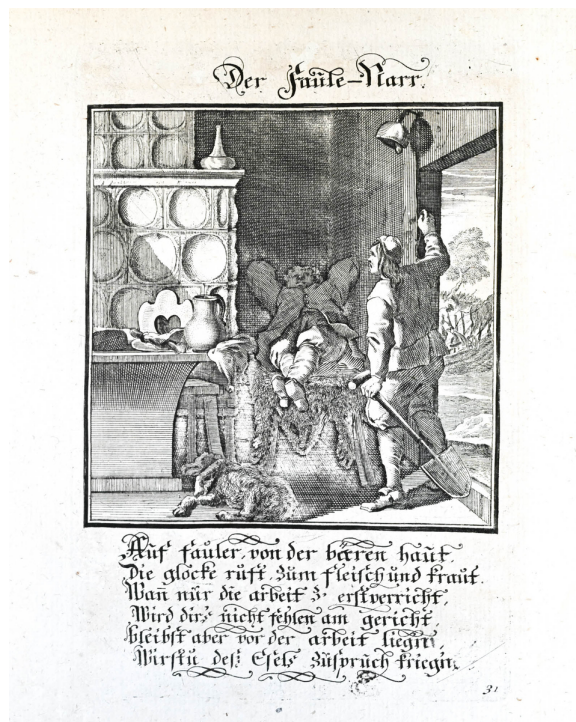


A Denunciation of Idleness: Johann Christoph Weigel, *The Lazy Fool* (1709)

Abstract

Denunciations of idleness were not new or unique to the eighteenth-century. The commandment to work had long been important in the Christian context, and critiques of idleness had intensified from the sixteenth century onward. Eighteenth-century bourgeois culture transformed the concept of work into a critique of the aristocratic privilege of leisure and linked work to progressive thinking. Johann Christoph Weigel (1661–1726) was a Nuremberg engraver, art dealer, and publisher. His satirical etchings of fools mocked human weaknesses, such as laziness, and were prized by eighteenth-century bibliophiles as important contributions to graphic art.

Source



Source: *Der Faule-Narr (The Lazy Fool)*, etching by Johann Christoph Weigel, from *Centi-Folium stultorum in quarto. Oder Hundert ausbündige Narren, in Folio. Neu aufgewärmet, und in einer Alapatrit-Pasteten zum Schau-Essen aufgesetzt*. Vienna, Johann Carl Megerle and Nuremberg, Johann Christoph Weigel, 1709, no pagination.

Image and bibliographic information courtesy of Antiquariat Thomas Rezek, Munich (<https://a-rezek.de/>). This version of the etching can be viewed online at:

<https://a-rezek.de/tigross.jsp?jsessionid=0C87612D5FFA743FE40415FACB6E542E?id=29139152&u=0&orig=1&head=2>.

Another copy of the 1709 edition of *Centi-Folium stultorum in quarto* can be found at the Herzog August Bibliothek (HAB) Wolfenbüttel and is available online at: <http://diglib.hab.de/drucke/hm-29/start.htm?image=00011>. *Der Faule-Narr* can be found at: <http://diglib.hab.de/drucke/hm-29/start.htm?image=00197>.

Der Faule-Narr was also reprinted and discussed in Paul Münch, *Lebensformen in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Frankfurt am Main/Munich: Propyläen, 1992, p. 365.

Courtesy of Antiquariat Thomas Rezek, Munich

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