



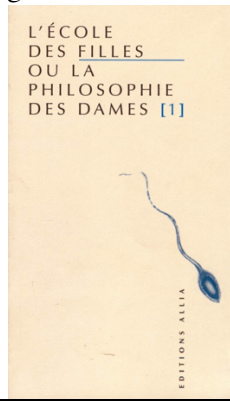






The Country Wife by William Wycherley Glossary of Terms


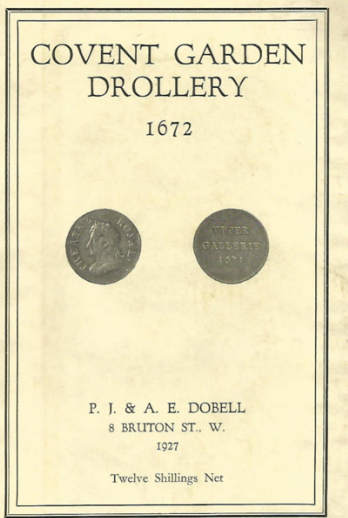
Term	Page	Speaker	Quote	Definition
cudgelled	5	Mr. Hart	“Poets, like cudgelled bullies ”	A short stick, used as a weapon. 
Late so baffled scribbler	5	Mr. Hart	“the late so baffled scribbler of this day”	Wycherly himself, due to the poor success of the plays he had debuted before, such as <i>The Gentleman Dancing Master</i>
Castril	5	Mr. Hart	“And, ere you speak, like Castril give the lie”	Character in Ben Jonson’s <i>The Alchemist</i> , who is described as angry and accuses characters of lying before they even speak
Hector of the age	5	Mr. Hart	“In prologue dear not hector with the age”	Attack the contemporary taste at the time
Bayes within	5	Mr. Hart	“Though Bayes within all yielding countermands”	Referring to Wycherley himself, behind the scenes and watching
Tiring room	6	Mr. Hart	“We set no guards upon our tiring room”	The dressing room
Orange wenches	7	Mr. Horner	“the orange wenches at the playhouse”	Women who sell oranges and other fruits outside theatres
City husbands	7	Mr. Horner	“have you told... the city husbands”	The men of the town who will be happy to hear that Horner can not cuckold them
Old fumbling keepers	7	Mr. Horner	“have you told... the old fumbling keepers on this side of the town”	Brothel owners, often described as incompetent, who live in the town
Whitehall	7	Quack	“the whispers of Whitehall”	The public rooms of the King, where gossip is most often spread 
The great ones	7	Mr. Horner	“the great ones, nay, their own husbands”	Syphilis, a sexual disease that was common in the time period
English-French disaster	8	Mr. Horner	“You told ‘em it was by an English-French disaster”	An operation done by a surgeon for a venereal disease. Horner is suggesting that he had a botched surgery done by a Frenchman that made him a eunuch.
sisters	9	Mr. Horner	“Some unbelieving sisters of my former acquaintance”	Disguised prostitutes – Horner is insulting Lady Fidget and her friends.
Play the wag with him	10	Sir Jaspar	“I will play the wag with him”	Sir Jaspar will make a joke at Horner’s expense

horns	10	Mr. Horner	Stage direction: <i>makes horns</i>	A person holding horns up to their head is the sign of a cuckold 
cuckold	10	Mr. Horner	“I make no more cuckolds, sir”	Husbands whose wives have slept with other men while they were married. It is disastrous to a man’s reputation.
Mercury	10	Sir Jaspar	“Ha, ha! Mercury! Mercury!”	The god of wit and intelligence. 
French fellow	10	Lady Fidget	“He’s too much a French fellow”	A fop, or a man only concerned with clothes and appearance
<i>Ecoles de Filles</i>	11	Mr. Horner	“nor the second part of <i>Ecoles de Filles</i> , or –”	An incredibly bawdy and rude French novel – Horner is insulting Fidget by suggesting that she would ever read it 
Done your business	12	Quack	“you yourself have done your business with the women”	Ruined oneself
duns	13	Mr. Horner	“the most insatiable duns”	Idiots, non-credible people. Horner is insulting his friends.
Passe-partout	13	Mr. Horner	“the passe-partout of the town”	A person having leave to go anywhere they’d like.
Probatum est	14	Mr. Horner	“Probatum est, doctor.”	Proved or tested. Horner is suggesting that the sex chasing game is not new.
Vizard-mask	14	Dorilant	“or a drunken vizard-mask”	A prostitute – this type of mask is worn by them.



