

What Lemuel Hath Wrought



The Lilliputians thought that once Lemuel “Big Guy” Gulliver left their country and continued on his travels, things would get back to normal. No such luck! Somehow, word got out about Lilliput’s moderate climate, thriving heliculture and low value-added taxes, and suddenly giants from all over the world were turning the once secluded country into a popular tourist destination. Oh, the sightseers tried to be careful (or so they said), but when you’re that big, you can’t always watch where you’re walking. Things turned particularly ugly after a ship carrying the Flederer Traveling Dance Troupe dropped anchor in the harbor one day. As they had done in previous ports of call, the Flederers kicked up their heels and sashayed down Main Street, showing off the type of family entertainment the troupe excelled in. But as any first-term physicist knows, a kicked up heel eventually has to come back down. And down on this day was often upon a Lilliputian. Fully a quarter of the citizenry, including many innocent crumbsnatchers, were crushed under a barrage of size 108 brogans before an angry mob took up arms – small arms, to be sure – and chased the unwitting Flederers back onto the ship. For decades thereafter, relations between Lilliput and the outside world remained strained. It took a diplomatic mission from five of Snow White’s Seven Dwarfs – themselves erstwhile outcasts of a height conscious society – to unruffle the Lilliputians’ feathers. But that’s naturally another story.