

The

Amazing

Life

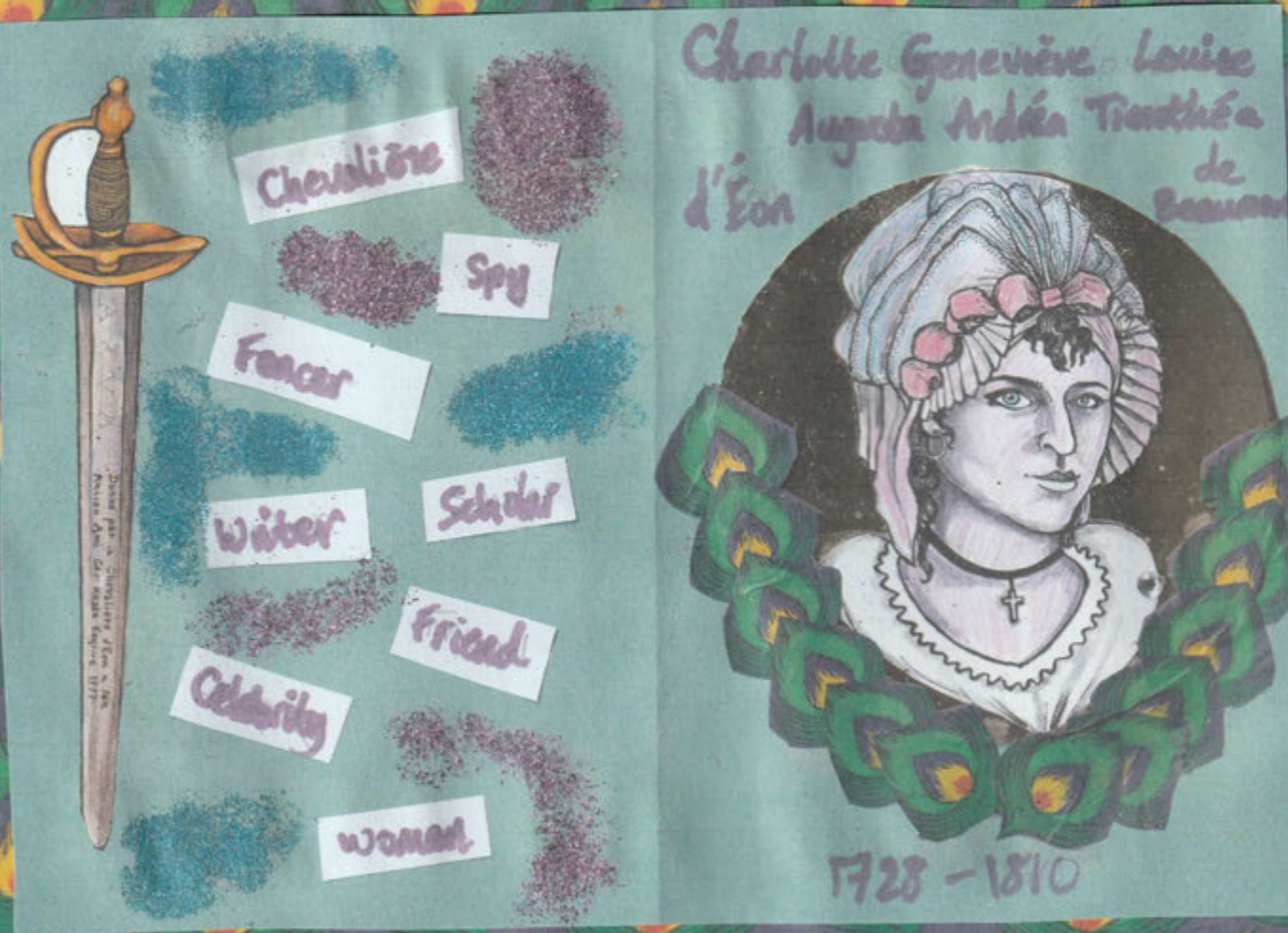


of

Chevaliere

D'Éon

*Charlotte Geneviève Louise Augusta Andréa
Timothéa D'Éon de Beaumont was born in Tonnerre,
France on the 5th October 1728.*



She was raised as an orthodox Roman Catholic and explored ideas of being transgender from an early age through her religion - she was fascinated by transgender saints who had lived in monasteries and convents as their true gender and were discovered to be trans after their death and then canonised as saints.

She began practising with weapons and horse riding in 1745

graduated in 1749

excelling at civic and canon law.



around this time she began to question her gender

- with all the men in her family dead

she could have the possibility of living as a woman, perhaps in safety in a convent.

Life of a Spy

Having excelled at school, and written numerous books regarding topics of interest to the French state, she was recruited to the Secret du Roi - The King's secret service - as a spy, in 1756. The French King at this time was Louis XV (15th).



