



T. 347 . a1 - all

CONTENTS

Don Howard's letter to Brewster  
1726.

MARY TOFTS

AND THE

RABBIT BREEDING HOAX

1726-1727

Anonymous, Letter to St. Nicholas  
1726.

MS. TRACTS

Anonymous, Letter to St. Nicholas  
January 1727.

Anonymous, Supplement to St.  
Nicholas, 1727.

Anonymous, St. Nicholas's miscarriage,  
1727.

Anonymous, 1726-1727, or the  
squire turned rabbit, 1727.

Anonymous, A song on the Rabbit  
Bandit, 1727.

WHISTON, William, Predictions, n.d.

MARY JONES  
AND THE  
RABBIT BREEDING HOAX  
1726-1727

MS. TRACTS

1726-1727

CONTENTS

1. John Howard's letter, 9 November 1726.
2. Extracts from periodicals.
3. Anonymous, The wonder of wonders, 1726.
4. Anonymous, ... The wonderful coney warren ... at Godalmin, 1726.
5. Anonymous, Letter ... 17 December 1726.
6. Anonymous, Letter ... 7 January 1727.
7. Anonymous, ... supplement [to 6], 1727.
8. Anonymous, St. A-d-e's miscarriage, 1727.
9. Anonymous, The discovery: or the squire turned ferret, 1727.
10. Anonymous, A song on the Babbit Breeder, 1727.
11. WHISTON, William, Predictions, n.d.

1	John Howard's letter, 8 November 1728.
2	Extracts from periodicals.
3	Anonymous, The wonder of wonders, 1728.
4	Anonymous, The wonderful coney warren at Godalming, 1728.
5	Anonymous, letter, 17 December 1728.
6	Anonymous, letter, 1 January 1727.
7	Anonymous, supplement to 81, 1727.
8	Anonymous, 2f. A-d-e's misadventures, 1727.
9	Anonymous, The discovery of the aquatic turned ferret, 1727.
10	Anonymous, A song on the Rabbit Breeder, 1727.
11	WHISTON, William, Predilections, n.d.

Copy

To the Duke of Norfolk.

Guldeford, Nov. 9. 1726

My Lord Duke

The following is true, as it will be testified upon oath by several witnesses. One Mary Tost aged 23 has had 3 children. She is the wife of John Tost, a poor journeyman Clothier in the parish of Godliman being five weeks gone with child the 23 of Ap. 1726 was woeing of what was that town with three other women up left's a rabbit, this deponent and one of the women run after it but could not catch it. So they returned to their work again, about a quarter of an hour after they put up an other rabbit, then that deponent and two of the women run after it a pretty while but it got away, after it was gone this deponent said if they had not been fools they might have got it, one of the women said to this deponent, I believe you long for or has a mind to one of the rabbits, but she said with concernment if she did not, this run in this deponent head all that day, if she had but caught one of the rabbits, she could eat it. When asked she dreamt that she saw abundance of Rabbits, and could not get them out of her head, the next morning about six o'clock she got up, and went to the same field in hopes of finding a Rabbit in the place where she put them up, she put a bow as a mark to find the place, with her hat in her hand in hopes of covering the rabbits but finding none she was very much concerned all of day she could not get them out of her mind, one of the best bit was gray and 2 other blackish with black one was usual in her thoughts. She dreamt of them for a quarter of a year the 27 of Sept last I deliver'd her

of a black rabbit, full grown, the lungs and heart grow'd without the body joining to the lower part of the neck, it had three eels feet, and one rabbits foot, eels gills, and out of one of the gills I cut out three Vertebres of an Eel, I have since deliver'd this woman of ten rabbits, they were all alive before they was deliver'd, the last leapt 28 hours before it died, as soon as one eley's an other leapt up, the twelfth rabbit I believe I shall take from her about six o'clock, I have eleven of them in spirit when its over I shall give the Royal Society a full account, I cannot tell how long before the rabbits will adone coming away, if she had been with child she has but ten days to go

I am your Graces  
most humble and  
obedient Ser<sup>vt</sup>  
to Com<sup>ds</sup>  
John Howard.

a woman near Guildford in Surrey having been deliver'd of 7 creatures resembling rabbits, last Friday Mr Censre, the Kings surgeon and anatomist went down thither to see them. They are preserved in spirits.

Parkes Penny Post. 14. Nov. 1726

From Guildford comes a strange, but well attested piece of news that a poor woman who lives at Godalmin near that town who has an husband and two children now living with her was about a month past deliver'd by Mr John Howard an eminent surgeon and man midwife living at Guildford of a creature resembling a rabbit, but whose heart and lungs grew without its belly. About 14 days since she was deliver'd by the same person of a perfect rabbit and in a few days after of 4 more, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 4. 5. and 6 instant of one in each day, in all nine. They died all in bringing into the world. Mr Howard keeps them all in spirits, and we hear he intends to present them to the Royal Society. The woman hath made oath, that 2 months ago, being working in a field with other women they put up a rabbit, who running from them they pursued it but to no purpose. This creased in her such a longing to it, that she (being with child) was taken ill and miscarried, and from that time she hath not been able to avoid thinking of rabbits.

Daily Journal. 14. Nov. 1726.