Women in the boxes	14	Dorilant	“And for the women in the boxes, you’d never pity them”	Wives who are highly honorable and would see performances in the “boxes” of the theatre, or the reserved, high-up seats.
Beaux garçons	15	Dorilant	“Ay, your old boys, like beaux-garçons”	Fops.
conversation	15	Mr. Horner	“you are the fitter for conversation by em”	Horner is using the word conversation to mean having sex.
Sir Martin Mar-all	17	Harcourt	“than Sir <i>Martin Mar-all’s</i> gaping, and auker’d thrumming upon he Lute”	Main character of Dryden’s <i>The Feigned Innocence</i> , a man who serenades his mistress with the lute.
Ebony cane	18	Harcourt	“physician with his ebony cane”	The type of item that doctors carried around to symbolize their status 
sparks	18	Sparkish	“How is it, sparks?”	Young men who live in the town
Covent Garden	19	Sparkish	“‘In Covent Garden,’ I replied.”	A very fashionable and high-status part of London, where Horner lives 
Suit with a French trimming	20	Dorilant	“I thought thou hast loved a man with a title better than a suit with a French trimming”	An incredibly fashionable suit for the time period.
Chateline’s	21	Sparkish	“At Chateline’s?”	Famous French restaurant in Covent Garden
The wit’s row	21	Sparkish	“...than I would miss sitting in the wit’s row”	The pit of a theatre. 
Five thousand pound	22	Pinchwife	“five thousand pound to lie with my sister”	A dowry for his sister, Alithea – this suggests that Pinchwife is very wealthy
Cracked title	22	Mr. Horner	“he is a cracked title”	In technical terms, it is a property that needs to be repaired, or a bad purchase. Horner is suggesting that Sparkish will make a horrible husband.


whoremaster	22	Mr. Horner	“I did not expect marriage from such a whoremaster”	A man who shows sexual desire and has many women.
clap	23	Mr. Horner	“I have known a clap gotten in Whales”	Sexual disease called gonorrhea. This joke is made often by Horner.
Swingeing stomachs	24	Dorilant	“swingeing stomachs in the country”	A person with a huge appetite – this is being used a double entendre by Dorilant.
Lusty stakes	26	Dorilant	“that had wherewithal to make lusty stakes”	Big bets, but also a double entendre for erections
Eighteen-penny place	26	Mr. Horner	“I saw you yesterday at the eighteen-penny place”	The middle gallery of a theatre, the best place to hide while seeing a play.
Covent Garden wife	27	Harcourt	“He’s as jealous of her as a Covent Garden wife”	An upper-class wife, or a wife who pretends to be upper-class.
Mulberry Garden and Saint James Park	29	Alitheia	“Why, sister, Mulberry Garden or Saint James Park”	Fashionable and high-class meeting places in town.
Toused and moused	29	Mrs. Pinchwife	“naughty women sat there, who they toused and moused”	Engaged in sexual harassment or abuse.
bud	30	Mrs. Pinchwife	“Oh my dear, dear bud, welcome home!”	A term of endearment – usually applied to kids. This a sign of Margery’s naivety.
Jill-flirt	31	Pinchwife	“a jill flirt, or notorious town woman?”	A flimsy, wanton woman who does not care about her honor.
Town documents	31	Pinchwife	“she’s worse for your town documents already”	Lessons that women can learn in the town. Pinchwife does not want his wife to learn these, or for Alitheia to teach them.
Player-men	32	Mrs. Pinchwife	“she’s just chid me now for liking the player-men”	Actors
Setting her agog	32	Alitheia	“he is now setting her agog himself”	Pinchwife is making his wife eager to go out and see the things he doesn’t want her to experience.
Easy coxcomb	34	Pinchwife	“brought to my lodging by this easy coxcomb!”	Easy-going fop, he is referring to Sparkish.
Resolve me	35	Sparkish	“Thou hast stared upon her enough to resolve me”	Sparkish is asking for the opinion of Harcourt.
Enjoy me	37	Sparkish	“thou shalt enjoy me sometimes, dear rogue”	He is suggesting that everyone should enjoy the pleasure of his company.
Stock blind	38	Harcourt	“true lovers are blind, stock blind”	As blind as a stupid person.
parts	40	Sparkish	“Pshaw! Show his parts.”	Sparkish means it to suggest talents, but it also provides a double entendre of penis or vagina.
Disparage my parts	41	Sparkish	“Did he disparage my parts?”	Disparage his intellect or insult his intelligence.
Lead her down	42	Sparkish	“Come away, Harcourt, lead her down.”	Sparkish is asking for Harcourt to take Alitheia’s arm.
For’t	44	Lady Fidget	“They are dogs, and horses for’t.”	For thinking or suggesting such a thing.
ramble	44	Lady Fidget	“For whither shall we ramble?”	Allow promiscuous and un-honorable thoughts to wander.
Dear of honour	45	Sir Jaspar	“My dear of honour”	Jaspar is suggesting that his wife is dear to him because of her honor.

