A dictionary of slang and colloquial English

Farmer John Stephen
Title: A dictionary of slang and colloquial English

Author: Farmer John Stephen

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Slang and Colloquial English
BY THE SAME AUTHOR

AMERICANISMS, OLD AND NEW. 1 vol.
SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES. By John S. Farmer and W. E. Henley, with the revised Vol. I. 7 vols.
MUSA PEDESTRIS, Slang Songs and Canting Rhymes (1536-1896). 1 vol.
MERRY SONGS AND BALLADS. 5 vols.
CHOICE OF VALENTINES, a hitherto unpublished MS. of Thomas Nash. 1 vol.
A SATYRICAL DIALOGUE. By William Goddard. 1 vol.
DICTIONARY OF THE CANTING CREW, a photo-facsimile of the oldest Slang Dictionary extant. 1 vol.
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL WORD-BOOK. 1 vol.
REGIMENTAL RECORDS OF THE BRITISH ARMY. 1 vol.
A Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English

Abridged from the seven-volume work, entitled

Slang and its Analogues

By JOHN S. FARMER
AND W. E. HENLEY

LONDON
George Routledge & Sons, Limited

1905
A Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English

37497
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A LIST

OF

THE MORE IMPORTANT DICTIONARIES

AND OTHER WORKS TO WHICH REFERENCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS MADE

** The figures in brackets, thus [1585], which occur in the text may be taken as indicating, in most cases, the date of the earliest illustrative quotation given in the larger work, 'Slang and its Analogues.'


1567. Harmant, Thomas. Caveat or Waring for Common Cursetors vulgarly called Vagabones. The earliest Glossary of the language of "the Canting Crew."

1570. Levins (or Levens), Peter. Manipulus Vocabulorum.

1575. Aúdeley, John. Vacabondes, the Fraternatye of, as well as of ruflyng Vacabones, as of beggerly, of Women as of Men, of Gyrles as of Boyes, with their proper Names and Qualities, with a Description of the Crafty Company of Cousoners and Shifters, also the XXV. Orders of Knaves; otherwise called a Quartern of Knaves, confirmed by Cocke Lorell.
A List of Dictionaries and Other Works.

1586. WITHALS, JOHN  .  .  .  .  .  A Shorte Dictionarie in Latine and English.
1593. HOLLYBAND, CLAUDIUS  .  .  .  .  Dictionarie, French and English.
1595. FLORIO, JOHN  .  .  .  .  .  A Worlde of Wordes; a most copious Dictionarie of the Italian and English Tongues.
1599. MINSEHU, JOHN  .  .  .  .  .  Dictionarie in Spanish and English (Percivale’s ed.).
1611. COTGRAVE, RANDLE  .  .  .  .  Dictionarie de la langue française.
1617. MINSEHU, JOHN  .  .  .  .  .  Guide into the Tongues, English, British or Welsh, Low Dutch, High Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish Portuguese, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

1656. BLOUNT, THOMAS  .  .  .  .  .  Glossographia, or Dictionary interpreting the hard words now used in our refined English language.
1658. PHILLIPS, EDWARD  .  .  .  .  The New World of English Words, or a General Dictionary containing the interpretations of such hard words as are derived from other languages (Florio’s Dictionary revised).

1660. HOWELL, JAMES  .  .  .  .  .  Lexicon Tetraglotton, an English-French-Italian-Spanish Dictionary.
1674. HEAD, RICHARD  .  .  .  .  .  Canting Academy, with Compleat Canting Glossary.

C. 1696. E. B., GENT  .  .  .  .  .  A New Dictionary of the Terms, Ancient and Modern, of the Canting Crew in its several Tribes (the earliest Slang Dictionary, per se).

1719. SMITH, CAPT.  .  .  .  .  .  Lives of Highwaymen, containing Canting Glossary.

1724. SMITH, CAPT.  .  .  .  .  .  Thieves’ Dictionary.

1754. ANON  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  The Scoundrel’s Dictionary; or, An Explanation of the Cant-words used by Thieves, House-breakers, Street-robbers, and Pick-pockets about Town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Grose, Francis</td>
<td>A Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue.</td>
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<td>1786</td>
<td>Tooke, John Horne</td>
<td>Diversions of Purley.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Porter, John</td>
<td>Dictionary of all the Cant and Flash Languages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Jamieson, John</td>
<td>Gradus ad Cantabrigiam, or a Dictionary of the Terms Academical and Colloquial, or Cant, which are used at the University.</td>
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<td>1808</td>
<td>Jamieson, John</td>
<td>An Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language. 2 vols., with supplement, 2 vols.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Vaux, J. H.</td>
<td>Flash Dictionary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Anon</td>
<td>Bang-up Dictionary, or the Lounger and Sportsman’s Vade-mecum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Nares, Robert</td>
<td>A Glossary of Words and Phrases, etc., in the Works of English Authors, particularly Shakespeare and his Contemporaries. (New ed., with considerable additions by J. O. Halliwell and Thomas Wright, 1876).</td>
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<td>1823</td>
<td>Bee, George</td>
<td>A Dictionary of the Turf, the Ring, The Chase, the Pit, of Bon Ton and the Varieties of Life, forming the completest Lexicon Balatronicum ever offered to the Sporting World.</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>Anon</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>Dugange Anglicus</td>
<td>The Vulgar Tongue. Two Glossaries of Slang and Flash Words and Phrases.</td>
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| 1859 | [Edited by John Camden Hotten] | Liber Vagatorum: Der Better Orden, 4to. Translated into English, with Notes, by John Camden Hotten, as the Book of Vagabonds and Beggars, with a
A List of Dictionaries and Other Works.


1881. Pascoe, Charles . . Every-day Life in our Public Schools. (Contains a Glossary of Public School Slang.)


A. A per se. The best: first-class; A1 (g.v.): see Tip-top. The usage became popular and was extended to other vocables. As subs., a paragon (1470). A1. (1) Prime: first-class; of the best. The character A denotes New Ships, of Ships Renewed or Restored. The Stores of Vessels are denoted by the figures 1 and 2; I signifying that the Vessel is well and sufficiently found (Key, Lloyd's Register). Also First-class, letter A; A1 copper-bottomed; and A and no mistake: Fr. marqué à l'A (money coined in Paris was formerly stamped with an A). Cf. A per se (1369). (2) Sometimes (erroneously) No.1. Attitude for the commander of 900 men in the army of the Irish Republican Brotherhood: obsolete Fenian. Not knowing great A (ora B) from a bull's trot (or a bat's nose). [Haron, a mountaineer.] (2) The leader of a gang of thieves; always with the as a prefix. (3) A leader of the church (1607).


Aback. To take aback, to surprise, check: suddenly and forcibly. [Orig. nautical: in which sense (O. E. D.) dating from 1754.]

Abacter (or Abactor). Stealers of Cattle or Beasts, by Herds, or great numbers; and were distinguished from Furet (Blount).

Abaddon. A thief turned informer; a snitcher (g.v.). [Obviously a Jew fence's punning reference to Abaddon, the angel of the bottomless pit; Rev. iv. 11.]

The late Mr. W. E. Henley, who died in July, 1903, is not responsible for any errors in this volume abridged in 1904-5 from Slang and its Analogues, in seven volumes, edited by him and by Mr. J. P. Farmer jointly.


1881. Pascoe, Charles . . . . . . . Every-day Life in our Public Schools. (Contains a Glossary of Public School Slang.)


