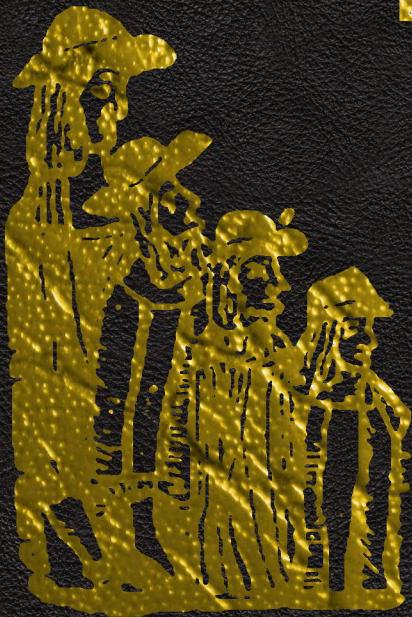


A LEXICON OF ThIEVES CANT



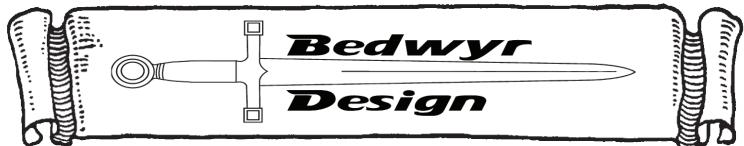
Shaun hately





A LEXICON
OF
ThIEVES
CANT

by Shaun hately



A LEXICON OF THIEVES CANT

Written by
Shaun Hately

Layout and Design by
Rhain Bedwyr

Stock Code: AIF001

Text is © Copyright 2015 by Shaun Hately. All Rights Reserved.

Elements of Design and Layout are © Copyright 2015 by Rhain Bedwyr, as Bedwyr Design. All Rights Reserved.

Author and Designer assert their moral right to be identified as the creators of this work.

Published by Shaun Hately under the name 'Ambula In Fabulam'

Artwork that appears in this document is in the public domain.

Shaun Hately
45 Moreton Street
Frankston North
VIC 3200
Australia

Rhain Bedwyr
29 Hadley Street
Seaford
VIC 3198
Australia

shaun.hately@bigpond.com

wyvernslair@gmail.com

www.libraryofhiabuor.net/ambulainfabulam

Foreword

In the early days of the internet, there was a strong community of roleplayers who shared their ideas with each other, just as there is today. One feature of the community of the time was the production of 'Netbooks' – unofficial rules supplements for roleplaying games, especially for the oldest and most famous of roleplaying games that were shared among newsgroups, and emailing lists, and via FTP, and on early webpages for others to use. In an era before we had anything like the Open Game License, or websites that sold PDF rulebooks, the idea of publishing these works for any form of profit was rarely considered.

Things change – the further growth of the internet has made it more possible than ever before for individuals to self publish, or even to form their own games companies. A great deal of new material has appeared to the benefit of gaming generally. Some of the old netbooks have seen new life, but many only exist in dated formats unlikely to appeal to modern gamers.

I was the author of two netbooks back in the 1990s and though I will not claim that either of them were works of any particular brilliance, I do think that they could still be useful for many gamers today as they were in the past. And so I have taken the decision to reformat these for a modern audience. This is the first, and more modest, of the two. It is, by far, the simpler one to convert, and as nothing in it is system specific, does not need to be released under any particular licence.

This lexicon is based on a number of books published between the late 18th and early 20th centuries that examined the historical slang of England, most specifically the area around London. Despite their date of publication, it can be used in FRP campaigns by those who desire a detailed use of thieves cant without the necessity of trying to understand older forms of English which are not particularly intelligible to modern eyes or ears.

Notes:

This guide is not recommended for use by children in their games as some of the material is of an adult nature. Parental discretion is advised.

When translating a term into modern English, some terms that are used – for example, "police" – are used in order to be clear to modern readers. The modern concept of a police force does not necessarily translate to the typical fantasy roleplaying world (although there is no reason it can't) but it is beyond the scope of this document to describe the differences between the various types of bailiffs, reeves, and constables, that existed in the past.

Some words in this lexicon may seem surprisingly modern as they are still part of the criminal vernacular today. Their inclusion is not a mistake, it simply reflects that the term has been in use for a long time and has survived right up to the present.

