



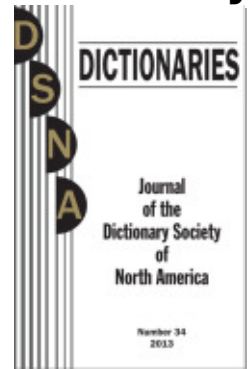
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Gay Slang Lexicography: A Brief History and a Commentary on the First Two Gay Glossaries

Gary Simes

In 1910 and 1911, Magnus Hirschfeld's journal, the *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen*, which was devoted to the study of homosexuality and homosexuals from every perspective, published a long article in six parts on homosexuality in England by I. L. or Leo Pavia. Titled "Die männliche Homosexualität in England mit besonderer Berücksichtigung Londons" (= 'Male Homosexuality in England with Special Consideration of London'), the series displayed considerable acquaintance with both the contemporaneous scene and the history of homosexuality in England.

The second part contains among other things what is probably the first English gay glossary (Pavia 1910, 39–41).¹ That a glossary could be made attests to the reality of a considerable and highly developed homosexual underworld in London and some other big cities. It was necessarily an underworld because of the criminal status of homosexual acts, which had been frighteningly re-affirmed some fifteen years before in the trial, conviction, and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. But it was in some respects also a *demi-monde* because otherwise respectable people frequented it, secretly of course, in order not to impair or lose their respectability. Something of its nature can be

¹I should like to thank Paul Knobel for making available to me a copy of Pavia's article.

experienced directly from two publications of the day: *Sins of the Cities of the Plains, or the Recollections of a Mary-Ann* (1881), which purports to be the memoirs of the historical rent-boy or *Mary-Ann* named Jack Saul, and the homo-erotic novel *Teleny* (1893), a part in the composition of which has been attributed, quite erroneously in my view, to Oscar Wilde. The best modern evocation of gay London in the mid- to late-Victorian period is to be found in Neil Bartlett's *Who Was That Man? A Present for Mr Oscar Wilde* (1988). But much can also be learned from the two books devoted to the Cleveland Street scandal of 1889–90, which involved the exposure of a male brothel in London with aristocratic and probably royal patrons (Chester and others [1976] and Hyde [1976]). One of those interviewed by police was Jack Saul. The alleged royal connection is explored in Aronson (1994).

Pavia's glossary was far from being the last. In fact, it inaugurated a rich and abundant sub-field of twentieth-century lexicography, conducted for the most part by amateurs but none the less interesting for all that. The next effort was made in the United States and came from the pen of a psychiatrist, Aaron J. Rosanoff, who added a short glossary to the sixth edition of his textbook, *A Manual of Psychiatry* (1927, 204), which was reprinted unchanged in the seventh edition (1938, 159–60). Rosanoff's knowledge of the lingo presumably came from homosexual patients, and that he felt a need to include a glossary of the words he had learned reflects the great expansion of the gay world in large American cities in the sexually freer years following the First World War. Perhaps the best view of that world is offered by "Robert Scully"'s campy novel, *A Scarlet Pansy* (1932), which takes its main characters, Fay Étrange (who comes from Kuntsville "in the lower Pennsylvania hills"), Henri Voyeur, and Percy Chichi, on a transcontinental grand tour of United States gaydom, showing them meeting Beaches and Bütsches and Beach-Bütsches wherever they go, and which incidentally provides the lexicographer with his best evidence from fiction of the gay slang of the period. The history of the New York scene at this time is covered in Chauncey (1994), while there is also much evidence of the period, despite the ostensible theme, in White (1993). Ullman (1995) uncovers a gay colony in southern California in 1914, who were the earliest known users of the word *queer*.

Rosanoff's modest gathering of twenty-one terms was followed in 1941 by a far more substantial effort, "The Language of Homosexuality," by the then twenty-four-year-old Gershon Legman, who went on to become the greatest erotic American folklorist and bibliographer of the twentieth century and who also published in that year another

provocative work, *Oragenitalism: Oral Techniques in Genital Stimulation*. Legman's glossary was published as an appendix to George W. Henry's major study of homosexuals and homosexuality, *Sex Variants* (1941, 2.1149–79), and remains the most lexicographically competent work yet done on gay slang. But it was rather too bold for the time, including terms regarded as obscene (*cock-sucker*, *ass-blow*, *ass-fuck*, *cunt-lapper*, etc.), and was as a result omitted from the several one-volume reprintings of the work. Strangely, it came from the pen of one who held stridently hostile anti-homosexual views, sustained intellectually by his commitment to a fundamentalist form of psychoanalysis (see Hamilton and Legman [1950] and Legman's vast *Rationale of the Dirty Joke* [1968–75], unremittingly *passim*).

Although it contains little that is explicitly gay lexically, I shall mention a short book dealing with coarse sexual terms that had to be published in Paris because the harsh puritanical censorship of the Anglophone world prevented its being issued in the United States or Britain. *Lexical Evidence from Folk Epigraphy in Western North America: A Glossarial Study of the Low Element in the English Vocabulary* (1935) is an attempt to record ordinary (“low”) words for the sexual parts and sexual and excretory functions that lexicographers, with the exception of Farmer and Henley (1890–1904), studiously avoided at the time. The data that this study was based on were graffiti (“folk epigraphy”) collected from public lavatory walls. (Legman, too, gathered much of his data from the “tea-rooms” of the New York underground). The author, Allen Walker Read, who went on to become a distinguished professor at Columbia, spent the summer of 1928, aged twenty-two, traveling round California, Idaho, Iowa, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Alberta, recording as he went the graffiti that he found in public lavatories. Of course, much of the material has to do with homosexual activity and was presumably largely written by homosexuals or men who engaged in homosexual activity, yet there is little gay slang as such. Read did, though, record *cock-sucker*, the most taboo word in American English at the time — *mother-fucker* was then little-known outside Black circles.² The youthful student, however, failed to note and treat several terms that crop up in his printed evidence, for instance, *degenerate*, *eat v*, *feel off v*, *finger v*, *fuck oneself*, *gash*, *shoot a load*,

²Read's only comment on *cocksucker* is the somewhat mystifying “frequently applied jocularly to children” (1935, 43).

manhole, *pull v*, *skin v*, *stretch v*, *whammer*, and, most remarkable of all, Southern and Black *cock* 'vagina', recorded by Read once at El Centro, California, on 27 June 1928, and presumably written by a visiting or transmigrant Southerner or Black.

After the Second World War, homosexual glossators made their first offerings in the United States. In 1949, an unknown queen or queens published a coming out *vade mecum*, *The Gay Girl's Guide*, which contained a glossary (unseen by me). Two years later came the first openly published apologia for homosexuality in the United States by "Donald Webster Cory."³ Arguing for homosexuals to be regarded as a minority, as Jews or the Chinese were, one of the book's chapters, "Take My Word For It" (103–13), offers a discursive account of the polite part of gay slang.

Meanwhile, J. F. Oliven's excellent medico-psychiatric manual of sexology offered in the chapter on homosexuality what he called "Excerpts from the Argot" (1955, 442–43), some thirty-six accurately defined slang terms. James M. Reinhardt devoted a chapter of *Sex Perversions and Sex Crimes* (1957) to detailing the results of interviews with and a questionnaire administered to a largish group of homosexuals and lesbians that two gay students of the investigator had introduced to him. He listened carefully to his respondents and the chapter ends with a "'Gay' Glossary" containing some sixty-two items (47–49).

At the end of the fifties another work of homosexual apologetics, the stolidly titled *They Walk in Shadow: A Study of Sexual Variations with Emphasis on the Homosexual and Ambisexual Components and our Contemporary Sex Laws*, by J. D. Mercer, a "self-confessed and self-accepting ambisexual" (1959, 7), had a long "technical glossary" (1959, 543–62), followed by a "gay glossary (abbreviated)" (1959, 563–65). The abridgement was achieved by omitting the "many indecent locutions" for which Mercer unhelpfully referred the reader to Legman's already out-of-print glossary. Twelve years after his bravely pioneering manifesto, "Donald Webster Cory," still gay, collaborated with John P. LeRoy on another book, *The Homosexual and his Society: A View from Within*

³Don Cory is an anagram of Corydon, the name of Virgil's shepherd who unrequitedly loves Alexis in *Eclogue II* and chosen by André Gide as the title of his brave pioneering homosexual apologia, published by Gallimard in 1925.

(1963), which appended a reasonably competent “A lexicon of homosexual slang” (261–66), a far less bowdlerized effort than Mercer’s, but still far from complete.⁴

In 1964 came a different sort of apologia. “J. Z. Eglinton” (Walter Brien, 1930–1993), attempting to resurrect ancient Greek ideals, published an extraordinary defence of a pedagogical pederasty, *Greek Love* (1964). The book had a glossary that contained, *multa inter alia*, some chaste gay slang (478–89). All verbal reticence was abandoned by the editor or editors of *The Gould Dictionary of Homosexual Terms* (1965) who printed all the words Legman had collected that remained in use and added others (*fuck*, *pocket-pool*, etc.) of a kind that no standard dictionary at the time (with the partial exception of Partridge [1937]) would print. The Guild Press was a small homosexual press that also published increasingly erotic fiction, challenging the strict censorship that then prevailed and was to collapse in the later sixties.

Sometimes non-medico-psychiatric studies of homosexuality provided notes on homosexual slang. *A Minority: A Report on the Life of the Male Homosexual in Great Britain* furnished the first English glossary since Pavia, “The homosexual vernacular” (“Westwood” 1960, 207–08). Many of Pavia’s terms were still in use, and some new ones were added. Three years later, another English sociological book was published by Richard Hauser, the husband of the pianist Hephzibah Menuhin. *The Homosexual Society*, which was commissioned by the Home Office in 1958, presumably in response to the 1957 Wolfenden *Report on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution*, also included a glossary, “The Private Language of a Minority — The Homosexual Society” (Hauser 1963, 167), which had fifty-two items, most of them *polari*.⁵

‘Shortly afterwards, “Cory,” with the assistance of psychoanalysis, converted to heterosexuality and became Edward Sagarin, who then took it upon himself to condemn homosexuals who failed to avail themselves of the “cure” that he claimed had worked for him. In his later sociological treatise (Sagarin 1969), gays are lumped in with alcoholics, gamblers, transvestites, dwarves, drug addicts, and the mentally ill as examples of deviant groups.

⁵*Polari* or *parlyare* (from Italian *parlare* to speak) is the name of a secret vocabulary that developed in 19th-century England largely from Lingua Franca, a sort of pidgin Italian and Spanish. Originally it was used by circus and fairground folk and other itinerants, and then by music-hall entertainers, from where it passed into the theatre. It was taken up particularly by gay actors, dancers, and chorus-boys, and became a distinguishing feature of British gay life in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, from where it also traveled to Australia. It became

Also in 1963, the Florida State Legislature produced what is perhaps the most astonishing report ever issued by a committee of any legislature. Reflecting the anti-homosexual fervour of the McCarthyist 1950s in the United States, the openly hostile committee investigated homosexuality, and the product of their inquiries, *Homosexuality and Citizenship in Florida*, actually canvassed in all seriousness the question of whether homosexuals should be denied citizenship. To increase its shock value, the report was illustrated with photographs that made it an unintentional bestseller, the print run being very rapidly exhausted. One photograph taken by a hidden camera in a public lavatory showed two young men in doorless adjacent cubicles, one having his penis sucked by the other through a "glory-hole." The unpaginated report includes an incompetent glossary. H. Montgomery Hyde's more temperate historical study has a brief discussion of homosexual slang (Hyde 1970, 21–22), listing twenty-seven terms, some from Pavia, some from his extensive other reading, some reflecting current usage. Likewise, Arno Karlen's hostile, large-scale historical and sociological study devoted a mere three pages to the subject (Karlen 1971, 306–09).

The coming of gay liberation brought with it a willingness on the part of gay and lesbian scholars to deal with the phenomenon of gay slang. Julia P. Stanley's article, "Homosexual Slang," included a brief glossary (1970, 56–59). Ronald T. Farrell (1972, 97–109) provided a somewhat fuller account. These small-scale efforts, both containing items that are otherwise unattested, made no serious lexicographical attempt to cover the whole field. That was left to a gay logophile, Bruce Rodgers, who wrote that his "early fondness for philology led [him] to conceive a book recording the street poetry of queens" (Rodgers 1972, 11). The resulting *The Queen's Vernacular* (1972) gathers in 265 pages not only gay slang but straight sexual slang, camp witticisms, and all manner of queenly verbal carryings on. Rodgers included anything and everything he encountered, whether in books and magazines or in bars and on beats, and so has some British, Australian, and South African material as well as American,

known to a wider straight public, or at least those with ears to hear, through the rather risqué BBC radio comedy series of the 1960s, *Round the Horne*, which featured two screaming queens, Julian and Sandy, who used polari continually (*Round the Horne* was also broadcast in Australia). Since the 1980s the use of polari in gay circles has declined in Britain and Australia. Baker (2002) is fullest account of this lingo.

and inevitably much that a critically trained lexicographer would have excluded, of interest though it may be to the folklorist — endless puns, campy jokes, and the like. Although it must be used with caution, *Queens' Vernacular* remains a useful and at times amusing lexicographical resource. There was an unauthorized pirate facsimile reprint in 1979 under the blander title *Gay Talk*.

Later in the 1970s and early 1980s, a writer with more serious academic pretensions, Leonard R. N. Ashley, published a series of discursive articles on gay and lesbian vocabulary in *Maledicta* (1979, 1980, and 1982). They all suffer from the same methodological shortcoming, the material being simply an uncritical omnium gatherum of words and phrases from earlier glossaries and dictionaries; there is little evidence of original research. Panos D. Bardos's glossary (1980) is actually a not very reliable, largely unsourced list of words for homosexuals and homosexuality. Roberta Perkins's *Drag Queen Scene: Transsexuals in Kings Cross* offers a brief, competent glossary (Perkins 1983, 160–61) that includes some Australian terms (for example, *crack* 'a prostitute's customer', from *crack it* 'succeed in getting sex, score; practice prostitution').

Wayne Dynes's *Homolexis* (1985) is a dictionary of key words and concepts of homosexuality, although sometimes the short essay on some topic is hung on a slang term. The book covers high and low culture, but it is a matter of luck whether any given term turns up in the dictionary. *Abnormally Happy: A Gay Dictionary* by Richard Summerbell (1985), a thin, flippant work with comic illustrations, contains, the title notwithstanding, almost no gay slang. In 1988, someone calling himself H. Max put out a slim volume (forty-nine pages), *Gay (S)language: A Dic(k)tionary of Gay Slang* (1988), the scope and nature of which is sufficiently indicated by the jokey subtitle. It, too, has numerous items to be found nowhere else.

Gays in other English-speaking countries, being as elsewhere a socially marginalized minority, developed their own lingo, too, and nowhere more richly than in South Africa, where *moffies* have created the largest and liveliest gay word-hoard outside of the United States. A fair introduction to delights of this is offered by a snippet of conversation in Isaacs and McKendrick (1992, 79):

Look at that Clara. What a queen. But wada that lunch. It's a picnic basket. I'd like to pomp her up the Ada, but she looks so Dora'd. I suppose she's rent, or maybe even a Priscilla and will only give me a blow-job. My dear, I suppose I'll have to go home tonight and tilly toss-off alone. Moffies are all alike.

Isaacs and McKendrick thoughtfully provide a glossary (1992, 247–50) for those not *au courant* with *moffie gail*.⁶ The lesser haul of Australian gay slang is covered discursively in Simes (1992), which revealed the idiosyncratic Australian gay use of *camp* (both adjective and noun) to mean ‘gay’ (both adjective and noun), without any implication of effeminacy or flagrancy in either, until it was supplanted, in the course of the 1970s, by *gay*, although some Australians had been using *gay boy* since the 1930s.

By the 1980s, the word *gay* was passing from the gay world into increasingly general usage as a standard word meaning ‘homosexual’ or ‘male homosexual’, especially in adjectival use. In reaction, some younger gays, who were also in revolt against what they saw as the “gay” establishment, men and women of the gay liberationist era who now occupied positions of power and authority, sought to revive and claim as their own the old pejorative term *queer*. Their iconoclasm appealed to few but themselves, and the straight adoption of *gay* continued unaffected. The history of the word *gay* in its (originally) slang senses remained to be written, and this Simes (1996) sought to do in a long piece that first describes the emergence, development, and spread of the word in its homosexual senses (it originally meant ‘effeminately or obviously homosexual’) and then offers a lexicographical account of the word, its derivatives, and special phrases.

Paul Baker, a British linguist, published a dictionary that was waiting to be written. Disappointingly, *Fantabulosa: A Dictionary of Polari and Gay Slang* (2002) is unhistorical in its methodology and uncritically gathers straight and gay slang and still misses much; it is to be used with considerable caution.

Pavia’s glossary is the fullest (and sadly only) account yet discovered of the slang of the Victorian gay world. Rosanoff’s glossary provides some, a little lexical insight into the equally extensive United States metropolitan gay world that was already thriving in the 1890s and grew greatly in extent after the First World War. They are also the

⁶*Moffie* means ‘male (esp. effeminate) homosexual’. The term, a shortening of *morph(r)odite*, an illiterate deformation of *hermaphrodite*, is earliest recorded in this sense in a sea glossary of 1929, and is used in rural Australia to mean ‘hermaphrodite calf or lamb’. In South Africa, the word was originally used of Coloured (*Clora*) drag-queens. *Gail* means ‘speech’ or ‘speak’. A South African gay airline steward is a *coffee-moffie* (in Australia a *trolley-dolly* or *space-mattress*).

earliest records of what was to be in the twentieth century a flourishing but, until the advent of Gay Liberation, largely hidden domain of the language, which as we have seen did not get unrecorded. However, no one will be surprised that standard dictionaries did not record this special lexis before the 1970s, when Robert Burchfield's new *Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary* (OEDS), reacting to the new, irresistibly strident gay clamor, began, fitfully and inadequately, to admit such words (see, for example, *plain sewing*).⁷ This lexicographical silence, although it arose from ignorance of the existence of the lingo, was not benign; it was yet another expression of the hostility and contempt with which society at large regarded and treated homosexuals. Lexicographers did not think to look, and had they deigned to look after 1941, it would not, one may presume, have taken them long to find Legman's fine piece of work.

But this failure of dictionary makers is also an aspect of a larger, more general problem. Mainstream lexicography has historically tended to scant, neglect, overlook, or simply bowdlerize the whole sexual lexicon. The reasons are not far to seek. Christianity was, and to a large extent remains, an anti-erotic religion, and Christian societies shroud sex and sexuality in shame. Lexicographers have by and large reflected the attitudes of the cultures they sought to serve. The problem began with Dr. Johnson's dictionary (1755), which set the standard for the next century. Though his immediate predecessor Nathaniel Bailey had included both *fuck* and *cunt* in *An Universal Etymological Dictionary* (1721; 30 editions by 1802), Dr. Johnson's grand opus embodied the new Augustan ideals, the establishment of which had introduced into English the notion of verbal taboo, and consequently he banished not only those two words and indeed all slang but, such was his verbal prudery, he also omitted most of the

⁷W. H. Auden purposely used the term, along with *Princeton-First-Year*, in a review written in 1969, which OEDS quotes as its first citation. OEDS then cites, ungraciously perhaps, an Auden letter written two years later in which he boasted that it was his ambition to get into the OED as the first to use these terms. Well, he achieved that ambition in the immediate term, though OEDS goes on to cite a writer in the *Times Literary Supplement* in 1980 who opined, deludedly, that Auden had made the term up. The term is or was real, and, unfortunately for Auden singular ambitions, I have traced it back to 1932 (as I have found *Princeton rub*, a variant of *Princeton-First-Year*, in 1965). To illustrate the point I am making about lexicographical inadequacy, I remark that OEDS fails to note that these terms are *gay slang* (a labeling deficiency).

polite sexual words from his dictionary — *anus*, *clitoris*, *penis*, *phallus*, *vagina*, *vulva*; *masturbate*, *onanism*; *congress* (though the word is used to define *copulation*), *connexion*; *ejaculate*, *orgasm*, and even *sexual* and *erotic* are all missing. Noah Webster was not the man to repair the censorship of the vocabulary. The big, the main chance to overcome the taboo was missed when James Murray, the austere correct editor of the *New English Dictionary*, which was grandly intended to be a complete dictionary of English, could not in the end bring himself to include those two most taboo words and, indeed, generally skimmed on slang.⁸ We know that he thought about the question and had correspondence on it with John Farmer (see Murray 1977, 195), who, partly to compensate for Murray's failure of nerve, wrote (in collaboration with W. E. Henley from the second volume) what was to become the greatest English slang dictionary published before Jonathan Lighter's *Historical Dictionary of American English* (still in progress, with two volumes published to date). So the putatively complete OED perpetuated the censorship, which persisted for most of the twentieth century. The only place where, for much of the twentieth century, one might find these words was in Farmer and Henley's *Slang and its Analogues* (1890–1904) and Partridge's all but unacknowledged abridgement of Farmer and Henley, *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (1937–84), which, however, retreaded to the pussyfooting evasions *f**k* and *c**t*.⁹ The third edition of *Webster's New International Dictionary* (1961) falteringly acknowledged the problem and contrived to admit the word *cunt* but, for reasons that, as far as I know, remain unexplained, balked at *fuck*, which stayed beyond the pale. It was only with Burchfield's *Supplement* that both these words and many more coarse sexual terms, though far,

⁸Famously, or perhaps infamously, two of his later appointed fellow editors relented fractionally: Craigie included Chaucer's euphemistic disguise of *cunt*, *queinte*, s.v. *quaint* in the Q fascicle published in October 1902 (he declined to define the term, referring the user instead to a 1598 quote from Florio's Italian dictionary, *Worlde of Wordes*, *becchina* "a woman's quaint or privities"), and, in the August 1926 fascicle *Wilga-Wise*, Onions listed a glorious name for the kestrel, *windfucker*, while noting also *fuckwind* for a species of hawk, a word that, needless to say, had not been included under F.

