

APPENDIX

Paralipomenon— The Drinker's Dictionary

Here is that list of Benjamin Franklin's terms for drunkenness in full:

The Drinker's Dictionary

He's addled, in his airs, affected, casting up his accounts, biggy, bewitched, black and black, bowzed, boozy, been at Barbadoes, been watering the brook, drunk as a wheelbarrow, bothered, burdocked, bosky, busky, buzzy, has sold a march in the brewer, has a head full of bees, has been in the bibing plot, has drunk more than he has bled, is bungy, has been playing beggar-my-neighbour, drunk as a beggar, sees the beams, has kissed black Betty, has had a thump over the head with Samson's jaw-bone, has been at war with his brains, is bridgy, has

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been catching the cat, is cogniaid, capable, cramped, cher-
ubimical, cherry merry, wamble croft, cracked, half way
to Concord, canonized, has taken a chirping glass, got
corns in his head, got a cup too much, coguay, cupsy, has
heated his copper, is in crocus, catched, cuts capers, has
been in the cellar, been in the sun, is in his cups, above
the clouds, is non compos, cocked, curved, cut, chip-
pered, chickeny, has loaded his cart, been too free with
the creature. Sir Richard has taken off his considering
cap, he's chopfallen, candid, disguised, got a dish, has
killed a dog, has taken his drops. 'Tis a dark day with
him. He's a dead man, has dipped his bill, sees double,
is disfigured, has seen the devil, is prince Eugene, has
entered, buttered both eyes, is cock-eyed, has got the
pole evil, has got a brass eye, has made an example, has
ate a toad and a half for breakfast, is in his element, is
fishy, foxed, fuddled, soon fuddled, frozen, will have
frogs for supper, is well in front, is getting forward in the
world, owes no man money, fears no man, is crump
fooled, has been to France, is flushed, has frozen his
mouth, is fettered, has been to a funeral, has his flag out,
is fuzzled, has spoken with his friend, been at an Indian
feast, is glad, grabable, great-headed, glazed, generous,
has boozed the gage, is as dizzy as a goose, has been
before George, got the gout, got a kick in the guts, been
at Geneva, is globular, has got the glanders, is on the go,
a gone man, has been to see Robin Goodfellow, is half
and half, half seas over, hardy, top heavy, has got by the
head, makes head way, is hiddey, has got on his little

hat, is hammerish, loose in the hilt, knows not the way home, is haunted by evil spirits, has taken Hippocrates' grand Elixir, is intoxicated, jolly, jagged, jumbled, jocular, juicy, going to Jericho, an indirect man, going to Jamaica, going to Jerusalem, is a king, clips the King's English, has seen the French king. The King is his cousin, has got kibed heels, has got knapt, his kettle's hot. He'll soon keel upward, he's in his liquor, lordly, light, lappy, limber, lopsided, makes indentures with his legs, is well to live, sees two moons, is merry, middling, muddled, moon-eyed, maudlin, mountainous, muddy, mellow, has seen a flock of moons, has raised his monuments, has eaten cacao nuts, is nimtopsical, has got the night mare, has been nonsuited, is super nonsensical, in a state of nature, nonplussed, oiled, has ate opium, has smelt an onion, is an oxycrocum, is overset, overcome, out of sorts, on the paymaster's books, drank his last halfpenny, is as good conditioned as a puppy, is pigeon eyed, pungy, priddy, pushing on, has salt in his headban, has been among the Philistines, is in prosperity, is friends with Philip, contending with Pharaoh, has painted his nose, wasted his punch, learned politeness, eat the pudding-bag, eat too much pumpkin, is full of piety, is rocky, raddled, rich, religious, ragged, raised, has lost his rudder, has been too far with Sir Richard, is like a rat in trouble, is stitched, seafaring, in the suds, strong, as drunk as David's sow, swamped, his skin is full, steady, stiff, burnt his shoulder, has got out his topgallant sails, seen the dog-star, is stiff as a ringbolt. The

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shoe pinches him. He's staggerish. It is star light with him. He carries too much sail, will soon out studding sails, is stewed, stubbed, soaked, soft, has made too free with Sir John Strawberry, right before the wind, all sails out, has pawned his senses, plays parrot, has made shift of his shirt, shines like a blanket, has been paying for a sign, is topped, tongue-tied, tanned, tipsicum grave, double tongued, tospey turvey, tipsy, thawed, trammulled, transported, has swallowed a tavern token, makes Virginia fame, has got the Indian vapours, is pot valiant, in love with varany, wise, has a wet soul, has been to the salt water, in search of eye water, is in the way to be weaned, out of the way, water soaked, wise or otherwise, can walk the line. The wind is west with him. He carries the wagon.

DICTIONARIES AND IDIOTICONS

(An *idioticon* is a dictionary of a particular
dialect or area of language)

Abecedarium Anglico-Latinum, Richard Huloet (1552)

Worlde of Wordes, John Florio (1598)

A Table Alphabeticall, conteyning the true writing and understanding of hard usual English wordes, borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latine, or French. &c., Robert Cawdrey (1604)

A New Dictionary of the Terms Ancient and Modern of the Canting Crew, B. E. Gent. (1699)

Glossographia Anglicana nova: or, a dictionary, interpreting such hard words of whatever language, as are at present used in the English tongue, with their etymologies, definitions, &c., Thomas Blount (1656)

An Universal Etymological Dictionary, Nathan Bailey (1721)

Dictionary of the English Language, Samuel Johnson (1755)

Sports and Pastimes of the People of England, Joseph Strutt (1801),
enlarged by Charles Cox (1903)

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An Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language, Reverend John Jamieson (1808)

A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, Francis Grose etc. (1811).

