

Höllenschwörer



The Easter Bunny is a folkloric figure that today is depicted as a furry, friendly deliverer of baskets full of candy and colored eggs to the homes of children. But the original character, the product of dour German Lutherans, was a lot less jolly. “Höllenschwörer” (he who summons Hell) played the role of a stern judge who evaluated whether children were good or naughty in behavior at the start of Eastertide. And woe be the crumbsnatchers deemed the latter, for they had to stand before a bunny tribunal well versed in the art of corporal punishment, much to the approval of long-suffering moms and dads.