⁹Farmer's inclusion of *cunt* came at great personal cost. His printer for the C volume refused to set the entry for *cunt* and Farmer sued him for breach of contract. Defense counsel, however, read the disputed entry to the court, horrifying the jury, who duly found against the plaintiff. Farmer was ordered to pay £114 damages.

far from all, were admitted to the standard dictionary. The relentless operation of the taboo in English since the beginning of the eighteenth century and the larger prevalence of anti-erotic attitudes generally wreaked a heavy toll on lexicography from which, despite the best efforts of Farmer and Henley and of Burchfield and his successors, we still suffer. Much remains to be done to provide an adequate coverage of the sexual lexicon and, *a fortiori*, the gay part of it.

In this article, I make a start on the process of repairing the deficiencies by translating the text of Pavia's glossary and then providing an historical lexicographical commentary on the words and phrases that it contains. I also furnish an historical lexicographical commentary on the words and phrases in Rosanoff's glossary not already dealt with in Pavia. My aim is to situate as firmly and fully as possible these gay words in their historical context. In the nature of the undertaking, the story of these words emerges partly in all kinds of intangible and ungraspable ways, illuminated by the quotations from all sorts of texts that are presented to illustrate the words and phrases in use. To this end, I have quoted somewhat more amply from sources than the OED editors, especially the original ones, Murray, Bradley, Craigie, and Onions, were wont to do.¹⁰ Readers not only learn intellectually through the formal definitions what the words meant and mean but also gain from the often abundant citations a feeling, a sense of the words in actual usage, on the lips of real speakers and at the command of real writers and thinkers. The article offers a fuller and richer account of gay words and of words used to describe gays at the beginning of the twentieth century than one might have expected. Pavia in particular was familiar with the world he sought to portray and knew what he was doing glossarially, although he avoided the cruder vocabulary. One assumes that Rosanoff had a more restricted knowledge of the gay world; yet he managed to garner a respectable number of words. Again he avoids the coarser words, assuming that he was acquainted with them. The two glossaries are not a complete account of gay slang at

¹⁰When it came to sexual and coarse words, the OED editors give the fewest words possible and very often limit the citation to a mere phrase, sometimes indeed giving only a reference with no actual citation at all. For *bugger*, in its sexual sense, Murray provided only two citations, from 1555 and 1587, and they illustrated two obsolete sixteenth-century variant forms. Burchfield did not see fit to make amends for this miserliness that was, in essence, bowdlerism.

the time but provide us with a fair introduction. And one may be surprised by how many of the words survive, and not only on gay lips.

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Translation of the text of the relevant portion of Pavia's article

Homosexual language in England is quite distinctly characteristic. As in other lands everything is translated into the feminine; nicknames are also usual, but more so among the lower classes. Even here something of English ceremony comes into play, so that often homosexuals who are not fully intimate or on the most friendly footing address each other as "Miss" Smith (or whatever the family name may be), as unmarried ladies who are merely acquainted are wont to do. If they want to be less polite, they call each other "mother," followed by the surname. For the rest, the mania of translating everything into the feminine is frequently taken so far that many urnings also bestow female labels on "real" men and call them "she." I give some of the most usual homosexual expressions; I omit several — in part these are very common —, because they mostly coincide with those used by other non-homosexual people.

Drag = women's clothes; hence also *drag-party*, a party at which the guests dress as women.

So = the real thing (*echt*), homosexual; *so-party*, a homosexual party; *so-person* = an urning; *so-woman* = a lesbian.

Send up = to compromise someone, to cause someone a scandal.

Send-up = a public scandal or a person who likes to create public scandal.

*Camp*¹ = homosexual in the sense of a typically effeminate, exaggerated (*exzentrisch*) homosexual.

To camp = to behave in a homosexually effeminate manner.

Camp-party = another expression for a private homosexual party.

¹I cannot explain etymologically the origin of this expression. Camp usually means tent or to sleep in tents. Henley and Farmer in their monumental Dictionary of Slang do not mention these words.

- Mary-Ann* = pejorative word for homosexual men, similar to *sod*, *bugger*, *twister* (this last mostly used by soldiers), etc.²
- Renter* = a man who prostitutes himself for money, also a black-mailer. *To rent* = to blackmail. *To make the rent* = to make money by prostitution. Derived etymologically from *rent*, Zins (rent).
- Chicken* (young hen) = a young lad.
- To buck* = to go on the game. *Trade* = sexual traffic, also generally. *To have the trade* = to have sexual intercourse with someone.
- To take it* = to practice passive anal intercourse. *To bottle*, *to gam*³ = to engage in fellatio.
- To grope* = to feel someone sexually ('klauen', to paw).
- Aunt* = a quite old urning somewhat effeminate in his behaviour. — *Bitch*, *quean*⁴, more or less derisive terms for homosexual men, as well as *tom* (probably derived from *tom-cat*) for a homosexual woman.
- To tip the velvet* = to practice anilingus.
- Pouf* = abusive word for a male prostitute.
- Cottage* (hut, small house) = a public lavatory. *Stall* = a compartment in one of these.
- On the game* = to go out in search of boyfriends. *Margery*, *Nancy*, effeminate in behavior.
- B. M.* (abbreviation of *bloody man*), a real man (as the opposite of a homosexual man); also *womanizer*.

It emerges clearly from these expressions that in very England homosexuals use a distinctive jargon among themselves, words that are not at all understood by the uninitiated. It could even be maintained that the use of such an expression, with respect to the urning, would almost stamp the user as either homosexual or initiated into the subject.

²At the time of the trial of O. Wilde (1895) and for some time after a homosexual was called an "Oscar" or "Oscar Wilde" and active pedication was spoken of as "to oscar." Unfortunately, these expressions have not yet entirely fallen into disuse.

³Derived from the French "gamahouche."

⁴*Quean* (with "ea," not, as might be thought, *queen* = female monarch) means 'whore'. It is a word that was commonly used in the time of Elizabeth I, but now occurs almost only among homosexuals and then in a contemptuous sense. *The old quean* corresponds more or less to the Berlin phrase *die olle Töle* (= 'the old bitch').

Commentary on Pavia's glossary

Note: In this commentary, as in many historical dictionaries, the occurrence of ellipses in citations serves two different and distinct functions. The ellipsis may be a punctuation device used by the author of the citation for his own purposes, or it may have been inserted editorially to mark abbreviation of the text by the editor. In this work these two functions are distinguished. Authorial ellipses are marked by three points (...) initially and medially and four (....) finally. Editorial abbreviation is marked by two points (..) medially and three finally; initial abbreviation is indicated by placing the initial sentence-capital in brackets. Likewise, editorial additions or elucidations within citations are placed in brackets.

aunt *n* An older, more or less effeminate homosexual. *gay slang*. Now largely superseded by the form *auntie*. Hence *aunt-like*, resembling, having the characteristic appearance or manner of an "aunt."

The word first occurs in English in translations of German and French sexological treatises where it translates *Tante* and *tante*, same sense or, more narrowly, a male prostitute. Pavia's inclusion of the term indicates that it is older in English than the existing record otherwise reveals. Claude Courouve *Vocabulaire de l'homosexualité masculine* (Paris, 1985, 207–09) traces the word in French back to 1834.

SEXOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

1892 C. G. Chaddock, trans. Krafft-Ebing *Psychopathia Sexualis* iii.274 "Among themselves, they call themselves 'aunts'; in Vienna 'sisters'... In my own town of 30,000 inhabitants, I personally know about one hundred and twenty 'aunts.'" *Ibid.*, v.416 The most horrible of active pederasts is made up of the "aunts," — *i.e.*, the *souteneurs* of (male) prostitutes, — who, though normal sexually, are morally depraved, and practice pederasty (passive) only for gain, or for the purpose of blackmail. **1895** C. G. Chaddock, trans. Schrenck-Notzing *Therapeutic Suggestion in Psychopathia Sexualis* xii.249 "[T]o such [female] attire I am indebted to the happiest hours of dancing, conversing, and flirting with my own sex; but with real men, not with 'aunts.'" **1900** trans. C. Féré *Evolution & Dissolution of Sexual Instinct* (1904) viii.195 It is the habit with the uranists to give themselves feminine adjectives and names, *e. g.*, "aunt" or "sister." **1908** trans. I. Bloch *Sexual Life of Our Time* xix.519 The ranks of male prostitution are recruited partly from

homosexual and partly from heterosexual men of the lower and more poverty-stricken classes, who give themselves for payment to well-to-do urnings, and are practised in all the arts of coquetry ... These are the so-called "aunts."

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EVIDENCE

1910 *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Aunt* (Tante) = ein ganz alter, in seinem Benehmen etwas weibsischer Urning. **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 14 The elderly aspect of his aunt-like visage did not particularly please me, as I wanted the morning to myself, and was in no mood to be amused by his deliberate gaiety. **1932** E. Hemingway *Death in Afternoon* xvii.195 If he was one [*sc.*, a "fairy"] he should redeem, for the tribe, the prissy exhibitionistic, aunt-like, withered old maid moral arrogance of a Gide; the lazy conceited debauchery of a Wilde who betrayed a generation; the nasty, sentimental pawing of humanity of a Whitman and all the mincing gentry. Viva El Greco, el Rey de los Maricónes. **1938** W. Plomer *Dorking Thigh* (1945) 15 There you'll encounter aunts of either sex,/ Their jokes equivocal or over-ripe. **1950** Goldin and others *Dict. Amer. Underworld* 20/2 *Aunt* The eldest of a group of male oral copulators living together in a *camp*. "Them fags (degenerates) learned the boosting grift (shoplifting profession) from their aunt." **1955** J. F. Oliven *Sexual Hyg. & Pathol.* xxii.442 *Aunt* (usually *Auntie* or *Old Auntie*, also *Grandma*): an aging homosexual, especially when *on the make* (i.e., searching for a sex partner). **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* I.x.57 But somehow you can't bring yourself to talk about Cor, or anything that means anything at all to you, in front of this tired old aunt. **1975** "N. Jennings" *Chicken Lickin'* iii.39 "Whatever you say, Rick." Whatever I said was the law to Aunt Edwin. *The law*.

bitch *n* An effeminate, passive male homosexual. Sometimes implying sexual promiscuity; occasionally, implying or expressly denoting prostitution. *usu. derog.* Sometimes also used more or less neutrally for one taking the passive part in sexual intercourse (in later use, opposed to *butch*). Homosexual application of the term of contempt or opprobrium for a woman. Strictly, a woman who bestows her sexual favours freely or readily or promiscuously; a 'slut, whore'; sometimes with the further implication of untrustworthiness or treachery. One of the oldest recorded gay slang terms.

1726 *Select Trials ... in Old-Bailey* II.197 "I was introduced by P—who is one of their Members; but it seems they were jealous that he

had made some Discovery; for they call'd him a *Treacherous, blowing-up, mollying Bitch*, and swore they'd massacre any Body that should betray them." 1881 *Sins of Cities of Plains* (1992) v.72 "There's a lewd little bitch for you!" he exclaimed. "To think of my old friend, the aristocratic Master Dennis, having a linen-drapers's assistant to tea in such a lascivious manner." *Ibid.*, ix.113 "Now jump up .. and don't spare the randy bitch. He's spent all over my fingers!" 1889 J. A. Symonds *Memoirs* (1984) v.94 One thing at Harrow very soon arrested my attention. .. Every boy of good looks had a female name, and was recognized either as a public prostitute or as some bigger fellow's "bitch." Bitch was the word in common usage to indicate a boy who yielded his person as a lover. [Symonds attended Harrow 1854–58.] *Ibid.*, v.95 Whenever he appeared .., Currey and Clayton and Barber and the rest of the brood squirted saliva and what they called their gobs upon their bitch, cuffed and kicked him at their mercy, shied books at him, and drove him with obscene curses whimpering to his den. 1910 *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.44 Diese Urninge verbringen fast ihr ganzes Leben in demselben Viertel [*sc.*, the East End of London]. Nach den von ihnen wohl übertragenen Herrlichkeiten des West-Ends sehnen sie sich wenig und affektieren eine gewisse Verachtung gegenüber den "arroganten Tanten" ('stuck-up bitches') des Westens, obwohl sie sich von ihnen sehr gerne bezahlen lassen. [These urnings spend almost their entire life in the same quarter. They have little yearning for the splendours of the West End (which they doubtless exaggerate) and affect a certain disdain for the "arroganten Tanten" of the west, although they are very willing to be paid by them.] *Ibid.*, 41 –Bitch, Quean) mehr oder minder schmeichelhafte Bezeichnungen für homosexuelle Männer. 1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 25 "He has three automobiles, and all the bitches in Berlin try to keep in with him." *Ibid.*, 30 "Oh the devil, Carrol," I said crossly .., "why try to make romantic affairs out of these ten-mark bought bitches?" 1926 F. S. Fitzgerald *Let. c*Jan. (1980) 188 McAlmon is still a bitch — I suppose so any how. 1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.173 In San Francisco the trio, Fay, Henri Voyeur and Percy Chichi, were the guests of the very famous Beach-Bütsches. ... Coming from Europe, the family had originally settled in Fay's natal village, Kuntzville, Pa. Then the name was invariably spelled Bütsch. ... With attempted Anglicization of the name, some had changed it to Beach; some had retained the original spelling, but some, as if to take the curse off the name, modified the patronymic by combining it beautifully by means of the aristocratic hyphen, with the name of the maternal grandparent, or even with any nice name which they fancied.

Some Frenchified the name, making it La Bütsch. *Ibid.*, xxxii.298 Mason and one of the Beaches disappeared into one of the staterooms and were gone — a long time. 1933 M. Lincoln *Oh! Definitely* xix.295 “You don’t know my friend, Miss Richbitch, do you?” he said to me, indicating the youth beside him with a wave of the hand. “She doesn’t come to refined places like this as a rule.” 1936 “J. Curtis” *Gilt Kid* xiii.105 The Bitches [chapter heading, deals with male prostitutes] *Ibid.*, 111 “And then another bitch goes up and speaks to him and gets away with him in a taxi” [the poaching of a customer]. 1938 *Mental Hyg.* xxii.608 The group has a special language of its own. For instance, the homosexual gives special meanings to words that have currency in ordinary speech and to words ordinarily regarded as slang or profanity. To illustrate, in England a female dog is a bitch and a lady can use the epithet without provoking elevation of the eyebrows. In America we are more refined. No lady would refer to a female dog as a bitch without blushing, saving, possibly some of our more doggy ladies. “Son of a bitch” is profanity and is a fighting word. In homosexual language, the range of meaning involved in the term runs from innocuous reference to an individual as a homosexual to the connotation of a fairy’s pronounced exhibitionism. A “flaming bitch” is an individual very vivid in manner, dress, appearance, and conversation. 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.422 “I’m afraid they might be nothing but bitches, fairies, or dykes.” 1944 in J. N. Katz *Gay/Lesbian Almanac* 357 [P]erhaps we might find a rich bitch ... who would give us the pennies to print a few pamphlets ... 1949 M. de Forrest *Gay Year* I.xi.73 “[T]hat bitch who would have gone to bed with his own father.” 1950 See GROPE *v* 1951 “D.W.Cory” *Homosexual in America* 113 Some words have synonyms: *a camp* is also *a bitch*; but change the vowel, and one has the antonym, *a butch*. 1952 “J. Little” *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiv.285 “He must have been something,” Paul exclaimed. “I’ve never seen you like this.” “Honey, he was a bitch’s dream of heaven.” 1953 “R.Garland” *Heart in Exile* vii.127 “I know for a fact .. that some toughs take a very generous view of bitches. They actually protect them.” 1960 “G.Westwood” *Minority* 207 The word bitch, which can still be used as a term of abuse, is now accepted in some homosexual circles as a generic term meaning a homosexual who prefers passive anal intercourse. 1962 R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* ii.40 “I grew up like the girls. ... I never really had a chance of being anything but a bitch.” *Ibid.*, v.134 “No queer ever sticks to another for ever. They are all bitches and when they are sick of you .. all is over.” 1967 “Iceberg Slim” *Pimp* xvi.247 I had seen the beautiful bitch. He was a lanky white boy with watery eyes and bleached corn-silk

hair. A fat red-faced Southern con was madly in love with him. **1974** "L. Trenby" *Homonoids* xi.110 Mary's [m.] eyes flashed as he told Vern, "Attend to your dancing, bitch. Leave my butch alone." **1977** R. Austen *Playing Game* 48 [T]here is in McAlmon a hint that Illinois-born "bitches" really don't belong in America so much as they do to an international set that is more comfortably at home in the relative decadence of Berlin or Paris or London. **1978–79** in Porter and Weeks *Between Acts* 11 "I'm not going to dress myself up to let somebody know I'm a bitch. Although I'm butch, but I can be bitch if I want, within reason." **1984** "Pickles" *Queens* 38 And even if things are still fine on the Underground, there is always the possibility he might not be into the same thing as her — bitch meets bitch, and that sort of problem. **1986** *Body Politic* (Toronto) Aug. 31/3 In the lingo of the time Denton would have been described as "a bitch," "into rough trade" and "an interior decorator queen." **1992** *Warriors & Lovers* 15 While I was busy with his crotch, my bitch was sucking prime-time dick.

B. M. *n* A heterosexual man, a "real man." Later construed as the initials of *baby-maker*. *derog.* Also *attrib.*

1910 I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *B. M.* (Verkürzung von bloody man), ein wirklicher Mann (als Antithese zum homosexuellen Mann), auch Womanizer. **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 25 After introducing Foster to Kepler, I suggested that we'd better get out, unless Kepler wanted to quiet down and take the place for what it was. Foster told Kepler too: "You have to take things as they come if you want to stay, because this place is protected. The chief of police in Berlin is as queer as they make them himself. Anyway you needn't worry, they recognize that you're B. M. stuff and just want to get a rise out of you." **1972** B. Rodgers *Queens' Vernac.* 190 *straight* .. heterosexual. Syn. *BM* (Cape Town gay sl, fr baby maker or bloody man). **1978** in R. Norton *Myth of Mod. Homosexual* i.i.9 "Men, with their B. M. walk, were so terribly difficult to emulate. The biggest give away was the gay walk." [**1988** S. Gray *Time of our Darkness* (1989) xviii.271 "When you going to marry some nice boeremeisie, when's Pete going to marry — some liberal English communist babymaker, man?" **1989** *Idem Born of Man* i.14 Danny and Martie brought him out here last year — I suppose they told you — the shaggy male who's into babymaking.]

bottle *v* I have found no evidence of the sense given. The word is, however, later found with the sense 'to bugger, to fuck anally', from *bottle*, rhyming slang, elliptical for *bottle and glass* 'arse'; hence, 'buggery'. *Brit. slang.*

In second quot. 1938, the speaker recounts how Painter tried to take a young homosexual (*iron*, elliptical for *iron hoof*, rhyming slang on POUF, below) from Harry and the results of that endeavor.

