

Notes for *The Century of Deception*

Prologue, pp. 1-11.

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- Naval prize money: see *Prosecuting Fraud in the Metropolis, 1760-1820*, Cerian Charlotte Griffiths, 2017: https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3012313/1/201042524_Sep2017.pdf [accessed July, 2021].
- State lotteries: *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (June, 1991), 'The Abolition of the English State Lotteries', James Raven, p. 371 and *A History of English Lotteries*, John Ashton, London, 1893, pp. 86-7.
- 'an infamous and fraudulent undertaking': *Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England*, Vol. VIII, 1722-1733, London, 1811, p. 87.
- William Dodd: *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Dodd, William (1729-1777).

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- *The Prophecie of Mother Shipton: The Prophecie of Mother Shipton In the Raigne of King Henry the Eighth*, London, 1641

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- The Boy of Bilson: The two pamphlets relating to this case are *The Boy of Bilson: Or, A True Discovery*, London, 1622; and *The Second Part of the Boy of Bilson: Or, A True and Particular Relation of the Impostor*, London, 1698.
- 'rags, thred, straw, crooked pinnes': *The Boy of Bilson*, p. 55.
- Jone Cocke: *Ibid*, p. 60. Over time this name seems to have morphed into Jane Clarke – see *Four Centuries of Witch-Beliefs*, R. Trevor Davies, London: Methuen, 1947, p. 78 and *Crimen Exceptum: The English Witch Prosecution in Context*, Gregory J Durston, Hampshire, 2019, p. 175. This error seems to have started with *A History of Witchcraft in England from 1558 to 1718*, Wallace Notestein, Washington, 1911, p. 141 which uses the name 'Jane Clarke', citing *The Displaying of Supposed Witchcraft*, John Webster, London, 1677, p. 274 as the source. However Webster actually uses the name Jone Cocke.
- Hogarth features the Bilson Boy in his print *Credulity, Superstition and Fanaticism. A Medley, Catalogue of Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, Vol. II, June 1689 To 1733*, Frederic George Stephens, 1873, no. 1785, pp. 644-8. This was published on 15 March, 1762.
- First daily newspaper: It was the failure to renew in 1695 the Licensing of the Press Act which allowed newspapers to flourish.
- Two London theatres: *The London Stage 1660-1800, Part 2, 1700-1729*, Emmett L Avery, Southern Illinois University Press, 1960, p. xvii.
- William Hogarth: *Hogarth, A Life and a World*, Jenny Uglow, London, 1997, p. 84.
- 'perpetual testimonies of English credulity': *An Essay on the Force of Imagination in Pregnant Women*, London, 1772, p. 5.
- The phrase 'English Credulity' originated in 1749: the first instance I have come across the expression is in the print *English Credulity; or Ye're all Bottled*, 5 March 1749. See *Catalogue of Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, Vol. III, Part I*, no. 3022, pp. 737-8.

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- 'modern instance of English Credulity': *The Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, 3 June 1776.
- 'Advantage of English Credulity': *The Public Advertiser*, 7 November 1777.
- 'English Credulity': *Old England, or, The National Gazette*, 4 January 1752.
- 'A pretty strong instance of English credulity' and 'a wonderful creature': *London Chronicle*, 7-9 November 1782.
- 'for some time past lived upon English Credulity': *The World*, 6 March 1788.
- 'titles of Marquis, Comte, Vicomte and Chevalier' and 'to prey on English credulity': *The Morning Chronicle, and London Advertiser*, 20 July 1786. The article went on to say that 'A Frenchman's title should caution people against him'.
- 'one great pack of fools': From the print 'The New Mode of Picking Pockets', *Catalogue of Political and Personal Satires, Vol. VI, 1784-1792*, Mary Dorothy George, 1938, no. 6652, pp. 166-7. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Call Number: PC 1 - 6652-X, published August, 1784.
- 'Foreigners have repeatedly laughed at the English for their credulity': *The World*, 3 January 1794. Another paper, *The Whitehall Evening Post: Or, London Intelligencer*, 13-16 September 1794, wrote: 'ENGLISH CREDULITY, in the affair of the Bottle Conjuror, and a thousand other tales, have been frequently laughed at by foreigners and natives.'
- 'The lower class of people' and 'believe the grossest absurdities': *The Gentleman's Magazine*, November, 1751, p. 503.
- 'Particularly the Londoners' and 'a much greater share of gross credulity': *The Imposture Detected; or, The Mystery and Iniquity of Elizabeth Canning's Story, Displayed*, London, 1753, p. 2.
- 'Credulity is a part of the English character': *The Ladies History of England*, Charlotte Cowley, London, 1780, p. 508.
- 'no people are more credulous than the English in swallowing': *Town & Country Magazine*, September 1775, p. 484.
- 'hold which credulity retained on the national character': *England and the English in the Eighteenth Century*, William Connor Sydney, In Two Volumes, Volume I, London, 1891, p. 263. This is the only retrospective view; all the other quotes about credulity come from the 18th century.
- 'authentic': *Deception and Detection in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, Jack Lynch, Oxford: Ashgate Publishing, 2008, pp. 1-2 shows a tabulated table of the increase in use of the word 'authentic' in book titles through each decade of the 18th century. The word crops up in the titles of books referred to in later chapters, most notably in *An Authentic*,

Candid, and Circumstantial Narrative, of the Astonishing Transactions at Stockwell in chapter 8; and *An Authentic Account of the Shaksperian Manuscripts, &c.*, by William-Henry Ireland in chapter 10.

- ‘taste’: *Ibid*, p. 51 shows Samuel Johnson’s scepticism towards the word.

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- The concept of false memories was commented on by Johnson: *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, James Boswell, in Eight Volumes, Vol. I, London, 1885, p. 317: ‘It is observable, that, having been told of this operation, I always imagined that I remembered it, but I laid the scene in the wrong house. Such confusions of memory I suspect to be common.’
- Four suggestions of 19th century hoaxers: *Notes & Queries*, 9th Series, Volume 3, 1899.