Dispatched to Russia

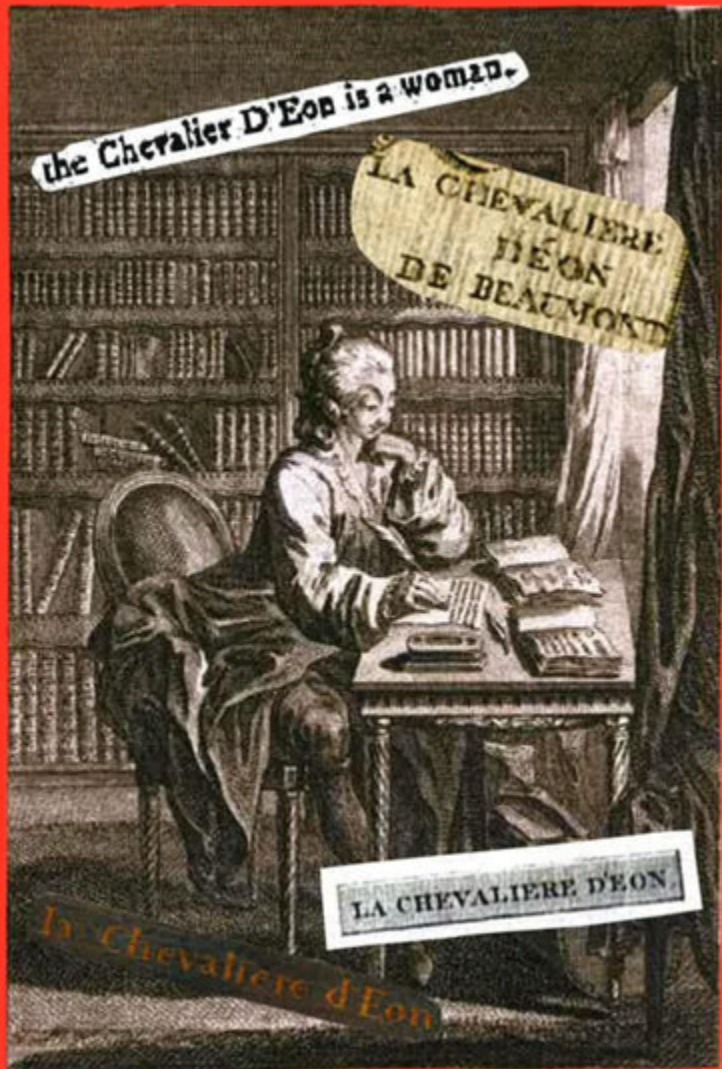
D'Éon was sent to Russia in 1756 and there are two accounts of how this happened.

the Chevalier D'Eon is a woman.

LA CHEVALIERE
D'EON
DE BEAUMONT

LA CHEVALIERE D'EON

la Chevaliere d'Eon



J'ai un pouce en celtie

D'Éon was dispatched to Russia as the secretary of the ambassador to Russia, Chevalier Douglas. There are accounts of this happening as well.



J'ai un pouce en celtie

D'Éon's mission was to influence Empress Elizabeth to improve relations between France & Russia to seat a king sympathetic to France on the throne of Poland. D'Éon herself alludes to both versions of events happening. Perhaps this is because both did happen in their own ways but also perhaps because she was a spy and more than one account kept people guessing.





METAMORPHOSIS

BALL

1756



D'Éon was dispatched to Russia to work as the Empress Elizabeth's lady in waiting. Elizabeth was known for regularly holding balls where people who attended dressed as the opposite gender. To get closer to the Empress, D'Éon would have most certainly attended.



Elizabeth was known for regularly holding "Metamorphosis Balls" where attendees were expected to present as a different gender and D'Éon would most certainly have attended these balls in order to get closer to Empress Elizabeth. The tradition of these balls was carried on by Catherine The Great!