1938 Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 2 1026/2 *rim*. To bugger (a woman) ... Also *bottle*, likewise *vt*. 1938 J. Phelan *Lifer* iv.39 "Harry got chucked, an' Painter got three days," was the reply. "Don't know the full strength of it, but seems Harry had a young iron an' Painter butted in on him an' they had a fight an' Painter got what was coming to him. Serves the bottling bastard right," the orderly added viciously. "Buttin' in on a man an' then havin' a fight with him." *Ibid.*, v.43 "[It's his] Third lagging for the bottle. Stays in the snob-house 'cause of a little red-headed iron."

buck *v* I can find no direct evidence of the sense given, but it may be related to the verb given by the OED *v*² 'to copulate with; said of male rabbits and some other animals', with citations from 1530 to 1741. In fact, this verb was in use in the late nineteenth century and applied to human beings: To thrust vigorously with the groin and hips; to have sexual intercourse with, to fuck. It was sometimes used as a printable, echoic substitute for *fuck*.

a. *intr.* Also with *away*.

1890 C. Pearl *Memoirs* (1983) ii.38 The moment he was securely in, Mr Bignell began bucking energetically. c1900 "Ramrod" *My Lustful Advent.* i.20 "Buck away, too, you young bugger; split my cunt if you can — let me feel your jelly — all, all." 1962 P. O'Neill *Corpse Wore Gray* ii.33 She excited me so much that I could have shagged her nonstop for a week. We bucked together to a hard climax that threw us both flat and exhausted on the carpet. 1997 C. Summerisle *Velvet Web* viii.133 Daniel deliberately increased the tightness of his internal muscles on the very next insertion of James's prick, trying to trap the hard muscle within him. James swore, pushed his hips fully forward and bucked back and forth. Daniel felt a burst of fluid warmth deep inside him as James grunted like a hog and spilt his seed. 2001 L. Hu, trans. Lǔ Tiancheng *Embroidered Couch* 1.29 Then she grabbed hold of his erection and guided it inside. Easterngate started bucking and pumping in no time. *Ibid.*, ii.102 "Naturally we need a cock that can buck and stick as forcefully as we want it to."

b. *trans.*

The song in the 1945 quotation was learned by the informant in the 1880s.

[1888] *Stag Party* [24] Young lady teacher to boy pupil: "My boy, can you write a verse of four lines, putting in the word Timbuctoo

twice and still make sense?" Boy: "Yes, miss." Lady: "Well, do so." The boy wrote as follows: Tim and I a hunting went On the plains of Timbuctoo, We found three maidens in a tent, I bucked one and Tim bucked two. Lady: "Well, did you get it in twice?" Boy: "No I did not, but Tim did." 1945 Randolph and Legman *"Unprintable" Ozark Folk-songs* II.675 As Tim and I were hunting Out on the plains of Timbuctoo, We found three maidens in a tent, I bucked one and Tim bucked two. 2001 L. Hu trans. Lū Tiancheng *Embroidered Couch* 1.64 With a vengeance, Dali pounded her, bucked her, for another several hundred times. *Ibid.*, II.102 "His endowment .. is amazing. It can drive in to the hilt and buck the heart of my cunt until I can't bear the rapture."

bugger *n* One who performs anal intercourse on another, one who commits buggery; hence, a homosexual man. Not homosexual slang but Standard English, although the OED (June, 1888) commented, "In decent use only as a legal term," thereby indicating that, used literally, it was then a strong term in colloquial language and avoided in polite discourse. In fact, OED illustrated neither its decent or indecent usages, providing only two sixteenth-century quotations (illustrating, as it happens, obsolete variant forms). The word is now also used as a strong term of abuse and in various weakened uses as a neutral or bantering or even affectionate term of reference.

1776 "H. Nettle" *Sodom & Onan* 12 But here the Laws leave Avenues, Which pow'rful Sod'mites frequently abuse; Tamper with Gold, and terrify with Threats, Till the astonish'd Ignorant forgets His injuries. Alarm'd at all he hears, Amaz'd distracted with a Thousand Fears, He sells his Country, quits his virtuous shield, And artful B—rs Glory in the Field. 1818 *Sessions Papers Old Bailey* 17 June 283/2 I asked what was the matter? the prosecutor said the prisoner had attempted to rob him of his watch; the prisoner said he offered him two guineas to ***** him. The prosecutor said he had no such things as two guineas, but he had two Napoleons. The prisoner said, "You young b—r, I'll throw you over the bridge." 1855 in R. Aldritch ed. *Gay Perspectives II* (1993) 99 "Muir called Price 'a man-fucking bugger' and Price called him a jealous whore." 1867 E. Sellon *Ups & Downs of Life* (1996) iii.110 Go along, you damned old sodomitical b—rs, and have your boys; but in common honesty, leave honest men to fuck their women in peace, and be damned to you! 1870 Swinburne *Let.* 1 Mar. II.108 Since the death of old Bishop Tollywegg, the diocese of Arseborough has been the scene of continual disputes. Bishop Buggeridge (late Archdeacon — the Ven. Athanasius Buggeridge) being most High, even Ritualist, is on bad turns with the most influential clergy — even his own relations,

the Very Rev. Dean Buggeridge, who is Broad Church, and their cousin the Hon. and Rev. Onan Buggeridge, who is very Low. **1886** Victorian Public Records Off. File 30 725/30/17 I was awakened by Handy on top of me. I was lying on my belly with my face sideways on the pillow. I felt pain and made an exclamation and said, "You dirty old bugger, Handy! What are you doing?" **1888-94** *My Secret Life* (1966) I.1151 Then, standing by my side, my left arm round his waist, I frigged him, and the little bugger spent, but very little. I rushed to wash my hand. **c1900** "Ramrod" *My Lustful Advent.* (1996) vii.56 There followed a series of hearty thrusts and drives, in which you could hear bellies bumping against bottoms until the lust of the two young buggers had been satisfied by a copious injection into the two plump sterns. **1909** *Maudie* (1985) vii.88 "Wandering minstrel, my arse, sir," thundered the General. "You're a bugger, sir, a God-damned bugger, and you ought to have an umbrella stuck up your arse, and opened inside, sir. Isn't a cunt good enough for you?" **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 129 "Are all the roomers at this place queer women, or buggers and fairies?" **1960** "G. Westwood" *Minority* x.187 "I've become much easier of late and sometimes I say to them, 'You don't seem to realize I'm a bugger,' but they don't believe me." **1962** M. Davidson *World, Flesh & Myself* xvi.283 I know it was Randolph [Churchill] who told me that his father, after being introduced to the middle-aged bride of a well-known public figure well known for his private unorthodoxies, grunted: "Oh well — buggers can't be choosers." **1982** E. J. Burford *Bawdy Verse* 262 An inveterate bugger, he was separated from his wife by the Duke, for his scandalous behaviour. **1983** M. Bradbury *Rates of Exchange* ii.51 "Yes, if one were asked to sum up Eastern Europe in a phrase," says the lady, "one would say it was their buggers listening in on ours. **1985** *Quadrant* (Syd.) Dec. 12/2 Virginia Woolf, who could be one of the coldest eyes in the business, wrote apropos of him [E. M. Forster], "The middle age of buggers is not to be contemplated without horror." **1999** T. Granville *Venetian Trade* xxii.162 But at the moment the young man, his cock stiff and upright, spat on the helmet and without ado plunged himself up the bugger's back passage.

2. a. As a term of strong abuse, contempt, or insult.

1854 in N.E. Eliason *Tarheel Talk* 185 "... you [the writer's brother] buger you ..." **1881** *Sins of Cities of Plains* (1992) "You bugger! You shan't have a damn'd penny more!" he growled. **1909** See SOD in sense 2. **1928** M. C. Sharpe *Chicago May* xxxiv.318 [T]he girls in the bull-pen kept saying to me, "Get a lawyer. This judge is a bugger." **1943** P. Larkin *Sel. Let.* 2 Jan. 54 Well, if your New Year Resolution is not to let any bugger bugger you about, mine is not to give a bugger for any

bugger. 1987 B. McDonald *Filth* 119 "I'm not going to arrest you, I'm going to fuck you." I thought, yeah, fuck me over, you big bugger. 1995 G. Baxt *Queer Kind of Umbrella* xx.213 "Kao's very greedy little bugger, right, Michael?"

b. In various weakened senses. Used as a term of neutral or off-handed reference or as a term of affectionate or bantering address.

c1900 "Ramrod" *My Lustful Advent.* i.20 "Buck away, too, you young bugger; split my cunt if you can — let me feel your jelly — all, all." 1919 V. J. Marshall *World of Living Dead* (1969) 104 "Poor bugger," they said. 1927 R. Graves *Lars Porsena* 18 [T]he other common word in "b," which originally meant a Bulgarian heretic, but later implied "one addicted to unnatural vice," is not a serious insult among the governed, who are more free from the homosexual habit. 1928 N. Douglas *Some Limericks* (1967) 82 There was a young man of Loch Leven Who went for a walk about seven. He fell into a pit That was brimful of shit, And now the poor bugger's in heaven. 1935 J. Conroy *World to Win* ii.vi.145 "The poor little bugger tried his damndest to make people like him." 1938 H. Miller *Tropic Capricorn* (1964) 244 "I must be cunt-struck, I guess ... what do you think? Don't tell me," he would add quickly. "I know you, you bugger ... you'll be sure to tell me the worst." 1940 F. D. Davidson *Woman at Mill* ii.31 "After he had passed you could hear the fellows in the bend of the communication trench next behind us calling him a lucky bugger." 1978 R. Caron *Go-Boy!* (1979) x.135 During the first night I was brought wide awake about two in the morning by the long, agonised scream of some poor bugger clawing his way out of a nightmare. 1979 P. H. Bennet *Half Breed's Rise* vi.144 "Had this little Mex kid working in the kitchen at the ranch. Cute little bugger, just like you. Only he's a sissy, see." 1984 G. Davenport *Apples & Pears* 111 Unselfconscious little buggers, not knowing how beautiful you are. 1991 S. Cutler *Best Performance* (1993) iii.27 I relaxed, smiled. Salty, little bugger.

camp *a* The word developed further adjectival senses, which I treat. I also treat separately the nominal senses that arose after Pavia wrote.

1. Ostentatiously and effeminately homosexual, "queeny"; pertaining to or characteristic of flamboyantly effeminate homosexuals; hence, overtly homosexual. *Slang, orig. gay; orig. and chiefly Brit.* It is noteworthy that Legman's thorough glossary of 1930s U. S. gay slang does not record the adjectival use (he gives the form *campy*).

The writer in quotation 1869 is the drag-queen Frederick William Park, known as Fanny, who not long after got into very hot water indeed, for in 1871 he was, together with his friend Ernest

Boulton alias Stella, prosecuted for "conspiracy to commit a felony" (*viz.*, sodomy). The show trial in a crowded courtroom before the Lord Chief Justice was led by the Attorney-General and was spectacularly unsuccessful, the defendants being acquitted of all charges.

[1869 in N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man?* (1988) vi.168 "My campish undertakings are not at present meeting with the success they deserve. Whatever I do seems to get me into hot water somewhere. But *n'importe*. What's the odds so long as you're happy."] 1909 Ware *Passing Engl.* 61/2 *Camp* (Street). Actions and gestures of exaggerated emphasis. Probably from the French. Used chiefly by persons of exceptional want of character. "How very camp he is!" 1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Camp* = homosexuell im Sinne des typisch-weibischen, exzentrischen Homosexuellen. ... *Camp-Party* — wieder ein Ausdruck für eine h.-s. Privatgesellschaft. 1933 M. Lincoln *Oh! Definitely* vi.62 Dennis, slightly more "camp" than usual, opened the front door to me and informed me that I should find Sir Peter in the bedroom. *Ibid.*, xiii.212 "Why, only last week 'she' came up to me in Bond Street when I was walking with an enormously rich man friend who 'she' didn't know from Adam and cried out, 'Oh, hello, Hector!' in the campest way possible." 1949 Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed.3 1099/2 *Lily Law* (*and Inspector Beastly*). The police; the fuller form is intensive: "London barrow boys" ... Prob. of "camp" origin. 1952 A. Wilson *Hemlock & After* (1956) iii.i.191 Elizabeth would retaliate with how much happier he was when he was not being "camp" and wasn't *that* nice? 1953 "R. Garland" *Heart in Exile* viii.139 "Nigel could be amusing and interesting without being tatty or camp. That means feminine," he said, trying to familiarise me with the underground code language I knew as well as he did, with a few regional variations to boot. 1955 D. J. West *Homosexuality* iii.29 Homosexuals are "gay" or "queer," one markedly effeminate is "camp." 1956 L. McIntosh *Oxford Folly* x.164 Gradually other couples formed themselves, until the room was full of pairs of waltzing young men, crying in effete voices, "*Chéri*," "How terribly, terribly camp we all are," and "*Vive l'amour, vive la pédérastie*." 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* iv.58 "This wasn't because they were outrageously camp or anything like that — he had never mixed with that type anyway." 1959 J. Courage *Way of Love* i.vii.50 "By the way, I haven't seen you here lately with Bertram, that camp number." "Bertram a camp number! I only wish he had been. He was just so butch and drear it wasn't true." 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.89 "Not many of my friends have much sex, they're all too camp. People are too afraid to be seen with the camp ones." 1961 G. Freeman *Leather Boys* (1972) xi.100 "My name's Dick," Dick said. The men gave a chorus of giggles and shrieks

and the one next to him said, "Ow camp!" 1962 M. Davidson *World, Flesh & Myself* xi.154 [I]n Berlin we together went the rounds of the "queer" bars — more, as London's "camp" young men would say, "for a giggle" than for a pick-up. 1963 S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* xvi.150 "The screamers tried to pretend that everyone was like themselves; ... and tried you out with camp expressions to see if your eyes lit up." 1967 M. Goff *Indecent Assault* ii.23 It wasn't that camp chatter worried him in itself but he was anxious that I shouldn't think it was the only sort of conversation that went on in the house. 1968 R.T. Sweet *Homophile Organiz.* v.80 The August, 1967 issue of *Playboy* contained a description of the "Camp Beauty Pageant" for Miss Queen of Queens. 1970 J. Douglas *Bisexuality* v.113 "I enjoy being a passive boy, wearing camp clothes and being penetrated." 1971 *Happiness* July 20/2 (pers. advt.) Michael .. seeks .. companion. Transvestite, effeminate but not camp, I am anxious to give and receive warm friendship. 1974 D. Winn *Prostitutes* ix.80 He was a homosexual and he knew he looked camp. 1977 W. Hamilton *Coming out* vii.79 He thought about himself. Yes, he knew how he acted with Roger, the more so as he lived with him. Yes, he watched his camp ways slowly slough off — less need to posture or to impress. 1980 S. Adams *Homosexual as Hero in Contemp. Fiction* vii.177 At first, he appears to have been cast in the stereotype of the effeminate homosexual; he is artistic, scatter-brained, soft-hearted, and camp. 1981 *Breaking the Silence* 35 "At 17 I met up with a camp black guy who wanted to have sex with me." 1983 S. Airey *Messer Rondo* 74 He was very camp, however, limp wrists and so on. 1984 "Flame" *Flame* x.62 Because I was openly camp, they didn't believe I was gay. The boys who were gay but tried to hide it got all the hidings. 1988 A. Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* i.12 It is the camp voice of Michael .., wringing the wildest insinuations out of such words as *guest* and *occupant*. 1991 W. S. Gilbert *Spiked* xxxvii.123 The kid stared at the depleted wallet, then gaily waved it away. He went English camp on me. "Flog the 'ole, ducks. Always the quickest way." 1998 R. Pelham *Shame* viii.86 [F]or the very first time, Martyn saw something different in him, a seriousness that had previously lain dormant under the camp *savoir vivre* and double entendres. 1999 C. Anemogiannis *Medea's Children* iii.210 "My name's James," he said, "Jimetha when I'm being camp." Camp, being the time when he took R & R on the town, wearing a wig and lipstick.

b. Hence, **high camp**, **high-camp**, very camp. See CAMP *n* in senses 4 and 5. The sense overlaps with 4 below.

1967 T. C. Worsley *Flannelled Fool* iv.74 If there were circles in which Talboys, for instance, would even then [1930s] have been

labelled High Camp, College was not one of them. **1968** R. T. Sweet *Homophile Organiz.* v.81 His idea was to use the figure of the Emperor-Empress Norton for a good purpose such as collecting canned goods in the homosexual bars for needy families. It was to be a "high camp" escapade in a city which supposedly loves its comical and eccentric citizens. **1977** G. Melly *Rum, Bum & Concertina* iii.84 [H]e illuminated and transfigured it through his dazzling wit and sense of beauty, so that even the most trivial encounter became an excuse for high camp anecdotes in the style of Firbank, his favourite author. **1983** *Daily Mirror* (Syd.) 22 July 15/1 It was conceived in the eyes of roly-poly, caftan-clad impresario Alan Carr — and the world had never seen such a high-camp extravaganza. **1985** T. Fennelly *Glory Hole Murders* vii.81 She was high camp when that phrase was still current, and made and blew a fortune, taking it away from old men and laying it on the young ones.

2. Homosexual, whether effeminate or "straight-acting and -looking"; of, pertaining to, or characteristic of homosexuals. *Austral. and N. Z. slang, orig. gay; obsolesc.* The spelling with *K* arises from the folk etymology that the word was originally a police acronym of *known as a male prostitute*.

With regard to the more general sense that the word usually had in Australia, it is significant that the three earliest recorders of the term defined it as 'homosexual' and distinguished it from other terms like *poofster, queen, cat*, etc., that they understood to mean 'effeminate, passive homosexual'. *Camp* remained the preferred term by which homosexuals referred to themselves until the 1970s, when it was slowly edged aside by the U. S. term *gay*; the first Australian homosexual magazine was called *Camp Ink*, and the term is still used by some older homosexuals. (In fact, *gay* was known and sometimes used in Australia, as in Britain, in the 1950s and -60s and perhaps earlier (cf. *gay boy*), but to younger gays in the 1970s seemed an Americanism that was more or less willingly embraced because of the philosophy of liberation that it connoted.) Nonetheless, the verb phrase *camp it up* was used in Australia in the same sense as elsewhere.

1941 Baker *Slang* 16 *camp* (adj), homosexual. [**1944** Implied by *n* in sense 2.] **1950** G. Simes *Dict. Austral. Underw. Slang* 37/1 *camp* Homosexual. "Are you camp?" is the exact equivalent of the Italian vulgar "Parlete francese?" **1951** E. Lambert *Sleeping House Party* i.12 They were camp, as a coarse common army friend of mine once put it, as a row of tents. **1964** *Oz* (Syd.) Mar. 7/1 Another incredible aspect of the fashionability of camp behaviour is the upsurge of camp revues around Sydney. There is little satire, wit, or anything else; the sole entertain-

ment is in the fact that the performers are men in drag. **1964** *Time* 25 Dec. (let. fr. N. Z.) Whether the derivation of "Camp" comes from low "Aussie" saloons, or from the police rating "K. M. P." (Known Male Prostitute), or from World War II concentration camps, where homosexuality was rife, "Camp" is here to stay. True — the vulgar and outrageous is camp. What could be more ostentatious than Victorian "Tatt" and Barbra Streisand and superlatives like "divine" and "delicious." But I must add that the term Camp (Down Under, anyway) is not derogatory in implication. **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* i.i.15 "[A]nd anyone, camp or square, would swear it was all man and had nothing else on its mind but women." **1966** C. McGregor *Profile of Austral.* iii.64 [A]n English acquaintance of mine remarked after two days in Sydney that it was the "campest city I have seen." **1967** S. Rhodes *Now You'll Think I'm Awful* ix.110 What a nasty surprise they all got when they found out that this hero of the muddy paddock was camper than a carload of cream-puffs. **1968** B. Humphries *Wonderful World Barry McKenzie* [48] "I say, me *lovelies*. Have you seen my camp little friend from *down under*!" **1969** F. Moorhouse *Futility* 93 "But Mervyn and I are happy. We have our fights — but what people who live together don't? The neighbours keep to themselves but they say hullo. I don't think they know we are camp — except the girl in flat four — the dancer I was telling you about — I think she knows we are camp. She's always very 'girlie' with us, you know? She's not a square." **1970** *Austral.* (Syd.) 19 Sept. 15/4 Because of the inherent secrecy and shame, homosexuals and lesbians use a form of underworld to find each other; camp jargon, all-camp parties, gay bars, wine shops, and steam rooms (the latter a new feature on the camp scene which, said John, "pay heavily not to be raided except on agreed nights"). **1970** *Nation* (Syd.) 25 July 14 Bottle after bottle of Cinzano. Around the tables hundreds of camp people; talking, laughing, caressing; or wetly kissing. **1971** *Camp Ink* (Syd.) May 15/1 We .. will realise the difficulties associated with living a camp life in country town. *Ibid.*, June 9/1 Today novels on camp themes are quite common, and publishers of paperbacks make sure the illustrations on the covers are designed to especially appeal to the growing camp market. **1972** *William & John* (Syd) v.64 (pers. advt.) Is there someone out there who would like to share the many joys of the camp way of life? **1973** *Digger* (Melb.) 13 Jan. 2/2 Then Allan asked me why I'd moved off .. I told him, I didn't know he was camp. "Darling, I've been a woman all my life!" he shrieked. **1973** J. Justin *Prisoner* 42 "I had him last night. Lovely trade, dear." "I think he's just a teeny weeny bit camp." **1973** *Stallion* (Syd.) Sept. 9 Gay Lib might not be popular with

the Camp masses but I left the park proud of their stand against harassment and unprovoked brutality. 1974 *Searchlight* (Syd.) 9 Dec. 17/2 (pers. advt.) Kamp girl required by gentle Kamp guy to turn on to visual masturbation and quite kinky things. 1975 *Gay* (Syd.) Aug. 70 (pers. advt.) Camp guy 28 well hung butch seeks ... 1983 J. Byrell *Up the Cross* 123 Back then it was Jeffrey to the regulars, "Dolores" to his kamp chinas. 1984 *Star* (Syd.) 4 My 23/2 "Camp" served us well but by now it is a bit passe in all but trendy straight circles. There was a time when it was the rage in queerer ones, so much so, for example, that when our first public homosexual organisation was formed, it was called "Campaign Against Moral Persecution," so that its initials blazed our little secret for all to see. 1986 G. Wotherspoon ed. *Being Different* 33 Friday night was the *big* camp night in Sydney in the 1930s. 1989 "M. Fallon" *Working Hot* 19 a camp friend of mine Shadowbox had a very houseproud love Tim-Tam whom he lived with. 1991 K. Walker *Pete* II.iv.61 "But I had a dream about him," I said. "The camp bloke?"

b. Frequented or attended by homosexuals; having or catering to a homosexual clientèle.

