

THE DIARY OF 1783

Elizabeth Inchbald kept her diary of 1783 (designated Folger M. a. 152) in *THE LADIES' Own Memorandum-Book: OR, DAILY POCKET JOURNAL, For the YEAR 1783*, published yearly in London by G. Robinson, No. 25, Paternoster Row, and T. Slack, Newcastle. The cost of the book was one shilling, although the price is not legible in this pocketbook. The title page describes the journal as being 'Designed as a Methodical Register of all their Transactions of Business, as well as Amusement', and it is announced as being written 'By a LADY'. The 1783 pocketbook consists of eighty unnumbered leaves (two more of which have been cut out before the title page), and the book is bound in a brown leather cover with gold filigree impressed around the edges of the leather. The back cover is a pocket, and the front cover may have been. The book has no flap and no clasps. The flap has apparently been torn off, as the right edge of the front cover is ragged, and the filigree traces the shape of a flap on the back cover. The pocketbook measures roughly 12.4 cm in length by 8 cm in width by 1.3 cm in thickness. Despite the damage it has incurred, this pocketbook is in relatively good condition (as of 2007). The year 1783 written on the cover is now barely visible in the leather, as is the numeral 14, presumably to indicate the volume number. (The ink has worn away, but the impressions made in the leather by the scratches of the pen still are visible when the book is held to the light.)

Contents of the Diary

The diary of 1783 includes an array of items both before and after the spaces reserved for daily entries. The title page lists, in two columns, the following contents.

- I. A prefatory address.
- II. Common Notes for 1783.
- III. Table of the Sun's Rising every third Day.
- IV. Birth-days and Years of the Royal Family.
- V. Rules for finding the moveable Feasts, &c.
- VI. Table of the moveable Feasts for 28 Years.
- VII. Remarkable foreign and domestic Occurrences in 1782.

- VIII. Journal of the War.
- IX. Twelve Country Dances for the Year 1783.
- X. Poetical Answers to last Year's Enigmas.
- XI. Seventeen new Enigmas.
- XII. Answers to the Rebusses of last Year.
- XIII. Ten new Rebusses.
- XIV. New Paradoxes.
- XV. Answer to the Paradoxes of last Year.
- XVI. Several Original Songs and poetical Pieces.
- XVII. New Songs, sung at Vauxhall, &c. in 1782.
- XVIII. Table of the Kings and Queens of England since 1066.
- XIX. Table of Precedency amongst the Ladies.
- XX. Table of the Roads.
- XXI. Useful Market Tables.
- XXII. An exact Table of the Window Tax.
- XXIII. Current Weight of Gold and Silver Coin.
- XXIV. Birth-days of the principal Sovereigns in Europe.

An item's being listed in the contents on the title page, however, does not necessarily mean that it was included in the pocketbook. The actual contents of the book are as follows.

1. 'PREFACE' (one-third of a page).
2. An advertisement for *Fisher's Spelling Dictionary* and *The Pleasing Instructor: or, Entertaining Moralist* (two-thirds of a page).
3. 'CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES in 1783', which lists the dominical letter of the year, Shrove Sunday, Advent Sunday and so forth (a quarter of a page).
4. 'A TABLE of the Sun's Rising every 3d Day in the Year' (half a page).
5. 'Birth-Days and Years of the Royal Family of G Britain' (a quarter of a page).
6. 'RULES for finding the Moveable FEASTS and HOLIDAYS', followed by a listing of 'VIGILS and FASTS' and 'Days of FASTING and ABSTINENCE' (one page).
7. 'A TABLE of the Moveable FEASTS for 28 Years' (one page).
8. 'REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES. From September 1781, to October 1782', including 'The Queen of France delivered of a Prince' on 22 October 1781, 'Advice of another dreadful hurricane in the island of Jamaica, on the 1st of August, and great damage done to the shipping, houses, and plantations in the island' for 2 November and 'Advice of the Spanish floating batteries and gunboats in their grand attack on Gibraltar, on the 13th of Sept. being totally destroyed by the garrison, and about 1500 men killed and drowned' for 1 October 1782 (four pages).
9. 'NEW COUNTRY DANCES, For the YEAR 1783', including '*The Twelfth of August*', '*The East Indian*' and '*The Atlantic*'. '*La Chasse*' is

described as, 'The first couple change sides and back again – lead down the middle up again, and cast off – hands fix round, back again – lead outsides' (one and a half pages).