This document is based on historical English, and at times, it includes the prejudices of the past – some entries may seem sexist, racist, or homophobic to modern eyes. It is included for the sake of completeness. It is up to individual gaming groups to decide whether or not, the bigotry and prejudice that was part of our history is something they wish to replicate in their own gaming worlds, or whether they prefer to game in a world that did not make these mistakes in the same way ours did. In particular, the terms 'man' or 'men' often appears as part of certain phrases in this lexicon. In most cases, the term 'woman' or 'women' would be just as appropriate, although there are some particular roles that are more likely to have fulfilled by one sex than the other.

Because this guide is rooted in history – most specifically the history of England – some terms in the lexicon have a specific origin in either Judaeo-Christian history, or in reference to myths and legends from other 'real-world' cultures. As this is a guide for English-speaking gaming, I have chosen to retain these terms in the Lexicon, and personally I feel that they can be used without too much concern about their origin – but mindful of the fact that in a game world with very different gods and mythical traditions, these words might seem anachronistic to some people, I have decided to mark these words with a symbol:

Words that have specific derivations from such sources are indicated with the symbol - † - for example in the following entry:

Abram†: naked

Cant-To-English



Abbess: the mistress of a brothel

Abram†: naked

Abram cove; Abram man.†: a word used among thieves which signifies a naked or poor man. It can also mean a lusty strong rogue. It can also refer to a particular type of rogue who fraudulently begs by pretending to be sick, most commonly mentally ill (as distinguished from the genuinely ill)

To sham abram†: to pretend to be sick.

Academy: brothel.

Ace of spades: a widow.

Acorn, to ride a horse foaled by an: to be hanged on a gallows.

Adam Tiler: a pickpocket's associate, who receives the stolen goods, and runs off with them.

Affidavit Man: a witness for hire. Someone who will swear to anything in court if paid to do so. Often found hanging around outside a prison or a court as trials approach. Unscrupulous lawyers may have such people on retainer. See also *Knight of the Post*.

Air and exercise, given: To be whipped or flogged as a punishment, particularly in public, particularly at the carts tail.

Ambidexter: a lawyer who garners fees from both plaintiff and defendant. Sometimes a confidence trickster who deliberately plays one party off against the other to their own gain.

Amuse: fling dust into the eyes of the person intended to be robbed; also to invent some plausible tale to delude a shopkeeper in order to put them off their guard.

Amusers: a rogue who uses the above tactic.

Anabaptist†: a pickpocket caught in the act, and punished by being thrown into a pond.

Anglers: pilferers or petty thieves who with a stick having a hook at the end, steal goods out of shop windows, grates etc. Also someone who 'draws in' victims in order to rob them.

Angling for coppers: begging out of a prison window with a cap or box let down on the end of a long string.

Arch Rogue: The chief of a gang of thieves or rogues. The head of a thieves guild in games where such exist.

Ard: hot, stolen. It may also be used to refer to a person wanted for a crime.

Ark†: a boat.

Ark ruffians†: rogues who in conjunction with watermen, robbed and sometimes murdered on the water by picking a quarrel with passengers in a boat, boarding it, plundering, stripping, and throwing them overboard. River or coastal pirates.

Artichoked: hanged (from hearty choke).

Aunt: a prostitute or someone who procures prostitutes.

Avoir Du Pois Lay: stealing brass weights off the counters of shops.

Autem Bawler: a priest.

Autem Divers: pickpockets who operate in churches and temples.

Autem Mort: a female beggar who hires children in order to inspire charity.



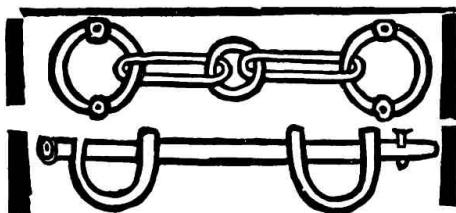
Babes in the wood: criminals in the stocks or pillory.

Badge: a term for one who has had his hand burned as punishment for theft.

Balm: a lie

Bandog: a bailiff or sheriff.