1961 J. Rose *At the Cross* 16 Dennis said "Ever been to a camp party?" 1964 *Oz* (Syd.) Mar. 7/1 Another incredible aspect of the fashionability of camp behaviour is the upsurge in camp venues around Sydney. 1965 "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* I.x.56 All that these two seem to have seen are the same gay clubs, camp bars, notorious pubs, streets, parks, public lavatories and pissoirs all over the globe. 1966 *Kings Cross Whisper* (Syd.) xxvii.6/1 But without dolls, it's just a plain old crook ding, a ding to be roasted. (That's unless it's a buck's party. Or a camp turn-out.) 1971 P. Wilson *Sexual Dilemma* iii.53 [O]nce they felt no fear of being seen in "camp" bars and other meeting places, there would be less chance of assaults and soliciting. 1972 *William & John* (Syd.) vi.91 (pers. advt.) Guy early forties .. married but digs camp scene too infrequently, must find camp guy for sincere friendship. 1973 *Stallions* (Syd.) Sept. 6 (advt.) Australia's first camp sex shop. 1975 "E. Riley" *All that False Instruction* iv.231 "She's American — I met her a camp party in Paddington." 1983 R. Perkins *Drag Queen Scene* vi 108 "[I]f the mugs don't like it they can go to any number of camp places that are into it [*sc.*, S & M] in a big way."

3. Set comparisons. *slang*, chiefly *gay*.

a. **camp as a row of tents**, more emphatically **pink tents**, completely homosexual, homosexual without a doubt; also, very camp. *orig. Austral.* Camp varr. **camp as a paddockful of wigwams, as a row of silken pavilions.**

a1948 S. J. Baker *Vulgarisms* Suppl. 47 camp as a row of tents. 1951 See sense 2 above. 1962 S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* v.51 "What do you think?" "Camp as a row of tents, that one!" said Patience emphatically. "They can't fool Auntie!" 1965 B. Humphries *Nice Night's Entertainment* (1981) 91 "Camp as a row of tents of course. (*Pause. Reaction.*) You didn't know? Really? He's not one of the obvious ones, I mean, it doesn't show. Nearly got married a few years back — not that that means anything these days." 1967 J. Gardner *Madrigal* vi.155 "Oooh, Boysie, what a gorgeous name. Camp as a row of tents I think the expression is. A nice English boy taught me that." 1967 S. Rhodes *Now You'll Think I'm Awful* ix.108 "Arr don' gimme that. Them pansies is as camp as a row of tents." 1971 F. Hardy *Fools of Foolgarah* xii.190 [I]f the truth was known, a devious deviate who couldn't lie straight in bed, as camp as a row of tents. 1973 J. Justin *Prisoner* 41 "Don't you threaten me. You're as camp as a row of tents yourself anyway. Trying to go butch." 1978 D. Ball *Great Austral. Snake Exchange* I.viii.51 "Brooks knows that Doug likes blokes." "Camp as a row of tents," Brooks muttered. 1983 M. Booth *Camp* iv.132 (*cap.*) [T]he Chevalier d'Eon — as camp as a row of pink tents.

1963 J. Kirkup *Tropic Temper* xvi.190 I know it's a bit silly, but so are all affectations, and I like this one, which is so young, so harmless. Like the peroxidized moustache of that Indian youth: camp as a row of silken pavilions. 1983 J. Byrell *Up the Cross* 123 For one thing he was as kampf as a paddockful of wigwams.

b. camp as arseholes, ~ as Chloe, ~ as Clarry, ~ as knickers. Very camp.

1969 "J. Newhouse" *Diary of Gay Casanova* vii.100 "He's as camp as arseholes, but he's a good sculptor," he said. 1977 G. Melly *Rum, Bum & Concertina* i.12 [H]er fondness for the theatre and, more particularly, the theatrical atmosphere added to her circle a number of visiting firewomen all as camp as Chloe. 1984 "Flame" *Flame* xxv.150 The minute we walked through the station door — Poppit slapped up to the eyeballs and camp as Clarry. 1990 trans. L. Fernández *Naked Anarchist* 69 I'm being cruised by an old gaffer who's as camp as knickers and who is no doubt attracted to rubber.

4. Pertaining to, displaying, or denoting "camp" (*camp n* in sense 5).

1951 E. Lambert *Sleeping House Party* xviii.195 Peter came over .. and said to her: "You camp thing you, darling. Love you," and went to Tony. 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* ix.219 "You fool — look!" "Josie" ordered. "Do you mean the camp hat that woman's wearing? It's like a — Good God." [1970] M. Davidson *Some Boys* 7 Yet what seems like an exercise in camp choreography in fact is a national tradition

descended from a legendary past. **1970** J. Hansen *Fadeout* (1973) vi.42 Dave didn't need a second evening with any of them to know he couldn't stand it. The giddy mannerisms, the worn-out camp clichés that passed for wit, the shrill, empty chatter about women's clothes and Judy Garland. **1976** J. Seabrook *Lasting Relationship* 88 "I mean, everybody thinks that gay people are camp and glittering on the surface, but underneath ... I think being camp is just the gays' way of saying sod-off to the rest of society." **1982** *Salmagundi* lviii.311 Much of the magazine's original charm came from old-fashioned camp humour which today's more serious and macho gays might look down their moustaches at. **1983** M. Booth *Camp* i.20 So, while it may be true that many homosexuals are camp, only a small proportion of people who exhibit symptoms of camp behaviour are homosexual. **1987** *Syd. Morning Herald* 29 June Guide 5/3 It's camp dregs all the way as dwarves, greasers, a bent priest who looks like Ernest Hemingway and assorted hoons plot to unearth a cache of gold.

camp *n*

I. *Persons.*

1. An ostentatiously effeminate homosexual man; hence, an overtly homosexual man. *U. S. slang, orig. gay. Obs.* (Later usage overlaps with and is influenced by sense 5.)

1922 in S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* (1937) 184 Tries to look effeminate if possible to attract attention. Uses rouge and make-up. Expressions: "You're a camp" — (means you are a riot, very witty.) "Whoops Kate, you'll never be like me." (Meaning, he is more effeminate than the rest.) "You are a fagot." **1931** *New Broadway Brevities* (N.Y.) ii.7/1 Drags, Camps, Flaunting Hip-Twisters and Reefer Peddlers Run Afoul of Cops on the Lam. **1933** Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 164 [C]rooning I'M A CAMPfire girl ... **1941** See sense 4 below. **1948** G. Vidal *City & Pillar* ii.ix.265 "First Shaw and now Sullivan. You've been a regular little *camp*, haven't you?" "No, .. they're almost the only people I know." **1949** M. de Forrest *Gay Year* i.iii.27 "My God," he said, "you certainly are becoming a camp," but not displeased with the slightly effeminate circlet of black that framed his face. **1951** "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* 112 [T]he person who is effeminate is called a *camp*. **1966** T. Erikson *Half World Amer. Homosexual* i.14 The queen who is a real *camp* flutters along, dishing the dirt and giggling profusely. **1966** "Petronius" *N.Y. Unexpurgated* vi.154 Celebrity fags are either full, zany camps out-and-out drags; or discreet, closet fags. **1968** M. Crowley *Boys in Band* ii.67 Harold: (*He has opened another gift, suddenly laughs aloud.*) Oh, Bernard! How divine! Look, everybody! Bejewelled knee-pads! (*He holds up a pair of basketball knee-pads with sequin initials.*) Bernard:

Monogrammed! Emory: Bernard, you're a camp! **1972** E. Newton *Mother Camp* v.110 The camp accepts his role as a homosexual and flaunts his homosexuality. He makes the other homosexuals laugh.

2. *Austral.* and *N. Z. gay slang*. Now *obsolesc.* or *hist.* [See note at *a* in sense 2.]

a. A homosexual man, whether effeminate or not.

Quot. 1980 recalls the 1930s in Sydney; quot. 1986 refers to 1939; quot. 1988 recalls Melb. in the 1930s.

1944 G. Simes *Dict. Austral. Underw. Slang* 165/2 Other peculiarly homosexual terms are *camp* i.e. a homosexual. **1950** in *ibid.*, 71/1 "Pipe the camp in drag." **1964** *Oz* (Syd.) Mar. 7/2 Now it has occurred to me that this show [*Waiting for Godot*] really does have audience-attracting potential. If the two tramps were in drag instead of the old rags they wear, then the play would be a smash at box offices, instead of the unglamorous old bore that it is. Or perhaps if the two old ponces were played by young camps in Beatle wigs things would be improved. **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* x.56 It's .. that part of gay life that makes normal people hate the camps. **1967** *Kings Cross Whisper* (Syd.) xxxv.6/3 *kamp*: A homosexual. From the initials on their police records: Known As Male Prostitute. **1967** S. Rhodes *Now You'll Think I'm Awful* ix.110 Thinking to avoid a difficult situation the camp touched lightly him on the shoulder as he made to rise, saying "Ta-ta lovies, see you later." **1969** F. Moorhouse *Futility* 105 But they were frantic — frantic rising late on Saturday morning, frantic hangovers, and hungover shopping with Martin at the supermarket with all the other frantic Jews and camps and bedsitter girls. **1970** *Nation* (Syd.) 25 July 14 Most are young working-class camps, dressed in ordinary clothes. **1971** *Camp Ink* (Syd.) May 14/3 I have been a practising camp for only a few short months. **1973** *Stallion* (Syd.) Sept. 8 At 10.15 am I photographed the crowd of Gay Lib on the steps of Sydney Town Halls — a peace-loving crowd of camps and lesbians often exchanging humorous quips with the few policeman who were present. **1980** *Campaign* (Syd.) May 13/4 Fearless, intrepid type kamps used to frequent these bars and when the six o'clock curfew sounded for "all out" would parade George Street, picking up right and left, as sailors were everywhere! **1986** G. Wotherspoon, ed. *Being Different* 47 When I received my first call-up notice I worried that I would not be able to handle the situation. So I decided that I would be very "butch and straight." I need not have worried as I found there were plenty of camps around me, the obvious gays were of course ridiculed and called "poofers" and soon got discharged, this naturally made everyone else more careful

not to give themselves away. **1988** *OutRage* (Melb.) Feb. 23/1 Tate's Tea House was .. more or less the meeting place of all the camps in Melbourne then.

b. Homosexual men. Non-count nominal use of *a*. Never *common* (the contemptuously indignant usage-notes of the author of quot. 1969 notwithstanding — from a letter to the editor of the University of Queensland student newspaper, *Semper Floreat*).

1969 in P. Wilson *Sexual Dilemma* (1971) 47 "The word Camp is both singular and plural ... The only camp I have heard use the word 'camps' are the screaming little queens who are mostly illiterate anyway. ... At parties, all do not speak with affected accents or try to act like women. Most camp consider themselves as males with a sexual attraction towards other males." **1971** *Camp Ink* (Syd.) July 15/1 [R]efuting the common view that camp are promiscuous by nature ... *Ibid.*, 15/2 Camp people are face with an enormous problem in the form of promiscuity. ... However, camp tend to hold to this so-called "taboo" as if it were rapidly going out of style.

3. A male prostitute. Cf. *v* in sense 3. *Brit. slang. ?obs.*

1959 F. Norman *Stand on Me* vii.78 "It's a book about concentration camps, and I am greatly shocked by what I have just read." "Well if you ask me darling, I think there should be less concentration and more camps," replied the Peach, and with that she got up and flounced out of the kayf. **1962** R. Hauser *Homoexual & Soc.* ii.45 "One of my teachers introduced me to it when I was twelve or thirteen. Almost from then on I have been in the game. From the age of fifteen I have worked as a Camp (prostitute)." *Ibid.*, ii.45 "I was a Camp since I was ten or eleven. The dirty old rich men went quite mad and were after me all the time. If I needed money I went either to the X-cinema or Y-cinema in the afternoon." *Ibid.*, ii.48 "He often brings some young 'camps' (prostitutes) with him."

II. Non-personal senses.

4. Exaggeratedly effeminate homosexual behaviour or mannerisms or speech or appearance; an instance or occasion of this. Hence, **high** and **low camp**, *orig.*, serious and frivolous versions or levels of camp (see quot. 1954 for the original exposition of the distinction); also, in later weakened use, *high camp* = extreme or highly exaggerated camp (see *a* in sense 1b for the same semantic development adjectivally). *slang, orig. gay; prob. orig. U. S.* Now *hist.*

1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxxii.295 Each arrival had something suggestive to offer in the way of a wedding gift. At that time of night it was well nigh impossible to buy gifts, but they all rose to the

occasion, stopping at the all night drugstores, picking up what they could, as Ella expressed to Kitty, "more for the camp of the thing than anything else." *Ibid.*, xxxiv.308 "Just for the camp of the thing, I have taken out a special license. At last I have a legal status befitting my station in life." 1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1159 As a noun, *camp* refers to such flamboyance or bizarrerie of speech or action, or to a person displaying it. 1944 R. Duncan in *Politics* i (Aug.) 210/1 Almost co-incident with first declarations for homosexual rights was the growth of a cult of homosexual superiority to the human race; the cultivation of a secret language, the *camp*, a tone and vocabulary that is loaded with contempt for the human. 1948 W. H. Auden *Nones* (1952) 12 ("Limestone") That is why, I suppose,/The best and the worst never stayed here long but sought/Immoderate soils where beauty was not so external,/The light less public and the meaning of life/Something more than a mad camp. 1952 A. Wilson *Hemlock & After* (1956) II.i.112 The incoherence of his speech, the momentary absence of the customary "camp" once again calmed Elizabeth's hostility. 1954 C. Isherwood *World in Evening* II.iii.125 "In any of your voyages au bout de la nuit, did you ever run across the word 'camp'?" "I've heard people use it in bars. But I thought — a" "You thought it meant a swishy little boy with peroxidized hair, dressed in a picture hat and a feather boa, pretending to be Marlene Dietrich? Yes, in queer circles, they call that *camping*. It's all very well in its place, but it's an utterly debased form — Charles' eyes shone delightedly. He seemed to be .. thoroughly enjoying this exposition. "What I mean by camp is something much more fundamental. You can call the other Low Camp, if you like; then what I'm talking about is High Camp. High Camp is the whole emotional basis of the Ballet, for example, and of course Baroque art. You see, true High Camp always has an underlying seriousness. You can't camp about something you don't take seriously. You're not making fun of it; you're making fun out of it. You're expressing what's basically serious to you in terms of fun and artifice and elegance. Baroque art is largely camp about religion. The Ballet is camp about love Do you see what I'm getting at?" *Ibid.*, iv.144 It was as if the Monsieur-Madame front which we presented to the outside world were just a protective device (perhaps what Charles Kennedy would call a "camp") to prevent anyone from suspecting that we two had discovered a new, unnamed kind of relationship. 1958 A. Aldrich *We Too Must Love* i.20 "I've been looked straight at, up-and-down, by about a dozen women from the perfume counter on up to bedding. It's a camp!" 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of*

Witches viii.177 "And what of it? Good heavens, nearly everybody gets called names like that — it's just an amusing bit of camp." 1959 C. MacInnes *Absolute Beginners* (1980) ii.112 But both of them were more than equal to the situation, neither being the least put out by the blinkless stares, and neither being, in spite of all their camp and blah, the least bit snobbish. 1961 E. Hooker in R. W. Weltge *Same Sex* (1969) iii.37 [I]t is common practice to use feminine nicknames in homosexual circles, and in the diminutive form. An interchange at a party between two homosexual males in which nicknames are used with feminine gestures would be a form of what the writer Christopher Isherwood has called "low camp." 1962 "G. Arthur" *Circle of Sex* 39 [T]hough his preference may be overwhelmingly for his own sex as a love object, nevertheless his looks, gait, gestures and voice may not betray him, and consequently he will not suffer the opprobrium in school which so often leads to the offensive "camp" — which is in reality a gesture of defiance. The "screaming queen" type .. is more often than not created by gibes and taunts of schoolmates who are taught at home to hate a "sissy." 1962 S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* vii.64 She [a man] licked a fingertip and smoothed her eyebrows, her smile wandering gently round the galley to see if this bit of "camp" had been observed. 1968 K. Williams *Diaries* 11 May 326 There is an extraordinary ambiguity about guardsmen — indeed, about all homosexual rent. On the one hand, they like certain aspects of the camp and often indulge in it themselves, but they resent bitterly any slur on their heterosexual capabilities ... 1970 R. Allison *Three-Person Sex Acts* v.105 [B]oth are thoroughly masculine in speech and appearance, and although they occasionally lapse into "camp" in the privacy of their home, neither of them is known as a homosexual to the world at large, nor would they ever be spotted as such. 1970 L. J. Chatterer *Changing Homosexuality* viii.285 "At first I thought I was being paranoid about the whole thing until I realized our whole advertising campaign is one big homosexual put-on. Not that I mean it's completely homosexual, but the photographs and the layout and some of the copy is right out of high camp. It's hard for me to explain, but having worked on it so long, it's revived some of my homosexual feelings." 1971 A. Karlen *Sexuality & Homosexuality* xviii.308 *Variety* in the twenties and thirties contained ads by comedians who specialized in high and low camp; the former was imitation or parody of extreme effeminacy, the latter a subtler, refined, mincing manner — its greatest masters were Jack Benny and Edward Everett Horton. 1972 P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* vi.179 You probably think I exaggerate. Well, go find a copy of the book and its sequels — don't

worry about the parody, which is redundant and spoils the straight high camp of the originals. In terming *Song of the Loon* high camp, I don't mean to swerve from the point that it not only presents a surviving sensibility cult (its modern social form is sublimative YMCA homosexuality) but also harks back to Athenian aristocracy as well as those primitive all-male rituals that involved homosexual relations as part of initiation into manhood. **1980** W. Hamilton *Kevin* x.92 Camp again. "Well ... it looks like your Aunt Mary has a lot to tell you!" He leaned close. **1983** *Advocate* (L.A.) 29 Sept. 48/1 Do I show my age in being baffled at the fuss over *Torch Song Trilogy*? Is that old, broad, fruity camp still getting the laughs of 40 years ago? **1984** *Ibid.*, 15 May 28/1 None of the men I talked to had ever paraded in drag, but they *had* used the female gender, and Marilyn Monroeish gestures, as part of "camp." **1994** G. Schmidgall *The Stranger Wilde* xv.325 Oscar's letters chronicling the demise of this increasingly unhappy association move, hilariously in the direction of high camp and display Oscar's best gallows humour. **1997** D. Harris *Rise & Fall of Gay Culture* 35 As the forces of social stigma and oppression dissipate and the factors that contributed to the making of the gay sensibility disappear, one of homosexuals' most significant contributions to American culture, camp, begins to lose its shape. The grain of sand, our oppression, that irritated the gay imagination to produce the pearl of camp, has been rinsed away, and with it, there has been a profound dilution of the once concentrated gay sensibility.

