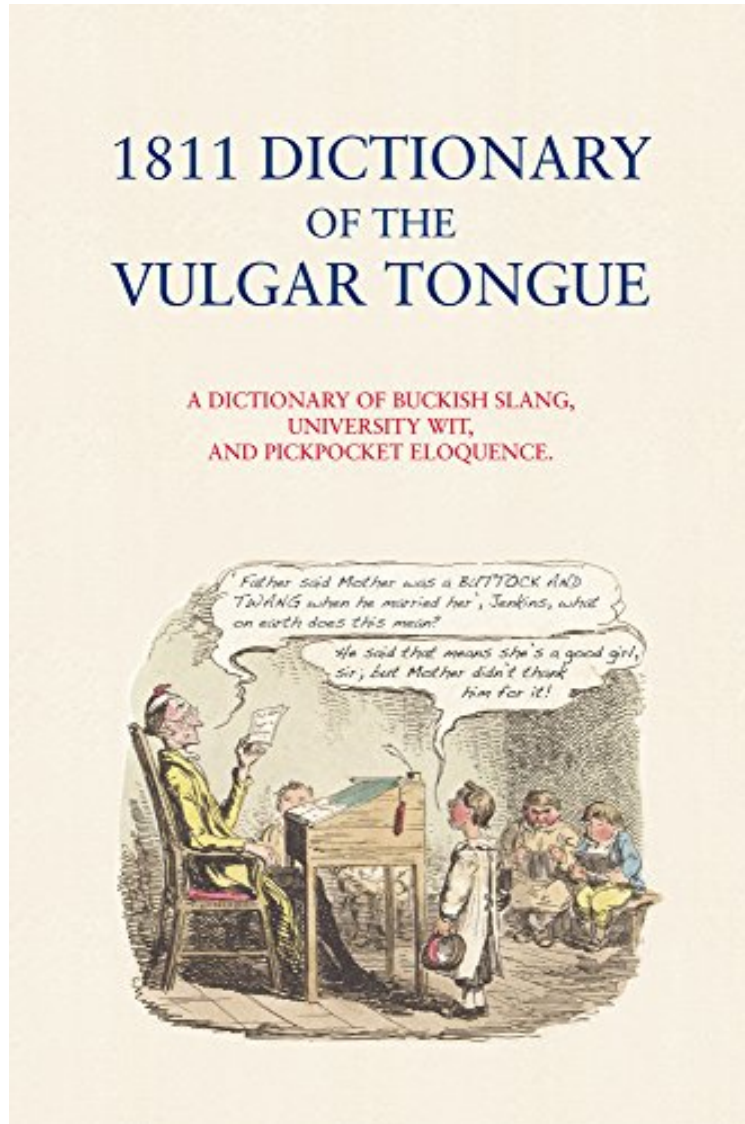


1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue

Francis Grose

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Francis Grose : 1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A classic now available in electronic format By R. Shelby Most students of the English language are familiar with the "1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue". Others will not be. It is not quite an obscure work but it does occupy a rather small niche. Although attributed to Francis Grose, the 1811 Dictionary is actually an updating of Grose' "A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue" (1785). Grose died in

1791; the 1811 update was provided by a group of men who acknowledged Grose as the primary author. Grose collected words and phrases used by the common people, i.e. the everyday speech of everyday folks. Thus "vulgar" in the title means "common" and not "dirty", "rude" or "nasty". The 1811 Dictionary includes language which was ignored by lexicographers. Most scholars of the time felt that such language was not worth recording or reporting. Grose and those who updated the dictionary in 1811 probably were motivated by amusement as much as by lexicography. That is, they found the speech of the "common folk" entertaining. There is no doubt that slang can be amusing but it is also often enlightening, e.g. by providing cultural or sociological insights. Regardless of the motivation of the compilers, the 1811 Dictionary is a useful work for students of English language and culture. Those interested in the topic of American slang will find the work of Wentworth Flexner interesting. Two particularly good volumes are *Dictionary of American Slang Based on Historical Principles* and *Speaking Freely: A Guided Tour of American English from Plymouth Rock to Silicon Valley*.²⁴ of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Dictionary of Slang By John Pool This work is one that I have found to be entertaining from several reads. This is definitely not a sit down and plow through it book, but rather one can pick up and put down as needed. As a whole, I found it interesting from a perspective of much of what we consider normal everyday language these days was only a couple of hundred years ago considered the "ebonics" of the time. It does very much carry the tone and verbiage of the day, which may disinterest some, but fans of Victorian, Edwardian, or Elizabethan period speech should adore this, as well those whom are interested in such through some of the more fanciful spin offs such as Steampunk fans. I would say that this if you are looking for new (old) ways to spew forth vulgar phrases you will be disappointed, but if you are looking for phrases and even the occasional insult of Shakespearean wit, you can find more than a few gems within this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. we pretty much use the same kinds of blue language today By K McClure This is a dictionary of naughty language circa the year 1811. Some of it is bafflingly strange, some of it is oddly familiar. The most amusing thing is even though the wording is very different, we pretty much use the same kinds of blue language today.

The Georgian "Profanisaurus". From the 1790s to the 1820s, numerous editions of the *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* were published. Looking at the slang and vernacular language of the time, this dictionary pre-dated Roger Mellies best-selling *Profanisaurus* by a good 200 years. Reprinted here, it covers the rude, the crude and the downright vulgar. Learn how the Georgians and early Victorians would insult each other and find out how some of today's words and derivations have come about. But most of all, just dip in and see how our ancestors considered and talked about such subjects as sex and the workings of the human body.

"It was a runaway success when published in 1811 by soldier Francis Grose, but now *The Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* is getting tongues wagging again after being published online." Telegraph