18th Century Satire

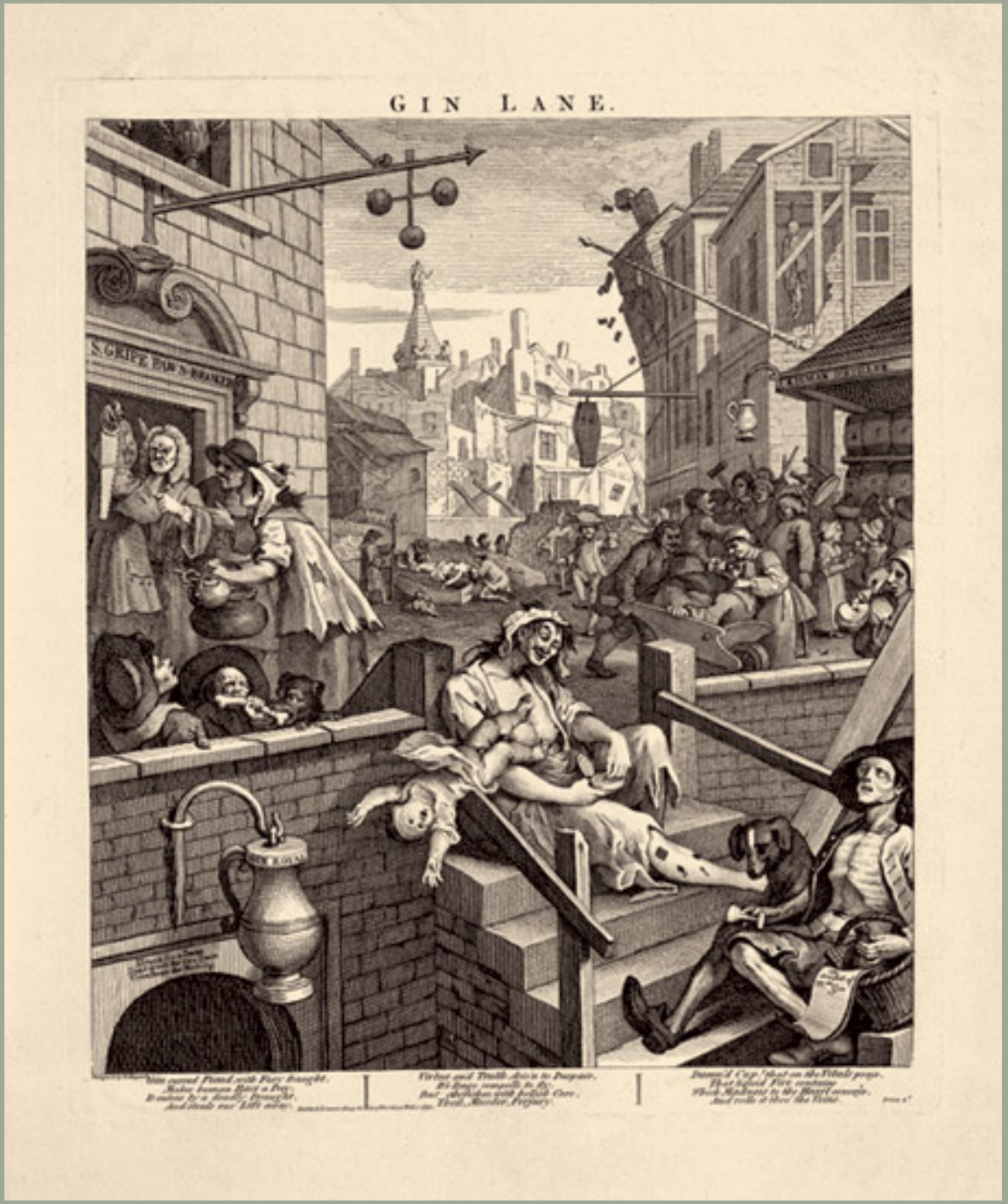
Dychangerdd yn y deunawfed ganrif

1

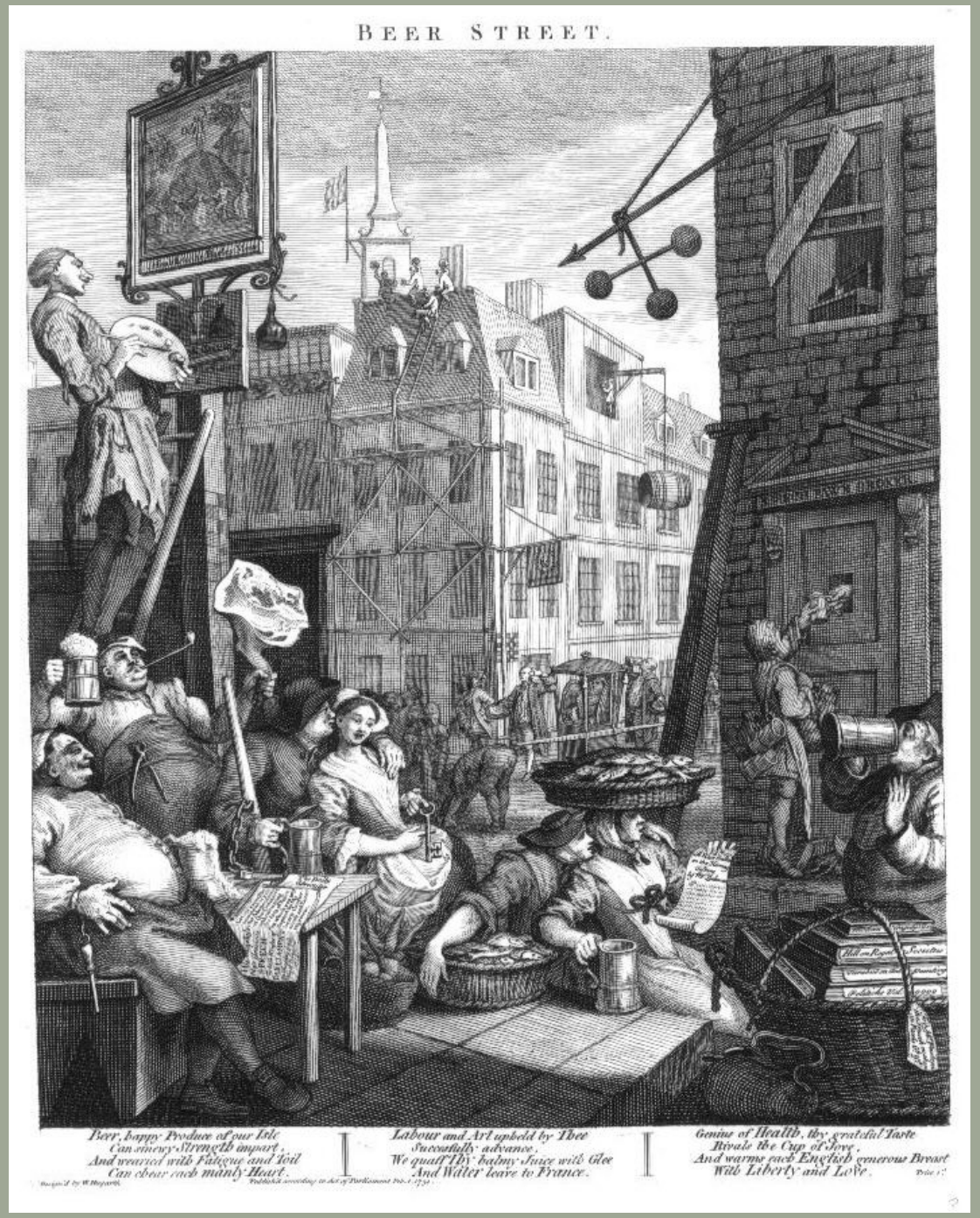
Engraving By William Hogarth depicting Mary Toft giving birth to rabbits



Hogarth
Gin Lane



Hogarth
Beer Alley



Cartoon depicting the work of a British army recruiting squad.