Hence **5**. That which, with a view to being wittily attention-seeking, is highly exaggerated or affected or artificial, or theatrically ostentatious or outrageous; an instance or moment of this. (The corresponding *a* in sense 4 is evidenced earlier.) *slang, orig. gay; prob. orig. U. S.*

Writers like Christopher Isherwood (*The World in the Evening*, 1954; quot. under sense 4 above) and (following him) Susan Sontag elaborated an aesthetic and sort of quasi-philosophy under the rubric of camp — Isherwood's *high* and *low camp*, Sontag's "Notes on Camp" (*Partisan Rev.*, xxxi, 1964). Several books have since been devoted to the subject: M. Booth, *Camp* (1983); P. Gore, *Camp: The Lie That Tells the Truth* (1984); D. Bergman, *Camp Grounds: Style and Homosexuality* (1993).

1954 See prec. sense. **1964** *Time* 11 Dec. 55/3 And if this somehow suggests homosexuality, Miss Sontag is not one to deny it. "While it's not true that Camp taste is homosexual taste, there is no doubt a peculiar affinity and overlap. Homosexuals, by and large, constitute the vanguard — and most articulate audience — of Camp." The rea-

son: it is to the homosexuals' self-interest to neutralize moral indignation, and this Camp does by promoting playful estheticism. The whole point of Camp is to dethrone the serious. More precisely, Camp involves a new, more complex relation to "the serious." One can be serious about the frivolous, frivolous about the serious. **1966** G. Baxt *Queer Kind of Death* (1979) x.138 "My dear, with your impeccable sense of camp, I should think you'd be dwelling on a *bon voyage* party for yourself." *Ibid.*, xv.218 Ben had indoctrinated him into the soap-opera cult. "They're a camp! I love them!" **1968** J. Nuttall *Bomb Culture* 170 He [A. Warhol] stood for all the qualities that marked off the American Underground from its English counterpart, .. for modish camp as opposed to the butch attitudes of class warfare no English rebel can ever really lose. **1969** R. Pearsall *Worm in Bud* x.512 He [Walter Pater] was the high priest of camp who would not get his surplice dirty. **1969** *Queen's Qlty* (N.Y.) Spring 13/2 Tank suits and other unusual styles are a camp and lots of fun. **1972** H. Davies *Body Changes* (1974) v.57 I like his whole style, it was a bit like me only I was the B picture version. It was impossible to tell where the camp ended and where the camp began. **1973** "J. Coriolan" *Christy Dancing* (1984) i.12 He and his friends had found it a real camp, very witty. **1975** M. Amis *Dark Secrets* (177) xlix.169 "All that camp and unisex and crap ...: dead babies now. When I was a kid they were doing that. All a bluff set up by queers." **1988** N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man? Wilde* i.34 I begin to wonder, in what sense of the word was this most famous of homosexuals actually a homosexual? He was married. His best and most successful play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, may be the most precious pearl of English camp, but it celebrates the triumph of marriage over all adversity, brings down the curtain on a trio of engagements, and was deliberately premiered on St Valentine's Day. **1991** *Syd. Morning Herald* 3 June Guide 8s/3 The elegant sense of menace, which is supposed to pervade the yarn, is flung out the window by a droll kind of theatrical camp.

b. Hence, a person who exhibits camp.

1956 "J. Little" *Somewhere between the Two* xi.113 "You'll love Jean. She's a past madam. Had a house and made lots of money when New Orleans was wide open. Now she has this little hotel. Rents to whores and guys like us. She's a camp from the word camp. Changes husbands as quick as we change our clothes." *Ibid.*, xiii.142 "That Jean's a camp. Wanted me to fasten her corset. Do you know she still wears one of those old-fashioned things?" **1972** P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* v.156 Noël Coward, playing Bill, who is a statutory camp of the B.P. [i.e., Beautiful

People] nicknamed at first the Witch of Capri, entered the cast [of *Boom*] as a replacement for what was originally a female part. **1973** "J. Maggie" *Split the Sky* v.57 "I set her up as well as I could under the circumstances. She fit right in. She's a camp; let's face it, so she ate it up. That girl can take care of herself in any circumstance, right?" **1973** *Gay Sunshine Interviews* (1982) II.216 Rorem: He projects that image [a "bisexual image"] but I'll bet he's not. ... What Mick Jagger is, is not a camp. He thinks he is but he isn't. Camp is a homosexual sensibility with a soupçon of weariness. A heterosexual in drag thinks he is a camp, but he can't bring it off — perhaps from lack of pathos. **1979** M.P. Levine ed. *Gay Men: Sociol.* 210 "The next time Queen Elizabeth has a luncheon, watch it on television. She arrives from her upstairs bedroom and enters her own dining room with a smart little leather handbag hanging from her arm. That queen is such a camp."

6. See quotes. *U. S. gay and underw. slang. obs.*

1935 A. J. Pollock *Underw. Speaks* s.v. *camp*, meeting place of male sexual perverts where they dress as females. **1942** Berrey and Van Den Bark *Amer. Thes. Slang* Sect. 507.4 *camp*: a male homosexual brothel or gathering place. **1950** Goldin and others *Dict. Amer. Underw. Lingo* 39/2 *camp*. The joint residence of a group of epicenes. "The wagon (police-patrol) backs up to that camp every week for a load of nances (sodomists)." *Ibid.*, 20/2 *Aunt*. The eldest of a group of male oral copulators living together in a camp. *Ibid.*, 40/1 "Do you see all the candy hitting that joint? It must be a fag camp (degenerates' apartment)." **1964** *Time* 25 Dec. (let.) Camp may be purely New York slang, argot. I first ran across it, in the early '30s. At that time, groups of homosexuals lived together in apartments they rented en masse. The apartments were called "camps," and by extension the residents thereof were also called camps — I don't know why not campers, but they weren't.

camp *v* Slang, originally gay. From Fr. (*se*) *camper* to stand in, assume a proud, bold or provocative pose (*Petit Robert*).

1. *intr.* To behave or act in a camp manner; to play the outrageous queen, to flaunt one's homosexuality. Sometimes with the implication of making advances or a play.

1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *To camp* = sich homosexuell-weibisch gebärden. **1921** E. Wilson *Twenties* (1975) 80 Djuna Barnes's story about Carl Van Vechten. She said that he was very "prissy." He had gone into a bookstore in some provincial city and put on a name-spending act: "I read this book of Cabell's in

manuscript"; "Conrad told me that he wasn't really satisfied with this novel," etc. At last, the bedazzled bookseller said: "May ask who you are, sir?" "Oh, I," said Van Vechten in a camping manner, "am Edna St Vincent Millais!" **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 10 We had not spoken fifteen sentences to each other before Foster was camping, hands on hips, with a quick eye to notice every man who passed by. *Ibid.*, 128 "I've had bad news, and I needed a talk with you to cheer me up ... You're so cheery a body with your spontaneous gaiety and girlishness." "Christ, don't start camping at me this morning. I'm fed up," Steve said in surly good nature. **1928** M. West *Pleasure Man* (1997) II.1.184 Flo: Gee, I thought I heard a woman scream. Did you hear it? Jewel: No, you heard them girls next door, campin'. **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xix.150 With their voices pitched high and in imitation of the effusive type of woman, the guests declaimed with the utmost exaggeration possible, what they had to say, each and all trying at the same time to be the centre of interest. They burlesqued all life. This they designated "camping," and to "camp" brilliantly fixed one's social status. *Ibid.*, xxv.214 All of Fay's set knew these firemen. In warm weather they sat on benches in front of the firehouse and camped madly with any one who, as one of the Beaches expressed it "was too obvious." **1933** Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 167 [W]e'll .. pick up a couple of broids and take them to the joint and *camp like mad!* *Ibid.*, 179 You are the only one Frederick said ooooooooooooo. Don't camp like that Karel said. Or I'll leave. **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xxv.305 "He and Feathers were coming up the hall, camping a little." **1936** *Current Psychol. & Psychoanal.* Dec. "That queen over there is camping for jam." **1941** G.W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.92 "Even then I didn't seem to be very conscious of the sexual implications when they would say in conversation that 'so and so is so good-looking.' Technically persons included in such remarks are said to be 'camping' — making homosexual advances." *Ibid.*, 214 "Through him I met others and for the first time I saw people 'camp.'" *Ibid.*, 356 "Now I have a desire to camp in women's clothes and I did a few times." **1941** G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1159 *camp* To speak, act, or in any way attract or attempt to attract attention, especially if noisily, flamboyantly, bizarrely, or in any other way calculated to announce, express, or burlesque one's homosexuality or that of any other person. ... The verbal noun, *camping*, is very common. **1944** J. Alexander *Jeb & Dash* 6 Mar. 268 Joe, the bartender, retrieved a lady's black hat and veil that had been left in a booth, and pranced around and "camped" for a while, arousing roars of laughter. **1944** C. Jackson *Lost Weekend* i.28

There were songs called "The 23rd Street Ferry" and "Peter and the Dyke"; *camping*, *queen*, *faggot*, *meat* were words frequently played upon. 1950 "L. Wahl" *Invisible Glass* x.211 "Did you ever make the baths? ... It's a riot! You strip down, sling this towel about yourself, and camp like crazy. Don't miss it when you get back, Lieutenant. I hear it's still jumping." 1951 N. Coward *Star Quality* 280 "Do you think I haven't met your sort before, camping in and out of the theatre with your giggling boy friends!" 1958 A. Aldrich *We Too Must Love* xii.150 Andrius is the gay of the gay, the kind who perpetually "camps." Men are she's and women are he's. 1959 A. Bannon *Women in Shadows* (1983) viii.130 "What you need and want is a few parties. Get out and camp. Do you good." 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* ix.171 "I camp like mad at the office, but all the girls are nice and join in the laughs." 1961 L. Rand *Rough Trade* (1964) xi.90 "We stop the service at two o'clock, though sometimes they just sit and camp until three or four," he gushingly confided. 1965 J. Osborne *Patriot for me* ii.71 Presently, the "Susanna" begins straight, then gradually cavorting, camping, and sending up the character, the audience, and Mozart as only someone in drag has the licence. 1966 J. Barr *Occasional Man* i.i.6 "If you gotta camp in public, shake you business end in some other place." 1971 D. Rader *Govt Inspected Meat* iv.39 [S]he did not appreciate his camping around the neighborhood in sailor suits or loincloths pretending he was Farley Granger on location. 1972 E. Newton *Mother Camp* v.111 Many impersonators .. often felt they were asked to gay parties simply to entertain and camp it up, and said they did not feel like camping off stage. 1978 "D. Curzon" *Revolt of Perverts* 189 Dana camped a bit around the chair. 1982 J. Caffey *Coming out Party* ix.212 I don't need to flounce and camp across a stage.

2. *trans.* To act or perform (something) in an ostentatiously effeminate manner; to render or make (something, someone) camp.

1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 83 Seating herself, she leaned back her head with a gesture meant to express hauteur, narrowed her eyes in a squint, and began at once to camp an imitation of "Miss Gwendolyn Rollins," who had been in the chorus with her, who had been with the Shuberts for twenty years without losing a single spangle off her dress, and who used to declare that when she played Romeo and Juliet there wasn't a dry seat in the house. 1967 M. Goff *Indecent Assault* xiv.151 "[H]e couldn't speak to him as he was with two other boys, all three camping it to high heaven." 1967 J. Orton *Diaries* 6 Feb. 80 "Sigh No More Ladies" — sung by a fat queeny ice-cream

vendor — was camped unmercifully. **1980** R. v. Praunheim *Army of Lovers* 8 “What would my parents say?” objected one individual who may have been camping his way through all the gay ghettos of Germany. **1984** *Star* (Syd.) 28 June 42/1 [T]here [*sc.*, a gay bar] Alvarez and I would camp our way through the night. **1988** J. Kirkup *I, of all People* iv.216 [T]he mere sight of my beautiful legs in Elizabethan tights was enough to upstage all other players, including Arnold Kettle camping himself sick as Oswald. **1992** *Syd. Star Observer* 21 Feb. 21/3 Paul Capsis .. camps, screeches, cavorts, whirls, sashays and sings his way through Callas, Merman, Bassey, Midler, Turner, Piaf and Joplin.

3. Hence, **camp it up** *v phr* = sense 1; *gen.*, to act or behave in an ostentatious or showy fashion; to over-act, to “ham it up.”

1959 A. Smith *Third Sex* xi.148 “It might have been for Jay and me because we love to camp it up, but you girls are always more serious than we are.” **1959** *Spectator* (Lond.) 13 Nov. 667/3 (OEDS) Most of the time he camps it up for sniggers with manly gestures fading into womanly wriggles. **1961** J. Stearn *Sixth Man* (1962) xiv.146 “.. what goes on behind those doors?” .. “Nothing much. The lesbians camp it up a bit, dancing and grabbing each other.” **1969** R. Pearsall *Worm in Bud* x.560 Wilde, as if encouraging the wrath of authority, camped it up, an Oedipus inviting divine retribution. **1971** J. Mandelkau *Buttons* vii.90 I walked into the bathroom .. and found Nigger Rick and his old lady up to their necks in a bubble bath. They were camping it up like a couple of kids. **1972** See sense 1. **1977** “J. Dick” *Blue-Blood Stud* i.87 “I am going to take you to some trashy place for dinner and then we will camp it up in the bars together tonight.” **1983** D. Rees in *Messer Rondo* 75 At breakfast, he camped it up like mad, waving toast-racks and teapots all round the room. **1987** C. Bram *Surprising Myself* ix.163 “Two deacons got very drunk and were camping it up like queens.” **1988** A Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* iii.61 The dress-note that year had been “Slave Trade,” and the spectacle of predominantly straight boys camping it up to their eyeballs would have been confusing to the child’s budding sense of role-play.

4. intr. To solicit for customers. *Brit. homosexual prost.* Cf. *camp n* in sense 3.

1959 F. Norman *Norman’s Lond.* (1960) ix.64 “You’re very bold, darling, but it won’t do you any good to *camp* around here. Why don’t you go and get yourself a *fare*, and leave us alone?” **1961** Partridge *Dict. Underw.* ed. 2 792/1 *camp*, *v.*; usually as *vbl n.*, *camping* or as *go camping*, solicitation of — to go out soliciting — clients: pathics’, esp. professionals’: since ca. 1920 (communicated July 23, 1948).

chicken *n* An adolescent, a youth, a “boy”; an adolescent homosexual, a young homosexual. *gay slang*. There are two derived, subsidiary senses.

1910 *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Chicken* (junges Huhn) = ein junger Bursch. **1914** in *Jrnl. Hist. Sexuality* v (1995) 593 “[T]hey would have the opportunity of meeting some of the prominent ‘queers,’.. and the further attraction that some ‘chickens’ as the new recruits in the vice are called, would be available.” **1918–32** “Nell Kimball” *Amer. Madam* (1981) xxi.277 Big Nellie said he didn’t mind. “The chicken was so scared he was no use at all and was just a wet blanket on the party. He’s too fucking normal.” **1919** in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) iii.46 Another physician kept a “little short” orderly as his “chicken” ... **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* iii.30 “Just because you’re old Lowell’s latest chicken doesn’t mean you can lord it over me, Gracey.” **1938** Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 2 986/2 *chicken*. — 5. A boy homosexual. **1941** Legman “Lang. Homosexuality” in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1160 *chicken*. A boy of about fifteen to twenty years ..; also a generic term for boys of this age and sort, fancied by many homosexuals, both pedicators and fellators, termed *chicken-fanciers*. **1942** T. Williams *Let. D. Windham* 14 June 29 Bigelow says it is like me assaulting these little southern chickens. **1952** J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xvii.214 “This one starts sweating every time she sees a chicken.” **1956** — *Somewhere between Two* i.15 “Every time some good-looking young chicken comes in wanting to look at a house, he grins at me, tells me he’d better take care of him or I’d give him the place.” **1962** R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* ii.77 “We only fell out when I brought a ‘chicken’ home and we started to fight.” **1963** Flor. State Leg. *Homosexuality & Citizenship in Flor.* [9] It is this type of youth who “goes out for chickens” by becoming a recruiter of extremely young boys. **1967** J. Orton *Diaries* 8 May 159 [H]e’s had a little chicken who’d sucked his cock. **1971** “I. V. Ebbing” *Sherbert & Sodomy* ix.128 [K]eeping .. an eye half-directed at .. the object of his desire — a young blond chicken of not more than nineteen. **1974** E. Lacey in *Angels of Lyre* 122 [L]ooking for Paulinho or Dario or Bethinho or any/ other 15- or/ 16-year-old chicken to share my sheets and flesh with... **1979** M. Wilcox *Rents* (1983) i.13/1 [H]e’s an institution .. he’s had more chickens than just about anybody in town. **1983** *Messer Rondo* 34 We all tried to be discreet, though Martin required an occasional glare when his eyes popped out on stalks at some delectable chicken languidly turning over in the sauna. **1988** “M. Carson” *Brothers in Arms* iii.214 “Look, if I had my way, dear, chickens like you would be let in for nothing, but rules are rules.”

b. Adolescents or youths viewed as source of sexual gratification.

1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.193 She displayed a heterogeneous mixture: "Fish, all kinds of seafood, chicken, cheese, tomatoes, fruit, bananas, nuts, anything you want," she camped, "and if you don't see what you want, ask for it, or go out and drag it in." **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xvii.181 "We're in for a wild tour with this show ... Jules Monroe has put some of his best chicken in the line." **1943** T. Williams *Let. D. Windham* 2 June 75 The week-end netted a relative of Ramon Navarra's, a first cousin who looks like him, the right age for you, not me with my passion for chicken. **1956** J. Little *Somewhere between Two* xxv.248 "You know I go for chicken and baby if I saw you on the street I'd sure make a play for you." **1971** "V. Dickerson" *Hairport* vi.129 "That's chicken .. an' dangerous chicken, baby ... he was only 'bout fourteen." **1976** "M. Scott" *Private Passions* iii.64 "Think you pass for chicken — Officer?" **1980** W. Hamilton *Kevin* iii.36 "I'm new here." "Good. Always like fresh chicken." **1982** B. Lowe *Writer's Cramp* 9/2 "[M]ore importantly, you no longer appeal to the chicken that's out there!" **1984** P. de Rome *Erotic World* iv.77 Cherry started bringing back a succession of unsuitable *ragazzi*, as I started to realize that "chicken" was what he was after, and virtually nothing over the age of seventeen appealed to him.

c. A youth, homosexual or not, used as a decoy by blackmailers of homosexuals. *U. S. slang*.

1950 Goldin and others *Dict. Amer. Underw. Lingo* 43/1 *chicken*. A catamite, especially one used as a decoy by extortionists to blackmail susceptible men. **1961** J. Stean *Sixth Man* (1962) xvi.160 The vulnerability and wealth of many homosexuals have led to the growth of professional blackmail rings operating with paid decoys known to police as "chickens," who are expert at setting up a compromising situation. **1968** S. Barclay *Sex Slavery* xi.240 A decoy or "chicken" let himself be picked up by prospective victims in a bar or club frequented by homosexuals — or even at a party. **1968** P. and B. Wyden *Growing up Straight* v.214 Decoys, or "chickens," who belonged to this gang would lure victims to hotel rooms, usually after making contacts in bars.

cottage *n* A public lavatory (originally, also a pissoir), viewed as the locus of casual sexual encounters. *Brit. gay slang*. For a time, in the earlier- to mid-twentieth century, English public lavatorial architecture did commonly bear a distinct resemblance to the domestic cottage, a smaller version of it, as it were, but the term is older than that development in municipal design. I also treat derived terms.

Quot. 1970 refers to the 1920s; quot. 1988 to the English painter, Henry Scott Tuke (1858–1929).

