"I had a Solander on Canberra Day," I announced.

"A what?" asked my wife.


"Hmmph," said my wife.

"No, listen. There's lots of possibilities. Take this. I was sitting with my Royal in the park when a mountie scared us off. Royal Mint - bint, you see. And .. ."

"Bint. Really archaic. And mountie - that must be Black Mountain something. Peninsula? What rhymes with peninsula?"

"Black Mountain Reserve. A perve. You've got to be with it."

"Want a memorial?"


"Since when have you used a word like tiffin?" she asked.

"Poetic license. What else? Carillon - can't do much with that.

And .. ."


"Monaro Crescent - pleasant? No, I've got it - Monaro Mall. All. I think I need a drink after that. What are you Noah's?"

"Noah's Tavern - haven'. I like it. There's a beer in the Commonwealth."

"Bridge. Fridge. I'm with you. Hey, it gets Weston early now they've dropped daylight saving. Feel like a bit of Canberra tonight?"

"Canberra?"

"Canberra Rex. Sex," I explained.

"Hmmph," said my wife.

"It was only a Solander," I said.

To non-Cockneys, one of the most baffling features about rhyming slang continues to be the use of abbreviated, non-rhyming words. Just recently I have heard British comedy programs use Richard, which can stand for "bird" (cf. dickey-bird, which is itself rhyming slang for "word") or "turd" (Richard the Third), and merchant, which is merchant banker for "wanter". Such abbreviated forms have survived in Australia, where a babbling brook is a "cook"; and when I say I was "burning up the freeway with a john on my hammer" I am saying that there was a "cop" (John Hop, Johnny Hop, John on the hop) on my "tail" (hammer and nail) - or, as some would argue, on my "track".

Rhyming slang in New Zealand may have been the trad of the Australian Cockney.

The major source with the Australian Rhyming Slang List of 1944 issue of the South Australian Observer was the 1944 issue of the South Australian Observer.

1551 Pacific Library

This is the 1996 edition, 1st edition.

$1 for a search and a printout of the results.

Source: Consult the Australian Rhyming Slang List, compiled from a wide variety of sources through the 19th century.

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Source: Consult the Australian Rhyming Slang List, compiled from a wide variety of sources through the 19th century.
Rhyming slang did, however, get to America, to underworld slang in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco; the Irish immigrants may have had something to do with it, but the main source was the traffic across the Pacific caused by the American and Australian Gold Rushes of the middle of the nineteenth century. The major article on this is by D.W. Maurer (in collaboration with the Australian lexicographer Sydney J. Baker), entitled "Australian Rhyming Argo in the American Underworld" in the October 1944 issue of American Speech. Perhaps readers of Word Ways can find new examples that are still current in their region.

1551 PALINDROMES

This is the title of a new 25-page booklet issued by National Library Publications, Box 73, Brooklyn NY 11234 for $10 (add $1 for postage and handling). It concentrates on single-word palindromes instead of phrases, although a few two-word examples (DR. AAGAARD; KROYWEN, NEW YORK; LON NOL; DRAY YARD) do occur. Each palindrome is briefly defined, but its source is not given. However, a general list of 25 sources consulted is given in the Foreword and Addendum.

The reader should be warned that nearly 300 palindromes consist of appropriate Arabic numbers (between 1 and 15851) and Roman numerals; in addition, the author has coined more than 300 words using appropriate prefixes (see "Artificial Adreverbums" by William Sunners in this issue). However, the fastidious reader can ignore these, and concentrate on the 900 or so examples actually found in reference works. These agree reasonably well with the 1000-plus palindromes compiled by Jeff Grant of New Zealand (unpublished manuscript); for instance, of the first 23 Grant palindromes (A through AFFA), 5 are missing from "1551 Palindromes", but this work has two (ACA, AECEA) not in Grant.