James Gillray, *The Pursuit of Knowledge, 1799*



The plumb-pudding in danger or State epicures taking un petit souper by James Gillray

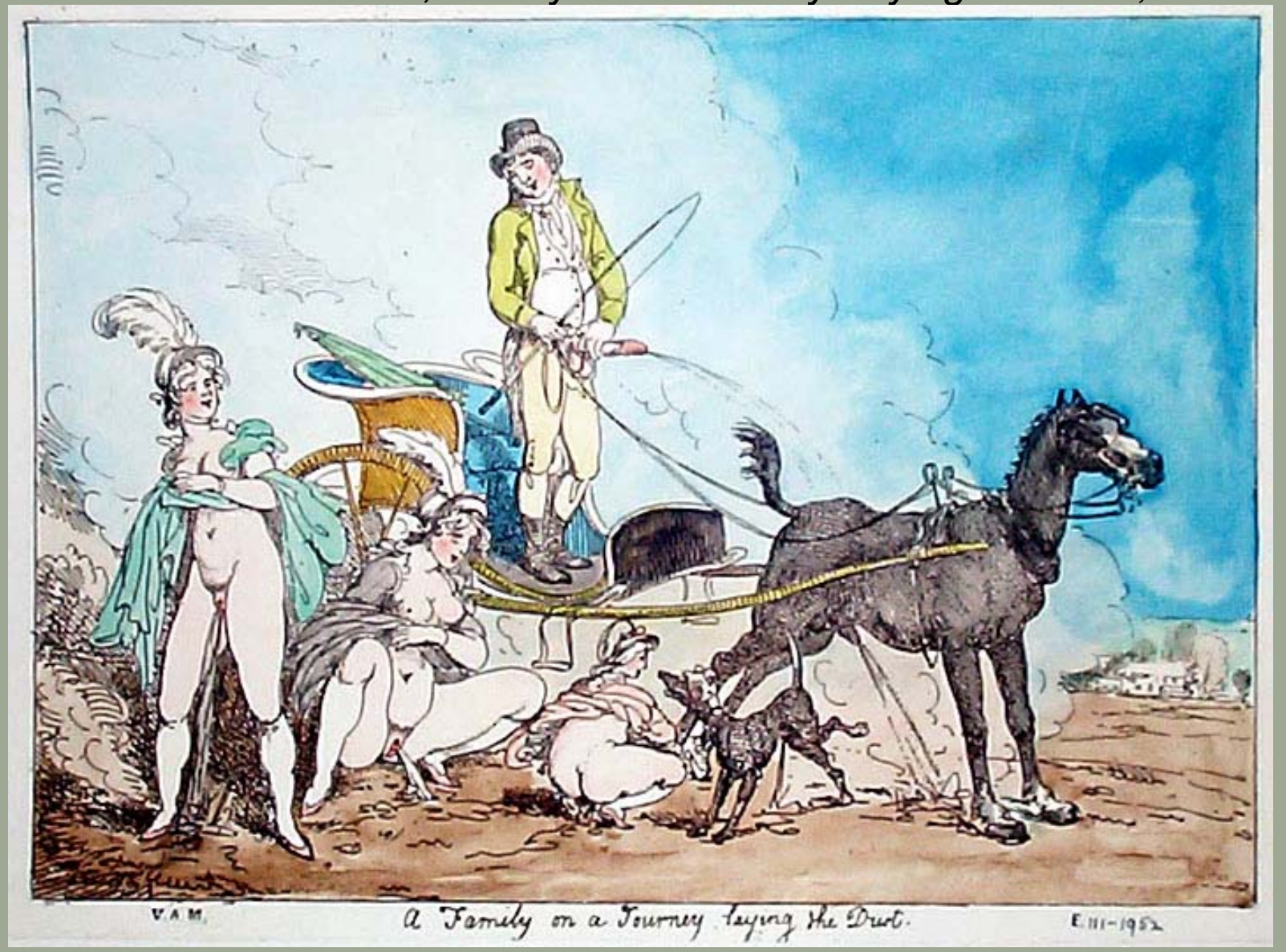


Thomas Rowlandson (1756–1827), Breaking Up of the Blue Stocking Club



8

Thomas Rowlandson, *Family on a Journey Laying the Dust, 1800*



George Cruikshank, *Royal Embarkment, 1819*



10

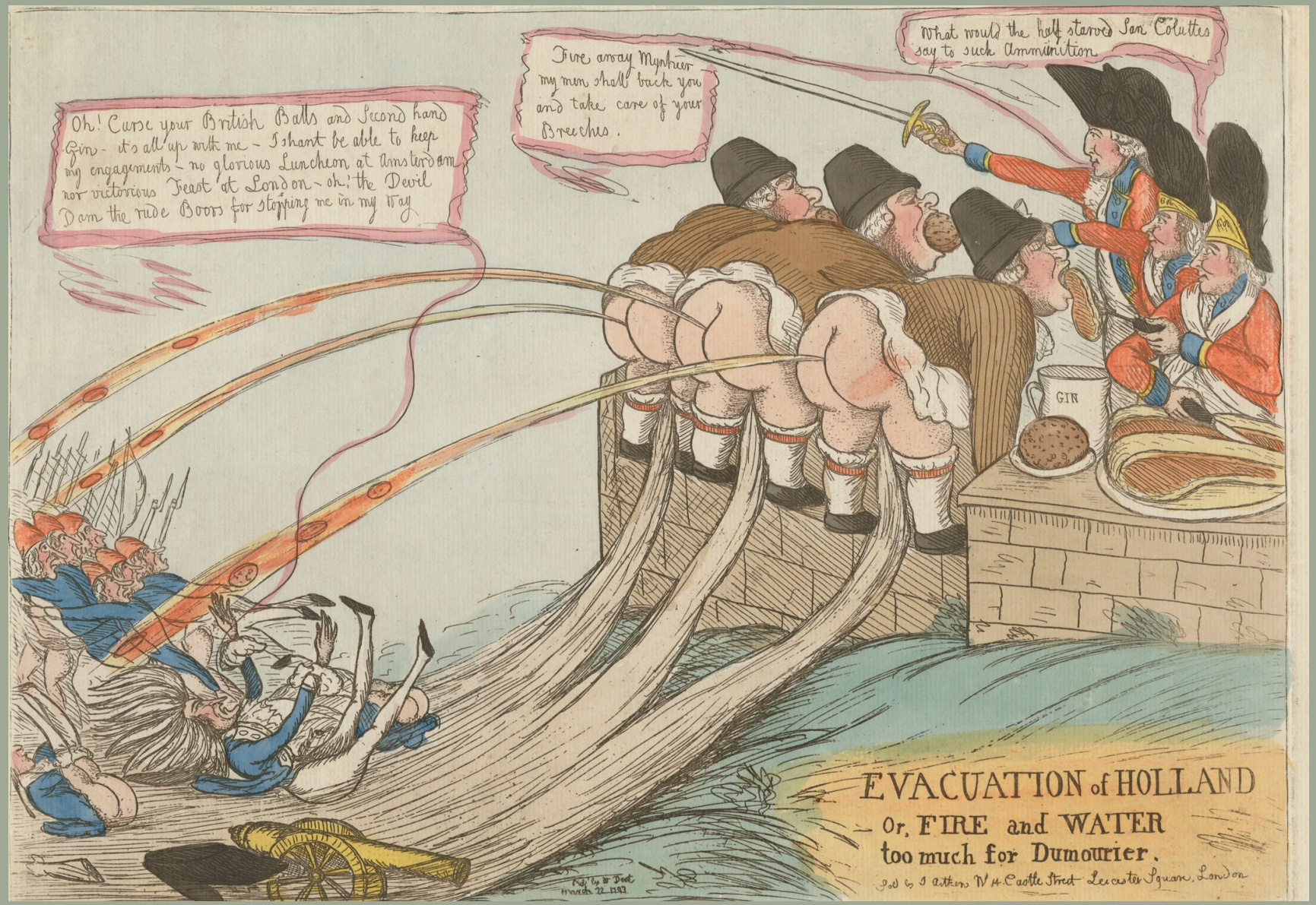
George Cruikshank Comparison



Robert Cruikshank's Reflection: To Be or Not To Be!



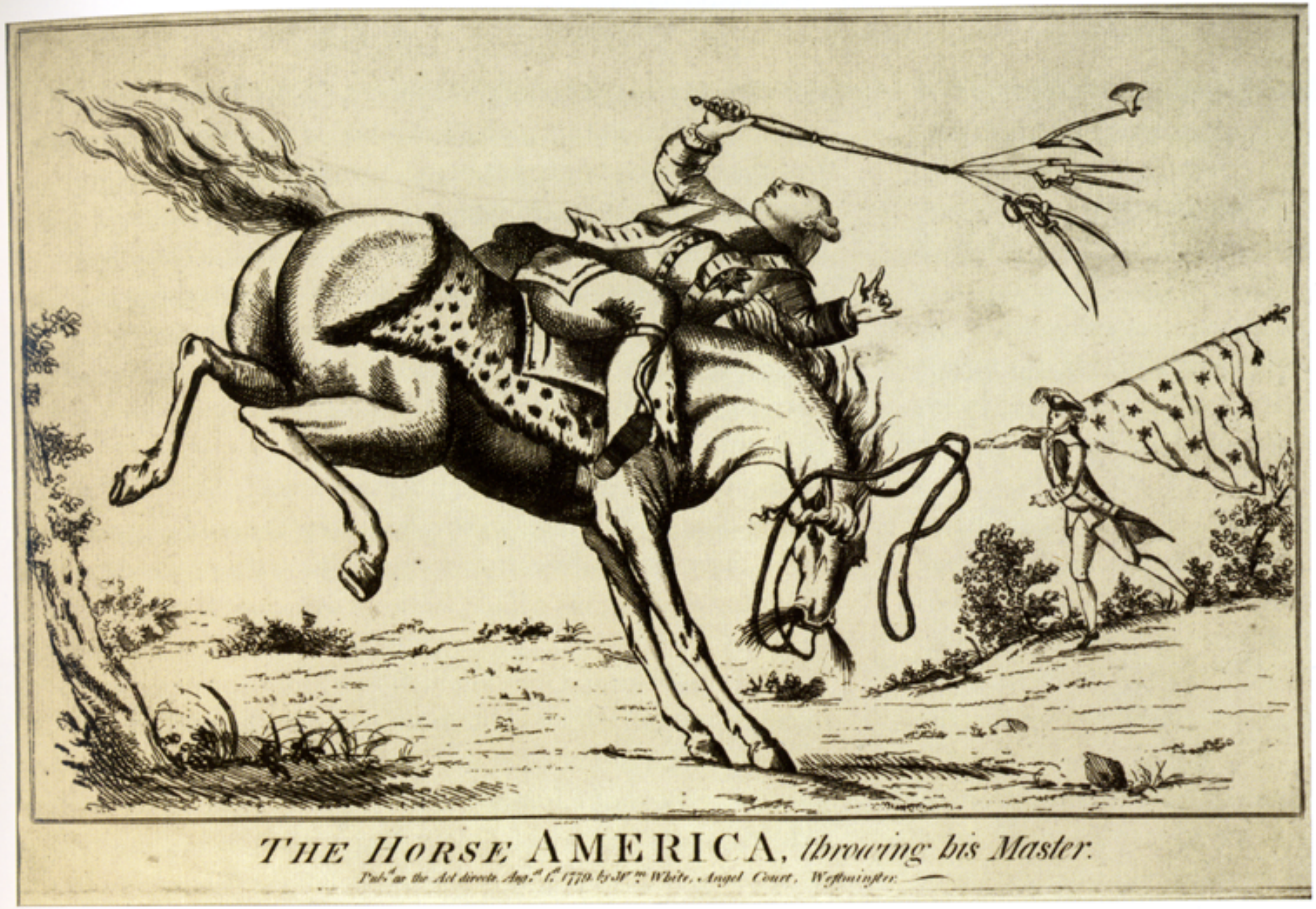
Evacuation of Holland, or Fire and Water too much for Dumourier



The Horse America, throwing his Master

1 August 1779

In 1778, the American War of Independence took a decisive turn when France, here depicted as a soldier carrying a fleur-de-lys flag, sided with the American rebels, and in 1779 Spain entered the war against Great Britain. The print predicts the ultimate defeat of Britain and the guilty man thrown by the stallion of America is George. Even after Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown two years later George still believed that the war should go on. He said he had no doubt that 'when men are a little recovered of the shock felt by the bad news…they will find the necessity of carrying on the war'.


THE HORSE AMERICA, throwing his Master.
Pub.d acc.g to the Act directs. Aug.st 1.st 1779. by Mr.s White, Angel Court, Westminster.

