

GLOSSARY

In composing this glossary we have relied on numerous sources including various dictionaries, encyclopedias, and history books, in addition to our own expertise. The two most referenced sources are the *Oxford English Dictionary Online* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online*. We hope scholars, students, and the general public will find this glossary a useful resource; however, as with any work of this magnitude, mistakes likely and inevitably have crept in. The often obscure topicality of the ballads, the difficulty of dating them, the profusion of alternate spellings, and the occasional difficulty of deciphering the ballad texts themselves all increase the chances of error. We would be grateful for any suggestions and corrections that astute readers may notice as they use the glossary.

To use this glossary, be sure to consult first the spelling you find in the ballad, and then look around that same spelling in the alphabetical listing for words that sound similar. We compiled the glossary from the different categories Pepys employed and in each case the first spelling we list is the one from the ballad suggested by the editor or the category compiler. However, words appear in different ballads with different spellings. If the definition is to be found under another spelling (and alphabetical letter) entirely, we indicate that.

Oxford English Dictionary Online. Ed. John Simpson. Oxford University Press, 2008. Accessed June 2008. <http://dictionary.oed.com>

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online. Ed. Lawrence Goldman, Brian Harrison, and Colin Matthew. Oxford University Press, 2008. Accessed June 2008. <http://www.oxforddnb.com>

A

Abidos, Abydos: city on the Hellespont
opposite Sesto

Acteon: mythological figure turned into a
stag and hunted as punishment for
seeing Diana naked

Aeneas: Trojan who founded Rome

almes, alms: gifts of money to the poor

ambling: moving with smooth pace

angell: gold coin

annoy: ennui

antick: mad

Apollo: god of the sun and fine arts

asperse: to spatter with damaging reports

ayl: ail

B

Babylon's whore: Roman Catholic Church,
pejorative

band: that with which the person is bound

bane: that which causes ruin

banks: ridge of dirt

- barley breake:** country game
barley corne, barley corn: grain from which malt liquor is made
barns: babies
Bashaw, Pasha: Ottoman officer of high rank
beadle, beetle: herald or crier especially for the law
beareward, bearward: bear keeper
beeson: besom, broom
Belloniaes, Bellonia: Roman goddess of war
bereft: lacking
Bewdly: small town in Worcestershire
bide: remain
billat, billet: thick piece of wood
billows: big wave
bisses: fine linen
Blackwall: dock and center of ship bulidng in the east end of London
blithe: kind
boatswain, bowson, bosun, quarter-master: officer on ship in charge of the sails, rigging
bodkin: dagger
boltsprit, boltsprite, boultspret: bowsprit, large broom on stem of vessel
Bonner: Edmund Bonner, d. 1569, bishop of London under the reign of Queen Mary I imprisoned under Queen Elizabeth I nicknamed Bloody Bonner for his zealous persecution of heretics
Boras: Boreas, god of the north-wind
bousse, bouse: drink, liquor
bowzer: bouser, drunkard
brangling: squabbling
Bridewell, Brid-well: house of correction
broad-pieces: coins
brooke: to withstand, to endure
Buckingham, duke of: Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, helped Richard III to the throne, but later defied him unsuccessfully, executed in 1483; see also Banister
budget: pouch or bag
bumper: full glass or mug
bung: brewer; pickpocket
buntlin, buntline: signaller; swelling of sails
- C**
- calenture:** sailor's disease
cambricks, cambrick: fine white linen; handkerchiefs
cant: dialect of rogues and gypsies
capon: castrated cock
carbonado: to cut, to slash
carowse, carouse: to drink freely and repeatedly
Catch also Ketch, John (Jack): public executioner d.1686
cavalier, cavillera: horse-soldier, knight; royalist during English Civil Wars 1642–1649
chapman: buyer or seller of petty wares
chincke; chink: money
chouse: trick
chyrurgion: surgeon
claret: type of wine
clowne, clown: rustic, peasant
clyster pipe: tube for administering enemas; contemptuous name for medical man
cogging: cheating (cogs at dice)
coleworts: cabbage plants
collogue: to flatter
commode: toilet
Commons: house of parliament
conceit: idea, opinion, imagination
conjunction: conjuring, invoking spirits
constant: faithful
copper nose: red nose from drinking too much; acne rosacea
cornelian, camelian: variety of chalcedony, reddish quartz
correl: toy dildo
cot-quean: housewife; scolding woman
Cow-crosse, Cow-cross: lane in Clerkenwell
coxcombe: fool's hat
cozen, coozen: to cheat
Crispin: patron saint of shoemakers
crony: friend

crue: crew; group
cucking-stool: chair used to punish women
and cheats by dunking in water
cudgel: club; to club
currell, curril: to curl
cutless, cutlass: curved sword

D

dandle: to move up and down playfully
Demi-Gorgon: demon; pagan deity that cre-
ated the world
deportment: manner
descry: discover
Diana: goddess of moon and chastity; see
also Cynthia
dil doul: dildo, penis
distafe: a staff used in spinning wool
ditty: short simple song
dragel'd-tayl'd, draggle-taile, draggle-tail:
woman whose skirts drag in mud; slut
dray: cart
dropsy: edema, swelling caused by accumu-
lation of fluids
dunch: deaf, blind, heavy, or dull