10. 'Births of the principal Sovereign Princes in Europe', listing birth years only (a quarter of a page).
11. 'English GOLD and SILVER COINS, and their WEIGHT' (a quarter of a page).
12. 'An exact TABLE of the Roads from LONDON to EDINBURGH' (one page).
13. 'A PERPETUAL DIARY' (one page).
14. Fifty-three weeks' worth of spaces for daily entries (106 pages).
15. 'ABSTRACT of the late WINDOW ACT, shewing the several Sums to be paid for Window Cess, on all Houses' (one page).
16. 'ANSWERS to all the ENIGMAS' from the previous year in list form and incorporated into four poems (two and three-quarters pages).
17. Eighteen 'NEW ENIGMAS', including the following three (seven and three-quarters pages).

Enigma V, by Miss Dent of Leicester:

I'M a word of four syllables, very well known:
Ye wits, pray this riddle explain,
Two syllables taken away, you will own,
Not one of the four will remain.

Enigma X, by W. Swift, of Stow, near Lincoln:

BACKward and forward I'm the same,
Three letters do compose my name;
And if at whist you chance to play,
My name's in view: What is it, say?

Enigma XI, by W. Swift, of Stow, near Lincoln:

THE head of a flower take off: and what then?
What remains tells th' enigma I wrote with my pen.

18. 'ANSWER to the REBUSES' of the previous year as a two-column list and incorporated into a poem (one page).
19. Ten 'NEW REBUSES', including the following three (two pages).

Rebus III, by Castellio:

IF from an herb you do four letters take,
I think it will (you'll see) exactly make
An eastern monarch's name, for wisdom fam'd,
Yet in some points, I think, he's justly blam'd.

Rebus VIII, by T. Barras of Chester:

FIVE letters do compose my name,
Direct, reverse, 'tis all the same;
In compliments I'm known to dwell,
So what I am, pray, ladies, tell.

Rebus IX, by Collier, of Wylam:

FOUR-fifths of a beast, and the half of a grain,
The retreat of your friend will quickly explain.

20. 'ANSWER to the second PARADOX' of the previous year, in verse form, with the notation, 'The first Paradox was not answered this year' (a quarter of a page).
21. 'A new PARADOX' by W. Swift of Stow, as follows (half a page).

AS walking straight forward, (not looking behind)
My friend follow'd close with a present, you'll find;
He counted ten guineas, I saw them all fair,
Tho' ne'er look'd behind me. – How! Ladies, declare?

22. Six original poems (five and a quarter pages).
23. Five epigrams (one and a quarter pages).
24. Twelve 'FAVOURITE NEW SONGS' (nine pages).
25. 'A Table of KINGS and QUEENS Reigns', starting with '*The Norman Line*' and William I, listing accession dates and years, months and days reigned; and ending with George III 'whom God preserve' (one page).
26. 'TABLE of PRECEDENCY among LADIES' (one page).
27. 'A NEW MARKETING TABLE' (four pages).

Format for Daily Entries

This journal's format is identical to that of the 1776 journal and the succeeding ones. The section of the journal designed for daily entries is arranged by week on facing pages (see Figure 2, Interior of the Diary of 1783, on p. 116). Across the top of the two pages are the inclusive dates for the week (for example, the twenty-first week of 1783 has 'MAY 19, to' on the verso and continues 'MAY 25, 1783' on the facing recto). The verso lists the week number (for example, 'Week 21') and an 'Account of CASH' (beside which Inchbald wrote 'Irish' during her time in Ireland), under which the user of the journal is expected to record descriptions for the monetary transactions listed to the right. Three columns (for pounds, shillings and pence) are provided to the right at the gutter for any cash 'Received,' with the notation 'Brought over £' at the top of the column and 'Cash in Hand' at the bottom, below which is a separate space for 'Total £'. The facing recto includes, on the left at the gutter, three columns (also for pounds, shillings

and pence) for any cash 'Paid'. On the right three-quarters, this page is divided into seven equal sections, headed 'MEMORANDUMS and REMARKS', and each section is labelled 'M.', 'Tu.', 'W.', 'Th.', 'F.', 'Sa.' or 'Su.' The first week of the year has only five sections (covering the entire page) since the first week of the year consists of only Wednesday through Sunday. The last week of the year has only three sections (covering the top half of each page, facing, verso and recto) since the final week in 1783 includes only Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Additionally, the first day listed of each week also lists the date beside the notation for the day of the week. Monday, 19 May is noted as 'M. 19', for example. Moreover, the first day of each month has the month listed in the space, such as 'Th. MAY' for 1 May. The spaces for each daily entry are small – measuring roughly 5 cm in width by 1.4 cm to 1.5 cm in height.