House of D'Éon



METAMORPHOSIS

BAL

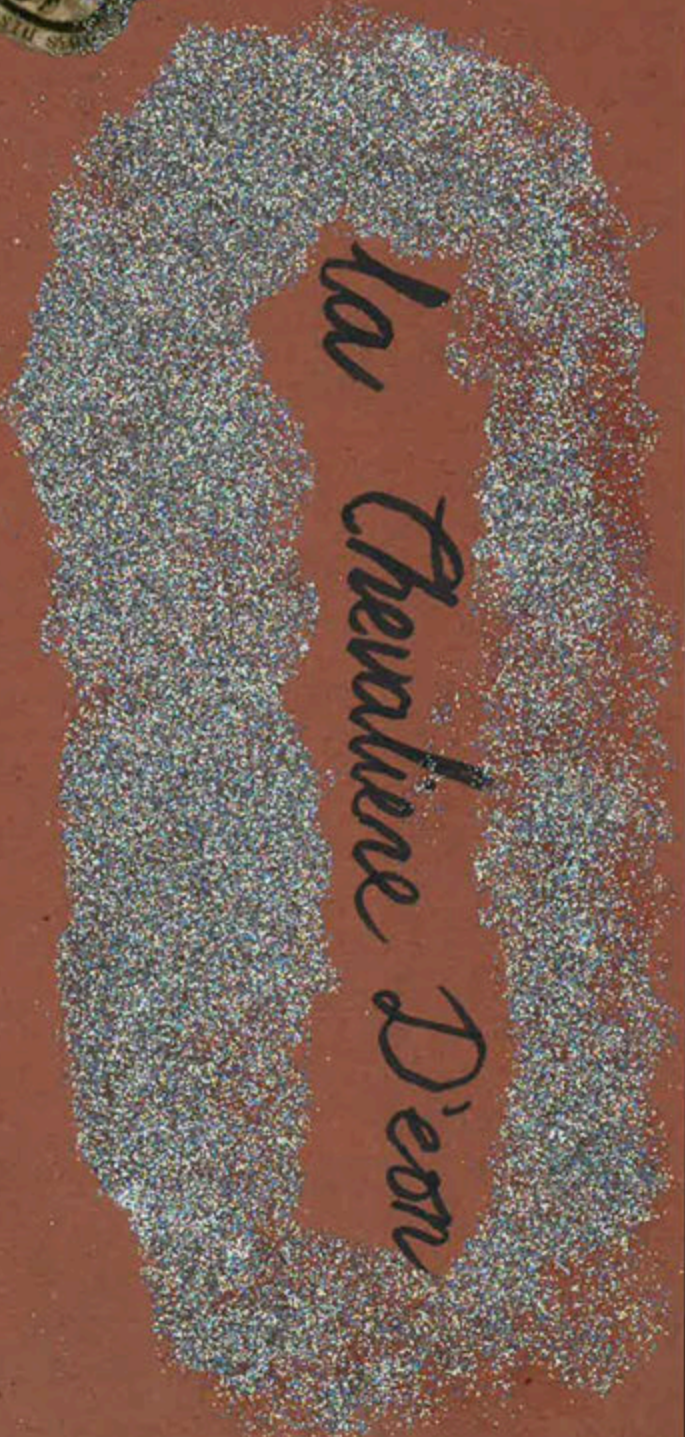




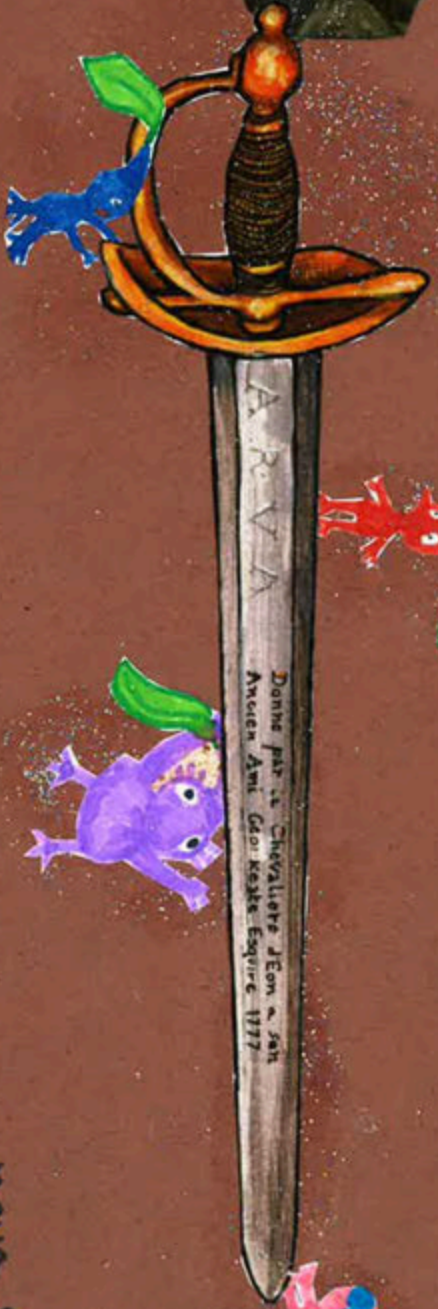
Seven Years War

1761 saw her on the front line of the Seven Years War as a captain of a squadron of dragoons. She was wounded in action. The following year D'Éon was dispatched to England to smooth relations over with the English and negotiate a peace which resulted in The Treaty of Paris being signed between England and France in February 1763.

She was awarded the Order of Saint-Louis & the title of Chevalier (Knight). She was 35.



la Chevaliere D'orn



Yeva Sands
07/05/2022

Meeting Queen Charlotte

When D'Éon was sent to England in 1762 it seems that part of her secret mission was to influence Queen Charlotte, the Queen-Consort of George III. There were rumours that D'Éon was having an affair with Queen Charlotte. There is little evidence of this, but D'Éon was never one to squash rumours as they often helped serve a purpose for her.



Fai un pouce en calère

Six pouces en avant et cinq pouces en arrière. Fai un pouce en calère



Time as Ambassador in England

While in England she was appointed temporary French ambassador to keep the peace, but her secret mission was to pass intelligence to the French state for an invasion of Britain.

During this time we can imagine she might have had some contact with underground drag and cross-dressing balls or even molly houses - although D'Eon is thought to be asexual so the latter may be less likely.

She was fired after 6 months for insubordination after disliking who was chosen to permanently succeed her in the role and was ordered to return to France to face trial and imprisonment, but being part of the Secret du Roi, D'Eon had access to a great number of French state secrets and she threatened to leak them if the King did not pardon her.

D M m e F O R



S T A T E

S E C R E T S

Louis XV did not believe her and so called her bluff...She was not bluffing...This move made her very unpopular in France but won great favour with the English.

In 1766 Louis XV offered her an annual 'pension' of 12,000 Livres (£900) on the condition she release no more state secrets and continue to spy for France as and when necessary - terms which D'Éon gladly accepted. She went on to continue to live in England for the next decade, but now however was able to live openly as a woman.

This started rumours about her 'true sex'. D'Éon did nothing to dissuade these rumours as they clearly allowed her to keep the air of mystery about her that she so needed being a spy. On 21 May 1771 Leeds Intelligencer (The Yorkshire Post) published that she was a woman.

@ D'eon DICKGIRL

LOVEXU DNI | PFP @KITGEORGEART
RATED #1 FENCER | KNOWN CERTAINLY AS
A WOMB BY YORKSHIRE POST



📌 PINNED TWEET

Sister, who, in her father's life time, married contrary to the wishes of her family; a step which the incensed parent never forgave, and he died without leaving her a shilling, though her circumstances were not a little embarrassed. The generous youth, her brother, however, on succeeding to the estate, sent for her in the most affectionate manner, and putting notes to the amount of 20,000l. into her hands, declaring he was too unhappy in the loss of a father, to be deprived of so valuable a relation as his sister. It is now certainly known that the person who has long been received in England under the name of the Chevalier D'Eon is a woman.

Negotiating return to France

With Louis XV's death in 1774 the Secret du Roi was abolished and D'Éon was able to negotiate her return to France with Louis XVI, supported by numerous influential friends. The result was a 20-page treaty that involved her handing over all the remaining state secrets she held.

Another part was that D'Éon be allowed to continue living her life as a woman. There are several different versions of how this happened.

1. D'Éon stoked rumours she had been born a cis female, forced to live as a boy, then a man so that she would be able to inherit her father's estate, and that she wished to return to living as her birth gender.

2. D'Éon was upfront about being transgender and as part of the treaty demanded that she be able to live as a woman.

3. The French state & court were confused by D'Éon and said she must pick a gender and live as that for the rest of her life.

The Sword

On the sword is an inscription she commissioned, showing she asked to be referred to in French as a woman.

On 7th May 2022 I watched as a group of trans people crowded around to see this sword that a trans woman inscribed her gender on and gifted to her dear friend...