Barrow man: a man under sentence of transport or exile

| | |
|---|--|
| Bat: a very common prostitute. | Bleaters: those cheated by a Jack in the Box (See <i>Jack in the box</i>). |
| Bawd: a prostitute. | Bleating rig: sheep stealing. |
| Bawdy basket: criminal who sells items from door to door, but who actually makes most of their living by stealing. | Blow: to “bite the blow” is to steal the goods. |
| Beak: a justice of the peace or magistrate. | Bludger: a thief who does not hesitate to use violence. |
| Beef: to “cry beef” is to give an alarm. To “be in a mans beef” is to wound him with a sword. | Blue pigeons: thieves who steal lead off houses and other buildings. |
| Beggar maker: a man who owns a tavern. | Bluffer: an inn keeper. |
| Beilby's Ball: to “dance with Beilby's ball” is to be hung. | Blunt: money. |
| Bene: good. | Boarding school: a prison. |
| Bene Bowse: good beer. | Bob: shoplifter's assistant. One who receives stolen goods. |
| Bene Cove: good fellow. | Boned: seized, arrested. |
| Bene Darkmans: good night. | Boung: a purse. Also bung. |
| Bene feaker: counterfeiter. | Boung nipper: see <i>Cut purse</i> |
| Bene feakers of gybes: counterfeiter of false passes or other official documents. | Brimstone: see <i>Blasted fellow</i> . |
| Ben: a fool. | Bubber: a thief who steals from taverns. |
| Bess or Betty: a crow bar. | Bufe: a dog. |
| Bilboes: the stocks or prison. Also sometimes used for manacles. | Bufe nabber: a dog thief. |
| Bilk: to cheat or con. | Bug: to exchange a material for one of less value. |
| Bing: to go or escape. | Bung: see <i>Boung</i> . |
| Bingo: a strong alcoholic spirit. | Burning the ken: to flee a tavern without paying your bill. |
| Bingo boy: a drinker of strong spirits, especially one who does so to excess. | Bus napper: a constable or other law man. |
| Birds of a feather: rogues of the same gang. | Bus nappers kenchin: a watchman. |
| Bite: to steal. | Buttock and file: a prostitute who steals from their clients. |
| Black art: the art of picking a lock. | Button: a fake coin. |
| Black box: a lawyer. | Buzman: a pickpocket. |
| Blasted fellow: an abandoned rogue or prostitute. One who has lost the support of their compatriots in crime. Also called a <i>brimstone</i> . |  |
| Blater: a stolen calf. | |



Cackle: to inform on a thief.

Calle: a cloak or gown worn as a disguise.

Canters: thieves or beggars.

Canting Crew: thieves or beggars.

Cap: take an oath.

Captain Sharp: a person in a fixed game of chance whose job is to bully those who refuse to pay their debts.

Caravan: a large sum of money, or one who is cheated of a large sum of money.

Cattle: prostitutes

Charactered: to have your hand burnt as a punishment for theft.

Charm: a lockpick.

Chatts: the gallows.

Clank: a silver tankard.

Clank napper: a silver tankard stealer.

Clear: very drunk.

Click: to hit.

Clicker: the person who divides the booty between a group of thieves.

Climb up a ladder to bed: be hanged.

Cloy: steal.

Cloyes: thieves.

Cly: a pocket.

Cly the jerk: to be whipped.

Cockles, to cry: to be hanged.

Colt: one who lends a horse to a highway man, or an apprentice thief.

Confect: counterfeited.

Content: a person murdered for resisting a robbery.

Conveyancer, conveyer: pickpocket

Cove: a man.

Cracksman: a house breaker.

Cramp word: the sentence of death.

Crash: kill.

Crop: hang.

Cull: an honest man.

Cullability: easily cheated.

Curbing law: the act of hooking items out of a window (see angling.)

Cursitors: a bad lawyer

Cutpurse: a pickpocket who uses a blade to cut a purse from a person's belt or to slit open a purse or pocket in order to extract coins.



Dancer, dancing master: a thief who specialises in moving across rooftops.

Dangle: hang.

Darbies: chains (handcuffs)

Darby: easy money.

Darkee: a dark or hooded lantern.

Darkmans: night time.

Dawb: bribe.

Deadly nevergreen: gallows.

Derrick: a hangman.

Dimber Damber: a chief thief. See *Arch rogue*

Ding Boy: a mugger.

Dive: (1) to pick a pocket. (2) a thieves hideout.

Doctors: Fixed or weighted dice

Dommerer: a beggar who pretends to be mute.

Drag: to follow a cart or wagon in order to rob it.

Draw-latches: robbers of houses.

Drawing: picking pockets

Drawing a wiper: picking pockets of a handkerchief

Drawing the King's picture: to counterfeit coins.

Dromedary: a bungling thief.

Dub: a lockpick.

Dub Lay: to rob a house by picking its lock.

Duffer: a swindler who pretends cheap goods are stolen in order to make them seem worth more than they are charging.

Dummee: a pocket book or purse.

Dumps: coins made of lead or other base metal

Die hard: show no fear or remorse at the gallows.



Earnest: a promise to pay.

Equipt: well dressed, rich.

Efter: a thief who frequents theatres.

Eriffs: young or apprentice thieves.



Fagger: a small boy passed through a window in order to open the door to a house.

Family man: a receiver of stolen goods.

Fam lay: palming an item in order to steal it.

