

A

Timely Warning

To Rash and Disobedient

CHILDREN.

Being a strange and wonderful RELATION of a young Gentleman in the Parish of *Stephny* in the Suburbs of *London*, that sold himself to the Devil for 12 Years to have the Power of being revenged on his Father and Mother, and how his Time being expired, he lay in a sad and deplorable Condition to the Amazement of all Spectators.



EDINBURGH: PRINTED ANNO 1721.

Title page of an eighteenth-century English chapbook concerning a youth who sold himself to the Devil, out of malice against his parents.

From John Ashton, *Chap-Books of the Eighteenth Century*

THE

Miracle of Miracles.

Being a full and true Account of *Sarah Smith*, Daughter of *John Symons* a Farmer, who lately was an Inhabitant of *Darcken* Parish in *Essex*, that was brought to Bed of a Strange Monster, the Body of it like a Fish with Scales thereon; it had no Legs but a pair of great Claws, Tallons Like a Liands, it had Six Heads on its Neck, one was like the Face of a Man with Eyes Nose and Mouth to it, the 2d like the Face of a Cammel, and its Ears Cropt, Two other Faces like Dragons with spiked Tongues hanging out of their Mouths, another had an Eagles Head with a Beak instead of a Mouth at the end of it, and the last seeming to be a Calves head. Which eat and fed for some time, which Monster has surprised many Thousand people that came there to see it. Daily, Spectators flock to view it, but it was by Command of the Magistrates knock'd on the Head, and several Surgeons were there to dissect it. Also you have a Funeral Sermon on the Woman who brought it forth, a very wicked Liver, and disobedient to her Parents, and one that was mightily given to Wishing, Cursing and Swearing. With a Prayer before and after the said Sermon. It being very fit and necessary to be had in all Families for a Warning to Disobedient Children. This strange and unheard of Monster was brought into the World in May last, and if any doubt the truth thereof, it will be certifi'd by the Minister and Church-Wardens of the said Parish of *Darckins* in *Essex* as aforesaid.



ENTRED IN THE HALL BOOK ACCORDING TO ORDER.

Title page of an eighteenth-century English chapbook relating an account of a monstrous birth, interpreted as a divine judgment on a sinful woman. A similar birth, to a heretic, was reported on October 17, 1638, in *Massachusetts*.

From John Ashton, *Chap-Books of the Eighteenth Century*

Title page of an English pamphlet of 1613 depicting the ordeal by swimming the year before of an accused witch, Mary Sutton. The right thumb of the accused was tied to the left big toe. It was believed that an innocent person would sink and a guilty one float. Such trials by water reached their peak in the first half of the seventeenth century, were approved by King James I, and were conducted in America as late as 1706.

Witches Apprehended, Examined and Executed, for notable villanies by them committed both by Land and Water.

With a strange and most true triall how to know whether a woman be a Witch or not.



Printed at London : or Edward Marchant, and are to be sold at his Shop ouer against the Crosse in Paris Churchyard 1613

Witch of the Woodlands;

OR, THE

COBLER'S NEW TRANSLATION.

Here Robin the Cobler for his former Evils,
Is punish'd bad as Faustus with his Devils.



PRINTED AND SOLD IN ALDERMAY CHURCH YARD,
BOW LANE, LONDON.

The Witch of the Woodlands.

Chap-Books of the Eighteenth Century.

HERE the old Witches dance, and then agree,
How to fit Robin for his Lechery;
First he is made a Fox and hunted on,
'Till he becomes an Horse, an Owl, a Swan.



At length their Spells of Witchcraft they withdrew,
But Robin still more hardships must go through;
For e'er he is transform'd into a Man,
They make him kiss their bums and glad he can.

This is the argument of the story, which is too broad in its
humour to be reprinted, but the following two illustrations show
the popular idea of his Satanic Majesty and his dealings with
witches.



Title page, passages, and illustrations from an eighteenth-century English chapbook recounting in verse the transformations imposed by witches on a lascivious cobbler, and depicting the witches with their familiars and the Devil

From John Ashton, *Chap-Books of the Eighteenth Century*