1909 J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 94/2 *cottages* (Fast youths'). Vespasians; retiring points for half a minute. **1910** Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Cottage* (Hütte, Häuschen) = ein Pissoir. **1936** D. Barnes *Nightwood* (1963) v.133 And do you think that those circular cottages have not brought me to great argument? Have you ever glanced at one when the night was well down, and seen it and what it most looked like and resembled most, with its one coping and a hundred legs? **1952** "G. Westwood" *Soc. & Homosexual* xx.126 "I ran into Norman in a cottage and, of course, I sent her up about that. She wasn't trading but I'm sure she's T. B. H." **1960** — *Minority* v.74 "I was visiting cottages from fourteen onwards until I came to London and realized how sordid and nasty this was. Now I never go to a cottage. I hate them." **1962** R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* ii.48 The "cottage" is a euphemism for a Public Lavatory. *Ibid.* "I am losing my youthful good looks so I visit the cottages and I pick up my trade there." **1962** S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* xxxi.269 Waiting for service, he watched in the mirror the comings and goings from the door marked "Gentlemen," and presently strolled out there. Just idle curiosity, for this was a fairly notorious "cottage." **1967** R. Chopping *Ring* xiv.295 "[W]hy don't you make your basement into a simply divine 'cottage'...?" **1967** J. Orton *Diaries* 11 Mar. 112 He talks about a friend of his who committed suicide. "Found in a cottage she was," he said. **1970** H. M. Hyde *Other Love* vi.206 The most famous or infamous of these urinals in the West End was .. known popularly as "Clarkson's Cottage" from its close proximity to Willie Clarkson's theatrical costume shop. **1974** D. Winn *Prostitutes* iv.42 A pretty young thing races down to the cottage (lavatory) just inside the subway and raises the alarm. Copper's coming. The cottage clears, the urinals stand empty, as the gay prostitutes tuck away their erections and go elsewhere to attract custom. **1979** M. Wilcox *Rents* (1983) 12/2 "Over there .. the gents opposite the North British Hotel ... that's GHQ ... the busiest cottage in Edinburgh." **1984** "Pickles" *Queens* 63 "Cottages are all there is until you look old enough to get into pubs." **1988** N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man?* 245 Tuke's house was called *Pink Cottage* and his boat *Nijinsky*. **1991** O. Moore *Matter of Life & Sex* ii.37 The cottage was also his refuge. The beehive which the drones were guaranteed to visit. It was his holiday home, his weekend retreat, his refreshment stop.

So **cottage** *v intr* To seek or engage in casual sexual encounters in public lavatories.

1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.76 Most homosexuals have at some periods in their lives been out "trolling," and many of them admit to "cottaging" in their earlier days. **1971** E. Chesser *Human Aspects of Sexual Relationships* xiv.238 Not all homosexuals who linger in public lavatories are "cottaging," to use their slang. Some simply want to watch men urinate. **1984** A. Maupin *Babycakes* xxiv.105 "I was busted for cottaging." **1988** A. Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* i.18 "Looked like a Baron to me," I said — and with a silly smirk, "anyway you wouldn't find a Viscount cottaging" **1991** M. Seabrook *Conduct Unbecoming* 75 "I got lifted for cottaging down Fulham. That was in one of these pretty police honeytraps. He was gorgeous." **1998** C. Whyte *Gay Decameron* v.56 "Even though I haven't cottaged for years, I still get incredibly turned on when I set foot in a public urinal."

cottage-queen — A homosexual man who cottages regularly or frequently.

1984 "Pickles" *Queens* 184 Sometimes it's hard, heavy sex, and other times tossing each other off, then and out to the loo and washing the hands, like suburban cottage-queens. **2002** P. Baker *Fantabulosa* 86 *bog queen* .. a man who frequents public toilets for sex. British. Also *cottage queen*, *privy queen*.

cottager — One who cottages regularly or frequently.

1989 Rees and Robins *Freezer Counter* 59 The walls of the nearest cubicle were entirely covered with messages from rent boys, punters, and just plain cottagers. **1991** W. S. Gilbert *Spiked* xlvii.175 [T]he fuzz are as happy persecuting cottagers like them as chasing contract killers. **1991** O. Moore *Matter of Life & Sex* ii.40 And these same waiting, watching cottagers, David's partners in the secret dances behind broken glass windows, among the soggy bogrolls, would switch back .. to their dance positions the minute the intruder was gone. **1994** A. Hollinghurst *Folding Star* ii.280 These were the heads I'd sat behind in school .., teenage cottagers you saw hanging on the railing by the traffic lights in town. **1998** C. Whyte *Gay Decameron* v.57 "His eagerness to talk made me suspicious. It was odd behaviour from a cottager."

cottaging *vbl n* The activity or practice of seeking, or engaging in, casual sexual encounters in public lavatories.

Quot. 1987 refers to the English playwright Joe Orton murdered by his lover, Kenneth Halliwell.

1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.74 Most homosexuals regard "cottaging" as very sordid and look down upon those who resort to this method of finding partners. **1979** M. Wilcox *Rents* (1983) i.13/1 Mind ... there is one guy who loves cottaging so much that he spends his

entire annual vacation at it every year. 1987 *Austral.* (Syd.) 17 Oct Mag. 11/3 Joe was proud of his virility... Halliwell disliked cottaging and Joe's infidelity. 1990 J. Beadle *Doing Business* iii.56 "No. They took me in once for cottaging. Didn't charge me, but gave me a hard time." 1995 W. Corlett *Now & Then* 183 "Sometimes I think you have a quite active sex life, but that you think it might shock me." "You mean rough trade? Or cottaging?" I said.

drag *n* The senses became more complex after 1910. *Slang, orig. gay.* The sense arises from the *drag* of dresses on the ground.

1. Women's clothing worn by men **a.** who are homosexual or male prostitutes or professional female-impersonators or transvestite or **b.** playing travesty roles in the theatre. Also *attrib.*

The context of the early quotes was the prosecution of two homosexual drag-queens, Ernest ("Stella") Boulton and Frederick William ("Fanny") Park in May 1871 for "conspiracy to commit a felony" (i.e., sodomy) before the Lord Chief Justice in the unfortunately-named Court of Queen's Bench. The show-piece trial (alluded to in quot. 1873), with the prosecution led by the Attorney-General, followed committal proceedings in April 1870 (third 1870 quot.) and was spectacularly unsuccessful, the defendants being acquitted. The case and Boulton and Park enjoyed such notoriety that almost forty years later a slang glossator, J. Redding Ware, recorded that their initials were still used in London to refer to effeminate young men (see *Passing English of the Victorian Era: A Dictionary of Heterodox English, Slang, and Phrase* (London, 1909) s.vv. *B. and P.* and *beanpea* ("London Streets, a coalescing of B and P into one word ... Doubtless the outcome of time and the droll idea of combining two vegetables ... Still hastily, too hastily, applied to effeminate youths").

a1870 J. Fisk *Let.* in R. Pearsall *Worm in Bud* x.463 "He tells me you are living in drag. What a wonderful child it is! I have three minds to come to London and see your magnificence with my eyes." a1870 Public Record Office (U. K.) DPP/4/6/1871 in N. Bartlett *Wilde* (1988) iv.88 "I am very sorry to hear you are going about in drag so much — partly for selfish reasons. I know the moustache has no chance while this sort of thing is going on." 1870 *Lond. Figaro* 23 June 3/4 (F. and H.) There is a good deal about Tom and Jerry which our superior refinement might term low — not quite so low though, as going about in drag or consorting with creatures who do. 1870 *Reynolds's* (Lond.) 29 May 5/5 (F. and H.) Police Proceedings. He afterwards said that instead of having a musical party he would make it a

little fancy dress affair, and said, We shall come in drag, which means wearing women's costumes. **1873** [Hotten] *Slang Dict.* 149 *drag*, feminine attire worn by men. A recent notorious impersonation case led to the publication of the word in that sense. **1887** W.E. Henley "Villon's Straight Tip" in J. S. Farmer *Musa Pedestris* 176 Fiddle, or fence, or mace, or mack; Or moskeneer, or flash the drag; ... (glossed 244 = wear women's clothes for an immoral purpose). **1889** Barrère and Leland *Dict. Slang* I.326/2 *drag* (low), a woman's dress when assumed by men for frolic or a fraud. When a "molly," or young man, dresses like a girl, for immoral purposes, he is said to be "on the *drag*." In England, and America *drag*-balls are held, at which the young men are dressed like women, and women very often like men. Some *drag*-balls, without any of the female element, and attended by sodomites, take place occasionally in London. **1891** J. Maitland *Amer. Slang Dict.* 98 *drag* (Eng.), feminine apparel worn by men. **1893** *Alienist & Neurologist* xiv.732 I am credibly informed that there is, in the city of Washington, D. C., an annual convocation of negro men called the drag dance, which is an orgie of lascivious debauchery beyond pen power of description. ... In this sable performance of sexual perversion all of these men are lasciviously dressed in womanly attire .. and deport themselves as women. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Drag* = Frauenkleider, daher auch *Drag-Party*, eine Gesellschaft, wo die Gäste sich als Frauen verkleiden. **1914** Jackson and Hellyer *Vocab. Crim. Slang* 30 *drag*. General currency ... Among female impersonators and men of dual sex instincts "drag" denotes female attire donned by a male. Example: "All the fagots (sissies) will be dressed in drag at the ball tonight." **1918–32** "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1981) xxi.236 The pansies in drag or out were called like Lady Richard, Lady Fresh, Chicago Belle, Toto and a few names you found printed on fences. *Ibid.*, 237 I lost some clients who raved about the balls and costumes of the drag joints. **1924** in S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* (1937) 234 "[S]he was caught in drag on the boost, and by the description that the paper gives of the clothes she had on, she must have had some nifty woman's outfit." **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 94 "Did'ja ever hear of the Portland-Oregon scandal. I wuz at in it. I wuz at the Y. M. C. A. — in drag you know — some outfit I had too, stars and spangles all over me, Mary." **1931** B. Niles *Strange Brother* iv.99 "Then the police don't touch you. Not if the ball is licensed and you don't go on the streets in drag. You can come and go in a taxi in your drag costume ... But you mustn't walk the streets in drag." **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xviii.136 Miss Savoy, the notorious impersonator came sailing by, in grand drag. **1933**

"K. Bruce" *Goldie* xi.136 "But you're not allowed to walk the streets in your drag clothes." 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 151 Frederick was not in drag nor was Julian ... 1947 *Jrnl. Clin. Psychopathol.* July 800 When he dies, he wants to be laid out in drag (women's) clothes in some nice funeral parlor, and he would like all of the impersonators who are his friends to come and look at him. 1949 M. De Forest *Gay Year* iii.vi.214 "I thought .. maybe he was going out in drag or something, though I confess it isn't like Harold to be campy." 1949 *Truth* (Syd.) 11 Dec. 14 Her name is Raymond Keating, of Pyrmont, and few months ago, when arrested in drag was lodged for the night in a police cell, the other occupants of which were all women. 1950 G. Simes *Dict. Austral. Underw. Slang* 71/1 *drag* ... (iii) Woman's clothing. "Pipe the camp in drag," i.e. See the quean in woman's clothes. 1952 J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiii.277 ... he minced to a closet taking out a pair of women's shoes. He held them up to Paul and grinned. "How do you like my new drag shoes?" 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* vii.170 "What about in Plymouth — she went out in drag after the show and a Rear Admiral or someone tried to pick her up — only the wind blew her wig off and she had to run for it. For her life, I mean — not the wig." 1959 K. Williams *Diary* 21 May 151 Hitchman & I, to see *Some Like It Hot* — which was hilariously funny, with the most brilliant tag I've ever heard in any film. It is a man proposing to a man in drag. 1961 J. Rose *At the Cross* 93 You are invited to a Gala Drag and Drain Party. Only those in drag and with invitations will be allowed in. 1964 *Oz* (Syd.) Mar. 7/1 Another incredible aspect of the fashionability of camp behaviour is the upsurge of camp revues around Sydney. There is little satire, wit, or anything else; the sole entertainment is in the fact that the performers are men in drag. 1967 *Kings Cross Whisper* (Syd.) xli.1/2 First indication something was wrong came when a leading male model was seen stepping from the back bar of the Rex Hotel, Kings Cross, in full drag. 1970 G. Walker *Cruising* (1980) xii.100 Even though the guy had on the right costume, Stuart thought, there was something wrong about the way he wore it, something off-key ... Something a little grotesque, like seeing Tony Curtis in drag in "Some Like It Hot." 1972 P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* i.8 Men in drag are perennial figures at carnivals over the world, and appeared at the antique saturnalias, where their absence would have been noticed. 1985 *Quadrant* (Syd.) Dec. 10/1 One could not hope to argue that some of his [E. M. Forster's] characters are, in effect, got up in drag, as is sometimes true of Proust's characters, for this simply is not so. 1992 G. Baxt *Noel Coward Murder Case* v.51 "Oh, Jacob has a terribly suspicious nature. He thinks Mae West is a man in drag."

b. 1887 *Referee* (Lond.) 24 July 3/1 Mrs Shepperd is now played by a man — Mr Charles Steyne, to wit. I don't like to see low coms. in drag parts, but must confess that Mr Steyne is really droll, without being at all vulgar. 1909 J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 117/1 *Drag* (Theat.) Petticoat or skirt used by actors when playing female parts.

Hence, c. Male attire worn by a woman, esp. a lesbian.

1889 See a. above. 1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 115 Steve [fem.] said further to Files, "S'too bad you don't look girlish kiddo, sho's you could pass off as a girl in drag — men's clothes, you know — this joint's all for women." 1947 J. H. Burns *Gallery* 140 "Glamor!? Why you've got as much allure as Gracy Fields in drag." 1957 J.M. Reinhardt *Sex Perversions* 48 *drag* .. Clothing of the opposite sex. 1959 F. Norman *Norman's Lond.* (1969) ix.64 "Get you, darling, all done up in *drag*, anyone would think you were a *palone*." 1999 J. M. Saslow *Pictures & Passions* v.176 Drag was a weapon in her [Rosa Bonheur's] battle to claim masculine prerogatives and create an androgynous, proto-lesbian visual identity.

d. *Spec.*, a frock or dress worn as drag. *uncommon*.

1927 M. West *Drag* (1997) II.118 Rolly: What about you, Duchess? Duchess: Oh, my goodness. I've got the most gorgeous new drag. Black satin, very tight, with a long train of rhinestones. 1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.186 Fay decided to be brilliant and go as a queen. She had with her a drag — "Something gorgeous, simply devastating," Percy Chichi called it. 1952 "J. Little" *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiii.277 "Guess I'd better stick to male attire." "Butch type, huh?" grinned Gene. "Just like my last husband. He was so butch he wore all my drags out." 1956 — *Somewhere between the Two* vii.77 "Where's the rest?" "They'll be right in. They're bringing the drags. Thought we'd have a drag show." 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* iii.29 "Who the hell wants a tatty bit of drag like that?" "Tatty," Josie flared. "Did you say tatty?" "Yes. You heard. Tatty. TATTY DRAG." "That dress is pure nylon." 1966 R. Jordan *Hollywood's Sexual Underground* 47 There is quite a difference, we should point out, between a true transvestite and a homosexual who likes to wear drags.

e. A uniform or costume worn for the purpose of sexual role-playing; any distinctive or characteristic style of clothing; hence *gen.*, clothes, apparel. So *leather drag*, *police drag*, etc.

1951 "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* xii.130 "Ever come here in drag?" the sailor asked. "Just once, never again ... How about you?" "What do you call this?" 1959 C. MacInnes *Absolute Beginners* (1980) i.32 I had on precisely my full teenage drag that would enrage him —

the grey pointed alligator casuals, the pink neon pair of ankle crêpe nylon-stretch, my Cambridge blue glove-fit jeans, a vertical-striped happy shirt revealing my lucky neck-charm on its chain, and the Roman-cut short-arse jacket just referred to. **1963** J. Rechy *City of Night* i.39 "He dresses everyone he goes with in that motorcycle drag — and it bugs him for me to call it that." **1965** W. Young *Eros Denied* xiv.138 "So he got into the drag — had it with him in a suitcase, and for me too: black nylons and high wedge shoes and all. He said he was a servant girl called Millie and I was his mistress." **1967** R. Croft-Crooke *Feasting with Panthers* viii.199 [W]hen an offer was made to him to go to New York (where *Patience* was to be produced on January 2nd, 1882) and actually lecture as Bunthorne, he [Oscar Wilde] at once began to order his wardrobe, no limit to the singular drag he might put on by day or night. **1971** I. V. Ebbing *Sherbert & Sodomy* iii.29 "Man, you can't wear that kind of shit! That's Christopher Street drag!" **1971** G. Merrick *One for Gods* (1972) 198 "You've hit it lucky. You've had that luscious captain and you'll soon be back in civilian drag. What more could a girl want?" **1975** R. Hall *Butterscotch Prince* ix.125 They looked at my uptown drag disapprovingly — belted knit jacket, flannel bells, carefully knotted Cardin tie. **1976** M. Scott *Gay Psycho* 6 "I like your faggot drag," he said insultingly. "You look faggy enough to attract a queer — that's the general idea, isn't it?" **1978** A. Maupin *Tales of City* (1979) 175 She was wearing what Michael referred to as her "Laura Hutton drag." **1984** N. Aldyne *Slate* i.17 'I didn't recognize him at all. Is the construction drag real?' **1985** J. Preston ed. *Hot Living* 50 "What's this wearing Prep School Drag to the gym?" I scoffed.

2. A drag-ball or -dance, a drag-party. *gay slang, orig. and chiefly U. S.* Quots 1950 show that this sense was by then known in Australia and Great Britain. *Obs.*

1919 in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) iii.42 Gregory Cunningham focused on a conversation about a "big drag" where Goldstein said liquor and "snow" would be served. **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.viii.204 A *drag*, a social gathering of homosexuals at which some are in female dress; also an outfit of female dress worn by a homosexual. *Ibid.*, 203 They have parties or "drags" to which only homosexuals are admitted, and at these some generally appear in female dress. **1927** *Variety* (N. Y.) in "K. Curtin" *We .. Bulgarians* (1987) iii.81 It is privileged for few to be present at one of these "drags," but to those who have attended them it is a never-to-be-forgotten sight, although it does leave a bad taste in the mouth. **1927** M. West *Drag* (1997) III.131 As the curtain rises all the guests of the drag are danc-

ing. 1929 M. Lief *Hangover* xiii.211 "Why don't you go up to that Drag they're running in Harlem next week?" said Jack. "You can see all your boy-friends in their glory there." 1931 "Dean Stiff" *Milk & Honey Riute* 204 *drag*—Hobo term for the main street of a town ... But a *drag* is also a homosexuals' party. 1931 A. Tellier *Twilight Men* iii.vii.236 In spite of Armand's protests she and Don dragged him into the inner room and dressed him in clothes Stephen had once worn to a drag. 1932 *Mod. Thinker* April 29 Today homosexual "joints," homosexual "drags," homosexual plays, and homosexual clubs are known in every large American city. 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 127 Frederick asked him if he were going to the drag on Saturday of next week. 1934 L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xvii.189 "But — " Joe looked around, "you ain't got nothing to wear to a drag, have you?" 1937 J. M. Cain *Serenade* (1953) xi.160 When we got in there, the worst drag was going on you ever saw in your life. 1939 *Jrnl. Nerv. & Mental Disease* xcii (1940) 46 Prior to about 1919, a kind of party known in slang as a drag could only be visited under the greatest secrecy, but with present-day, wide-open conditions, such parties are conducted so brazenly that admission is no longer difficult... 1940 T. Williams *Let. D. Windham* 8 Aug. (1977) 18 They had a "drag" at the "White Whale" night club last night. 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.425 In the winter season he a constant attendant at the drags where he dressed in elaborate evening apparel, always as a woman. 1950 *Austral. Police Jrnl* Apr. 112 *drag*, 3 months' imprisonment; or may refer to a gathering of homosexuals. 1950 "P. Tempest" *Lag's Lex.* 68 *drag, a.* A party given by homosexuals where they all wear female clothing. 1956 *Social Probs* iii.258/2 The extreme but not uncommon instance of this is the homosexual institution of the "drag" in which members of the group make themselves up as women. 1957 H. Cleckley *Caricature of Love* vi.49 In the outlandish promiscuity of the "gay" bars and the "drags," a characteristic triviality of personal relations is reflected. 1966 J. Barr *Occasional Man* i.vii.99 "This here queen gives these drags only a few times a year, but they're the choicest in the country."

3. A man dressed in drag; a man who regularly or habitually dresses in drag; a DRAG-QUEEN (now the usual understanding of the use). *orig.* U. S. (as a shortening of *drag-queen*; the usage may have arisen independently elsewhere).