The Royal Hercules Destroying The Dragon Python

24 April 1784

The prints in the early months of 1784 were overwhelmingly against Fox and for the King and Pitt. Here the King is struggling with Fox, North and Burke. It is ironic that George, in manipulating the defeat of the Fox–North coalition, was seen as the saviour of the constitution. From now on he began to regain some of the popularity with which he had begun his reign.

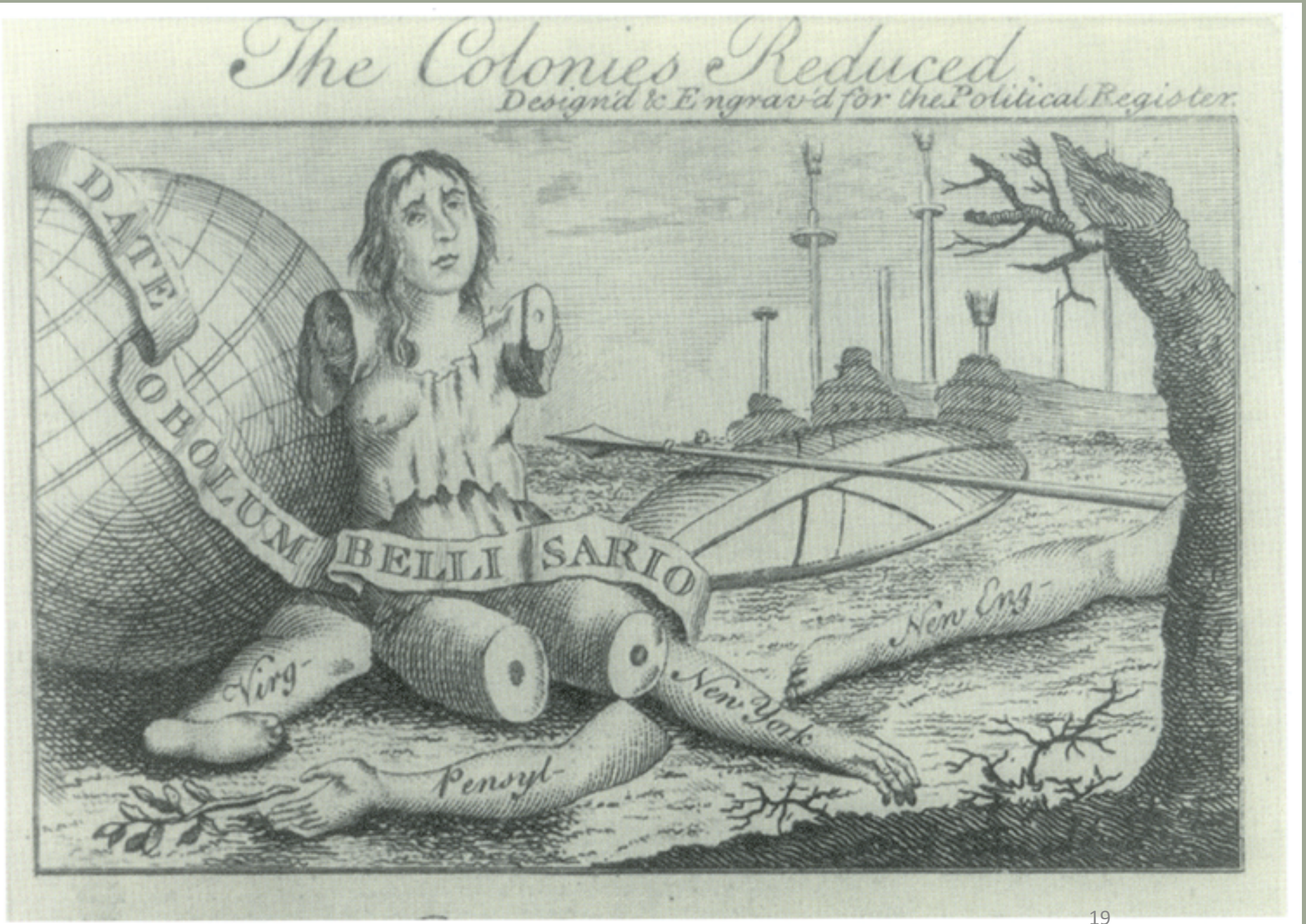

O this is my best Gage
DISC
THE ROYAL HERCULES Destroying THE DRAGON
PYTHON

The Colonies Reduced

August 1768

POLITICAL REGISTER

This prophetic print depicts Britannia being lopped of her limbs – her colonies; an olive branch has fallen from one hand and ships lie idle in the background. The Political Register, *a sharp critic of the government's American policy, is here publishing an image attributed to Benjamin Franklin. He is reputed to have had it printed on cards that were handed to MPs before debates as a way of warning what would happen if Britain continued her coercive policies. The words 'Date Obolum Belisario', which loosely translate as 'spare a penny for Belisarius', refer to the legend of the sixth-century general whose eyes Justinian ordered to be put out, making him a homeless beggar. In 1767, the publication of Jean-François Marmontel's novel* Bélisaire *made the story a popular subject for progressive painters and their patrons who drew parallels between the actions of the Roman emperor and the repression of contemporary rulers.*


The Colonies Reduced.
Design'd & Engrav'd for the Political Register.
DATE OBOLUM BELLI SARIO
Virg.
Pensyl.
New York
New Eng.

19

The Cock of the Walk Distributing his Favours

31 May 1786

G. TOWNLY STUBBS

In this rare print, George is a cock that has lost all its feathers (a fact noted by a laughing oyster-woman) because he has given them away as favours to his various paramours – the Duchess of Devonshire, Lady Melbourne, Mrs Vanneck, Lady Maitland and, on the floor, Mrs Fitzherbert. Mrs Vanneck was mentioned by Horace Walpole in 1795 as one of the Prince's court at Brighton. Lady M—d could be the wife of Viscount Maitland, one of Fox's martyrs (losers at the 1784 election), 'a nice little painted doll'. George's team are Weltje drawing the barrow and Hanger acting as a middleman picking out the favours labelled 'To the D—ss of D—e'. The three heads – of Burke, Fox and North – are like a pawnbroker's sign above the Fores print shop, which has other prints in the window: The Royal Toast *[page 84] and* His Highness in Fitz *[page 88].*


PARTRIDGE
FOWLS
WILLOCK
THE COCK of the WALK, DISTRIBUTING HIS FAVOURS.

Non Comission Officers Embarking for Botany Bay

1 November 1786

JOHN BOYNE

In September the newspapers reported that the Government was to send convicts, who could no longer be shipped to America, to Botany Bay in Australia – an ideal destination for George and his spendthrift friends. The Prince, astride a barrel of Imperial Tokay, is wearing a fool's cap, happy to say goodbye to the moneylenders and Maria Fitzherbert, and to set off for a new land with Hanger, Fox, and Whigs Sheridan, Portland, North and Burke. They would be free of their creditors.



