fostering incredulity': *The History of Aeronautics in Great Britain*, J. E. Hodgson, London: Oxford University Press, 1924, p. 113: 'His disastrous attempt can have had no other result than that of fostering incredulity, and tending to associate all such endeavours in the public mind with fraudulent intentions.'