Fams: gloves.

Fen: a prostitute.

Fence: to sell stolen goods. One who buys stolen goods.

Fencing ken: a place where stolen goods are hidden.

Fidlam ben: thieves.

Figging law: the art of picking pockets.

Figure dancer: one who alters the numbers on notes of credit or other paper money.

Filcher: see *angler*.

Flash ken: a thieves' hideout.

Flash lingo: thieves cant.

Floating hell: a prison ship.

Flog: to whip.

Fob: cheat.

Footpad: a common thief.

Fork: to pick a pocket.

Fortune teller: a judge.

Foyst: a pickpocket.

Frummagemmed: strangled or hanged.

Fun: a cheat or a trick.

Funker: an inept thief.

Fuzz: to pretend to shuffle a deck of cards.



Gallows bird: a thief or pickpocket or someone that associates with them.

Game: any mode of robbery.

Gamon: to deceive.

Garreter: a thief who specialises in moving across rooftops.

Gaoler's coach: a cart used to take felons to execution.

Gentleman's master: a highwayman.

Gibberish: thieves cant.

Giggers: doors

Giggers jacked: locked doors

Gilks: lockpicks

Gilt: a thief who picks locks.

Ginny: a crowbar.

Glazier: a thief who breaks windows in order to steal.

Glim: a lantern used in housebreaking.

Gonnof: an expert thief, a master of the craft, a term often used as a compliment by other rogues.

Grease: bribe.

Gregorian tree: gallows.

Gudgeon: a gullible person.

Gull: a gullible person, to cheat someone.



Iron: money.

Ironmongers shop: to "keep an ironmongers shop" is to be hung in chains.



Jack in a box: a card sharper.

Jack Ketch: hangman.

Jail bird: prisoner.

Jammed: hanged.

Jem: a gold ring.

Jemmy: a crow bar.

Jigger: whipping post.

Jordain: a stick or staff used by muggers.

Juggler's box: a device used to burn the hands of criminals as punishment.

Jukrum: the permission of the head of a thieves guild to operate within his territory.



Kate: a lockpick.

Ken: a house.

Ken Miller, Ken Cracker: housebreaker.

Ketch: hangman.

Kiddeys: young thieves.

King's plate: chains, shackles.

King's pictures: money.

Knight of the blade: a bully.

Knight of the post: a man willing to give fake evidence for money. See also *Affidavit Man*

Knight of the road: a highwayman.



Hamlet: a senior constable.

Hang gallows look: a villainous appearance.

Hang in chains: a vile, desperate person.

Harman: a constable.

Harmans: the stocks.

Hearty choke: to be hanged.

Heave: to rob.

Hempen fever: a person who has been hanged is said to have died of "hempen fever."

Hempen widow: one whose husband was hanged.

High pad: a highwayman.

Hike: to run away.

Hoist: to rob by entering through open windows.

Hoodwink: blindfold or fool someone.

Hooked: captured.

Hookers: see angler.

Hub bub: a riot.

Hue: to whip.

Hush: murder.

Hush money: a bribe.



Laced mutton: a prostitute.

Lag: a man transported for a crime.

Land pirate: a highwayman.

Lay: danger.

Leaf: to “go with the fall of the leaf” is to be hanged.

Lift: steal.

Lightmans: daytime.

Little snakesman: a small boy passed through a window in order to open a door.

Long tongued: unable to keep a secret.

Lowre: money.

Lully priggers: thieves who steal wet clothes off clothes lines, or directly off the backs of children.

Lumper: (1) a thief who frequents docks and wharfs.
(2) somebody who sells old goods as if they are new.

Lurch: to be “left in the lurch” is to be betrayed by ones companions.



Mad Tom: a beggar who feigns madness.

Made: stolen.

Made man: a member of the thieves guild.

Maunding: begging.

Milch cow: one who is easily tricked out of his money.

Moabites†: bailiffs.

Mobility: the commoners. Intended as a pun on ‘nobility’.

Moon curser: a thief who uses the darkness as cover for his crime.

Morning drop: the gallows.

Mort: a woman.

Moss: lead stolen off the top of buildings.

Mot: see *Mort*.

Myrmidons: constables.



Nab: to seize.

Nab the stoop: to be put in the stocks.

Napper: a cheat or thief.

Napper of naps: a sheep stealer.

Natty lads: young thieves or pickpockets.

Neck weed: hemp to be made into rope.

Needle point: a card sharper.

New drop: the gallows.

Newman's lift: the gallows.

Nig: the metal clipped of a coin by a criminal. See also *Parings*.