Grose died in 1791 but his dictionary continued to be expanded (and occasionally contracted) for a couple of decades after his death. I have used whatever edition I found most amusing.

The Vocabulary of East Anglia; An Attempt to Record the Vulgar Tongue of the Twin Sister Counties, Norfolk and Suffolk as It Existed In the Last Years of the Eighteenth Century, and Still Exists, Reverend Robert Forby (1830)

Westmoreland and Cumberland dialects: Dialogues, poems, songs, and ballads, John Russell Smith (1839)

A Pentaglot Dictionary of the Terms Employed in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Practical Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Medical Jurisprudence, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Medical Zoology, Botany and Chemistry, Shirley Palmer (1845)

Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English, Thomas Wright (1857)

A Dictionary of Modern, Slang, Cant, and Vulgar Words Used at the Present Day in the Streets of London, John Camden Hotten (1860)

The Dialect of Leeds and its Neighbourhood Illustrated by Conversations and Tales of Common Life etc., C. Clough Robinson (1862)

A Dictionary of the Terms Used in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, Richard D. Hoblyn (1865)

A glossary of words used in the wapentakes of Manley and Corringham, Lincolnshire, Edward Peacock (1877)

Shropshire word-book, a glossary of archaic and provincial words, &c., used in the county, Georgina Jackson (1879)

Slang and its Analogues, John Stephen Farmer (1893)

- English Dialect Dictionary*, Joseph Wright (1898–1905)
A Scots Dialect Dictionary, Alexander Warrack (1911)
Western Canadian dictionary and phrase-book: things a newcomer wants to know, John Sandilands (1912)
Cab Calloway's Hepsters Dictionary: Language of Five, Cabell Calloway (1938–44)
Psychiatric Dictionary with Encyclopaedic Treatment of Modern Terms, Leland Earl Hinsie (1940)
Service Slang, J. L. Hunt and A. G. Pringle, Faber (1943)
Dictionary of Guided Missiles and Space Flight, Grayson Merrill (1959)
A Descriptive Dictionary and Atlas of Sexology, ed. Robert T. Francoeur, Greenwood (1991). N.B. This book does actually contain maps, although the term “atlas” may be overstating it a bit.
Straight from the Fridge, Dad: A Dictionary of Hipster Slang (3rd edition), No Exit Press (2004)
Fubar: Soldier Slang of World War II, Gordon L. Rottman, Osprey (2007)
Chambers Slang Dictionary, Jonathon Green (2008)
The Oxford English Dictionary, OUP (2012)

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However, a few words were not in any of these dictionaries:

Dysania is in use as a technical medical term (see, for example, *Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: A Baffling Syndrome with a Tragic Aftermath*, Ramsay, 1989) and also makes a show in a medical word-finder of 1958 called the *Reversicon*. But I've never found it in what I'd call a dictionary.

DICTIONARIES AND IDIOTICONS

Groke is, or was, a Scottish dialect word mentioned in *History of the European Languages or, Researches into the Affinities of the Teutonic, Greek, Celtic, Slavonic and Indian Nations* (1823) by Alexander Murray, who was Professor of Oriental Languages at the University of Edinburgh; he applied it exclusively to dogs.

Nooningscaup appears in *Clavis Calendaria* by John Henry Brady (1812), who mentions it as a contemporary term in Yorkshire.

The citation of *gongoozler* is from the “Glossary of Canal Terms” skulking at the back of *Bradshaw’s Canals and Navigable Rivers of England and Wales* by Henry Rodolph de Salis (1918).

The keys to the indoor tank park and a meeting without coffee come from my vast network of spies within the British defence establishment.

I was introduced to the term *gabos* by a Special Adviser to Her Majesty’s Government who said it was commonly used round their way. I’ve since found various references to it on the Internet and one in a documentary that pins it down as a Miami criminal term. To my knowledge it has never made it into any print dictionary and has no currency outside of the Miami Mega Max Jail facility and the Palace of Westminster.

The tasseographical terms were culled from *Tea-Cup Reading and the Art of Fortune Telling by Tea-Leaves* by “A Highland Seer,” The Musson Book Co., Toronto (1920).

Shturmovshchina is a Russian term that has never made it into an English dictionary. However, it was much too delightful a word to exclude.

The definition of *cingasept* is from *The Oxford Essential Dictionary of Foreign Terms in English*, ed. Jennifer Speake, Berkley Books (1999). I'm particularly fond of the idea that an afternoon visit to one's mistress could qualify as *Essential*.

Several of the terms in the shopping section do not appear in dictionaries. They were instead gleaned from people who work in the British retail trade.

The term "drunk as four hundred rabbits" is mentioned in *México* by William Weber Johnson (1966). The Centzon Totochtin, from which the phrase must derive, are a standard part of Aztec mythology.

The definition of *smikker* comes from *A Chronicle of Scottish Poetry; From the Thirteenth Century to the Union of the Crowns: to which is added a Glossary*, J. Sibbald (1802).

There is also one word (quite aside from salsicolumnified) that I made up off the top of my head. But unless you check every word in this book against all the dictionaries listed above, you'll never find it. If you *do* check all the words in this book against all those dictionaries, I have nothing for you but my pity, and my curse.