LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU
1689-1762
Taught herself Latin in secret
Met many 18th C. luminaries
Wrote poetry
Eloped - married for love against parents’ wishes
Went to Turkey with husband
Described her Turkish encounters in a series of letters - most well-known for her letters
Introduced smallpox vaccine to England
Her children were among first to try it
EARLY LIFE

- Father was Earl of Kingston, later Duke
- Raised by grandmother after 13
- Hated her governess
- Self-educated in father’s library
- Father leading Whig politician
- She met many literary figures—Addison, Steele, Congreve, Pope
Eloped with Edward W. Montagu, 1712
Edward born 1713, Mary, 1718
1714, settled in London
Part of many literary circles
Some poems published 1716, without her permission
1715, sick with smallpox
1716, travels through Europe with husband
1717, arrive in Turkey
TIME IN TURKEY

- Very curious about her surroundings
- Wrote various letters & journals
- Visited a harem
- Learned about inoculation
- Had her own children inoculated against smallpox
- After negotiations failed, they returned to England in 1718
- Published an essay on inoculation in England, 1722
- Published her *Embassy Letters* posthumously
Later Life

- Falling out with Pope
- Met Mary Astell
- Patron of author & theater manager Henry Fielding
- Break-down of marriage
- Fell in love with Francesco Algarotti
- Moved to Europe
NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

- 9 issues of periodical, *The Nonsense of Common-Sense* (1737-8) (anonymously)
- *Six Town Eclogues. With Some Poems* (1747)
- Reprinted in Dodsley’s *Collection* (1748)
- Posthumous publication of *Embassy Letters* (1763)
- Her collected works, *Poetical Works*, 1768
A WOMAN & A POET

- Resented the double-standard for men & women
- Never quite felt she could be a “literary figure” in public
- Usually showed her poems just to friends
- Turkish letters were highly influential, esp. to women travelers
- *Letters & Works* published 1837
What Exactly Happened in that Dressing Room?

MONTAGU & SWIFT
Jonathan Swift

- Irish, 1667-1745
- Poet, novelist, satirist, essayist
- Tory
- Clergyman by trade
- “A Modest Proposal”;
  *Gulliver’s Travels*
He was a Tory; she a Whig
He was friends with Pope; she and Pope had had a falling out
She thought him vain & lewd