Night magistrate: a constable.

Nim: to steal or pilfer.

Nip: a cheat.

Noisy dog racket: the crime of stealing brass door knockers from doors.

Noozed: hanged (or married).

Nose: a criminal who gives evidence against his colleagues in order to gain a lighter sentence.

Nubbing: hanging.

Nubbing cheat: the gallows.

Nubbing cove: the hangman.

Nubbing ken: the courthouse.

Nypper: a cutpurse.



Oak: a rich man.

Oaken towel: a cudgel.

Office: to “give office” is to tell constables of a thieves activities.

Old hand: an experienced thief.

Onion: a seal or signet ring.

Overseer: a man in the pillory or stocks.



Pad: the highway.

Pad borrowers: horse thieves.

Palaver: a tale told in order avoid blame for a crime.

Panny: house.

Parenthesis: the stocks.

Parings: the metal clipped of a coin by a criminal.
See also *Nig*.

Patter flash: to use thieves cant.

Paum: conceal in the hand.

Peach: turn informer.

Peeker: a spying glass or telescope

Penance board: the pillory.

Petty fogger: a lawyer willing to undertake any case.

Pig: an officer of the law.

Pigeon: a person easy to cheat.

Plate: money, silver, gold etc.

Poney: money.

Pop: pawn.

Pop shop: pawnbrokers.

Porridge: prison.

Posse mobilitatis: a mob chasing a criminal.

Poulterer: a man who opens mail and steals the money enclosed within.

Pound: prison.

Prad lay: the act of cutting the saddlebags of horses in order to steal their contents.

Prad: a horse.

Prig: a thief.

Prig napper: one who catches thieves. A bounty hunter.

Priggers: thieves

Priggers of prancers: horse thieves.

Priggers of cacklers: robbers of henhouses.

Prince Prig: head of a group of thieves or gipsies.

Provendor: the victim of a thief.

Public ledger: a prostitute.

Pull: arrest.

Puzzle-cause: a lawyer who does not understand the case.



Quarromes: a body.

Queer: “To queer” means to confuse someone.

Queer bail: someone who pretends to have money in order to act as surety for an arrested person. When the person is released they disappear.

Queer birds: a person who when released from prison returns to a life of crime.

Queer bit makers: counterfeiters of coins.

Queer bung: an empty purse.

Queer cove: a thief.

Queer coffin: a justice of the peace.

Queer ken: a prison.

Queer mort: a diseased prostitute.

Quod: prison.

Quota: a thieves share of the booty.



Rag: paper money.

Rank rider: a highwayman.

Rap: taking a false oath.

Rascal: rogue or villain.

Rat: an informer. To turn informer.

Rattling cove: a coachman.

Rattling mumpers: beggars who beg from coaches.

Reader: a pocket book or purse.

Reader merchants: pickpockets.

Ready: money.

Recruiting service: highway robbery.

Repository: a prison

Resurrection men: those employed by anatomists, necromancers, or similar people to steal bodies from churchyards.

Rhino: money.

Ribbin: money.

Ringing the changes: exchanging silver coins for those made of less valuable metal.

Roast: arrest.

Robert's men: successful thieves.

Rot gut: cheap spirituous liquor.

Rovers: pirates, wandering thieves.

Rub: run away.

Ruffles: chains or shackles.

Rufflers: beggars who pretend to be wounded soldiers or sailors.

Rug: safe and secure.

Rum: fine, good, valuable.

Rum beck: a justice of the peace.

Rum bite: a clever trick.

Rum bob: a skilled apprentice thief.

Rum bung: a full purse.

Rum cod: a purse filled with gold.

Rum diver: a skilled pickpocket.

Rum dubber: a skilled lock picker.

Rum file: a skilled pickpocket.

Rum fun: a clever trick.

Rum pad: the highway.

Rum padders: skilled and successful highwaymen.

Rum prancer: a good horse.

Rushers: home invaders.



Salmon: an oath taken by a beggar.

Scapegallows: one who deserves and has escaped the gallows.

Scragged: hanged.

Scragg'em fair: a public execution.

Screw: a lock pick or skeleton key.

Sham: a trick.

Sharper: a con man.

Sheriff's journeyman: hangman.

Sheriff's ball: an execution.

Sheriff's hotel: prison.

Sheriff's picture frame: gallows.

Shop: prison.

Shoplifter: one who steals from a shop.

Sing: call out, inform.

Slang: chains or shackles.

Slang: thieves cant.

Slipgibbet: one who deserves and has escaped the gallows. See *Scapegallows*.

Snap the glaze: break a window.

