

THE
Athenian Gazette:
OR
CASUISTICAL MERCURY

Resolving all the most
Nice and Curious Questions.

PROPOSED BY THE
INGENIOUS
Of Either SEX:

From *Tuesday* Aug. 18th, to *Saturday* Octob. 17th, 1691.

The Fourth Volume,

TREATING
On the several Subjects mentioned in the CON-
TENTS at the Beginning of the Book.

L O N D O N,

Printed for John Dunton, at the Raven in the Poultry. Where is to be
had the *First, Second, Third and Fourth Volumes* of the *Athenian*
Gazette, (and the *Supplements to 'em*,) beginning *March 17th*, and
ending *October 17th*, 1691. (Or single Ones to this Time.)

T H E
P R E F A C E
T O T H E
Fourth Volume.

WE are now arrived at the Period of the Fourth Volume of our Athenian Gazette; in the PREFACE whereof we intended to have given some Directions relating to a Design one of our Querists lately put us upon, concerning the Natural and Artificial RARITIES OF EVERY COUNTY in England, and shou'd now perform it, had the Gentleman, according to our desire, been so kind to have let us know what those Queries were which he referred to, whether such as are scattered in the Works of the Royal Society, though, as we remember, most, or all of them, refer to other Countrys; or if others, by whom printed, and where to be met with— (for there's a time to put Questions as well as to Answer 'em) which as soon as he is pleas'd to inform us, we intend to give the Publick an Account of our Design, and which way we resolve to prosecute it. But instead of doing this here, as we first proposed, and to make room for it, as well as to satisfie any Gentleman, who may hereafter send his Questions hither, we must first earnestly desire all persons whom it may concern, to hold their Hands and Pens, and let us take Breath a-while, and get rid of those C A R T-L O A D S of Questions which are yet upon the File, and are likely to press us to death under their weight, as Tarpeia under the Shields of the Sabine Souldiers— We say we desire no less then an entire Cessation of Arms, and disbanding all the Troops of Doubts and Queries (except such as come under the Rules laid down in our Preface) that like a Show'r of our old English Arrows (when we used to beat the French) are still hovering over us; and that Gentlemen wou'd be so kind to send in no more till we shall satisfie 'em that we are eas'd of all those worth Answering which we have yet behind. If they'll Favour us and themselves thus much, we can engage, that hereafter, no just Cause of Complaint shall be given; no Question entirely neglected, nor preferred in order before another; which we propose to do by this following Method, for which we own our selves highly obliged to an Ingenious unknown Gentleman, who sent it in a Letter; which, together with the Method it self, we'll here Insert.

The Preface to the Fourth Volume.

“ ---Finding by several of the Mercuries that you suffer much from
 “ the Impatience of such who send two or three, sometimes four Letters
 “ about one Question, I am apt to believe you might save both your selves
 “ and the Querists some trouble, if you’d advertise them to set to each Que-
 “ stion they send, two Letters (no matter whether of their Names or not)
 “ and some number consisting of three Figures, and thereby once a Week
 “ or oftner, own the receipt of ’em in some form like this---

A B	231		Those thus (*) marked will never be Answer’d,
A C	312	†	as coming under some of our former Exceptions.
B H	132	*	Those marked thus (†) have been Answer’d al-
H I	721	+	ready. Vol. N.
R N	472		Those thus (+) mark’d will be Answer’d in their
			order.

He goes on-- “ If you, &c. had occasion thus to own the receipt of
 “ half a hundred at a time, ’twould take up no great room in this Paper,
 “ and many that found their Questions stand fair, wou’d buy each Mer-
 “ cury for a Month or two together, which now perhaps think them lost
 “ and miscarry’d, and give over looking for ’em in a Fortnights time---
 Thus far the Letter, to whose Author we can’t but return our repeated
 thanks, and here make publick his advice, (without much respect to
 the last consideration therein,) for the convenience and satisfaction of
 the Querists, as much or more than our own. For if once Persons will be
 quiet till we desire ’em to send agen and bring things unto this method,
 ’tis obvious that we must then be oblig’d in Honour to Answer every
 Question that comes which is fit to be Answer’d, whereas while we have
 such heaps upon our Hands, it’s possible we may take that liberty which a
 WITTY CASEMONGER we cou’d name has often done, when we
 meet with any too hard for us to crack, e’n to lay ’em by till a better
 opportunity. Whereas if the proposed method goes on, every Querist
 will have some account or other of his doubt, and we’ll at least be so in-
 genuous to acknowledge we can’t, if we don’t answer him. --- Be-
 sides we shall then be soon able to set about and manage our propos’d de-
 sign for the Rarities of England, which we doubt not will be as enter-
 taining to the Ingenious as any other part of this Paper.

London, Nov. ---

Vale.

1691.

The

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Advertisement.

TH E two half Sheets after *Number 20.* should have been printed *Number 21, 22.* and the half Sheet after *Number 26.* should have been printed *Number 27.* and therefore the Reader is desired to Correct that mistake of the Printer with his Pen.

The