Master Tattle, Master Limberham	46	Sir Jaspar	“There can be no more scandal to go with him than Master Tattle, or Master Limberham”	Two characters in <i>The Kind Keeper</i> , a play written by John Dryden, one of Wycherley’s favorite playwrights. Both of them are chaste and civil characters.
In sober sadness	47	Sir Jaspar	“In sober sadness, he shall go”	In all seriousness, bringing the tone down.
ombre	48	Dorilant	“But heavens keep me from being an ombre player with them!”	A fashionable card game, brought up by King Charles II’s wife, Catherine.
Gentleman-usher	49	Sir Jaspar	“A lady should have a gentleman usher”	An attendant who is a person of rank. Normally it would not be a man, but since Horner is believed to be a eunuch, he would be allowed.
playfellow	51	Squeamish	“Foh! We’ll have no such playfellows.”	This is a double entendre meaning card players but also sexual partners.
Save you harmless	52	Mr. Horner	“I have given you security to save you harmless”	To protect one from harm, save them from danger – in this case, to her reputation.
ninepins	54	Mrs. Pinchwife	“I warn you, I play at ninepins every night”	A game that is often played by children, similar to bowling. 
Mistress Flippant	55	Pinchwife	“Come, Mistress Flippant, good precepts are lost”	A character from <i>Love in the Wood</i> , also written by Wycherley, who was a hypocritical character – Pinchwife is trying to insult his wife.
You jeer	56	Mrs. Pinchwife	“Pish, you jeer!”	You are joking, this is a joke, etc.
Beetle-headed	59	Dorilant	“Yet he must be buzzing amongst ‘em still, like other beetle-headed, lickerish drones”	Stupid, air-headed
Set out your hand	59	Mr. Horner	“If he could set out your hand that way only”	Serve a purpose, such as supplying a drink. Horner is suggesting that Dorilant will continue to drink with any fool just to keep in good practice.
sack	60	Harcourt	“Together as nauseous as sack and sugar”	A form of Spanish wine, that was typically served with sugar on the rim. Horner detests this coupled taste.

woodcocks	61	Sparkish	“I think bubbles are like their brother woodcocks, go out with the cold weather”	A form of English migratory birds, but also a double entendre for an erection. 
Hictius doctius	62	Sparkish	“By the virtue of hictius doctius”	A term often used by jugglers for juggling acts, meaning “nonsense”
The king will have supped	64	Sparkish	“Faith, the King will have supped.”	Someone who has a special invitation (such as Sparkish) have dinner with the King and other persons.
<i>Covent Garden Drollery</i>	64	Mrs. Pinchwife	“Then give me the <i>Covent Garden Drollery</i> and a play or two.”	A book written by Alexandre Brome in 1672 with songs and parts of famous plays 
<i>Tarugo's Wiles</i>	64	Mrs. Pinchwife	“Oh, here's <i>Tarugo's Wiles</i> and <i>The Slighted Maiden</i> .”	Comedy by Sir Thomas St Serfe, written in 1668. It is an incredibly unfashionable play for the time period.
<i>The Slighted Maiden</i>	64	Mrs. Pinchwife	“Oh, here's <i>Tarugo's Wiles</i> and <i>The Slighted Maiden</i> .”	Comedy by Sir Robert Stapleton in 1663. It is an incredibly unfashionable play for the time period.
Husband's proper sign	66	Pinchwife	“Nay, even if a husband's proper sign were visible...”	Cuckold horns.
She'll make no use of her fortune	68	Lucy	“He's thrown away on her, she'll make no use of her fortune.”	Lucy is suggesting that if Alithea marries Sparkish, she will never cuckold him.
eclaircissement	70	Sparkish	“...till he has made an éclaircissement of his love to you.”	A declaration of affection.
saluted	72	Sparkish	“... but 'till he has saluted you...”	To be kissed.
Frank and free	72	Sparkish	“Though I am frank and free.”	Unconventionally honest.