E

Edward: Edward IV, king of England, r.
1461–1483
Elinor, Queen: Eleanor d. 1204, queen of
England, consort of Henry II, allegedly
murdered Henry's mistress, Rosa-
mund Clifford; see also Rosamond
Clifford
emblem: moral fable often shown in picture
even: evening
extirpation: total removal, destruction

F

fagot, faggots: bundle of sticks
fancy: to like
farthing: quarter of a denomination of
money

Feather: tavern in parish of Lambeth
fervent: burning
fig: worthless thing
filching: stealing
fitches: side of an animal, now only of a
hog, salted and cured
forespeake, forespeak: to predict, prophesy
Fortune: playhouse on north bank of
Thames
frail: basket
frizzell: to curl hair in small curls
fundament: buttocks

G

gall: bitterness; bile
gallard, galliard: lively dance
gamester: player at any game; gambler
geld: to castrate
gentle craft: shoemaker
gillian: girl
glass: mirror
Golden Legend: collection of lives of saints
gorgets: piece of clothing covering the neck
and breast
Gothland: southernmost of the three old
provinces of Sweden
Gourney: town in Normandy
grantum: pomegranate
Greenewitch: Greenwich, down the Thames
from London
groat: coin, four pence
gudgin, gudgeon: small fish
guinea: gold coin

H

hackney: horse used for riding; horse for
hire
Hambleton, Marquesse: Alexander Ham-
ilton d. 1733, East India Company
seaman and trader
harrow: farming implement used to break
up and stir the soil
hawe, haw: fruit of the hawthorn

heaping: piling or gathering in heaps
hedging: building hedges or barriers
Hellespont: strait connecting Aegean Sea
with Sea of Marmara

helm: wheel to steer ship
hen-roost: place for birds to roost at night
Hezekias: Hezekiah, biblical king of Judah
who abolished idolatry among the
Israelites
High Spaniola: Hispaniola, first Spanish col-
ony founded in New World (currently
Haiti and the Dominican Republic)

Hoglaine: Hog Lane in London
hone: to whine, to pine
horning, horns: mark of a cuckold
hose: nose
house keeping: management of household;
hospitality
humour: temperament
Hymeneal, Hymen: god of marriage; related
to marriage

I

importunity: annoying persistence
injoy: to experience with delight (also
sexual)

J

jacke, jack: winch
Jacks: Jacobite, supporter of James II and his
family after revolution of 1688
James: James I, king of England, r. 1603–
1625; James, duke of Monmouth,
bastard son of Charles II, led unsuc-
cessful rebellion against James II in
1685, executed in 1685; James II, king
of England, r. 1685–1688
Jesuit: member of the Society of Jesus,
Roman Catholic religious order
Joppa: Jaffa, ancient port city of Israel
journey men, journey man: person who has
finished his apprenticeship

Judeth, Judith: Jewish widow, beheaded the
Assyrian general Holofernes

juggling: magic, trick

K

kawed: to chew
kibe: chilblain
King o'th' Poles: King John III Sobieski, king
of Poland, grand duke of Lithuania
r. 1674–1696
kite: bird of prey

L

lading: to draw water; to load
lark: early rising bird
lawen: laws
Leander: lover of Hero, drowned swimming
the Hellespont
loon: crazy person
Lords: upper house of Parliament
louse: small wingless parasite
lubber: inexperienced sailor
Lucretia: legendary Roman woman who
was raped, compelled the men in
her family to take revenge, and then
committed suicide
lurch: to keep someone from getting her/his
share of food or other necessity

M

mad: filled with enthusiasm
mansey, mamsey, mamsy, malmsey,
malmsie: strong sweet wine
marke, mark: monetary unit equivalent to
two-thirds of a pound sterling
Mary, Queen: Mary of Modena, queen
consort to James II, r. 1685–1688; Mary
Tudor or Mary I, Queen of England
and Queen Elizabeth I's half-sister,
known as Bloody Mary for her pros-
ecution of Protestants, r. 1553–1558

mass-monger: Roman Catholic (especially a priest), pejorative
mastiff: breed of large dog
maultman: makes malt for a living
mavis: songbird
merry men: companions or followers
Methusalem, Methusela: very old or long-lived person
milke-wife: woman who sells milk; wet-nurse
mome: fool, dolt
mortar: cement
mountebanke: traveling charlatan
moyle, moil: toil
Munford, Simon, Earl of Leicester: Simon de Monfort, leader of reform movements and rebellion, instrumental to 1264 council of nine to supervise Henry III, had control of government, killed in battle at Evesham in 1265
muskadine: wine made from muscat
myter: priest's headdress

N

nappy: foaming
neat: ox, cow
New Prison: prison located in the Clerkenwell area of central London
niggard: cheap
nimming: exacting
Ninivie: Nineveh, capital of Assyrian empire, ruin foretold in Old Testament
noble: gold coin worth half a mark
noddies: fools
nonce, for the: for the particular purpose
nuke: nook
nut of India: coconut