Background to the Diary of 1783

Inchbald began the diary of 1783 at the age of twenty-nine while she was acting in Dublin. The previous year, she had performed in London at Covent Garden and had begun to act that summer also at the Haymarket Theatre under George Colman's (the Elder) management. In October, she had gone to Shrewsbury to perform for a month and then had accepted an offer from Richard Daly to act at Smock Alley in Dublin. She had arrived in Dublin on 9 November 1782, where she had enjoyed the company of John Philip Kemble while she continued to try to write.

1–5 January 1783

Wednesday, 1 January

my Cough very bad _ at 1 rehearsal _ M^r kemble Lent me pieces of news Papers which M^{rs}. Melmoth calld and read to me while my Hair was dressing _ dined with M^{rs}. White _ playd in Henry 5th _ farce Hob in the Well.¹

Account of Cash

	Irish
feathers washing	<u>£0.2.2</u>
a p ^r of White Gloves	£0.2.2

Thursday, 2 January

calld at the House and on M^{rs}. Cardif _ my Cough very bad _ playd in Which is the Man _ farce Barnaby Brittle _ after my Landlady calld on me she had been at the Play _ at the part of [Margaret].

Account of Cash

black Pins	_____ £0.0.6½
Coals	_____ £0.2.9
Hair Dressing	_____ £0.3.3

Friday, 3 January

at 1 went to rehearse but we did not _ had a few words with M^{rs}. Melmoth about the part _ my cough something better. playd in Rule a Wife _ farce Barnaby Brittle _ after read _ _

Account of Cash

Washing	_____ £0.1.0
Lodging & furniture	_____ £0.9.9
Eating	_____ £0.3.7
	£2.3.4
Drink	_____ £0.1.4
the fund ²	<u>_____ £0.0.6</u>

Saturday, 4 January

had a swelld face _ walkd up Castle Street and calld and sat a little at M^{rs}. ORileys then calld at the House and talkd of what it cost me for Board _ M^{rs}. Taplin calld home with me and after came to tea, and we saw Othello (with Stephen kemble c&c) in the Gallery _ came home before Retaliation thought I was feveresh and had Gruel Gruel.

Account of Cash

The Whole Week in all £1.6.0½

oranges _____ £0.0.3

a p^r of Stuff Stage Shoes £0.6.6

Sunday, 5 January

was purely _ about two M^{rs}. Fyfe M^{rs}. Sterrick and M^r Powel Powel calld _ M^{rs}. Sterrick came for me after dinner and I drank tea (with all them c&c) at M^{rs}. Gibsons _ they calld home with me and M^{rs}. Fyfe M^{rs}. Sterrick and the Children Eat supper with me. __

Account of Cash

a p^r of black shoes £0.6.6

6–12 January 1783

Monday, 6 January

M^{rs}. Sterrick calld me and we went to the Castle saw the Guards relieved c&c _ breakfasted _ then saw the {Farables}, walked to Stephens Green {Marian} Square c&c _ dined and drank tea at M^{rs}. Fyfes _ she out _ behind at some of Henry 4th and B— Brittle¹ _ heard of the command and M^r. Daly more than over obliging.

Account of Cash

Irish

breaking _____ £0.0.2

Tuesday, 7 January

in the morning worked _ after dinner just calld on M^{rs}. Taplin and at M^{rs}. Fyfes _ drank tea at M^{rs}. Hitchcocks _ M^r. Cardiff there _ talked of M^{rs}. [Badaley] _ after at my part and sorting my things _ Play school for Scandal & agreeable Surprise. __

Account of Cash

Candles _____ £0.0.6

a Lemon _____ £0.0.1

Wednesday, 8 January

a wetesh day _ uneasy about my swelld face _ just calld at the House and on M^{rs}. ORiely _ M^{rs}. Sterrick drank tea and workd all the Evening with me _ M^r. Powel here ~~xxx~~ unexpectedly _ Play fair American & positive Man.

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
for my Cold	_____ £0.0.7
Gause	_____ £0.0.10
Coals	_____ £0.2.8

Thursday, 9 January

very uneasy my face was no better _ just calld at the House _ M^r. Powel here all the time my Hair was dressing _ playd in Count of Narbonne _ saw some of the Lyar² after and talkd much with M^r. kemble the Lord Lieutenants Command.

