

# Belly Up! Bulletin

April 2021

A note from the editor:

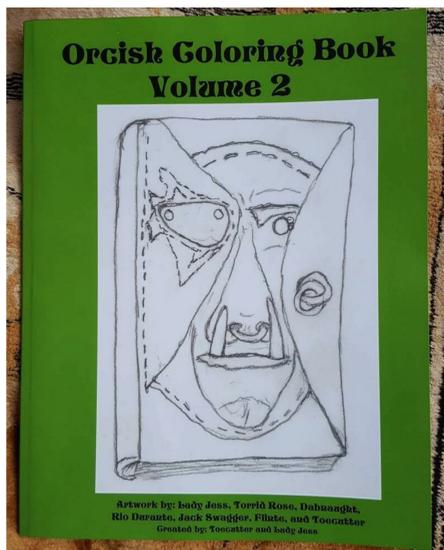
They say April Showers Bring May Flowers, but I much prefer April flowers. Bulbs are so low maintenance, and with everything else going on right now, low maintenance is EXACTLY what some of us need. The sun is shining more, and people are antsy to get back to their normal summer routines. Gardening, gathering with friends, BBQ's and parties. Fireworks just aren't the same without hotdogs and friends.

Don't you worry though, we're getting closer and closer as the days go by. We, at Orc Belly Industries can't WAIT till it's safe for us to gather again, we miss all your shiny Viking faces.

--Rio Durante, Editor

Are you planning a garden this year?

## Featured Item of the Month



Orcish Coloring  
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## The Origin of April Fool's Day

Every year, people celebrate April Fools' Day with pranks, practical jokes, and hoaxes. Merriment, cheer, and joviality reign as people poke socially sanctioned fun at one another. This day has been popular for at least 500 years, though there is an argument that the observance of a fools' day may be over 2000 years old. The April Fools Day origin story is still wrapped in mystery.

There is More than one History of April Fools Day. Many scholars suggest April Fools' Day had its beginnings in ancient renewal festivals, which differed on date, but all marked the arrival of spring. Ancient Romans, for example, celebrated a festival called Hilaria every March 25th. According to the Museum of Hoaxes, this was a day of "general good cheer" which included masquerades and "ritualized forms of mayhem and misrule." People would wear disguises, play tricks, and generally invert social order.

Roman myth also includes an adopted version of the story of Hades abducting Persephone (here called Pluto and Proserpina). Proserpina's mother went searching for her beloved daughter in the underworld, where she could hear her voice but never find her. The fruitless conclusion to her search is one of the inspirations for the idea of a 'fool's errand' – but it isn't the only one.

Some Biblical scholars say April 1st is the day Jesus was sent from Pontius Pilate to Herod and back again; another story which some would say is an example of sending someone on a fool's errand.

There are several celebrations which appear in the middle ages and seem to have connections to earlier pagan festivities – many of which could be the predecessors to April Fools' Day. The most prominent is the Festus Fatuorum (the Feast of Fools), a day which seems heavily inspired by the Roman

## April Birthday's

Switzerland Switzerland - April 5  
Scott Huber - April 7  
Daniel Crowley - April 8  
Jamie Bearg - April 11  
Michael Paluch - April 12  
Andrew Knoy - April 13  
Michael Benassi - April 15  
Shannon Micklewright - April 15  
Ken Seal - April 15  
Kahat Evans - April 8  
Jason Neal - April 2  
Ken Inoue - April 29



## Upcoming Events...



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festival of Saturnalia.

The day, which was most popular in France, included electing a mock pope and poking fun at church rituals. As you can imagine, the Church did their best to end the celebration, yet it existed into the 16th century.

Late Medieval Europe saw the appearance of fools, jokers, or jesters performing in town squares and royal courts. Their entertainment was generally comedic in nature and many of the jesters would use well-known individuals and events as the basis for their jokes or songs.

Another popular explanation for the origins of April Fools' Day is linked to the change in 1582 to the Gregorian Calendar, under the direction of Pope Gregory XIII. The Gregorian Calendar was created to replace the old Julian Calendar. Part of the change included the moving of New Year's Day to January 1st, as opposed to the popular pagan honoring of that day on or near April 1st. It's said that people who would not, or forgot to, make the change to the new date and kept celebrating the new year in April were victims to pranks and ridicule as "April Fools."

Had You Fooled? There are, however, some issues with accepting this hypothesis for the origins of April Fools' Day. First, it doesn't explain how or why the celebration spread to other European countries. Consider this, the Gregorian calendar wasn't adopted in England until 1752, but April Fools' Day was already popular there by then.

The second problem is that the first clear historical record of April Fools' Day comes from a poem by Flemish writer Eduard de Dene and dates to 1561, two decades before the calendar change. That poem involves a nobleman sending his servant all over the place on ridiculous errands supposedly to prepare for a wedding feast on April 1st. In the poem, the servant realizes the nobleman is playing an April 1st joke on him.

Even if no one is clear on the true place, time, or reason why April Fools' Day started, it is evident that ancient springtime festivals likely played a role in honoring merriment and misrule...for at least one day.