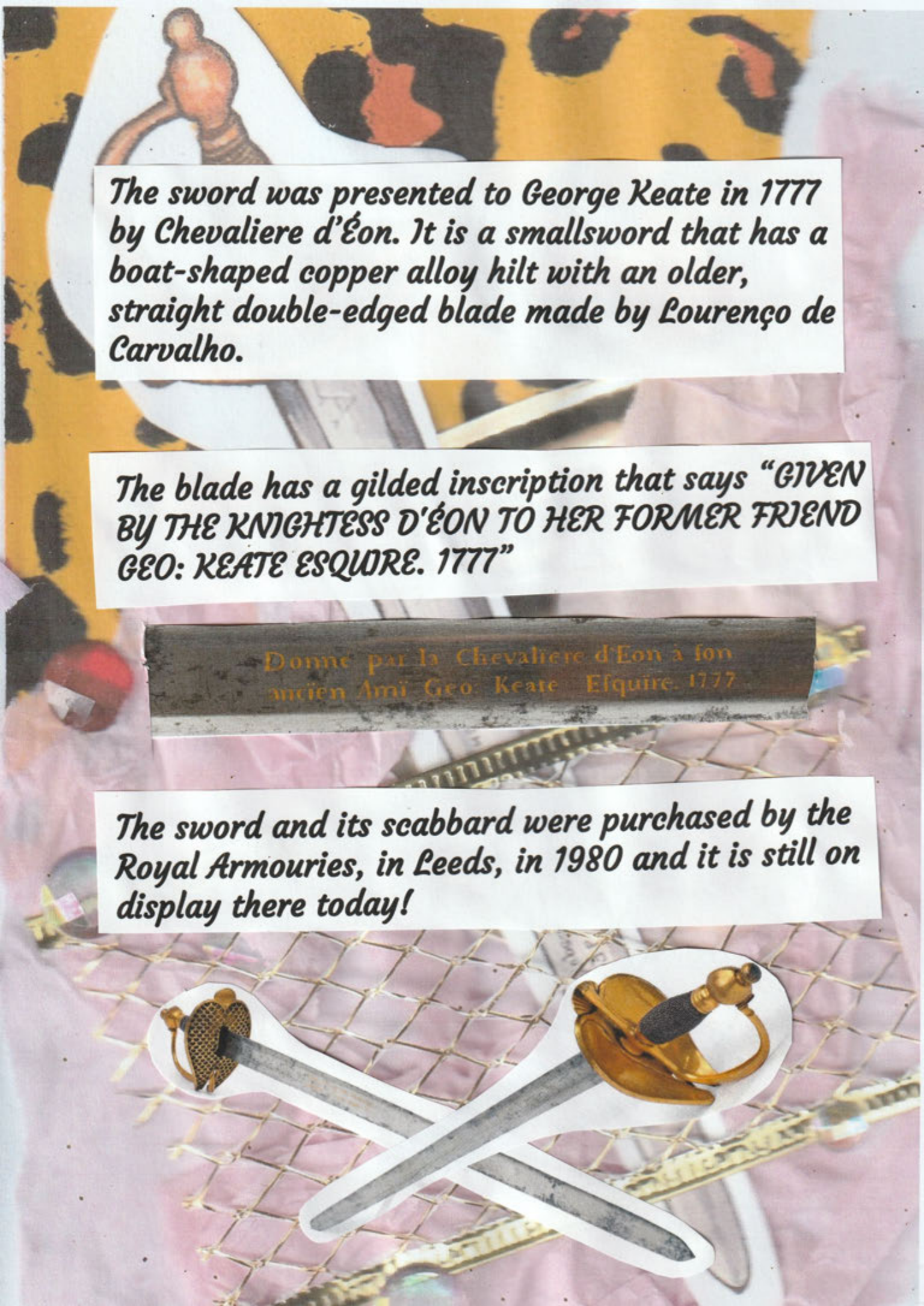


... and it nearly made me cry.
This is our history.
♥

We have always been here...


D'Éon began preparing for her relocation to France. It's at this time she had the sword made - as a parting gift to her friend, the poet George Keate. He also owned and perhaps commissioned a painting of D'Éon in her 25th year.

We loved, and were loved in return.



The sword was presented to George Keate in 1777 by Chevaliere d'Éon. It is a smallsword that has a boat-shaped copper alloy hilt with an older, straight double-edged blade made by Lourenço de Carvalho.

The blade has a gilded inscription that says "GIVEN BY THE KNIGHTESS D'ÉON TO HER FORMER FRIEND GEO: KEATE ESQUIRE. 1777"



Donné par la Chevaliere d'Eon à son ancien Ami Geo: Keate Esquire. 1777

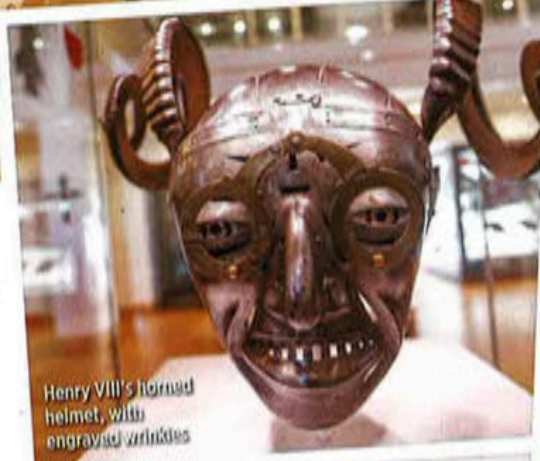
The sword and its scabbard were purchased by the Royal Armouries, in Leeds, in 1980 and it is still on display there today!