23

A Black Joke

24 October 1790

This unusual and rare print shows George, Maria and Fox playing cards. George and Maria have failed to take a trick and Fox has taken all three, probably helped by his hand beneath the table. The meaning is rather obscure as Maria never spoke to Fox after his denial in the House of Commons of the marriage. This striking image was inspired by a coarse song, The Black Joke – *slang for the female pudenda.*



25

Modern Hospitality, or, A Friendly Party in High Life

31 March 1792

JAMES GILLRAY

A faro party at Lady Archer's house – the party moved around London, rather similar to Nathan Detroit's floating crap game that had to move around Damon Runyon's New York. Hostesses included Lady Archer, here dealing the cards, and the very fat Mrs Hobart: both were the bankers and raked in the profits. It was alleged that George shared in the profits of Lady Archer's table.


BM 7938
The KNAVE wins all.
65
MODERN-HOSPITALITY, or A Friendly Party in High Life.
Woman! everlasting is your power over us, for in youth you charm away our Hearts, and in your after-years you charm away our Purses.

27

Vices Overlook'd in the New Proclamation

24 May 1792

JAMES GILLRAY

The Royal Proclamation of 21 May for 'the preventing of tumultuous meetings and seditious writings' was a panic reaction to the fear that there would be widespread rioting in support of Thomas Paine's revolutionary writings. It was attacked by Grey and the Whigs, though supported by the Prince of Wales in his maiden speech in the House of Lords, which led to a break with Fox. Gillray could not resist the contrast between the liberties being taken away from the people and the indulgence given to the royal family, who were left free to engage in their vices. George III and Charlotte hoard money as misers; the Duke of York gambles; the Duke of Clarence embraces his mistress Mrs Jordan; and the Prince of Wales staggers drunkenly from a bawdy house to be taken home by the nightwatch.


AVARICE.
3 Millions
3 Millions
5 Millions
5 Millions
DRUNKENNESS.
NEAT WINES
GAMBLING.
DEBAUCHERY.
A Jordan
VICES overlook'd in the New PROCLAMATION.
To the Commons of Great Britain, this representation of Vices, which remain unforbidden by Proclamation, is dedicated, as proper for imitation, and in place of the more dangerous Ones of Thinking, Speaking & Writing, now forbidden by Authority.

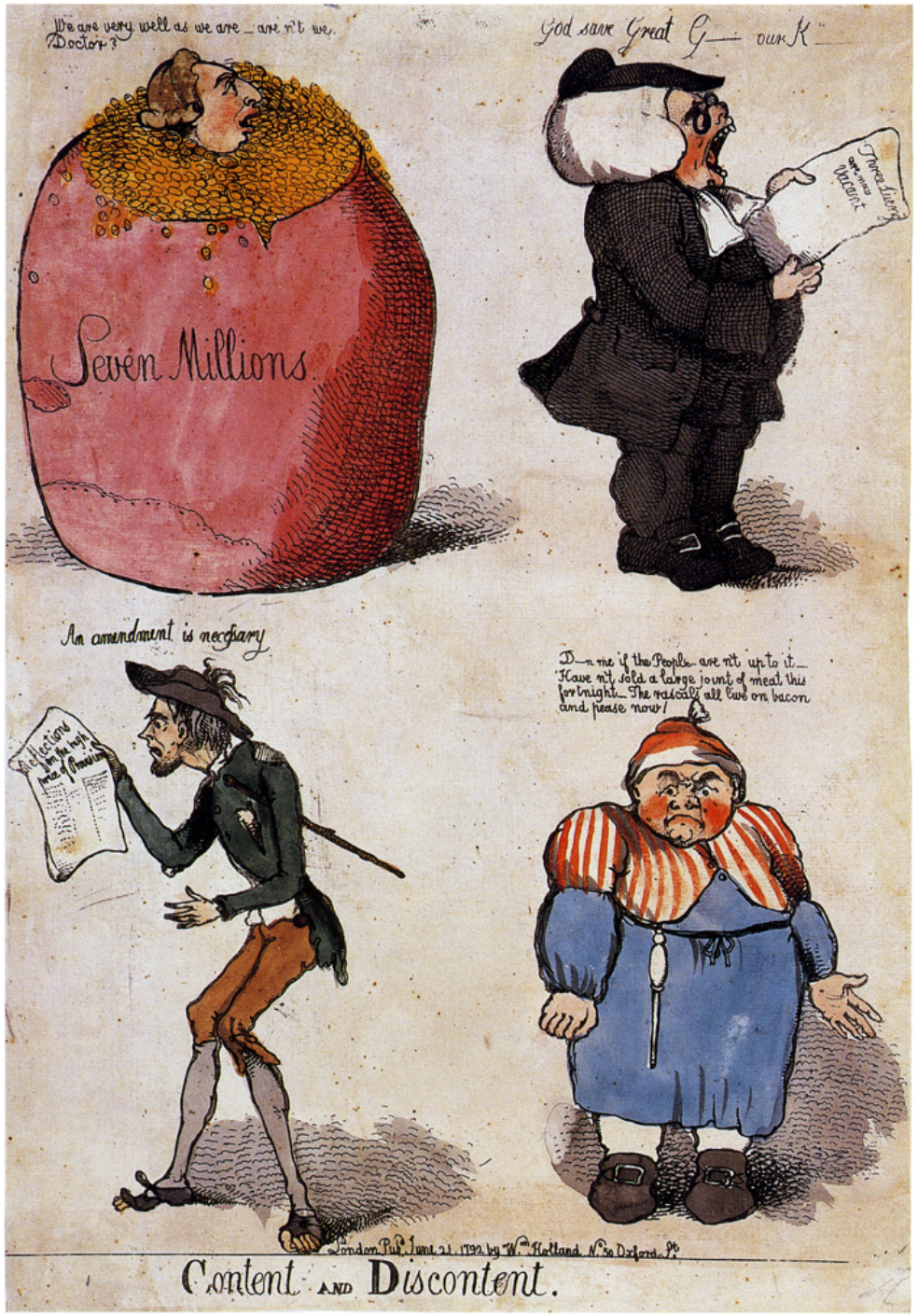
29

Content and Discontent

21 June 1792

RICHARD NEWTON

Attacks on George's parsimony reached their peak in 1791–92. This image goes further as it contrasts the prosperity of the Crown and the Church with the cost of food to the poor. A butcher has not sold a joint of meat for a fortnight.


We are very well as we are — are n't we, Doctor?
Seven Millions.
God save Great G— our K—
Treasury
An amendment is necessary
Reflections on the most
D—n me if the People are n't up to it— Have n't sold a large joint of meat this fortnight— The radicals all live on bacon and pease now!
London Pub. June 21. 1792 by W.m Holland. No 56 Oxford St.
Content and Discontent.

