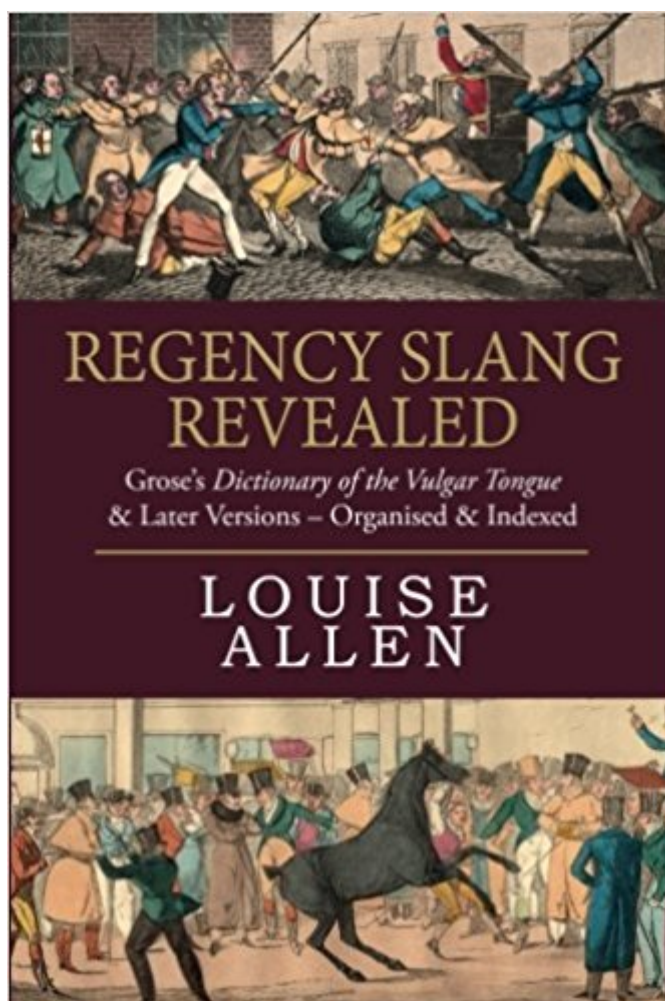


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Regency Slang Revealed: Grose's Dictionary Of The Vulgar Tongue & Later Versions - Organised & Indexed



Synopsis

From Corinthians to Hell-Born Babes - The Regency underworld revealed Francis Grose's Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue and later versions and editions contain hundreds of words and phrases that take us into a colourful, violent and alien late Georgian and Regency world. Here we encounter criminals, gamblers, sportsmen, gentlemen and prostitutes as they fight, cheat, thief, gamble and carouse their way through London's underworld. The dictionaries themselves are all arranged in alphabetical order of the terms being defined, making it impossible to find a word for a specific thing, or browse related terms, without reading through the entire volume. This book arranges the words and phrases from two editions of Grose, Pierce Egan's version of the book and John Bee's Slang: A Dictionary to make them accessible both thematically and by an index. This book is designed for anyone interested in the period, its language and what it reveals and can be used alongside the dictionaries themselves - available in both reprints and e-versions.

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Customer Reviews

With an obsession for the Georgians Louise Allen has written The Georgian Seaside, Walking Jane Austen's London, Stagecoach Travel, Walks Through Regency London, Following the Great North Road and To the Field of Waterloo. She is the award winning author of over fifty historical romances and lives on the North Norfolk coast of England close to the Georgian seaside resort of Cromer.

Calling all members of Beau Monde, RWA, and anyone else here or abroad who would attempt to

write of the Regency. This book is a must. Quite often over the years I've had to deal with the dangerous work of dialect. One of my first rejections, by phone if you please, was from an elderly agent who said something shattering. "Do you know, all of your characters sound alike? Actually, they sound like they attended the same finishing school." The horrors of dialect were unavoidable. I think I've gotten better at it over the years, but one thing is certain - all those helpful dictionaries of words and terms are written in alphabetical order. And getting the Regency close to right has been the work of a year and more, for Regency slang is constant and singular, and changes according to the class and business of the speaker, from a buck to a bum to a bruiser. I own all three of the major versions of Frances Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue. His original, I think the first edition was 1789, is terrific and ground-breaking. Two others built on it, extensively, one by some college guys in 1811, the next by the immortal Pierce Egan, the first sportswriter, author of Life in London. Along with diaries and journals of the period, I use them extensively. So great, right? Not really. Because when you're two weeks past your deadline as well as your patience, and you just need one little term to spice up a sentence, heaven help you. All those Post-it tags hanging out of each volume are only a problem. Because you need to know, not the word, but the subject. Are you calling someone a whore? Or a cheat? Even the Kindle versions aren't much help. If they're readable, a big if, it's a cumbersome system to feed in key words and hope it produces a great slang term. Overwhelmed with other, more important research, I've often thought of settling in with my dictionaries and journals and OED and 30 pages of notes and doing what Ms. Allen did, a prospect that's grim. I'd be there until Boxing Day. In this volume, Louise Allen does it for you. Go ahead, buy the dictionaries. They'll give you wonderful additional information on many terms. But buy this as well, and treasure it, because when you're tired and overwhelmed, and the right noun or verb won't come to mind, she comes to the rescue. She states in her introduction that she set out, not to do a scholarly work, but to produce a practical aid. She succeeds, perhaps more than she knows. It is well worth the price.

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