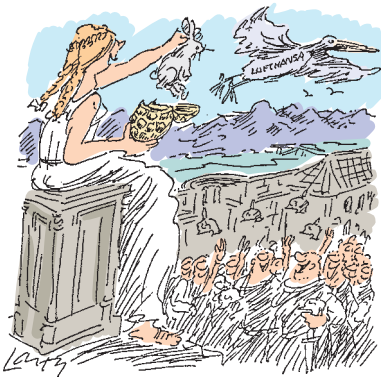


Easter eggs



Easter eggs are a symbol of new life, adopted by Christianity from far more ancient cultures

The Greeks, Romans, Persians and Chinese all gave coloured eggs at their spring festivals but it was a German goddess, **Eostre**, that gave her name to Easter. Her sacred beast was the hare, still remembered as the **Easter bunny**. Christianity adopted the pagan festival rites as a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Eggs, forbidden during Lenten fasting, were hoarded for the Easter celebrations, carefully painted or stained with vegetable dyes