With much of Britain adapting to a 'new normal', museums and galleries are continuing to reopen their doors



A display of various suits of armour for men and horses alike at the Royal Armouries Museum



Henry VIII's horrid helmet, with engraved wrinkles



The museum's more exotic displays include this impressive elephant armour

Royal Armouries Museum

LEEDS
Now open
bit.ly/330FeLS

One of the world's oldest collections of weapons and armour – and the oldest museum in Britain – has reopened its doors. The Royal Armouries collections are based across three sites: The Tower of London; Fort Nelson; in-Hampshire; and the Royal Armouries Museum, in Leeds.

The Leeds museum has recently allowed the public back onto the site. The museum houses more than 8,500 objects across its five galleries. A few highlights from this expansive collection include a telescope made for Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, which Wellesley used at the Battle of Waterloo; an Italian 17th-century 'Assassin's' crossbow, which earned its nickname as its

diminutive size made it perfect for hiding inside clothing; a stave from a longbow found on the *Mary Rose*; and a 'vampire killing kit' full of 19th-century items including stakes, a crucifix and garlic paste.

The museum will be open from 10am–5pm from Wednesday to Sunday. A free ticket must be booked in advance. The Tournament Gallery, and floor 3 and 5 of the War Gallery are currently closed to prepare for new exhibitions, but the cafe, shop and toilets are open.

IN PICTURES: FEMALE ACTIVISM

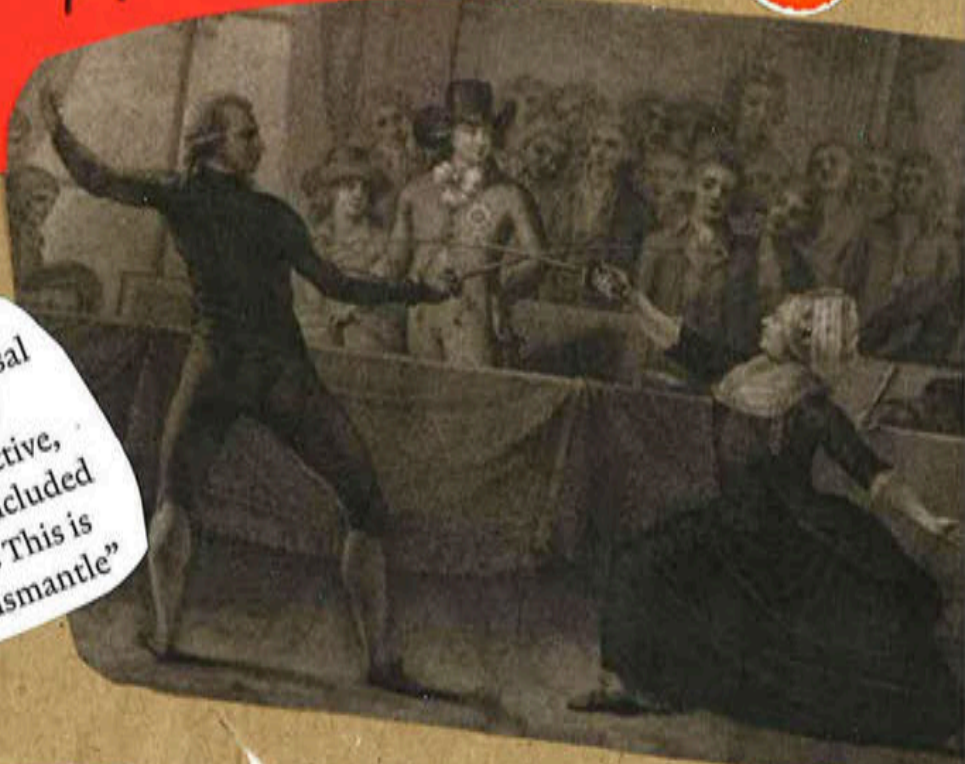
WOMEN PROTEST



BOY-GIRL
M-D-Y

I am not a construct

"These tragedies are delivered to us as universal stories, as stories of humanity. My perspective, my humanity, is not included in this universality. This is what I wanted to dismantle"





D'ÉON



one hears
the Royal
Armouries
is tip top!



A LIFE AND TIMES

Return to France

By 1777 she was an "Honourable prisoner of war" at the palace of Versailles in the court of King Louis XVI.

She was 49 years old and was expected to now be

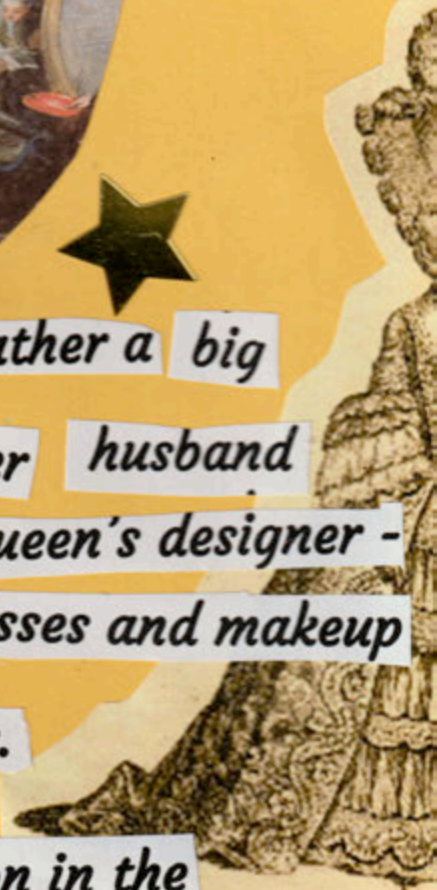
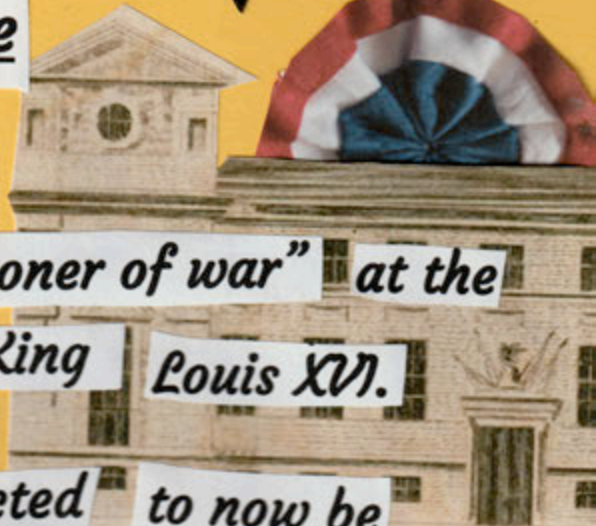
a lady

of the

court.