Snapt: captured.

Sneak: a pilferer.

Snoozing ken: brothel.

Sop: a bribe.

Spring-ankle warehouse: prison.

Squeak: (1) escape. (2) confess.

Squeakers: organ pipes.

Stall: to initiate a thief or rogue into a brotherhood or guild.

Stalling ken: place where stolen goods can be sold.

Star the glaze: break a jewellers window.

Stoop: the pillory.

Stop hole abbey: the central hideout or guild hall for a thieves guild.

Stretching: hanging.

Stuling ken: see *Stalling ken*.

Swaddler: a thief who beats and murders his victims.

Swag: booty.

Sweating: removing metal from a coin, by using chemicals.

Swing: hang.



Tail: a prostitute.

Tayle drawers: a thief who steals swords from a mans belt.

Teize: a flogging.

Thatch-gallows: a man of poor character.

Thief takers: someone who associates with thieves in order to arrest them and obtain rewards.

Three-legged mare: the gallows.

Three legged stool: the gallows.

Topping cheat: the gallows.

Topping cove: hangman.

Touch: arrest.

Trounce: punish.

Tucked up: hanged.

Turncoat: one who has betrayed his friends.

Turn off: hang.

Twig: realise that something is up.

Two to one shop: pawnbrokers.



Underdubber: a prison guard.

Upright Man: chief thief of a guild.

Used up: killed.



Vamp: pawn.

Varlets: criminals.

Vincent's law: the art of cheating at cards.

Vowel: to write an I.O.U.



Waterpad: river pirate.

Wedge: silver plate.

Whack: a share of booty obtained by fraud.

Whip jacks: thieves who pretend to be sailors in order to gain free passage on boats and ships.

Wiper: handkerchief.

Wiperdrawer: a pickpocket who steals handkerchiefs.

Wooden ruff: pillory.

Wry neck day: day of execution.



Yelp: cry out for the police.

Zad: a very crooked person.

Ziff: a young thief.



English-to-Cant



Abandoned person: blasted fellow; brimstone; lurch

Arrested: boned; hooked; nabbed; pulled; roasted; snapt; touched



Beer: bowse

Beggars: abram men; autem mort; dommerer; Mad Tom; rattling mumpers; rufflers

Begging: angling for coppers; maunding

Boat: ark

Body: quarromes

Body thieves: ressurection men

Booty: quota; swag; whack

Bribe: dawb; grease; hush money; sop

Brothel: academy; snoozing ken



Calf, stolen: blater

Call for police: cry beef

Cart: gaoler's coach

Cloak: calle

Club: jordain; oaken towel

Coach man: rattling cove

Coin, fake: button; dump

Coin shavings: nig; parings

Con: amuse; bilk; fob; fun; fuzz; hoodwink; sham

Con man: amuser; duffer; jack in a box; needle point; nip; sharper

Counterfeiter: bene feaker; figure dancer; queer bit maker

Counterfeited: confect

Counterfeiting: drawing the King's picture; sweating

Courthouse: nubbing ken

Criminals being punished:-

Being transported: barrow man; lag

In stocks: babes in the wood; nappered; overseer

With hands burned: badge; charactered

Crow bar: Bess; Betty; ginny; jemmy



Danger: lay

Day: lightmans

Death sentence: cramp word

Dice, fixed: Doctors

Dog: bufé

Doors: giggers

Doors, locked: giggers jacked

Drunk: clear



Escape: bing; burning the ken; hike; rub



Feign illness: sham abram

Follow: drag

Fool: Ben; cullability; gudgeon; gull; milch cow; pigeon; queer



Gallows: chatt; deadly nevergreen; Gregorian Tree; morning drop; new drop; Newman's lift; nubbing cheat; sheriff's picture frame; three legged mare; three legged stool; topping cheat

Gang: birds of a feather

Gloves: fams

Good: bene; rum



Hanged: artichoked; beilby's ball; cry cockles; cropped; dangled; frummagemmed; hearty choked; hempen fever; ironmongers shop; jammed; leaf; noozed; nubbing; ride a horse foaled by an acorn; scragged; stretched; swing; turned off

Hangman: Derrick; Jack Ketch; Ketch; nubbing cove; sheriff's journeyman; topping cove

Hideout: dive; fencing ken; flash ken; stalling ken; stop hole abbey; stuling ken

Highway: pad

Highwayman: colt; gentleman's master; high pad; knight of the road; land pirate; rank rider

