

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The following is a transcript of "Thank You" notes and related papers
discovered in the estate of Agnes Witherbottom

December 25

My Dearest John,
Today a courier delivered a lovely pear tree with
the cutest little partridge tucked away in its
branches! What a truly delightful gift. Thank
you, darling, for the lovely thought. I hope you
are having a very happy Christmas. Sorry I can't
be with you.

With deep affection,
Agnes

December 26

My Darling John,
Your very sweet gift arrived today – two turtle
doves. I am delighted. They are just adorable!

With love and devotion,
Agnes

December 27

My Dearest John,
Oh! How extravagant you are! I really must
protest! I don't deserve such generosity. Three
french hens. You are really impossible, but I
love you.

Your loving Agnes

December 28

Dearest John,
The four colly birds that I received today are
lovely, and should be good company for the
hens, doves, and partridges! I really must
consider getting an aviary!

Kind regards,
Agnes

December 29

Dear John,
What a surprise ... today I received five gold-
ringed pheasants! I insist ... you are too kind.
Frankly though, all the squawking is beginning
to get on my nerves!

Regards,
Agnes

December 30

Dear Jonathan,
When I opened the door this morning, there
were actually six huge geese laying eggs all over
the front step! What do you expect me to do
with all of these birds? The neighbors are
beginning to complain.

Cordially Yours,
Agnes

December 31

John,
What is it with you and these rotten birds? Now
I can't even take a bath because there are seven
swans swimming in the tub. Is this some sort of
a perverted joke? Well, my house is full of bird
doo and IT IS NOT FUNNY ANY MORE!
Stop sending me birds!

Sincerely,
Agnes

January 1

Okay Buster,
Just because you complied with my request to
stop sending birds isn't getting you off the
hook. What the hell am I going to do with eight
maids-a-milking? How would you like eight cows
pooping all over your parlor and eight maids
eating all your holiday leftovers?
And a bloody happy New Year to you, too!

Agnes

January 2

Look Blockhead–
What are you ... some kind of nut? Now you
send me nine pipers and they never stop
piping, not even when they're chasing the milk
maids through the cow pies. My neighbors are
threatening to have me evicted.

Up yours!
Agnes

January 3

You rotten bastard!
Now I have ten ladies dancing ... although what kind of dancing calls for stripping off one's clothing is beyond me! They seem to spend all night sitting on the pipers' laps. I can't sleep for all the moaning and groaning, not to mention the mooing! The building commissioner is threatening to condemn my house.

Piss off,
Agnes

January 4

Listen Asshole,
With eleven lords a-leaping all over the maids and the dancers, my humble home would make Sodom and Gomorrah seem serene! The pipers are fighting the lords for the gals and the losers are bugging the cows! The poor birds have all been trampled to death in a sea of manure. I hope you are satisfied, you rotten, vicious swine.

Your sworn enemy,
Agnes

January 5

YOU STINKING LOUSY PRICK!
The twelve drummers drumming have teamed up with the nine pipers and are making one hell of a din. The lords are leaping ever more frantically on the so-called ladies. And who knows what happened to the maids. They have probably drowned in the cow shit by now! The only way I survived was by locking myself in the bathroom, which is a good place to be because eating nothing but pears for a week has given me the runs.

Why don't you come over and see me?
Agnes

For more Christmas games and humor see
www.FunOccasions.com.

The 13th DAY

To: Mr. Jonathan Marley
From: Thresher, White, and Mako
Attorneys at Law

We are writing on behalf of Miss Agnes Witherbottom. All future correspondence with her should come to our attention. We hereby advise you that you face both civil and criminal charges including: harassment, mental cruelty, trespassing, malicious mischief, invasion of privacy, disturbing the peace, causing undue hardship, unlicensed transport of livestock, failure to procure veterinary health certificates, disregard of regulations of the County Agricultural Department, the Health Standard Code, and Public Entertainment Licensing, and being an accessory to illicit sexual conduct.

And we further give you this warning:
Should you attempt to reach Agnes at the Happy Dale Sanitarium, the attendants have been instructed to shoot you on sight.

Notes:

1. This bit of anonymous humor has been circulating in various formats since at least 1971. (The song itself dates from the 13th century.) I did considerable editing in an attempt to make it more succinct, more accurate (see below) and, I hope, funnier. Therefore, I claim a copyright on my contributions. All are free to reproduce this as is, providing these notes are retained. – Miles Edward Allen, 1999.
2. No other version that I have seen has the dates correct. The twelve days of Christmas *begin* on Christmas Eve and end on the eve of the Epiphany (January 5th).
3. The traditional order of 9 ladies, 10 lords, 11 pipers and 12 drummers has been rearranged, apparently to give the ladies a male audience for their dancing.
4. "Colly" is an English term for a blackbird. Many music publishers mistakenly have substituted "calling." There is no such thing as a "calling bird."
5. The fact that "Five golden rings" refers to gold-ringed pheasants has likewise escaped the attention of many publishers, although why they wouldn't wonder at the insertion of jewelry in a sequence of bird gifts, is beyond me. #