Queen Marie Antoinette turned out to be rather a big supporter of Chevaliere D'Éon, pushing her husband to order a new wardrobe for her by the Queen's designer - Rose Bertin - with a grant for new dresses and makeup to abide by court standards.

In 1778 she asked to lead a squadron in the American War for Independence but was declined.



Return to England

In 1785

D'Éon grew restless and bored of her "sedentary lifestyle" and returned to England where she was welcomed with open arms.

She often participated in fencing matches to demonstrate

that at 57, in full petticoats & corset,

she was still an accomplished swordmistress.

In 1789

the French Revolution began and she was forced to sell much of her property, including many of the dresses by Rose Bertin.

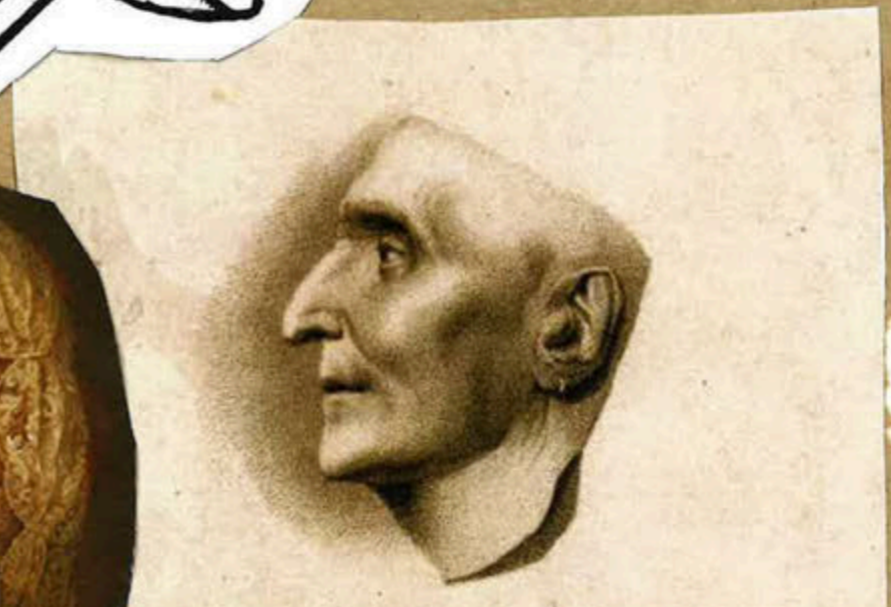
Her pension and grants ended with the deaths

of Louis XVI and

Marie Antoinette.