Highway robbery: recruiting service

Hit: click

Honest man: cull

House: ken; panny

Housebreaker: cracksman; draw latch; Ken Miller; Ken Cracker; rushers



Inform: cackle; long tongued; nose; office; peach; rat; sing

Initiate: stall



Judge etc: beak; fortune teller; queer cuffin



Kill: crash; use up



Lantern: darkee; glim

Lawyer: black box; cursitor; petty fogger; puzzle-case

Lead: moss

License: jukrum

Lie: amuse; balm, gamon; palaver

Lock pick: charm; dub; gilks; kate; screw

Lock picker: gilt

Lock picking: black art; dub lay



Man: cove

Manacles: Bilboes; darbies; King's plate; ruffles; slang

Master Thief: Gonoff

Mistress of brothel: abbess; aunt

Money: caravan; iron; King's pictures; lowre; plate; poney; rag; ready; rhino; ribbin; wedge

Mugger: ding boy

Murder: hush



Naked: abram

Night: darkmans



Oath: cap; earnest; rap (false); salmon



Palming: fam lay; pauming

Pawn: pop; vamp

Pawnbrokers: pop shop; two to one shop

Pickpocket: Adam Tiler; anabaptist; autem divers; bung nipper; buzman; conveyor; conveyancer; cutpurse; foyst; natty lad; nypper; reader merchants

Picking pockets: dive; drawing; figging law; forking

Pocket: cly

Police officer: bandog; bus napper; bus napper kenchin; hamlet; harman; moabites; Myrmidons; night magistrate; pig

Priest: autem bawler

Prison: Bilboes; boarding school; porridge; pound; queer ken; quod; repository; sheriff's hotel; shop; spring-ankle warehouse

Prison ship: floating hell

Prisoner: jail bird; queer birds

Prostitute: aunt; bat; bawd; buttock and file; cattle; fen; laced mutton; public ledger; queer mort; tail

Purse: boung; dum mee; reader

Purse; cut: boung nipper



Receiver of stolen goods: family man; fence

Rich: equipt; oak

Ring: jem; onion

Riot: hub bub



Secure: rug

Shackles: Bilboes; darbies; King's plate; ruffles; slang

Sheep stealing: bleating rig

Shoplifter: Bob

Spirits (alcoholic): bingo

Staff: jordain

Steal: bite; bite the blow; cloy; curbing law; heave; hoist; lift; nim; prad lay

Stocks: Bilboes; parenthesis; penance board; wooden ruff

Stolen: ard; made

Swap: bug; ring the changes



Tavern owner: beggar maker

Theft: game

Thief: Adam Tiler; anabaptist; anglers; ark ruffians; autem divers; bawdy basket; blue pigeons; bludger; Bob; bugger; bufe napper; bung nipper; buzman; canters; canting crew; Captain Sharp; clank napper; cloyes; conveyer; conveyancer; cracksman; cutpurse; dancer; dancing master; draw latches; dromedary; efter; eriffs; fagger; fidlam ben; filcher; footpad; foyst; funker; gallows bird; garreteer; gilt; glazier; gonoff; hooker; kiddeys; little snakesman; lully priggers; lumper; made man; moon curser; napper of naps; natty lads; nypper; old hand; pad borrowers; poult erer;

priggers; priggers of prancers; priggers of cacklers; queer cove; reader merchant; ressurection men; Robert's men; rovers; shoplifter; sneak; swaddler; tayle drawer; waterpad; whip jack; ziff (See *Cant-To-English* definitions for precise details)