1931 B. Niles *Strange Brother* xi.210 The Drag Ball, he explained to her, was a great masquerade party to which men went in fancy dress — went in the costumes of women. The men, so dressed, were called "drags." 1933 L. F. Potter *Strange Loves* xi.187 The men, dressed in the

clothes of women, are called "drags." 1950 Goldin and others *Dict. Amer. Underworld Lingo* 61/2 *drag*. 4. A man in feminine attire; feminine attire worn by a *fag*. *Ibid.*, 270/2 Female impersonator. A drag. 1963 J. Rechy *City of Night* ii.135 "And honey, he was the maddest drag you've ever seen. She looked like Sophie Tucker — simply the maddest drag I ever laid eyes on!" 1966 "Petronius" *N. Y. Unexpurgated* vi.154 Celebrity fags are either full, zany, campy, out-and-out drags; or discreet closet fags. 1968 "E. Wood" *Gay Black* xii.113 "Sometimes the fuzz comes in here and they pick up the drags." 1969 *N. Y. Mattachine Newslet.* Aug. Apart from the Goldbug and One Two Three, "drags" and "queens" had no place but the Stonewall. 1969 *Queen's Qtly.* (N.Y.) Summer 16 Drags are .. usually exaggerated women — sort of everything bad in one big bundle. 1976 D. Galloway *Melody Jones* vii.67 With her thick, meat-red hands and the coarse whiskers she shaved until her cheeks were raw, she was a terrible drag. 1980 E. White *States of Desire* 290 In the Grove one sees blacks and Puerto Ricans, a few drags, a few older queens in flowing kaftans and one hears old-style dishing and Judy Garland records — all unthinkable in the Pines. 1982 N. Aldyne *Cobalt* ix.58 "[H]e was spiked to death by a drag." 1985 R. G. Barrett *You Wouldn't Be Dead* 202 "Hey, fuckin' hold on! ... I don't hang around the Drake trying to tan track drags." 1995 C. Tsiolkas *Loaded* 92 We're proud of Ari, he tells Sasha, he can draw the men and the drags.

drag-party *n* A homosexual social gathering at which some (or all) of the guests are dressed in the clothes of the other sex; *orig.*, of male gatherings. *Brit. and Austral. gay slang.*

1910 *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.39 An dieser Stelle mag auch berichtet werden, dass die, von als Frauen verkleideten Männern besuchten "Drag-parties," in den letzten Jahren sehr abgenommen haben. [At this point it may also be reported that "drag-parties" attended by men dressed as women have become in recent years very much less frequent.] *Ibid.*, 40 Drag = Frauenkleider, daher auch Drag Party, eine Gesellschaft, wo die Gäste sich als Frauen verkleiden. 1953 "R. Garland" *Heart in Exile* 68 "I suppose they go to drag-parties and dress up like Indian snake-charmers or Carmen Miranda." 1955 G. Simes *Dict. Austral. Underw. Slang* 71/2 *drag party* A party attended by passive homosexuals in DRAG. 1960 Gosling and Warner *Shame of City* xiii.148 It is almost as difficult to gain evidence even when offences are committed at what the homosexuals call "drag parties" because the police usually cannot get an informer into the circle to discover the date, time and place of the proposed party in advance. 1961 N. Coward *Di-*

aries 5 Mar. (1982) 465 He camped about like an old-fashioned quean at a drag party. **1967** H. Cronin *Screw Turns* iv.65 Every evening this club was the scene of a "drag" party, as I believe it's called. [**1970**] M. Davidson *Some Boys* 171 The place was full of adolescent Africans in drag. *In drag*. .. it was in fact a drag party.

gam *v* To perform fellation or cunnilinctus (on). *Brit. slang*. By apocope from *gamahuche* or the popular corruption *gameruche*. From French *gamahucher*, the ultimate origin remaining obscure.

1910 *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 [E]inige der gewöhnlichsten homsexuellen Ausdrücke .. To bottle, to gam = Penilinus treiben. **1965** G. Legman *More Limericks* 359 A street bawd arrested in Drury Cried after the trial, in great fury: "I didn't begrudge A free grind to the judge — The hard part was gamming the jury." **1965** W. Young *Eros Denied* xiv.317 Fifi or Froufrou gives French lessons; recently back from France, French and English conversations (which means *gamming*). **1966** T. Keyes *All Night Stand* ii.17 Sheila was altogether different. ... Long hair trying very hard not to be curly, and a mouth that God could only have made for gamming. **1972** G. F. Newman *You Nice Bastard* (1973) iv.129 [H]e had trouble screwing women unless they gammed him. **1990** *Fiesta Let.* 4 121/1 They had negotiated a gobble. However some of the bolder highlanders had thought she could be persuaded to do a turn. The general census of opinion was that if buxom Fanny was game enough to gam them she was good for a "cock-up" too.

b. Also used nominally. (An act of) fellation (?or cunnilingus); the act of sucking or licking the genitals. *Brit.* (and *Austral.*) *slang*.

Orally reported in *Austral.* in the 1940s with the sense 'a person considered as a practitioner of fellation' (*Is he good gam?*).

1954 in Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 8 443/2 "I no fuck. I holiday. But I give you gam for ten bucks." **1960** J. Franklyn *Dict. Rhyming Slang* 108 *plate of ham* Gam (itself an abbreviation), fellatio. **1968** F. Mullally *Penthouse Sexicon* 74 *plate* (Cock. rhym. slang) Plate of ham — gam (etym. obscure). **1970** *What Rugby Jokes Say* 87 "Aw, come on daddy, don't be a mean scrooge, make it ten and I'll give you a gam as well." **1977** D. Powis *Signs of Crime* 185 *gam* Taboo word for fellatio. Never used in mixed company. **1982** P. Bailey *Engl. Madam* vii.99 She's another one with an understanding husband. Bert always takes the dog for a walk when a bloke turns up for a gam. **1984** *Erotic World of Peter de Rome* i.19 "[B]low-job" sounds more nearly exact than the strange phrase we had at the time of "giving a gam," presumably from the archaic French slang word *gamahuche*.

game, on the a phr Pavia's sense is not the usual one. I treat his sense first and then the other.

1. on (also in) the game. In quest of a sexual partner, cruising. *Brit. and Austral. gay slang.* From the following sense.

1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *On the game* = auf Männerbekanntschaften ausgehen. **1962** S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* xii.116 "No, I shouldn't be surprised if he goes on the game alone ashore. There's a lot of 'em [*sc.*, gays] do." **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* i.i.14 It's the ones that *aren't* obvious that you want, that most everyone wants; what's called "rough trade" or, if it's not rough, just "trade." Casual adventurers. Or week-end dabblers. Sometimes only once a month, once a year. And bisexuals. There's no end to the variety of types in the game.

2. Prostitution. Const. *the game. Slang, orig. prostitution.* Prob. from underworld *game* a criminal activity, esp. theft; *on the game*, thieving.

1775 *Ranger's Impartial List of Ladies of Pleasure in Edinburgh* C6^b If it was not for this Lady's inordinate desire for the sport of Venus, she would never have followed the game, as she does not possess one outward accomplishment to recommend her. **1877** *Vagabond Papers* 2nd ser. x.188 "How long have you been at this game, my child?" "Three days, sir," was the answer. c**1906** C. W. Chandler *Darkest Adelaide* 8/1 "Much done in the bludging line over here?" I asked. That query set him going. Of course he did not want to admit straight out that he was on the game, but he knew so much about the inward working of the profession he evidently wished to impress the fact on me that he was no mug so far as bludging was concerned. **1913** C. Mackenzie *Sinister Street* (1949) iv.ix.858 "After all that's what we're for — to get pinched when they've got noting better to do. Of course, I know it's part of the game, but there it is." **1936** "J. Curtis" *Guilt Kid* (1947) iv.36 "I've never ponced on no one yet and I'm not going to start now. And — if I was I'd pick a jane who knew a bit more about the game than you do." **1939** J. Worby *Spiv's Progress* viii.70 "What, give up the game? Not on your life. What chance have I got of living an honest life, a girl like me?" **1954** R. Haydn *Jrnl Edwin Carp* 37 I learned, to my horror, that their union had never been sanctified, that her husband (I shall continue to call him that) had left her, that she was too old to go back to "The Game" (whatever that may be) and that she was penniless. **1955** D. Webb *Deadline for Crime* iv.96 "If you want to know who's the man behind all those foreign tarts in the West End get hold of Toni Ross. He knows the game. Should do. Been in it long enough." **1963** D. Wepman *The Life* (1976) 86 "Bitch, you ain't no lame, you know the Game; They call it cop and blow." **1964** Z. Progl

Woman of Underworld ix.90 One condition of the marriage imposed by Chas was that Annie should .. give up the game. 1973 M. Harris *Dilly Boys* ii.33 Colin's introduction to "the game" was by way of an outwardly more colourful encounter with the authorities. 1982 P. Bailey *Engl. Madam* vi.85 Cynthia was deeply discontented during the two years or so she worked as a prostitute. She found herself unable to play the "game" with much enthusiasm.

b. Esp. in the phrr. **on the game**, also **in**, practising prostitution professionally; **go on the game**, to begin to work professionally as a prostitute; **off the game**, having ceased to practice prostitution professionally.

[?c1882 *Syd. Slang Dict.* 4 *Game (on the)* — Thieving, or hunting down prey.] c1906 C. W. Chandler *Darkest Adelaide* 10/2 Still, like most females on the game, she thought it handy to keep a man about her premises. 1913 C. Mackenzie *Sinister Street* (1949) iv.iii.701 "Don't you ever go and have a fancy boy, Daise. Why, I was a straight girl when I knew him. Straight — well, anyway not on the game like what I am now." 1915 M. Pinzer *Maimie Papers* 7–13 Sept. (1977) 310 If the girl is generally known, that means she has been in the game long; and Mr Benjamin thinks it better to try to help those who are young in the life. 1926 M. West *Sex* (1997) ii.ii.61 Gregg: Anyway, she's off the game and she's off me since she met this Stanton. 1928 trans. A. Londres *Road to Buenos Ayres* x.74 "They don't take only women who are in the game already. They get hold of innocent women." 1933 W. C. Reckless *Vice in Chicago* 146 "Yes, I've been in the game twelve years now." 1937 "J. Curtis" *You're in Racket Too* iii.31 Not but what they didn't pay good rents, the girls. Yerce, when they were on the game they paid up high and they paid up prompt too. 1941 "V. Davis" *Phenomena in Crime* viii.106 To appreciate the large number of foreign girls on the game in London it is only necessary to take a stroll along Piccadilly. 1954 T. A. G. Hungerford *Sowers of Wind* xxii.272 "Some old sheila stopped me — I thought she was on the game until I had a good look at her, but she was too old." 1959 E. Lambert *Glory Thrown In* xxi.105 "She was on the game. The dough she pretended to be wages was something else." 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.73 "Some of those pubs should be closed. They're full of rough Irish layabouts just looking for queers to rob. They're not queer — just robbers, or on the game." 1962 M. Davidson *World, Flesh & Myself* vii.90 I didn't look for boys on the game — I hardly knew there were any. 1965 W. Young *Eros Denied* xiv.140 "And even afterwards, if I haven't liked him, I tell him I'm going off the game, or I'm going away on a holiday; he'd better not come again." 1975 P. Kenna *Mates in Drag Show* (1977) 48 She'd still be on the game

if she could get anybody interested. **1982** P. Bailey *Engl. Madam* ii.43 He .. had said to him, "I've got a girl at home. She's not on the game but try her anyway." **1990** J. Beadle *Doing Business* vi.108 "So you came to London and went on the game to avoid a life of crime?" I asked gently, but the irony was lost. **1995** P. Scott *One Dead Diva* viii.50 "I hate to gossip, but I got the impression he was once on the game."

grope *vt* To feel or touch or grasp with the hands the genitals, arse, or breasts of (another person, oneself); to feel or touch or grasp with the hands (the genitals, arse, or breasts); to touch or feel with (a finger, hand); to touch up, feel up, manhandle. Not *gay slang* but *Standard English*, though in December 1900 OED (*v* in sense 3b) stated, quite incorrectly, that the sense was obsolete (quots 13.. to 1664); the *Supplement* (1972) failed to correct the error. Because of this deficiency, the word continued to appear in gay glossaries in the twentieth century (Legman, Hauser, Guild, Rodgers, Stanley).

1653 Urquhart trans. Rabelais i.xi (1929) I.30 But hearken, good fellows, the spigot ill betake you, and whirl round your brains, if you do not give ear! this little lecher was always groping his nurses and governesses, upside down, arseversy, topsiversy, harri bourriquet, with a Yacco haick, hyck gio! handling them very rudely in jumbling and tumbling them to keep them going; for he had already begun to exercise the tools, and put his codpiece in practice. **a1796** *Merry Muses* (ed. Legman, 1965) 37 Donald Brodie met a lass, Comin' o'er the hills o' Coupar; Donald wi' his Highland hand graipit a' the bits about her. **1883** *Boudoir* iv (1984) 161 Polly and Capias were deliciously groping each other as they looked through the peep holes. *Ibid.*, vi.243 [O]ne of his hands clasped and pressed the young, firm, warm flesh of Sissy's bum, or groped a finger into her hairless slit. **1888-94** *My Secret Life* x.ii II.1974 When I first followed her I wanted to grope her, but she refused. **1891** Farmer and Henley *Slang* II.399 *firkytoodle*, verb (common). — To indulge in sexual endearments. Also *firkytoodling* = preliminary caresses. English Synonyms. — ..to feel; to finger; to fumble; to grope; to clitorize; to touch up; to tip the long (or middle) finger. **1904** A. Crowley *Snowdrops from a Curate's Garden* 67 He wanted to feel that he had but to crook his middle finger, and nine-inch nockers would come running up by their thousands to grope their little Stevie's brown crack. **1910** Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 To grope = jemand geschlechtlich zu betasten. **1933** Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 161 [T]he first thing I knew she [masc.] was trying to grope me like mad. **1941** Legman *Limerick* 238 There was a young lady named

Dowd Whom a young fellow groped in the crowd. **1950** "L. Wahl" *Invisible Glass* x.209 "If you don't stop groping me, you bitch, I'll bite your testicles off. One at a time!" "Love it!" leered the Englishman. **1959** B. Hecht *Sensualist* (1960) 125 "The ladies of the house," said Liza, "would catch their husbands groping me. And file a complaint." **1966** A. Goodman *Mercenary Affections* 4 While trying to get to the bar to order a drink, I was groped twice, which would have been OK if only I knew who was doing the groping! **1969** P. Goodman in *New Gay Lib. Bk* 36 I have to do something at peace demonstrations — I am not inspired by guitar music — though no doubt the TV files and the FBI with their little cameras have probably caught pictures of me groping somebody. **1974** B. Humphries *Barry MacKenzie Holds his Own* 3 The aged and hispid pilot is drinking from a bottle and simultaneously groping the beautiful hostess who is making an announcement. **1976** P. N. Warren *Fancy Dancer* x.157 Everybody was looking everyone else up and down, and it dawned on me that I might have my first experience of being "cruised" or "groped" (words I'd learnt from Vidal) before the night was over. **1981** R. Stevenson *Death Trick* xiv.121 She groped my cock with a palmful of Vasoline Intensive Care Lotion. **1986** *Fiesta Let.* ii.98 [T]hey began kissing and fondling each other and it wasn't long before he was groping her tits. **1997** *Cherry Tales* (N. J.) Nov. 11 "Man, she has a tight little hole," he guffawed, while aggressively groping his bulging crotch.

b. reflex. To feel or play with one's penis, usu. through one's clothing.

1967 A. Chester *Exquisite Corpse* (1971) xxx.90 At last .. a sailor appeared. He was groping himself. Madame Madison stared at him between half-closed lids. The sailor began unbuttoning his fly. **1984** P. de Rome *Erotic World* iv.85 As I came up to the shop window, I could see that he was groping himself. **1987** J. Fritscher *Stand by yr Man* 72 Scott groped himself again. He wanted to show the cyclist he was interested. The guy lowered his gloved hand and groped his own crotch. **1995** *Handjobs* (Cal.) April 17 Several times I saw him grope himself. His slacks showed a slight bulge...

c. intr.

1881 *Sins of Cities of Plain* (1992) vi.84 I clasped him to my breast and implanted hot burning kisses on his lips, while my hands groped under his clothes and up his drawers, till I had hold of a splendid stiff prick. **1883** *Boudoir* v (1984) 201 [S]he groped with her hand, and found only a limp affair for her trouble. **1885** Burton trans. *Arab. Nights* I.90 All this time the Porter was carrying on with them, kissing,

toying, biting, handling, groping, fingering. **1930** N. Lindsay *Redheap* (1959) xiv.248 "Ye'd be gallivantin', ye would; ye'd be off on the randy-dan ye would. Ye'd be gropin' at the petticoats, ye would." **1948** ?W. H. Auden *Platonic Blow* (1965) [2] I found what I hoped. I groped. It was large. **1949** "N. Kent" *Divided Path* i.117 Suddenly he gave an involuntary start as he felt a hand groping to see if the erotic stimulus of the pictures was bringing about the desired reaction. **1952** "E. Box" *Death in Fifth Position* (1982) i.18 I couldn't stand like this forever pressed up against his front while he fumbled and groped with his free hand, embarrassing me very much. **1967** J. Herbert *Fortune & Men's Eyes* ii.93 "The fruit was gropin' pretty good when we made the scene." **1972** "R. Cummings" *Bath Buddy* ii.75 Did you know a cock can grope? As soon as Doug's cock came in contact with my hand, it jumped and throbbed and nestled closer to my palm. **1982** O. Levy *Brother's Touch* 156 He impulsively threw caution aside and reached to grope. **1995** D. Vilmure *Toby's Lie* 31 She earned the sobriquet "Sex on the Beach" when a private detective freelancing for her parents photographed her groping half naked with a lifeguard.

NOMINAL USES

grobe *n* An act of groping, a 'feel', a 'touch-up'.

1881 *Sins of Cities of Plain* (1992) ii.33 Jerry stiffened abruptly as I pulled at the string and unmade it, then allowed my wandering and mischievous fingers to reach within to have a grope at the mystery between his thighs. **1883** *Three Chums in Boudoir* iv (1984) 132 [S]hort as the journey had been the girls managed to rack off a spend from their gentlemen, who enjoyed a delicious grope in the dark, as they jolted along. *Ibid.*, vi.230 "Have you had some good gropes among the crowd?" **c1900** "Ramrod" *My Lustful Advent* (1996) i.8 Encouraged by this very loose conduct on the young lady's part, I was just about to have a grope. **1952** "E. Box" *Death in 5th Position* (1982) vii.160 I waved to the waiter who, without asking, brought us another round; before he left he gave Louis a lightning grope and Louis didn't like it but, as I pointed out, he was just getting some of his own medicine. **1969** *Queen's Qtly* (NY) i.3 (Summer) 43 Again, if you both love a group grope, it's great. **1973** J. Powers *Last of Knucklemen* (1974) iii.80 Monk: One of them even suggested we say the Rosary on the way to the drive-in. All the way to the drive-in! Tarzan: ... An' the Monk was wantin' a good old-fashioned grope! **1980** G. Chapman *Liar's Autobiog.* (1981) iv.93 She was a real "lie down, think of hockey and England" type, and after a brief grope that

was not enthusiastically received I thought, "The bar's still open, I'll get rid of her." 1987 K. Lette *Girls' Night Out* 61 It made my friendship rings and gropes in the drive-in (the Finger Bowl as it was known locally) look like one of Keats' love poems. 1990 "G. Parker" *Passion* v.152 "When I think of the odd surreptitious cuddle and grope, during my school years ..." "Did you have gropes, with girls?" "Of course. Gropes with boys never entered my head, even though I'd have preferred them."

b. In the *v phr go, come the grope*. To engage in groping, to grope (someone). Const. *on, with*, of the recipient of the attentions. *Austral. slang*.

