

SAGA OF A FOOTNOTE: A DOCUMENTARY TALE

Once upon a time, there was an unlikely footnote that met Mr. Cheese. Mr. Cheese said to the footnote, "I think I will introduce you to some worms." So he did. But the worms looked funny, and they tasted even worse. Shortly after, the footnote, also known as Pinocchio, decided to visit his friend Menocchio from Frezonia in Speculia. Menocchio was nowhere to be found, since he was wrapped up with an inductive stigmattio from the Speculia higharchico. Menocchio in reality was conversing secretly with the Christico-Judeo Leonardo about mucho holio religio, and thereby relishing days of yore as a heretico for which he had originally received the inductive stigmattio.¹ Unable to locate Menocchio, Pinocchio returned to his home village in the land of Hisstoy Rio Grafo.

In Hisstoy Rio Grafo, Pinocchio looked for Dorothy Notof Ozo who was a friend of Mr. Cheese. But she had left a day earlier for the land of Noxcepshun Alissimo. Pinocchio was told that she was looking for Quite Repose by an escape from Hisstoy Rio Grafo. Right before she left town, according to Mr. Cheese, she said that "Teutonic 'germs' from old to New England communities were one contribution."² Pinocchio was not sure that he heard Mr. Cheese

¹See Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*, translated by John and Anne Tedeschi (Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 97-101. Note that great poetic licence is utilized throughout this story.

²Dorothy Ross, "The New and Newer Histories: Social Theory and Historiography in an American Key," *Imagined Histories: American Historians Interpret the Past*, edited by Anthony Molho and Gordon Wood (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1998), 87.

correctly. “Did Dorothy Notof Ozo say Teutonic *worms* or Teutonic *germs*?” he pondered. This greatly worried Pinocchio, since he had eaten some of the bad-tasting worms that Mr. Cheese had given him.

The next day, Pinocchio went to see his doctoro in nearby Emteeo who was a man of the *Times*. There he was dewormed by Emteeo’s Red Cross nurses.³ Now he felt much better, or he thought he did. Because only a moment after the inoculation, Pinocchio collapsed into a comma and was printed into the Army in order to go and fight the Red Scare in Russio which started after a comma strike in the metropolitan city called Muscovito.⁴ But sadly, Pinocchio was unprepared for this new martial experience. He knew nothing about fighting periods, colons, hyphens, and question marks. All he knew was the solitary life of a footnote. On his way to Russioland, he and his company, Punctua T. E. Shun Regimento the 5th, fell under a severe eraser attack on the Western Front. Pinocchio was no more. Others died from a huge inko blotto.⁵

³“Work Committee of the Red Cross,” *The Manchester Times*, Morrison Edition, August 16, 1917, vol. 36, no. 42 (Manchester, Tennessee: Doak Printing Company, n.d.), microform.

⁴*You’re in the Army Now* (1917; Bargain Videocassettes, 1960), video recording.

⁵Charles F. Heller, “The Perils of Unpreparedness: The American Expeditionary Forces and Chemical Warfare,” *Military Review*, vol. 65, no. 1 (1985): 12-15.

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You're in the Army Now. 1917. Video recording. Bargain Videocassettes, 1960.