Canonical gentleman	73	Sparkish	“I must visit you early with a canonical gentleman.”	A person who would conduct a religious ceremony, such as a parson.
O Jeminy	75	Mrs. Pinchwife	“O Jeminy!”	A line of dialogue that is often used for unsophisticated stock characters. Similar to yelling “Oh my god!”
walk	78	Mr. Horner	“Come away into the next walk”	A gallery of The New Exchange, a separate pathway.
Present him	78	Harcourt	“Let him present him”	To let him give a present.
kind	79	Dorilant	“Therefore you should stay the rather, and be kind.”	To be ready for sexual intercourse – Dorilant is making fun of Lucy.
Oranges and dried fruit	80	--	“ <i>Enter MRS. PINCHWIFE... full of oranges and dried fruit</i> ”	Oranges and dried fruit are meant to be a very lavish and suggestive gift. 
Squeezed my orange	80	Pinchwife	“You have only squeezed my orange... and given it to me again.”	Pinchwife is suggesting that Horner has slept with Margery and then brought her back to him.
City-patience	80	Pinchwife	“Yet I must have city patience.”	The patience of a city husband who will refuse to admit that he has been cuckolded.
strapper	82	Dorilant	“Goodnight, strapper.”	A woman who is tall and robust.
pulvilio	83	Lucy	“and spent upon you ounces of... pulvilio”	A fancy type of perfumed powder.
megrin	84	Lucy	“’Tis a disaster in the head, like the megrim”	A painful migraine.
Lincoln Inn Fields, Saint James Fields, Pall Mall	85	Lucy	“But now ‘tis only a pretty seat only in Lincoln Inn Fields, Saint James Fields, or the Pall Mall.”	Fashionable English places to live – dukes and earls often reside in those places.
Preach in your pulpit	86	Lucy	“And your chaplain, to preach in your pulpit then!”	Lucy is alluding to having sex.
The canonical hour	87	Sparkish	“...before the canonical hour is past.”	The Anglican Book of Canons requires that marriages must be performed from 8am to 12pm.
Sneaking college look	87	Sparkish	“...you see he has a sneaking college look.”	An intelligent fellow, someone of intellect.
Die after it	89	Harcourt	“I’m sure I should die after it.”	In the restoration era, “die” can be a double entendre for orgasm – therefore, Harcourt is suggesting having an orgasm after marriage.
E’en	90	Sparkish	“’Tis e’en twelve o’clock”	Almost
China oranges	91	Mrs. Pinchwife	“...for some dried fruit and China oranges.”	Sweet and expensive mandarin oranges. China is used later in the play to mean sex, as well, and Wycherley is beginning to establish this here as well.
I’vads	96	Mrs. Pinchwife	“But yet, I’vads, I’ll try.”	A form of oath, essentially saying “in faith.”