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
Hair Dressing	__ £0.1.1
Washing	__ £0.2.2

Friday, 10 January

M^{rs}. ORIely calld and sat some ^{time} _ then M^{rs}. Sterrick _ I just calld at the House and on M^{rs}. Cardiff _ M^{rs}. Sterrick dined and drank tea with me _ sent to M^r. Daly for an order for her _ saw the Lord of the Mannor in the Gallery by myself then Catherine & Petrutia³ behind.

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
Lodging & furniture	£0.9.9
Eating	__ £0.4.10
	£2.3.4
Drink	_____ £0.2.9
the fund	_____ £0.0.6

Saturday, 11 January

calld at the House at M^{rs}. Fyfes and walked to the College _ dined rather Early _ perceived the Days Lengthen _ drank tea at M^{rs}. Hitchcocks _ in the Pit at Hamlet _ came home before the Cheats of Scapin.⁴

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
	<u>in all</u> £1.6.2
	gave £0.0.6

Sunday, 12 January

a very wet day _ dined drank tea and staid till ten at M^{rs}. Cardiffs _ M^r Hitchcock calld there before dinner _ after M^r Butler and then another Gentleman who walkd home with me _ my cold very bad again.

13–19 January 1783

Monday, 13 January

at 2 at rehearsal of some scenes of the Earl of Warwick saw M^r [Lefevre] c&c there _ heard great accounts of M^{rs}. Siddons and heard of Miss kembles playing in London _ after dinner read English Papers _ in the Pit at the Castle of Andalusia¹ _ came home before the Old Maid.

Account of Cash

Irish

a Letter from M^r Whitfield. £0.0.6

trifles _____ £0.0.3

Paper _ £0.0.2

Tuesday, 14 January

within all day _ my Cold very bad _ began a Letter to M^r Whitfield finishd Gullivers travels and began the History of Rome _ our Play Inconstant² & agreeable Surprise.

Account of Cash

Candles _____ £0.0.6

trifles _____ £0.0.3

Wednesday, 15 January

a fine day _ at 12 rehearsal of Earl of Warwick _ company xx in the Boxes _ sent a note to M^{rs}. Daly about my dress _ playd in Henry 5th _ farce Barnaby Brittle _

Account of Cash

a Letter from my Sister Hunt to tell me of Debby _ £0.0.6

a p^r of White Gloves _____ £0.2.2

Thursday, 16 January

a very fine day _ my Cold much better _ just calld on M^{rs}. Taplin and at M^{rs}. Fyfes where I saw M^r. Jackson from Edinborough took an [airing] with M^{rs}. Hitchcock and her Children dined there and saw many English Papers one with a Letter Like one I sent to England

Thursday drank tea with M^{rs}. White _ workd all the Evening and expected M^{rs}. Taplin to call _ Play Castle of [Andulusa]³ & Mock Doctor.^a

Account of Cash
part of Coach hire for a jaunt _____ £0.2.5
black Pins &c&c _____ £0.1.0

Friday, 17 January

finishd my Letters to M^r. & M^{rs}. Whitfield _ playd in the Earl of Warwick _ M^{rs}. Fitzhenrys appearance _ farce three Weeks⁴ _ talked much with M^{rs}. Melmoth _ at supper M^{rs}. White sat with me _ then read.

Account of Cash
Washing _____ £0.1.8
Hair dressing _____ £0.2.2
Coals _____ £0.2.11
Lodging & furniture _____ £0.9.9
Eating _____ £0.3.10

Saturday, 18 January

M^{rs}. Taplin calld we went to the office and in the Green room M^r. Daly talked of my Benefit Play and told me M^{rs}. Badaley was going to Edinborough c&c _ M^{rs}. Taplin dined and drank tea with me _ we were in the Gallery some part of Henry 4th & poor Vulcan M^r. Stephen kemble c&c there. ____

Account of Cash
Drink _____ £0.1.11
£2.3.4
the fund _____ £0.0.6
in all £1.8.7
Chesnuts _____ £0.0.4½

Sunday, 19 January

dined, drank tea & supped at M^{rs}. Taplins no other there. ____

20–6 January 1783*Monday, 20 January*

a Cold day _ ~~xxx~~ M^{rs}. Sterrick and then M^{rs}. ORIely calld I just calld at the House and went to the Post office _ then read _ drank tea at M^{rs}. Hitchcocks and heard the truth of M^{rs}. Badaley and M^r. Daly _ just passd through the House _ Hamlet and Retaliation _ Read all the Evening.