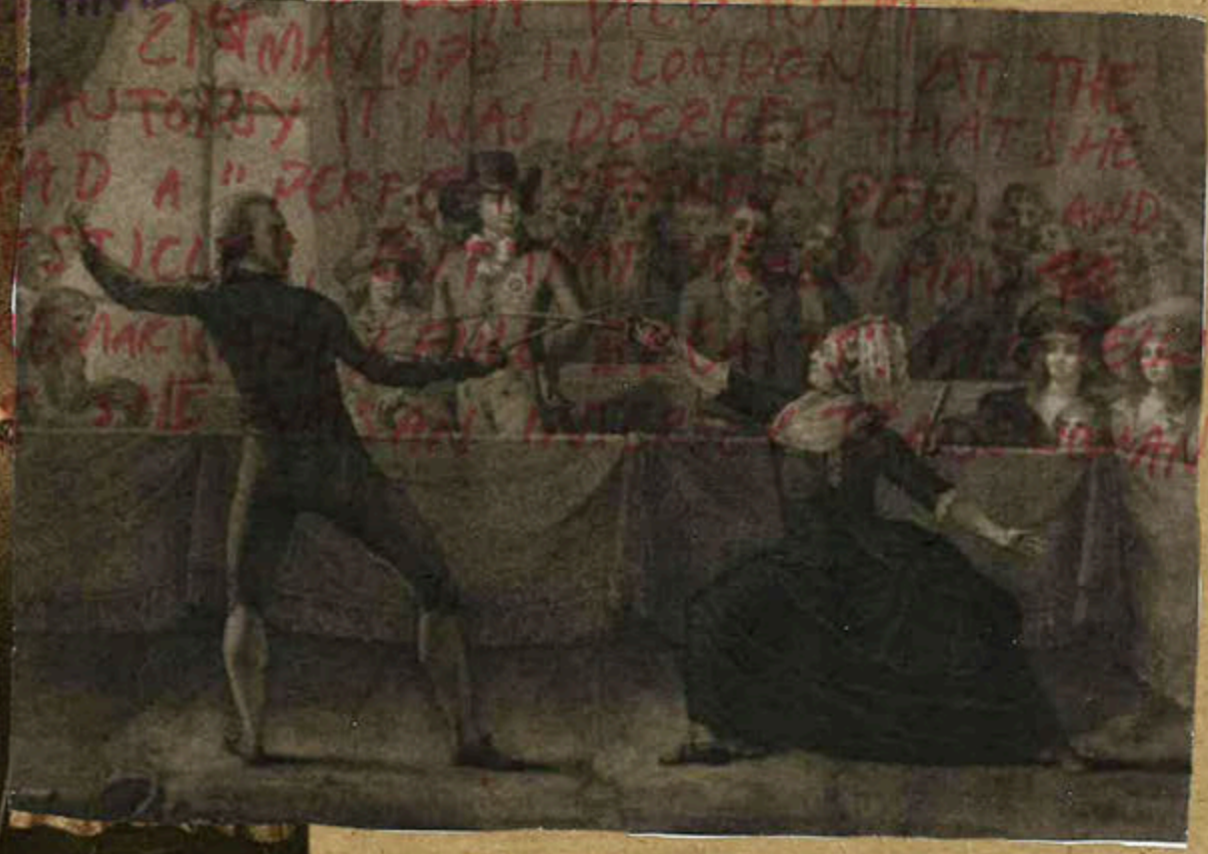
LA CHEVALIERE D'ÉON
DI-217

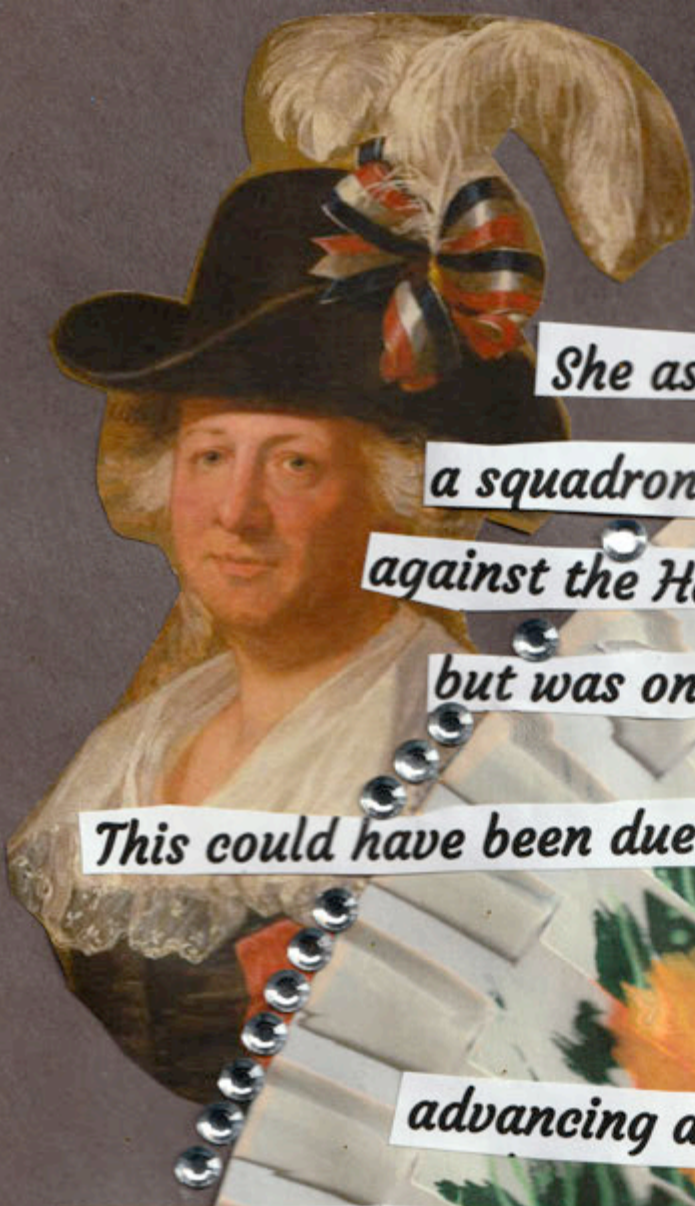


RESTLESS AND BORED OF
STYLE AND RETURNED TO ENGLAND
OPEN ARMS SHE OFTEN
ATCHES TO DEMONSTRATE
ET. SHE WAS STILL AN

1785 D'ÉON
"SEDENTARY LIFE"

D'ÉON DIED 10 PM
21st MAY 1792 IN LONDON AT THE
AUTOPSY IT WAS DECIDED THAT SHE
HAD A "PERFECT FEMALE" PENIS AND
TESTICLES BUT THAT SHE HAD MALE
SEMINAL LIQUOR IN HER VAGINA
SHE





She asked to lead
a squadron of female soldiers
against the Habsburgs in 1792
but was once again declined.

This could have been due to

her transness,
advancing age or

her former proximity to French royalty.

D'Éon quit fencing in 1796 due to a serious injury.

By 1806

she had a fall and was left bedridden,
being taken care of by the widow
she lodged with, Ms Cole.

