

A silver table centrepiece featuring a rabbit, two game birds, an onion, a turnip, two types of mushroom, a cauliflower, a gherkin and a truffle.

A hat, decorated with ostrich feathers, that can be turned inside out and worn as a mask.

Sunglasses with green lenses.

An oyster fork that administers a measured quantity of pepper to the oyster whilst prizing it from its shell.

Mechanical dolls that can draw, write and play the piano.

A set of false teeth made from the teeth of dead soldiers and executed criminals.

A golden matchbox engraved with a miniature image of Louis XIV dancing ballet.

A set of bellows used to administer tinted, scented powder to a wig before it is placed on the head.

A men's lunch box, decorated with hunting scenes, with a compartment for the gentleman's pipe and tobacco.

A ticket for a fireworks show that would depict the sun in the Tychoonian and Copernican systems.

A crystal perfume bottle in the shape of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

An elaborate porcelain pot shaped like a gravy boat, in which a society lady can discreetly relieve herself whilst out and about.

A toothpick case inlaid with a compass and a thermometer.

A set of handkerchiefs made of deer fur.

A novelty gentleman's walking stick, with ivory segments at each end and lengths of boxwood in the middle. The ivory can be detached and the boxwood pieces can be played as a flute.



François-Thomas Germain, *Surtout de Table*, 1754



Swiss mechanical dolls, 1768-74



False teeth made with human teeth, c. 1800



Venetian sunglasses, 1760s or 1770s



Mahogany, leather and ivory wig bellows belonging to George III (c. 1775)



Faux ivory toothpick case with compass and thermometer, London, c. 1790



Bourdaloues from c. 1776



François Boucher, *La Toilette Intime (Une Femme qui Pisse)*, 1760s

Answers:

*The fake pieces are the ostrich-feather hat, the matchbox (matches weren't available yet), the lunch box, the perfume bottle, the handkerchiefs and the walking stick. So far as I know none of these things existed!*

*For the real items, I've given images where possible. The oyster fork was advertised in a Parisian periodical in 1762 - see E. C. Spary, Eating the Enlightenment: Food and the Sciences in Paris, 1670-1760 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). The fireworks happened at the Russian court in 1735 in celebration of Anna Ivanovna's birthday. See Simon Werrett, Fireworks: Pyrotechnic Arts and Sciences in European History (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 122-4.*