Account of Cash

Irish

Pins ___ £0.0.10

Tuesday, 21 January

a Cold snowy day _ at [Irene] and M^{rs}. Taplin just calld _ received a note with an order from M^r. S. kemble¹ _ saw Duplicity at Capel Street² with M^{rs}. Taplin _ did not stay the farce _ at our House the Castle³ & Deserter _ Read after.

Tuesday^a*Account of Cash*

Candles ___ £0.0.6

Wednesday, 22 January

read c&c all day _ behind at Richard and heard M^r. Daly was gone to England _ farce Positive Man _ calld on M^{rs}. Fyfe and she told me of being too thin and of Peoples saying M^r. kemble Loved me.

*Account of Cash*gave ___ £0.0.6^b*Thursday, 23 January*

sorted my things c&c _ after dinner M^{rs}. Sterrick calld and then brought M^r. Powel who sat a Little _ playd Lady Brute⁴ _ Laughd much _ farce B— Brittle⁵ _ after Read. _

Account of Cash

Coals ___ £0.2.11

Washing ___ £0.1.5

Hair dressing _ £0.1.1

Friday, 24 January

a very fine day _ calld at the House after met S. kemble and walkd with him _ he calld me after and I went to Crow Street Play with him Isabella⁶ and Pantomine _ M^{rs} Jonson c&c sat by us _ our Play king John & Spanish Barber.

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
Lodging & furniture _	£0.9.9
Eating _	£0.5.4
	£2.3.4
Drink _	£0.3.2
the fund _____	£0.0.6
	<u>in all £1.6.4½</u>

Saturday, 25 January

a fine day _ calld on M^{rs}. Melmoth and M^r. kemble for the Book of Alexander but found the Play would be changd _ was some time at M^r Hitchcocks _ then at the office _ in the Evening calld at the House Lord of the Mannor &

Saturday Deserter _ calld at M^{rs}. Fyfes _ my [Ball] was hung _ after Read.^c

Sunday, 26 January

wrote to M^r. Jones M^{rs}. Whitfield and my Sister Hunt _ went with M^{rs}. White c&c to hear Father Flemming preach a Charity Sermon at Lazor Hill Chapel but could not get in _ drank tea at M^{rs}. Whites _ M^{rs}. Thompson c&c there _ read till Late _ uneasy about a dream.

27 January–2 February 1783

Monday, 27 January

a Wet day _ at rehearsal of Cato _ my Millener calld _ Read _ a little time in the Dressing room _ Play Castle¹ & Retaliation then calld and workd with M^{rs}. Taplin _ after Read c&c.

	<i>Account of Cash</i>
	Irish
trifles _	£0.0.7

Tuesday, 28 January

a very fine day _ sorted my things then M^{rs}. ORIely calld and told me we should not Play _ M^{rs}. Melmoth calld _ after dinner calld on her my Millener and M^{rs}. Hitchcock M^r. Powel followd me _ after calld M^r. Hitchcock at M^{rs}. Dalys

Tuesday and went in _ drank tea and supped at M^r Hitchcocks _ staid till very Late for him _ had walkd with them to see the illumination c&c.^a

Account of Cash

a Letter from my Brother & one from M^r Davis I received in _ Bed _ £0.1.8
Candles _____ £0.0.6

Wednesday, 29 January

Laid Late _ M^{rs}. Sterrick here while I breakfasted _ read_ at dark calld on my Milliner _ in the Gallery at Macbeth _ M^{rs}. Heaphy and M^{rs}. Sparks by me _ a great House came before the Deserter & read.

Account of Cash

Candles for the illumination £0.0.4
Paper _____ £0.0.4
Milliner & Gause washing for the Stage _ £0.10.4

Thursday, 30 January

king Charles Martyrdom _ a showery day _ calld at the House _ wrote ^(to) my Brother and Sir Charles Bunbury _ in ^{the} Evening went with the Letters _ calld at M^r Cardiffs _ a Priest there _ calld at M^r. Hitchcocks _ read English Papers after.

Account of Cash

Coals _ £0.2.10
Washing _____ £0.1.6
Hair Dressing _ £0.1.1

Friday, 31 January

a fine day _ went to rehearse Barbarossa but did not _ calld on my Milliner _ playd jacintha² farce intriguing Chamber Maid _ a great House for an Officers Benefit.

Account of Cash

Permatum _____ £0.0.6
Lodging & furniture _ £0.9.9
Eating _____ £0.5.4
drink _____ £0.1.8
£2.3.4
the fund _____ £0.0.6