

**Wybrand Lolkes, the Dwarf.**

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## WYBRAND LOLKES, the Dwarf,

WAS a native of Holland, being born at Jelst in West Friesland, in the year 1730; his father was a fisherman, who besides this most extraordinary little creature, had to support a family of seven other children, all of whom were of ordinary stature, as were both the father and mother. Wybrand Lolkes, at an early age, gave proofs of a taste for mechanism, and when sufficiently grown up, was by the interest of some friends, placed with an eminent watch and clock maker at Amsterdam, to learn that art. He continued in the service of his master for four years after he had completed his apprenticeship, when he removed to Rotterdam, and commenced business on his own account: it was here he became acquainted, and afterwards married, the person who accompanied him to England. His trade of a watch-maker failing, he came to the resolution of exhibiting himself as a show; and by attending the several Dutch fairs, obtained a handsome competency. Impelled by curiosity, and in hopes of gain, he came to England, and was visited at Harwich (where he first landed) by crowds of people. Encouraged by this early success, he proceeded to London, and on applying to the late Mr. Philip Astley, obtained an <sup>engagement</sup> at the theatre, Westminster Bridge, on Easter Monday, 1790, and continued to exhibit every evening during the whole season. He was always accompanied by his wife, who came on the stage with him hand in hand, but though he elevated his arm, she was compelled to stoop considerably to meet the proffered honour.

Mynheer LOLKES had by his wife three children, one of which, a son, lived to the age of 23, and was five feet seven inches in height.

This little man was only 27 inches high, and notwithstanding his clumsy and awkward appearance, was remarkably agile, and possessed uncommon strength, and could, with the greatest ease spring from the ground on a chair of ordinary height. He was rather of a morose temper, and extremely vain of himself, and while discoursing in broken English, was (as he imagined) extremely dignified.

He continued in England but one season, and through the help of a good benefit, returned to his native country, with his pockets better furnished than when he left it.