A Batch of Peers

6 January 1793

RICHARD NEWTON

At this time Pitt's ascendancy was complete and here George III, assisted by Charlotte, ennobles all the names submitted to him. By 1792, Pitt had created forty-three English peerages and ultimately would create eighty-nine, thereby increasing the size of the House of Lords by forty per cent. Britain was on the brink of war with France and in debates from December 1792 Fox could muster only fifty votes; he was isolated and denigrated as a Jacobin and a republican sympathizer. Pitt was at pains to recruit the moderate Whigs led by the Duke of Portland and several peerages were given to them. By 1794, forty Whigs had defected to Pitt: Portland became Home Secretary; William Windham, in the Commons, became War Secretary; and two Whig earls – Spencer and Fitzwilliam – also joined the Cabinet. The Pitt–Portland coalition formed the basis of the Tory Party as it developed over the next hundred years.

32


Blast this Roll a it is the crookedest son of a bitch that ever was out of an oven!
A Batch of Peers.

The Blood of the Murdered crying for Vengeance

16 February 1793

JAMES GILLRAY

The radical Gillray was appalled by the excesses of the French Revolution – news of Louis XVI's execution had reached England at the end of January. In this simple and rather crude print the King's decapitated head urges Britain to 'revenge the blood of a Monarch most undeservedly butchered and rescue the Kingdom of France from being the prey of Violence, Usurpation & Cruelty'. Gillray uses this shocking image to warn the people that such an event might well happen in Britain. All Europe was chilled by Danton's declaration that France had thrown down its gauntlet to the kings of Europe, and that gauntlet was the head of a king.


This Exact representation of that Instrument of French refinement in Assassination the GUILLOTINE is submitted to the Gentlemen of the Philanx, & other well-wishers to the King & Constitution of Great-Britain,
by their devoted Servants at Command
The Assassins of the King of France.
Whither – O whither shall my blood ascend for Justice – my Throne is seized on by my Murderers my Brothers are drawn into exile – my unhappy Wife & innocent Infants are shut up in the horrors of a Dungeon – while Robbers & Assassins are shedding their Daggers in the bowels of my Country! – Ah! ruined desolated Country! dearest object of my heart where misery awaits me the sharpest pang in death, while well become of thee? – O Britons! vice-gerents of eternal Justice, arbiters of the worlds, look down from that height of power to which you are raised, & behold me here! – deprived of Life & of Kingdom, see where I lie full low, festering in my own Blood! which flies to your august tribunal for Justice – By your affection for your own Wives & Children – rescue mine – by your love for your Country, by the blessings of that Invaluable Liberty which you possess by the virtues which adorn the British Crown – by all that is Sacred & all that is dear to you – revenge the blood of a Monarch more undeservedly butchered – and rescue the Kingdom of France from being the prey of Traitors, Usurpation & Cruelty
Pub.d Feb.y 16.th 1793. by H. Humphrey No.71 Old Bond.t
The Blood of the Murdered crying for Vengeance.
J.G.l des.t et fec.t pro bono publico
B.M.

The French Invasion; – or – John Bull bombarding the Bum-Boats

5 November 1793

JAMES GILLRAY

In the autumn of 1793 the French threw back the Austrians, Prussians, the English and the Spanish. Carrying the revolution to England was the declared policy of the republic, so George responds by directing a burst of shit to disperse the French invasion fleet. This is not a disrespectful print. George is now the very embodiment of England (and Wales, although not of Scotland), a bold determined figure protecting the country from the threat of invasion – just what his countrymen would expect and admire.

The transformation of George from a hesitant tyrant to a national emblem was now underway. He had been the subject of contempt or even hatred, but anger turned to gentle mockery, then gave way to respect and affection.


A new MAP of ENGLAND & FRANCE.
SCOTLAND
IRELAND
Isle of Man
YORK-SHIRE
LANCASHIRE
CHESHIRE
LINCOLN-SHIRE
NORFOLK
SUFFOLK
ESSEX
SUSSEX
KENT
SURRY
HAMP-SHIRE
DEVON-SHIRE
CORNWALL
Bristol Channel
Cardigan Bay
Milford Haven
River Thames
Humber
The Wash
Harwich
Dover
Calais
Boloune
PICARDY
NORMANDY
BRETAGNE
MAINE
ISLE OF FRANCE
ENGLISH CHANNEL
Bay d'Audierne
Ushant
St Malo
Cherbourg
Caen
Seine
PARIS
Dublin Nov.r 5th 1793 by H. Humphrey N.o 18 old Bond Street
John Schebbeare fecit
The FRENCH INVASION; — or — John Bull, bombarding the Bum-Boats

Farmer George's Wonderful Monkey

2 July 1795

WILLIAM O'KEEFE

In the summer of 1795, Pitt's government was in deep trouble. The King had asked Parliament to settle the Prince of Wales's debts; there were riots over the high price of bread following the poor harvest of 1794; the war was going badly – in June the Quiberon expedition to take back that part of Brittany had failed; Pitt's powder tax on wigs was unpopular and his budget had increased duties on wine, spirits, tea, coffee, cocoa, and stamps on receipts, affidavits and wills. In these months Pitt was caricatured as a sleepwalker, a pig, a locust, a caterpillar and a goblin. The Irish caricaturist William O'Keefe, whose vigorous works are often overlooked, depicts Pitt as the King's monkey, 'an Offspring of the Devil'. O'Keefe belittles Pitt as an instrument of the royal will.



FARMER GEORGE'S WONDERFUL MONKEY

The Naturalist's of this Country is at a Loss how to give an Account of this Extraordinary Animal, therefore we may Suppose it to be an Offspring of the Devils, & that he = Shit it Flying.

Publd by J. Aitken Castle Street Leicester Fields July 20 1795

A Meeting of Creditors

3 April 1795

ISAAC CRUIKSHANK

The Prince is surrounded by madams and courtesans, all presenting their accounts. The fat one with the gouty leg is selling the maidenhood of young virgins, one of whom stands behind her; the black woman on the left demands payment for other delights and carries on her waist a small birch rod. The woman next to the Prince lists on her bill 'My nose 20' – her nose has been eaten away by syphilis. This emphasizes how essential it was for George to get married and hold off the gangs of moneylenders, tradesmen, gamblers and bawds.


A MEETING of CREDITORS.

Presages of the Millennium

4 June 1795

JAMES GILLRAY

In his Reflections on the Revolution in France *(1790) Burke referred to the people as the Swinish Multitude, and here Gillray has Pitt, as a figure of Death riding on the white horse of Hanover, driving them into the ground together with Fox and the Whigs. This print has a double meaning for it also attacks Pitt for supporting the war against France by the 'Power given under him to kill with the Sword, & with Famine, & with Death.' The Prince, depicted as an imp, has abandoned his old friends by riding pillion to Pitt, whose arse he kisses, holding in his hand a request for £125,000 as a 'Provision for the Millennium'. George realizes that the Whigs were no good at helping him pay off his debts, or getting good terms for his marriage allowance; but even Pitt did not give him all that he wanted – the marriage settlement was £100,000.*

42


Presages of the MILLENIUM; – with The Destruction of the Faithful, – as Revealed to R. Brothers, the Prophet, & attested by M.B. Hallhead Esq
And in the Last Days began, I looked & beheld a White Horse, & his Name who sat upon it was Death; & Hell followed after him; & Power was given unto him to kill with the Sword, & with Famine, & with Death; – And I saw under him the Souls of the Multitude, those who were destroyed for maintaining the word of Truth, & for the Testimony —
FRANCE
PEACE

43

Vent Contraire ou Vaillans efforts du Beau Sexe Anglais pour empêcher la descente [Contrary Wind or Valiant efforts of the English fair sex to prevent the invasion]

1803

After the brief peace secured by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, England declared war on France in May 1803 and Napoleon prepared to invade England. This rare French satire scorns the English war effort. Englishwomen, mostly fat, meagre or ugly, desperately flap their fans to prevent a French invasion fleet from landing. One of them tells George to hide and he replies, 'I am lost.'


