

Fair Play's a Jewel

Glossary

aphrodisiacal tennis court : a woman's secret (17th century)

bandogs : bailiffs, police (17th century)

beak : sheriff's officer, policeman (U.K., 19th century)

belle chose : a woman's secret, French for "beautiful thing" (14th century)

belly bumping : copulation (U.K., 19th century)

bene cove : good fellow (17th century)

bivvy : beer (U.K., 19th century)

bleed : to extort money from (17th century)

blue pig : whiskey (Maine)

bobish : in good spirits (18th century)

brim : an impudent, lewd woman (17th century)

brother starling : a man who shares a woman with another (17th century)

bunter : a woman of questionable morality; a term of contempt (U.K., 19th century)

butter your bun : to lie with a woman before passing her on to another (17th century)

buzzard : silver dollar (U.S., 19th century)

catamenia : menses (Latin)

cave of harmony : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

century : one hundred dollars (U.S., 19th century)

chippie : prostitute (U.S., 19th century)

clicket : to copulate (17th century)

clip : hug, embrace (17th century)

cod : friend (17th century)

come-by-chance : an illegitimate child (18th century)

commodity : a woman's secret (16th century)

conveniency : wife or mistress (17th century)

corned : drunk (18th century)

cote : cottage (17th century)

country wife : a naïve young wife from the country, title character of Wycherley's play (17th century)

cove : fellow (17th century)

cranny : a woman's secret (17th century)

crib : brothel house or apartment (17th century)

cull : a dupe; a prostitute's customer (17th century)

curtain lectures : woman's scolding of her husband (17th century)

dell : a virgin, but one prone to lasciviousness (17th century)

dimber mab : pretty slattern (17th century)

divine monosyllable : a woman's secret (18th century)

doxy : a female companion, mistress (17th century)

dragon astride St. George : copulation, with the woman on top (17th century)

eel-pot : a woman's secret (18th century)

end of the sentimental journey : copulation, a reference to Sterne's book and its abrupt ending (18th century)

fair play's a jewel : a cockney catch phrase meaning it's hard to get a break (U.K., 19th century)

fancy woman : prostitute (U.K., 19th century)

fie-for-shame : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

the flag is up : said of a woman during menses (U.K., 19th century)

florence : pretty slattern (17th century)

fly donah : adroit lady (U.K., 19th century)

fly-trap : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

fresh bit : a sexually inexperienced woman (U.K., 19th century)

garden : a woman's secret (18th century)

gig : a woman's secret, or a woman generally (17th century)

giglet : a young woman, usually a prostitute (16th century)

gone : pregnant (U.K., 19th century)

gordelpus : God help us (U.K., 19th century)

half seas over : drunk (17th century)

Hannah Emerson : a generic name used in various phrases (U.S., 19th century)

hidden sailor : Delia's own locution for clitoris, derived from "the little man in the boat"

how-come-ye-so : drunk (18th century); pregnant (U.S., 19th century)

in flower : said of a woman during menses (U.K., 19th century)

in the pudding club : pregnant (U.K., 19th century)

jam-pot : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

keeping cully : maintaining a mistress (17th century)

knocked me off my pins : caught me unaware (U.S., 19th century)

laced mutton : a woman (17th century)

Lady Sneerwell : a malicious spreader of rumors in Sheridan's play *The School for Scandal* (18th century)

lareovers : a general euphemism for unmentionables (17th century)

LeFanu's Carmilla : a short story by Joseph Sheridan LeFanu in which the title character seems to feed off young women, vampire-like (19th century)

little man in the boat : the clitoris (U.K., 19th century)

Madam Van : a prostitute (17th century)

madge : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

maidenhead jobber : procuress (16th century)

mort : a wench (16th century)

nim : to steal (17th century)

perisher : a derogatory term for a person (U.K., 19th century)

pipkin : a woman's secret; to crack a pipkin is to deflower a woman (17th century)

priest-linked : married (17th century)

quim : a woman's secret (18th century)

Raine's Law hotels : saloons in New York that were made into ostensible hotels in order to sell liquor on Sunday, notorious for providing rooms to prostitutes (U.S., 19th century)

roaring girl : "roaring boy" was 16th century slang for a roisterer. In 1611, Dekker and Middleton wrote *The Roaring Girl*, a play about Moll Cutpurse, "the fantasticalist girl" who could cuckold a husband and then his wife.

rover : wanderer, physically or morally (17th century)

rum : good, hearty (17th century)

short-heeled : said of a woman of loose morals, i.e., prone to falling on her back (17th century)

smock alley : a woman's secret (17th century)

snuggery : a comfortable, private room (U.K., 19th century)

Teagueland : Ireland (17th century)

teazle : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

tip the velvet : to tongue a woman (17th century)

To the well wearing of your muff, mort : a toast wishing a woman a happy consummation of her marriage (17th century)

tool chest : a woman's secret (U.K., 19th century)

velvet : the tongue (17th century)

winding of the clock : copulation, a reference to the opening scene of Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* (18th century)

Wycherley's rolwagen : in Wycherley's play *The Country Wife*, the character Horner takes the wife of another man into his chamber "to show her his China," where he apparently ravishes her while her husband awaits just outside. She emerges holding a rolwagen, a phallic-shaped vase. (17th century)

zarndrer : a long single curl brought from the back hair over the left shoulder and allowed to lie on the breast. Introduced by Alexandra, Princess of Wales, in 1863 (U.K., 19th century)