O

obdurate: stubbornly impenitent
Old Jury: Old Jewry, street in London which was part of the Jewish ghetto before

Jews were expelled from England in 1290

Olympus: mountain that was home to the Greek gods
ore: fine wool; sheep
ostler: one who receives guests (as in a hostel)

P

paean: solemn chant addressed to Apollo
Pan: Greek god of flocks and herds
pap: breast
paragon: outstanding person
pate: head
pavior: person who lays paving
pence: penny
perry: pear cider
Petre: Edward Petre, influential Jesuit, implicated in 1678 Popish Plot
phifes, fife: instrument like a flute usually accompanies drums
Phoebus: god of the sun
pike-staffe: walking staff
pillory: device for punishment
pinser, pincer: metal tool for pinching
pitching: to cover with pitch
plaint: complain
pleace: fish
point: unit of counting used in competition or sport; unit of credit
Polish Van: Polish king, John Sobieski III's advancing military force, r. 1674–1696
Pontifex: bishop of the Roman Catholic Church; the Pope
poop: stern of boat
pot: cup for alcoholic beverage
pouler: barber, pejorative
prancer: highwayman, horse thief
prelacy: office of high-ranking clergyman
presbiter, presbyter: elder in the Christian Church
pricklouse, prick-louse: tailor, pejorative
privateer: vessel crewed by private citizens or the owner of such a vessel

procure: obtain, find prostitutes
professor: one who openly professes religion, esp. Christian
promoter: one who promotes
punching: hole made by pincers
purloyned: stolen
pye: coat

Q

queane: ill-behaved woman
quill, quill: small pipe to administer medication

R

ranting: boisterous
repayre, repair: to go
repose: rest
revelling: disorderly merry-making
Richard, King: Richard III of England, r. 1483–1485, known as a usurper of the throne
rigge, rig: wanton woman
roaring boyes: riotous men
rooke, rook: cheat
Rosamond: Rosamond Clifford, Henry II of England's concubine c. 1174–1176; see also Elinor
round boy: honest boy
royster: noisy reveller
Rump, the or the Rump Parliament: remnants of the Long Parliament after purges by the New Model Army Dec. 1648–April 1653 and May 1659–Feb. 1660
rundelay: short rondeau

S

sack, sacke: wine
saw: jagged like a saw
Schomberg: Williamite marshal Frederick Schomberg, commander of King William's Irish campaign of 1689

scold: to argue loudly; one who argues loudly, of women pejorative
seditious: inciting to revolt
Sestos: city on the Hellospont opposite Abydos
shaving: swindling
ship money: tax levied by Charles I without Parliament's consent
sholes, shoals: shallow water
Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, a time of merriment
sisers: scissors
sithe: scythe
sledge: sled with runners used for conveying condemned persons to execution
Smithfield barres: area near Clerkenwell in central London
sot: drunkard
sow-gelder: one who spays sows
spark: foppish young man
spittle: place for reception of the indigent
sprizen: principal sail on the mizzen-mast of a ship
stammell, stammel: coarse woolen cloth
stares: starlings
stoate: ermine; of persons treacherous
strappadoes, strappado: type of torture to elicit confession
succour: assistance
swain: young man
Switzer: Swiss

T

tane: taken
tanner: one who converts hides into leather by tanning
tar-box: box used by shepherds to hold tar for sheep
Teague: Irishman, pejorative
teene: injury, harm
tester, teaster: sixpence
thrum: tassle
tinder: dry flammable material
tipple: drink

top-knot: knot or bow of ribbon worn on the top of the head by ladies

touse, touze: commotion

trice: instantly

Tripe-man: prepares and sells tripe

truoch: truth

Tryton, Triton: sea deity, son of Poseidon and Amphitrite

turney: tournament

twatling, twattling: chattering

Tybourne, Tyburne, Tyburn: place of public execution in Middlesex

U

Ulisses, Ulysses, Odysseus: Greek king of Ithaca and hero of Homer's epic

ure: money

V

vapored: make a show, show off

ver: springtime

verily: truthfully

victual'd: provisioned with food

Vine Folk: fine folk

Virginny: Virginia

vrow: frau, goodwife

W

walled: wallet

wamble: nauseate

Wapping: area in East End of London on north bank of River Thames, where big ships would dock; largely inhabited by those associated with seafaring

washballs, wash-ball, washing-ball: ball of soap; sometimes vulgar

wayne, waine, wane, wain: wagon, cart

weed: clothing

well-a-day: exclamation expressing sorrow

wherry: ferry

whiggish: rebellious

White-hall: Whitehall Palace, London seat of royalty

wight: person

William: William of Orange, assumed throne in 1689 to become William III of England, r. 1689–1702

Winsor: Windsor Palace, royal palace on Thames

wispe: twisted bundle of hay used to wipe something

woodcocks, woodkocke: easily trapped bird

wrastle: wrestle

Y

yeoman: servant or attendant in royal or noble household

Z

Zepharries: god of wind