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Eva Simia and the Dirty Old Ape-Man: The Representation of Gender in 18th Century Primatology

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The two figures are representations of the "Orang-outang" of Java, taken from the 1761 Amsterdam edition of Linnaeus (Natuurlyke historie . . . van der heer Linnaeus). The standing female was reproduced from the Natural and Medical History of the East Indies by the seventeenth century Danish physician Jacobus Bontius; the seated male, from a specimen preserved (in brandy and then dried) in the British Museum.