



# CARRY ON THE FLAME

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## April 1<sup>st</sup> and April fools

### April fools

April Fool is the term used to describe the custom of misleading one's fellow men on the first of April through invented or falsified stories, narratives or information and thus "fooling them". The call "April, April" serves as a resolution of the fraud. The tradition of April fooling exists in most European countries as well as in North America.

### Jokes in the media

Also with newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations and occasionally on web pages it is usual to send the readers and/or listeners by plausibly sounding, invented contributions "into the April"; often exaggerated represented details of the messages supply references to the missing truth content.

*Example: Tinder's body size*

*The dating platform Tinder came up with an April Fool's joke. The "Height Verification Badge". This badge proves that a man is really as tall as his profile says. Anyone who claims to be taller than 1.82 metres must now prove this to Tinder by means of a verification. This is how it works: Just take a picture of yourself next to a known building and Tinder will check your height. LOL*

### Origin

How it came to be that the 1<sup>st</sup> of April became the day for this kind of special jokes, is so far unknown. The only thing that is certain is that even in the popular belief of antiquity there were a large number of alleged days of misfortune, which regularly included the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. For the first time the saying "send into April" is handed down in Germany 1618 in Bavaria. With the European emigrants, this tradition also reached North America. The term April fool, however, did not become established until the second half of the 19th century.

### Related Traditions

In Spain and Latin America, this is practiced on 28 December, the Día de los Santos Inocentes (Innocent Children's Day).