Thief; head: Arch Rogue; Dimber Damber; Prince Prig; Upright Man

Thieves cant: flash lingo; gibberish; patter flash; slang



Victim: content; provendor



Whipping: air and exercise; cly the jerk; flogging; hue; teize

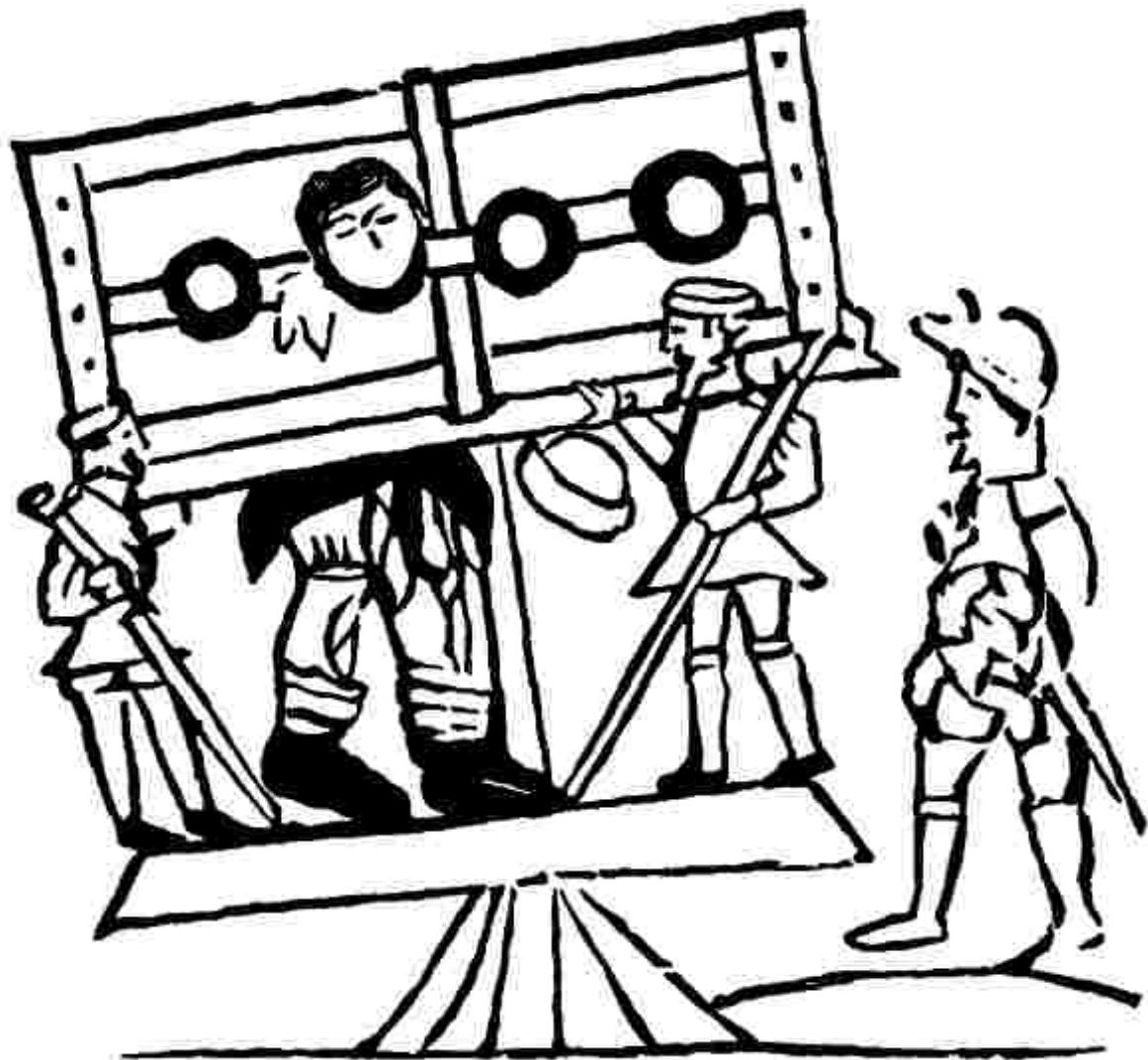
Whipping post: jigger

Widow: ace of spades; hempen widow (if husband was hanged)

Witness, fake: affidavit man; knight of the post

Woman: mort; mot

Wound: beef



Bibliography:

A London Antiquary. *A Dictionary of Slang, Cant, and Vulgar Words Used at the Present Day in the Streets of London; the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; the Houses of Parliament; the Dens of St. Giles; and the Palaces of St. James.* London: John Camden Hotten. 1860.

Awdley, John & Harman, Thomas. *The Rogues and Vagabonds of Shakespeare's Youth: Awdeley's 'Fraternitye of vacabondes' and Harman's 'Caveat'.* London: Chatto and Windus. 1907.

Coleman, Julie. *A History of Slang and Cant Dictionaries: Vol 1: 1567-1785.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2008.

Coleman, Julie. *A History of Slang and Cant Dictionaries: Vol 2: 1785-1858.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2009.

Grose, Francis. *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue.* London: S. Hooper. 1785.

Grose, Francis. *A Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue: A Dictionary of Buckish Slang, University Wit, and Pickpocket Eloquence.* London: C. Chappel. 1811.

Hotten, John Camden. *The Slang Dictionary: Etymological, Historical and Andecdotal.* London: Chatto and Windus. 1913.

Unknown. *Sinks of London Laid Open: A Pocket Companion for the Uninitiated, to Which is Added a Modern Flash Dictionary Containing all the Cant Words, Slang Terms, and Flash Phrases Now in Vogue, with a List of the Sixty Orders of Prime Coves.* London: J. Duncombe. 1848.

