THE VULGAR TONGUE

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Slang forms a significant part of the English language. The first slang dictionary appeared over 300 years ago, recording terms that are now mostly obsolete. Some of the old favourites survived though, and a few were thought too vulgar to include in standard dictionaries until quite recently. Even today, the sanitised family edition of the American Official Scrabble Players Dictionary omits dozens of supposedly offensive words. What a wimpy bunch of woolly woofters! We should be celebrating our colourful slanguage, not censoring it. Here is an A-to-Z collection from the 1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue. Note that none of these is allowed in Scrabble.

ABEL-WACKETS blows given on the palm of the hand with a twisted handkerchief (a jocular punishment among sailors)
BRISTOL-MAN the son of an Irish thief and a Welsh whore
CLEYMES artificial sores made by beggars to excite charity
DILBERRIES small pieces of excrement adhering to the hairs near the fundament
EQUIPT rich, or having new clothes
FLAYBOTTOMIST a bum-brusher, or schoolmaster
GUNDIGUTS a fat, pursy fellow
HARK-YE-ING whispering on one side to borrow money
ITCHLAND Scotland (also called Scratchland and Louseland)
JAW-ME-DEAD a talkative person
KONOBLIN-RIG stealing large pieces of coal from coal sheds
LANSPRISADO one who has only twopence in his pocket
MAW-WALLOP a filthy composition, sufficient to provoke vomiting
NIMGIMMER a physician who cures venereal disease
ODD-COME-SHORTLYS some time or another
PUZZLE-TEXT an ignorant blistering parson
QUOT a man who meddles in women’s household business
RANDLE a nonsensical rhyme recited by Irish schoolboys as an apology for breaking wind near friends
SLIPGIBBET one who deserves and has narrowly escaped the gallows
THINGSTABLE a ludicrous designation for a constable, avoiding the first syllable which sounds somewhat indecent
UNGUENTUM AUREUM a bribe
VAN-NECK a woman with large breasts
WATER-SCRIGER a doctor who prescribes from inspecting the water of his patients; a piss-prophet
XANTIPPE a shrew or scolding wife
YAFFLING eating
ZOUCH a slovenly ungenteeel man who stoops while walking