VAINCRE ou CÉDER
LIBERTÉ
DES MERS
Vent Contraire.
ou
Vaillans efforts du Beau Sexe Anglais pour empêcher la descente.
Dep. à la Bibl. Nat.
chez Martinet

45

A Boxing Match, or Another Bloody Nose for John Bull

1812

WILLIAM CHARLES

British children have no knowledge of the War of 1812 between America and Britain, for it was a sideshow to the conflict with Napoleon. American children, on the other hand, know a great deal: a British army burnt the White House in Washington; an American army successfully defended Baltimore, an event which gave birth to the Star-Spangled Banner*; and Andrew Jackson took a step towards the presidency by successfully defending New Orleans.*

America declared war on 18 June 1812 to secure, in the words of former President Jefferson, 'the final expulsion of England from the American continent'. This meant Canada, but in a series of battles and skirmishes little was won and for a time Detroit was lost to the British. The 1814 peace treaty restored all captured land to both sides, so nothing was gained.

I believe that this is the first time this print and the one on p. 212 have been published in England. They are by William Charles (1776–1820), who was born in Edinburgh but worked in New York and Philadelphia. He was America's first great satirist and famous for his images of this war. Although George was no longer the effective king, it was still his image rather than that of John Bull which represented Britain. He was not forgiven for the American revolutionary wars.


Stop, Stop Stop Brother Jonathan, or I shall fall with the loss of blood— I thought to have been too heavy for you— But I must acknowledge your superior skill— Two blows to my one!— And so well directed too! Mercy mercy on me, how does this happen!!!
Ha—Ah Johnny! you thought yourself a Boxer did you!— I'll let you know we are an Enterprizeing Nation. and ready to meet you with equal force any day.
W. Charles del et Sculp
A BOXING MATCH, or Another Bloody Nose for JOHN BULL.

47

Economical Humbug of 1816, or, Saving at the Spiggot and Letting Out at the Bunghole

28 April 1816

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

John Bull watches in puzzled bewilderment as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vansittart, shows him the tiny amount of money that flows from the National Exchequer to public services, while a torrent of gold gushes into the hands of the Regent and his friends. Prince Leopold is holding a tub marked '£60,000 for fun', and John Nash, the architect, has a tub for 'Cottages and Pavilions'.


The Treasury of J. Bulls vital Spirits
Economical Humbug of 1816 or. saveing at the Spiggot & lettingout at the Bunghole

49

Leap Year, or, John Bull's Peace Establishment

March 1816

WILLIAMS

Prince Leopold, handsome but penniless, met Princess Charlotte, George's daughter, for the first time on 27 February 1816 and on 15 March their marriage settlement was laid before Parliament – £60,000 a year, £10,000 for the Princess, and £60,000 for dresses, jewels and furniture. Poor John Bull has to carry all this on top of the taxes to pay for the controversial navy and army estimates after the war was over. George encourages Charlotte, who is clearly in charge, with the advice he had always followed: 'Push on! Preach Economy! And when you have got your money follow my example—'



LEAP YEAR, or John Bull's Peace Establishment — "When two ride upon a Horse, one must ride behind".

51

Bergami Pears, or, Choice Fruit

1 October 1820

As evidence of Caroline's adultery became known through the trial it became clear that she was far from being the wronged party. In this sexually explicit print, Caroline holds a rolled scroll with pears hanging from it, which are clearly male genitalia, saying that she prefers Bergami's pears to Windsor's. Rastelli, the superintendent of her stables, and one of the Crown's witnesses in her trial, reported that during one carriage journey he had seen 'the Princess's hand in Bergami's small clothes'.


I do love these Pear's,
but I hate the Windsor Pears
Defence
Bergami PEARS — or — Choice Fruit !!

The Kettle Calling the Pot
Ugly Names

12 August 1820

JOHN MARSHALL

This was published just before the trial began. The King is more caricatured than the Queen and he hisses while Caroline, with a smile, remarks 'Remember when the Judgement's weak, the prejudice is strong.'

54



55

The Phantom, or, Prosecutor of Her Majesty

July 1820

LEWIS MARKS

On 5 July 1820, before the trial of the Queen started, Liverpool proposed to introduce a Bill to deprive Caroline of her titles and to dissolve the marriage. This was a throwback to an unrepealed medieval law which made adultery with the Queen an act of treason – this was soon dubbed the Bill of Pains and Penalties. It proved to be disastrous for George.



The PHANTOM!! or PROSECUTOR of HER MAJESTY.

‘Ah! Sure Such a Pair was Never Seen so Justly Form’d to Meet by Nature’

23 June 1820

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

This was the print that spelt the King’s doom. It was the first to feature the famous green bags that George had sent down on the day of the Queen’s arrival – one to the House of Lords and one to the House of Commons. They contained the evidence of the Queen’s misconduct that had been gathered by the Milan Commission. Government papers were sent in this way as a matter of course but Brougham seized upon it brilliantly by saying ‘If the King had a green bag, the Queen might have one too.’ This was fatal to George’s case – his bag is bigger than hers and the buckled garter around his vast girth tails off like a limp penis. This inspired image dominated the debate for the next six months and the great pear-shaped figures of George and Caroline anticipated the pear-shaped caricatures of Louis-Philippe of France in the 1830s.

58


HONI·SOIT QUI·MAL·Y·PENSE
Ordered to lay on the table
"Ah! sure such a pair was never seen so justly formd to meet by nature"
Dedicated to Old Bags

A Royal Brewery, or, How to Cook a Wife

1 January 1821

This unusual and rare print gives George the prime role of master brewer, stirring the coals with a great poker bearing the word 'Vengeance'. At his command Wellington releases the Italian witnesses into the frothing beer being stirred by Liverpool, who is helped by Sidmouth – recognized by his clyster pipe – carrying a bag of hops, and by Castlereagh with his two buckets. Caroline, the brewer's wife, comments, 'How he disgraces himself. He might have left this dirty work to his servants.' This print was published by William Benbow, whose shop in the Strand was kept under surveillance by Government spies, since he sold the most seditious prints. He had impeccable Jacobin credentials, having started as a cobbler. As a radical republican he hated George, but he was not above accepting the Carlton House shilling to suppress scurrilous prints.


