

JANE AUSTEN'S MOST IMPROBABLE ACROSTIC

WALT QUADER

Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania

The finest treasure in the *Wordplayer's Book of Best Bar Bets*, I would say, is on the page that reads

Lady Elliott was delighted with the thought.
*is the sentence in Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility
that's got the lewd acrostic in it.*

A WORD GAME THAT COMBINES ETYMOLOGY WITH PUNSTERISM

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Long ago, Lee Quinn, a friend of mine, wrote:

Here is a word game that combines etymology with punsterism, and called ETYERPUN.

The game-word consists of 4 letters. It means both *the order of chorus girls* and *the trail of a cheap cigar*.

The roots are twofold:

1. Comes from the French about 1570.
2. This is much older (before 1000) and comes from the Old English for *bold* or *proud*.

I had no idea what the word could be, so I playfully replied:

If the word is *line*, which also means *rope* (and a rope being a cheap cigar), then the word refers to *a chorus line* and also to *the plumes of fumes of a burning rope*.

1. The chorus girls are its (French) *cher* roots.
2. The cheap cigars are the other *cheroots*. (*El Ropo* is a bold cigar and proud of its lineage; it comes from the French, the Portuguese, and the Tamil.)

And, Lee, may I share hoots with you over (the roots of) ETYERPUN, your clever anagram?

Dear reader, what word was Lee seeking?