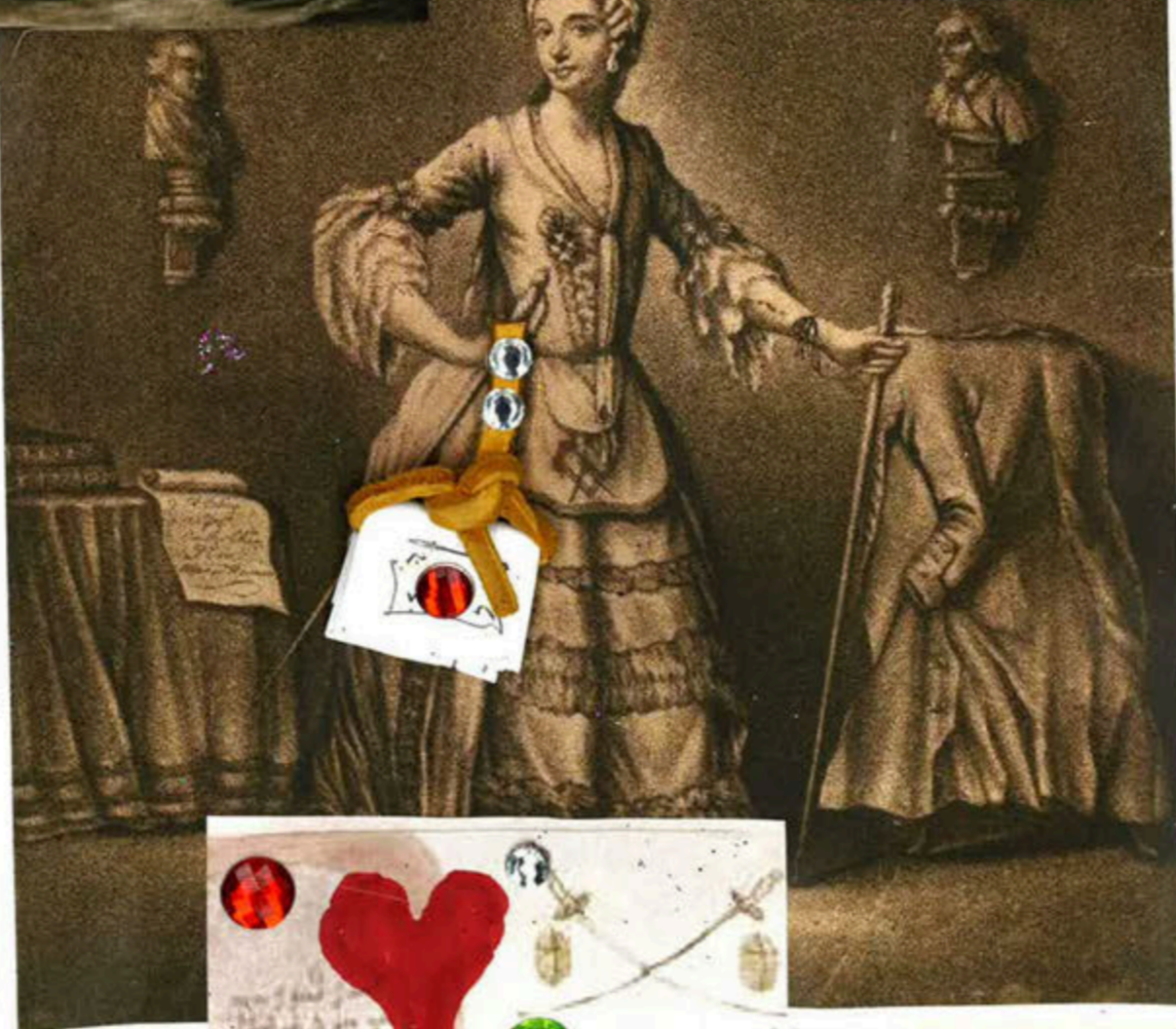




NON



THE CHEVALIER D'ÉON.



Death

Chevaliere Charlotte D'Éon died 10pm 21st May 1810 in London, aged 81.



D'Éon's death mask

At the autopsy it was decreed that she had a "perfectly formed" penis and testicles, but that she also had "remarkably full breasts". This tells us she was an intersex trans woman.

It is rumoured many were present at the autopsy including Queen Charlotte; there are reports that the Queen was so grief stricken at the death of her former lover that she had ordered the autopsy herself to understand the fate that had befallen her.

Not only was D'Éon subjected to the indignity of people crowding her apartments to view her body, her genitalia was drawn by Charles Turner and prints were made as proof of her "real sex".

Chevaliere D'eon



I
Will
not Be
DEFINED

What makes people
uneasy is the sense that you've
wandered off the path.

Kodwo Eshun

I Will
BE
Me

ER

en al others
ne bory

Legacy

Some theorise she is the inspiration behind Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, after having been written about by her father Sir Leslie Stephen when editing the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

in a section called 'Queer Little Morsels'!
(new band name?!)

During her lifetime Mary Wollstonecraft was

writing about her voicing

her support and saying

that Madame D'Éon was

"a shining example of

female fortitude to

which British women might

aspire"



* writer of
Vindication
of the Rights
of Woman
and forerunner
of modern
feminism
(fuck TERFS!)



depiction of
her as an
Amazon -
which she
encouraged

New research seeks a more inclusive view.

Numerous films, tv shows, plays and operas have sought to depict D'Éon in various ways.

Chevaliere d'Éon

spy
beauty
wit
mystery
traveller
diplomat

swordswoman

survivor
agent
author
cunning
loved
entertainer



unique?

A woman of many parts, of many places and of many times.

Thank yous

Royal Armouries Museum

Ezekiel Foster-Eardley

Luna Morgana

Kit George Art

Dr Kit Heyam

Non-Binary Leeds

TransLeeds

Leeds 2023

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Brotherton Library, Leeds University

Duke University, North Carolina

The British Museum

The Wellcome Collection

National Portrait Gallery

British Newspaper Archive

Digital Transgender Archive

St. Pancras Old Church

Nina Möller - Epochs of Fashion

Ruth Pearce - Not Right

Ma poitrine ne me manque pas. Les seins vraiment en manque pas. Ma poitrine ne me manque pas

Queenly Swords

Vol. Mag. Oct 1777



*MADemoisELLE de BEAUMONT, or the
CHEVALIER D'ÉON.*

Female Minister Plenip. Capt. of Dragons &c Es.



Donné par le Chevalier d'Éon à son
Ancien Ami Geo Keate Esquire 1777

If you are 18+ and need trans support in Leeds then you can contact:

Non-Binary Leeds

NonBinaryLeeds@gmail.com
www.nonbinaryleeds.org.uk

TransLeeds

Contact@TransLeeds.lgbt
transleeds.org



*Ma poitrine ne me manque pas
Les seins vraiment en
ne me manque pas,
ne me manquent pas*



Memorial monument for La Chevaliere D'Eon

Designed in 2022 by Luna Morgana



@GossipGrrrl
@RoyalArmouriesMuseum



GossipGrrrlXOXO@gmail.com
enquiries@armouries.org.uk

Cover illustration by



@KitGeorgeArt

**Gossip
Grrrl**

ROYAL ARMOURIES



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**Heritage
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LEEDS
YEAR OF
CULTURE **2023**