Mischief Brewing
Hops
This will do if it don't turn out unfavourable at last here is several Hogsheads
Keep up your fire below I have discharged a volley that would kill a Thousand lives
If this Trial fail it Brew no more
Be just in all your dealings
A Commissioner
FLAMES of Persecution
Vengeance
Fifthy Composition
Cunning Stoke
The Ashes of the Great

A Trump

10 April 1825

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

George was no longer a figure of derision. As was the usual case the King was more respectfully treated than the Prince of Wales, even by George Cruikshank – one of the most savage caricaturists.


A Trump.
Designed by A Cromwell Esq. Etched by G Cruikshank Pubd by S Knight Sweetings Alley Royal Exchange.
April 10th 1825

A Fishing Party

27 June 1827

WILLIAM HEATH

The political implication is that George is led by Lady Conyngham, singing Rule Britannia, and pushed along by Knighton as he goes fishing at Virginia Water. This early Zimmer frame emphasizes his corpulence and his near immobility – his waist was fifty inches around and he weighed over twenty stone.


Send him Victorious
Rule Britannia
a la Jamaica
To Virginia Water
A FISHING PARTY, What great enjoyments rise from trivial things ...

The Game Cock and the Dunghills

22 April 1827

WILLIAM HEATH

This celebrates the popularity of George's decision to appoint Canning as Prime Minister – the Cock of the Walk. The Tories who refused to serve are led by Wellington – Apostasy – saying 'Damne! I'm off' and Eldon – Hypocricy – dropping the Lord Chancellor's mace. John Bull, as a yokel, approves George's choice saying the Old Tory Guard had ruined the country and lined their own pockets. The Times *said it was the battle of the throne versus the oligarchy.*


Cabinet INS and OUTS. No. 1.
TAKE NOTICE.
That all destructive Vermen such as Rats Birds of prey. Vampires. Lobsters. Lawyers. Church-Mice. and all other Crawling Reptiles. found encroaching on these premises will be utterly exterminated
NB. Spring Guns. Man traps & Rat traps are set here. 15 April
Cock a Doodle D—
Now! Johney what think you of my choice is'nt he a thorough game one?
MONI SOFT QUI MAL Y PENSE
Yes, he is a true bred game Cock. he has driven out the Dunghills at last; the Varment have done nothing but devour my corn & Crops for many years. and almost made me a beggar. with their monstrous Crows
TREASURY.
HYPOCRACY.
APOSTACY
D.I.O.
The GAME COCK. and the DUNGHILLS.

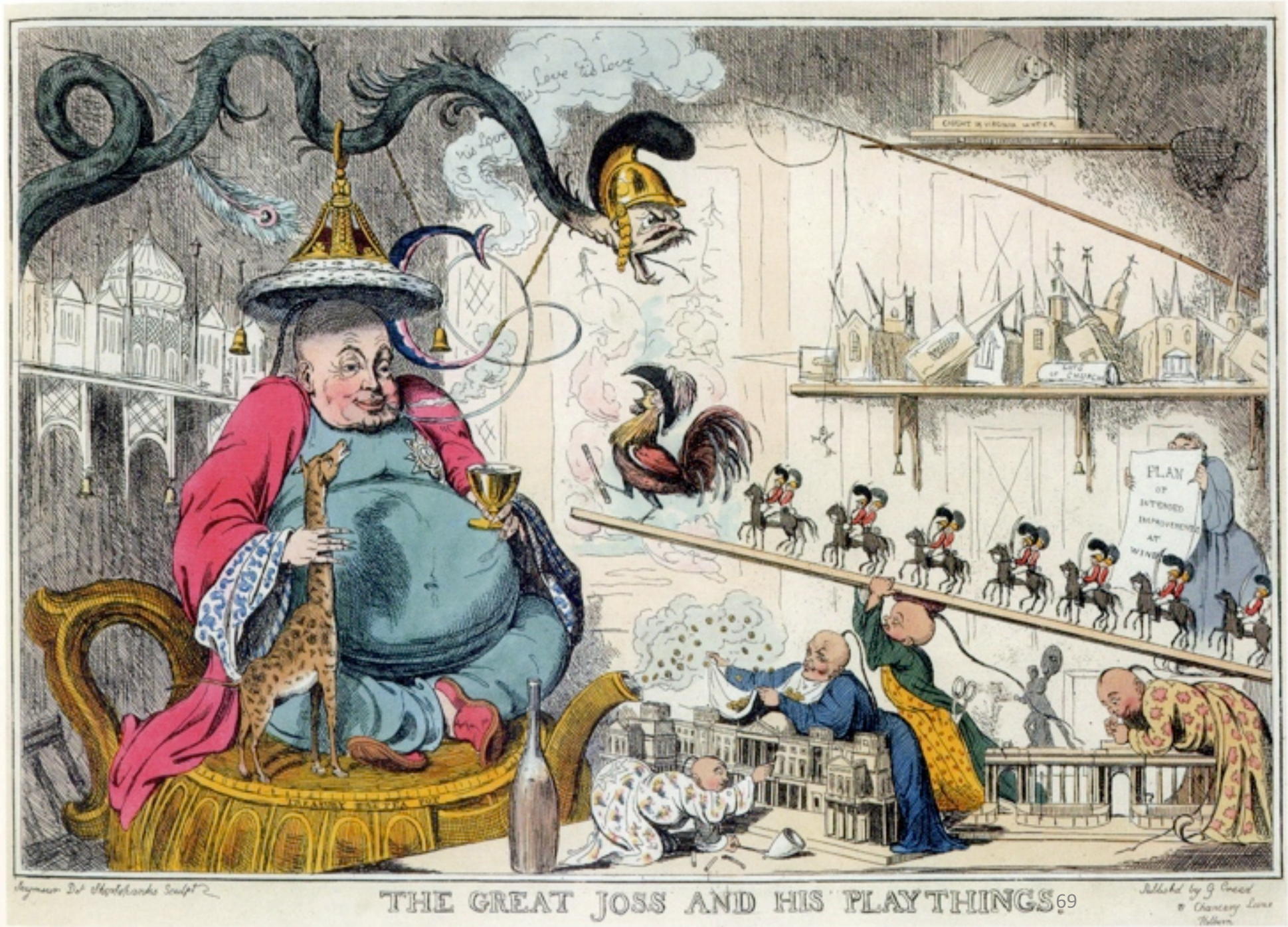
67

The Great Joss and his Playthings

February 1829

ROBERT SEYMOUR

George, as a fat Chinese mandarin, sits cross-legged on the Treasury teapot, which is spouting sovereigns to pay for all his hobbies: architectural projects including the Brighton Pavilion, the remodelled Buckingham Palace, the Decimus Burton arches at Hyde Park Corner, the Achilles statue, some ninety-eight churches; and the fish in the case is a reminder of the works at Virginia Water to provide him with some fishing. His favourite regiment the Life Guards, led by Wellington; the giraffe he kept in his menagrie; the gold cup and the wine bottle complete this striking image of a man who has got away with doing just what he wanted.



THE GREAT JOSS AND HIS PLAYTHINGS.

69