projectors	98	Quack	“Have you not the luck of your brother projectors...”	People who scheme.
Machiavel	100	Mr. Horner	“I am a Machiavel in love, madam.”	Referring to Machiavellian, or an expert in plotting.
Buying china	101	Sir Jaspar	“But is this your buying China?”	Collecting china was a fashionable women’s hobby in the restoration era, and associated with women and virginity (ironically).
China house	101	Sir Jaspar	“I thought you had been at the china house.”	A place to buy china – but in this case, it is a double entendre as it is a possible place for Lady Fidget at Mr. Horner to have sex.
The back way	103	Sir Jaspar	“He is coming into you the back way!”	The back door of the room, but a very clear suggestion of anal intercourse.
Ferret her out	103	Mr. Horner	“I’ll ferret her out to you presently.”	Remove her as one would remove a ferret from a tube by going in one hole so the creature comes out the other – a double entendre.
tomrig	104	Old Lady Squeamish	“What is... this rambling tomrig?”	A bold or immodest woman – this is an insult.
pictures	105	Squeamish	“I have been staring on the prettiest pictures.”	In this particular reference, Squeamish is making a double entendre reference to possibly pornographic photos.
Roll-wagon	106	Mr. Horner	“I will have a roll-wagon for you, too, another time.”	A cylindrical china vase – has a slightly phallic appearance. 
Picture in a little	107	Old Lady Squeamish	“I’ll give her your picture in little!”	A miniature image of a person, often given as a sign of courtship. 
Diffide in	108	Mr. Horner	“Why diffide in me?”	Distrust, not have faith in.
Lombard Street alderman	109	Mr. Horner	“Thou art as shy of my kindness as a Lombard Street alderman...”	A banker at a Lombard Street bank (a very reputable bank), who would suspect his customer of trying to steal from him or cheat him.
To a tittle	112	Mr. Horner	“I shall obey her letter to a tittle.”	Horner is saying that he will obey Margery’s letter in every regard, every aspect of it.

Grand Signior	113	Quack	“I will hence believe it not impossible for you to cuckold the Grand Signior...”	The Sultan of Turkey.
Common Prayer	113	Sparkish	“...and did not say all of the Common Prayer.”	The marriage service held in the Anglican <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> . This means that Sparkish and Alithea did not actually marry in the eyes of his religion.
firkin	115	Sparkish	“...as he does a little firkin of ale...”	A small cask to hold drinks. 
ague	116	Mrs. Pinchwife	“...but me thinks ‘tis liker an ague...”	A version of a fever with symptoms such as shivering.
indocile	117	Pinchwife	“...senseless, indocile animals...”	Hard to educate. Pinchwife is being insulting.
Breeds for her	119	Pinchwife	“The husband breeds for her, and the rest is ill.”	The husband grows his cuckold horns on his wife’s behalf.
Not lying with	123	Pinchwife	“I’d rather fight Horner for not lying with my sister...”	Refusing to marry.
Cracked his credit	125	Mr. Horner	“Once a poor man has cracked his credit for ‘em...”	Literally, this phrase means to become bankrupt, however it is also a double entendre for becoming a cuckold.
The old style	128	Mr. Horner	“The old style, doctor.”	Horner is suggesting that he will be addressing them in a professional manner.
Lanterlu’s	132	Alithea	“Is this not my Old Lady Lanterlu’s?”	A popular card game at the time, similar to Old Maid card game today.
untumbled	135	Lady Fidget	“Whilst women of quality... lie untumbled.”	Lady Fidget is suggesting that women of quality do not get to have sex.
druggets	136	Lady Fidget	“For the vain fops will take up druggets and embroider ‘em.”	Cheap fabric of false quality.
Common house	136	Lady Fidget	“...why you would rather choose to club with a multitude in a common house...”	A low-class restaurant, or a brothel.
Pass your grants	138	Mr. Horner	“...a man is afraid to pass your grants.”	Accept favors from women or partners.
Gallants in waiting	139	Lady Fidget	“Come, here’s to our gallants in waiting.”	Sexual lovers who wait the pleasure of their lovers – this is a play on words for “lady in waiting”.
The moon had been made of Christmas pie	142	Sparkish	“...she’d have made me believe the moon has been made of Christmas pie.”	A metaphor suggesting something incredulous.

My head	145	Sir Jaspar	“Oh, my head too!”	Sir Jaspar is suggesting that horns are growing out of his head, because he has been cuckolded.
capon	147	Dorilant	“...He’s an arrogant French capon.”	A eunuch, a man who has been castrated.
edify	148	Harcourt	“I edify, madam.”	A Puritan term used to mock fake solemnity.
Keep a pother	150	Mr. Horner	“...and keep a pother.”	Make a fuss, cause problems.
Flander’s mares	151	Mrs. Knapp	“And keep your Flander’s mares for show...”	Horses of high status meant for the aristocracy.