1950 G. Simes *Dict. Austral. Underw. Slang* 97/2 *grobe (sub and vt)* Indecent(ly) assault with intent to seduce. "He groped her," or "He went the grope on her." 1962 "C. Rohan" *Delinquents* 66 "[W]hen I woke up Kath and the soldier were both in with me, both naked as the day they were born, and the soldier started to go the grope on me." 1964 B. Humphries *Nice Night's Entertainment* (1981) 79 But we weren't in the mood to bash the slopes; the weather got hot and sunny. So we steamed up to the huts to go the grope with some raving little bunny. 1971 F. Hardy *Outcasts of Foolgarah* ii.16 [H]e kissed her, .. and Florrie game for it but trying to push him away when he went the grope up the fleshy thigh for a bit of stink finger. *Ibid.*, xiii.191 (Who do you think made up the story about Sneed coming the old grope on Liza Minnelli?) 1975 W. Nagle *Odd Angry Shot* 4 Well you had kissed her first — shit, a man didn't go the grope straight off. You were nineteen. 1984 P. Jarratt *Sex: Dict.* 31 At the wrong end of the office party, after the consumption of some light, liquid refreshment, the hardworking faithful hubby may be forgiven if, brushing past her between the shredder and the loo, he is tempted to go the grope on Miss Jones from the typing pool.

make the rent *v phr* I have not found evidence of this phrase, which may not in any case be lexicalized in this precise sense.

1966 ["P. Andros"] *Stud* I.50 "I'm kinda desperate. How'm I gonna get the rent money if I don't go out and hustle tonight?"

Margery, Marjorie *n* A homosexual man or boy, esp. if effeminate. Pavia's definition is adjectival, but as the word is used nominally I have treated it as a noun. *Slang, orig. and chiefly Brit.; now hist.* (quot. 1988 purports to be a 1920s diary; quot. 1998 is a novel set in late-Victorian London). Transferred use of the female given name.

185– *Yokel's Preceptor* in "Pisanus Fraxi" *Index* 404 The increase of these monsters in the shape of men, commonly designated *Margeries*,

Pooffs, &c., of late years .. renders it necessary for the safety of the public, that they should be made known. *Ibid.*, 405 The Quadrant is thronged by a number of the most notorious Margeries, who turn out daily and nightly to look for their livings the same as the blowens. **1903** "E. Dühren" *Das Geschlechtsleben in Engl.* III p. vii (contents) Treiben der Paederasten um 1850 — Die "Tommies," "Margeries" und "Poofs." **1909** J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 173/2 *Margery*. (L. London, 19 cent.) Ef-feminate. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Margery, Nancy*, weibisch in Benehmen. **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xviii.200 "If you please," Ken's lips shaped a bud, "I'll show those Mar-jories who the best dressed flame is." **1988** A. Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* vi.124 S. was very drunk & indiscreet (not to say made up like a Regent Street margery). **1998** R. Black *Dr Reynard's Experiment* i.xii.134 "Who's the boy? Looked like a bleeding Margery to me."

Mary-Ann. Also **Mary Ann, Mary-Anne, Maryanne, Marianne.** — An effeminate male homosexual, esp. one who prostitutes himself: a 'sodomite'. *Brit. slang.* Now *hist.* Special use of the female Christian name; cf. *Mary*. The form *Charlotte-Ann* is recorded in the U. S. in 1882.

The book cited in quot. 1881 purports to be the memoirs of an historical male prostitute, Jack Saul, who was interviewed by the police in 1889 (quot. 1889) in connexion with the Cleveland Street scandal that arose following the discovery of a male brothel in that London street.

1868 C. H. Ulrichs *Memnon* (1898) iii.37 In Paris und London giebt es Schaaren junger hübscher Weiblinge, die sich koquettierend auf Boulevards und Promenades umhertreiben. Dies ist dem dortigen Publikum auch wohlbekannt. In London nennt sie der Volksmund "Mary-Anns" (Marie-Annen oder Anna-Marien). [In Paris and London there are crowds of pretty young effeminate men who carry on coquettishly round and about on the boulevards and promenades. This is well known to the public there, too. In London they are called in the slang "Mary-Anns."] *Ibid.*, xx.137 Derselbe Brief giebt mir überraschenden Aufschluss über die oben erwähnten Verhandlung vor dem Polizeirichter Mr Knox gegen Kate Smith, die "Mary Ann," d. i. Henry Maltravers, wegen ungebührlichen Behelmens auf offener Strasse. [The same letter gives me startling information about the above-mentioned proceedings before the Police Magistrate Mr. Knox against "Kate Smith," the "Mary Ann," i.e., Henry Maltravers, for indecent conduct on an open street.] *Ibid.*, xx.137 Der Ausdruck "Mary Ann" ist übrigens nur in beschränkten Kreisen üblich. Die Frauenzimmer des demimonde, die sich geputzt auf Promenaden umhertreiben, die

Obstfrauen und ähnliche Individuen rufen: "a Mary Ann!" wenn sie sehen, wie die bemalten und ebenfalls geputzten jungen Urninge umherkoquettieren, indem deren Neigungen ihnen nicht fremd sind. [The expression "Mary Ann" is, for the rest, common only in limited circles. The women of the demi-monde who cavort about finely-attired on the promenades, the coster-women and similar individuals call out "a Mary Ann!" when they see the painted and equally finely-attired young urnings out and about playing the coquette, for their propensities are not unknown to the women.] **1880** *Pearl* Oct. (1973) 570 Amenities of Leicester Square. Girl to ponce: — Go along, you bloody Mary Ann, and tighten your arse-hole with alum. **1881** *Sins of the Cities of the Plain: or The Recollections of a Mary-Ann* (title). *Ibid.* (1992) i.8 He wore auburn hair, and sparkling blue eyes, which spoke as plainly as possible to my senses, and told me that this handsome youth must indeed be one of the "Mary-Anns" of London, who I had heard were often to be seen in the neighbourhood of Regent Street, or the Haymarket, on fine afternoons or evenings. *Ibid.*, i.16 And so the arrangement was for him to compile me "The Recollections of a Mary-Ann," although he seemed not to like the name as applied to himself. He said that "Mary-Ann" was what the low girls of his neighbourhood called him if they wished to insult him. *Ibid.*, vi.79 I afterwards found that no gentleman was admitted to the freedom of this establishment unless he first paid an admission fee of one hundred guineas, besides a handsome annual subscription and liberal payments for refreshments and the procuration of street Mary-Anns, soldiers, or youths like myself. **1889** J. Saul in Public Records Off. (Lond.) DPP file 1/95/4/2 in Chester and others *Cleveland St Affair* iii.52 "I am still a professional 'Mary-Anne.' I have lost my character and cannot get on otherwise." **1890** Barrère and Leland *Dict. Slang* II.45 *Mary Ann* (popular), an effeminate youth or young man, known in America as a Molly. Latin *cinædus*. **1891** J. A. Symonds *Prob. Mod. Ethics* (1896) v.58 English men know the type as Mariannes, and had occasion to study their habits in the Boulton and Park trial. **1895** *Reynolds's Newsp.* (Lond.) 2 June 1/4 (F. and H.) I remember when residing in Oxford having pointed out to me in "the High" more than one professional catamite; just as waiting for a 'bus at Picadilly-circus a few years later I heard prostitutes jocosely apostrophizing the Mary-Anns who plied their beastly trade upon the pavement beside the women. **1896** Farmer and Henley *Slang* IV.287/1 *Mary-Ann*, subs. 3. (common) A sodomite. **1909** J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 174/1 *Mary Ann* (L. London, 19 cent.) An effeminate man. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Mary-*

Ann = Schimpfname für homosexuelle Männer. **1936** trans. I. Bloch *Hist. Engl. Sexual Morals* II.xiii.416 This youth was a "Mary Ann," as paederasts were then called by the people. **a1951** in A. Hodges *Enigma* (1983) He [Alan Turing] was very conscious of being called a "Mary Anne" for intelligence and sensitivity. **1961** G. Brown *I Want What I Want* i.26 Jim asked to sweep the floor instead of washing up in the mornings. When Sam asked him why he did not want to wash up Jim said, "It's a job for a Mary-Anne, and you've got a Mary-Anne to do it." **1969** R. Pearsall *Worm in Bud* x.472 The out-of-touchness of magistrates and judges was made clear by the enquiry in 1889 of magistrate Hannay at the Marlborough Street police court, who asked "What is the meaning of 'Mary Anne?'" A police office had replied in delicate language suited to an outsider, "Men that get a living by bad practices." **1988** R. A. Browne *Sherlock Holmes* xv.154 "I did not foresee a clinging Mary-Anne — " admitted Holmes. **1988** A. Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* ii.41 "Actually, there are lots of people, not yet dead, that I'd like you to meet. All my society is pretty bloody interesting. Falling to bits, of course, ga-ga as often as not, and a coachload of absolute Mary-Anns, I won't deny it."

Nancy Pavia's definition is adjectival, but as the word was and is used adjectivally and nominally I have treated both uses. Both are *slang*. A shortened form *nance* soon emerged, *orig. Brit.*, and the elaborated form *nancy-boy* orig. U.S.

1. *n* An effeminate male, a *Miss Nancy*; an effeminate homosexual.

The evidence in Farmer and Henley, quot. 1902, is ambiguous but seems to mean that *nancy* also bears the senses of *nan-boy*.

1899 N. Y. State Leg. *Report Special Committee .. to Investigate Public Offices* (1900) V.1382 Q. Who did you convict? A. All the Nancys and fairies that were there. Q. What do you mean by that — male prostitutes, male prostitutes? A. Degenerates, yes ... **1902** Farmer and Henley *Slang* V.12/1 *nancy*, subs. (common). — 1. The breech. .. Also see NAN-BOY [= An effeminate man; a Miss Nancy (*q.v.*). 2. (venery). — A catamite.] **1904** No. 1500 *Life in Sing Sing* xiii.251/1 *Nancy*. Effeminate man. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Margery, Nancy*, weibisch in Benehmen. **1916** [H. N. Cary] *Slang of Venery* II.2 *Nancy* 2. A cock sucker. **1931** R. Campbell *Georgiad* II.37 And having lived my early days too fast Make one long lenten Sunday of my last, By sharing out my last desires and fancies With tough old suf-fragettes and ageing nancies. **1931** Partridge, ed. F. Grose *Class. Dict. Vulgar Tongue* 234 *Molly*. A Miss Molly; an effeminate fellow, a

sodomite. (In 1900–1914, the former was quite often called a *Gussie*; in post-War days, the latter is frequently alluded to as a *Nancy*, a *Nancy Boy*, a *Cissie*, the last in both senses.) **1932** “S. Wood” *Shades of Prison House* xxv.395 There were more than twenty homo-sexual perverts or, as they are called in prison argot Nancies. **1938** W. J. Funk *So You Think It’s New* viii.117 He has a comb and brush, although more rococo in design than our own. Hair lotion exists, too, but only for the gigolos and nancies of the day. **1938** W. Macartney *Walls Have Mouths* xxiii.429 If I look through my criminal records of the eighteenth and seventeenth centuries, I find that the “pansies” and “nancies” of the moment were the “mollies” of two hundred and fifty years ago. **1951** W. Baxter *Look down in Mercy* 241 Goodwin started to speak: “Put that thing down, you gutless nancy.” **1955** A. E. Lindrop *Details Jeremy Stretton* xviii.101 “The boy’s an obvious little nancy. He behaves no better than a lovesick girl.” **1965** “N. Jackson” *No End to Way* xviii.102 “Oh God, don’t tell me he’s turning into the usual little nancy.” **1982** B. Herron *Moritz!* 95 A minute ago there were all those nancies dancing their fuzz off. **1988** J. Keenan *Blue Heaven* xxvi.255 “Tough shit, Nancy! You’ll get it back when I make my fortune and not a moment sooner.” **1990** M. Keegan *Ice Wind & Fire* i.19 Stories of a skinny little kid whose father called him a “nancy,” and who thrashed him regularly to beat some “starch” into him.

2. a Effeminate, effeminately homosexual.

1909 J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 180/1 *Nancy* (Low London, 19 cent.). Effeminate in a slight degree. Also used in U. S. A. **1931** R. Campbell *Georgiad* II.42 Here the grim muses clothed in frowsy stuffs, Brogues, collars, tweeds, neck-ties, and starchen cuffs, Each with a heavy text-book in her hand Like guards around a frowning fortress stand, Grim guards enough to awe the Nancy race. *Ibid.*, II.42 And all their little nancy husbands too. **1933** H. Walpole *Vanessa* iv.723 “He doesn’t seem to care for girls. He’s terribly under his mother’s influence. That’s the worst thing about him. But he isn’t one of those, you know, or anything like it. Not a bit nancy.” **1936** ‘J. Curtis’ *Gilt Kid* (1947) xxiii.189 “[W]ho the hell had ever heard of a screwman rolling up to his mort’s ken with a bunch of violets. Sounded silly, nancy. The jane’d be bound to think he had done his nut.” **1952** “G. Westwood” *Society & Homosexual* xix.124 [F]or years it was not “done” to wear suède shoes because they got the reputation of being “nancy-wear.” **1983** V. O’Sullivan *Shuriken* i.21 “Can you beat that, eh? Chief-of-Staff in that nancy get-up.” **1985** A. Hirst *Almost One* 51 He’d invested in a nice nancy haircut. **1993** P. Robins *Ruined Boys* 119 “Let’s say Molebridge has seen the last of gentleman with fancy names and nancy habits.”

1999 Ch. Tsiolkas *Jesus Man* iii.iii.316 "So being a poof is all right unless you happen to be a bit nancy, a bit effeminate."

3. a. nance in sense 'effeminate man; homosexual man'.

1910 *Variety* 6 Aug. 13 (Lighter) It is not good policy to have the Salvationist a nance. **1924** G. C. Henderson *Keys to Crookdom* 212 *Nance*. Effeminate fellow, sissy man. Nance walk — walk like a woman. **1926** C. Van Vechten *Nigger Heaven* i.ix.155 "Well, she can't help it," Mary said, "but Orville is too much even for me." "Silly nance!" Byron growled. **1929** M. Lief *Hangover* iv.58 "Maybe you should form a Society for the Suppression of Dramatic Critics." "Do you think that's a bad idea? The first one I'd suppress is this half-nance you-know-who. He has two or three favorite actors he always pimps for in print." **1931** R. Whitfield *Death in Bowl* (1988) vii.107 "Know who I think did this Raines job?" Jardinn grinned: "That nance O'Reilly?" he replied. "Maybe thinking he was losing Hans to Ernst." **1932** M. West *She Done Him Wrong* (1995) v.44 "God! A date up in the Twenties! I hope Flynn ain't hangin' out at Paresis Hall with the nances." "Nonsense, Lil, .. Flynn like skirts, not men." **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xii.134 Garna Kendrick, high-cheeked, athletic, remarked that he was not an obvious nance; he might do in a dark port on a stormy night. **1936** N. Langley *Porpoise* (1961) vii.118 "Say," she said frankly, "you won't think me personal, but you ain't a nance by any chance?" "And what," said Douglas, "is a nance?" **1936** Mencken *Amer. Lang.* ed. 4 vi.305 Hollywood .. has its own *Index Purgatorius*. ... It includes, as permanent fixtures, *broad* (for woman), *chippy cotte*, *courtesan*, *eunuch*, *fairy* (in the sense 'homosexual'), .. *nance*, *pansy*, .. **1939** K. R. Cooper *Designs in Scarlet* xiii.258 Last year, the nance who got the "honor" of being the "most beautiful degenerate in New York" was a negro boy; his face was a smear of lipstick when the onrushing crowd of defeated white contestants had congratulated him with their kisses. **1941** G. Legman in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1172 *nance* noun & adjective: Homosexual, male type. Also, and lately less frequently, *nancy*. Compare *pansy* and *panz*. **1942** G. Legman *Limerick* 101 There once was a well-groomed young nance Who responded to every advance. **1948** "R. Macdonald" *Three Roads* (1991) iv.xiii.122 "[T]hen he turned around and gave the bar to Lefty Swift, a nance if ever I saw one." **1956** in H. M. Ruitenbeek *Prob. Homosexuality in Mod. Soc.* (1963) 54 Thus the invert is a *pansy*, *nance*, *sissy*, or *fairy* — terms which all reflect the notion that in his behavior, his manner, his activities, the individual "characteristically" and "unmistakably" apes the behavior, manner, and activities of females. **1963** M. McCarthy *Group* iv.88 "You are on the wrong track, my girl. The nance hates me,

that is all." **1964** R. Chandler *Smart-Alec Kill* iii.124 "What was that crack, nance?" The clerk paled. **1970** R. Allison *Three-Person Sex Acts* v.114 "[A]lthough he's a great lover, and I've never been frustrated since we've been together, I still had that itch to stick it into some guy's ass every once in a while. I learned enough about nances on my little out-of-town trips to know that's what most of them crave." **1972** "M. Booton" *Tearrom Dangler* i.23 [T]his was just prior to the time that the hippie generation gave forth with the illusion that it was less noticeable to be gay if you retained your masculinity. That was the age of the nance and Uncle Cha Cha was the nanciest nancer that ever nanced. **1984** "Pickles" *Queens* 85 "It's these chaps — I always feel a bit of a nance whenever I wear them." **1988** C. Bram *Hold Tight* iii.26 "Oh, our boys will do anything your boys do. We have our nances, too, Mrs Bosch."

b. attrib.

1924 See prec. **1929** M. Lief *Hangover* xiii.210 "Who are your nance friends, Louise?" asked MacRae.

4. a. nancy-boy *n* in sense "effeminate man; homosexual man."

1927 See *POUF*. **1931** R. Campbell *Georgiad* i.16 Now Spring, sweet laxative of Georgian strains, Quickens the ink in literary veins, The Stately Homes of England ope their doors To piping Nancy-boys and crashing bores. **1931** M. Lincoln *Oh! Definitely* xiii.203 "And what do you suppose she will do when I tell her?" "Make a face. Then ring up all the nancy-boys in London till she finds one who will take her out," answered Horace promptly. **1933** "G. Orwell" *Down & Out* (1954) xxix.158 Downstairs, in the murky kitchen, three ambiguous-looking youths in smartish blue suits were sitting on a bench apart, ignored by the other lodgers. I suppose they were "nancy boys." **1935** in "Anomaly" *Invert* (1948) ii.i.175 In 1935 a Canadian newspaperman interviewed the late Senator Huey Long at New Orleans. "I tell you that this town is aswarm and alive and criss-crossed with perverts. ... We have decided to kick these grafters and nancy boys out." **1951** W. Baxter *Look Down in Mercy* 239 "I'll tell them what you are, nothing but a bloody nancy boy." **c1960** H. Daley *This Small Cloud* (1986) xvi.101 Now and then they brought in a Nancy-boy, as they were then called. **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* I.viii.46 "You just don't look the regular type. The little nancy-boy, I mean." **1976** J. Seabrook *Lasting Relationship* 13 "Why, what's the matter with you, you ain't a nancy boy are you?" **1985** A. Hirst *Almost One* 55 Later that day I had two further, apparently more substantial though infinitely less noteworthy sexual encounters; one was with some Norwegian clone, the other with a nancy-boy. They both

fucked me. **1991** W. S. Gilbert *Spiked* xxxv.116 "Oh Gawd!" she squawked. "Not another nancy-boy!" I let that ride. **1999** C. Amenogiannis *Medea's Children* iii.287 "I know your type," she said to me. "What is our type then?" Jason said for me. "Nancy boys ... Just like all the others on *Top of the Pops* and that Elton John."

b. attrib.

1981 *Private Eye* (Lond.) Apr. [A]dminister a public wiggling to Princess Margaret when she was carrying on with that nancy-boy pop singer. **1985** "D. Kavanagh" *Putting Boot In* 38 "Anyway, QPR's my team." "QPR? With that nancy-boy pitch of theirs?" **1988** S. Gray *Time of our Darkness* (1989) x.147 "Just tell her you loved all the nancy-boy students in their Weimar caps, that'll shut her up."

Oscar, Oscar Wilde *n* A homosexual man or boy. Also **Oscar** *Brit. and Austral. slang*. Fr. Oscar Wilde (1854–1900), Anglo-Irish author and aesthete, convicted of homosexual offences in 1895.

Oscar **1910** I.L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 Zur Zeit des Prozesses O. Wilde (1895) und einige Zeit nachher wurde eine Homoseueller, ein "Oscar" oder "Oscar Wilde," und das aktive Pädizieren "to oscar" genannt. Diese Ausdrücke sind leider noch nicht ausser Gebrauch gekommen. **1938** Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 2 1019/1 *Oscar*. A homosexual. **c1940** Thomas and Davenport *King's Canary* (1976) "Gahd! We'll all get old if we stay here waiting for these two Oscars to crack an epigram." **1941** S. J. Baker *Dict. Austral. Slang* 51 *Oscar*. A pervert. **1968** R. Lambert *Hothouse Society* xii.355 "I don't dislike them, but I don't go around with the girls like the others. I'm not *queer* either. They all think I am funny (peculiar not ha-ha). Since 4A I've been called wet, sexless, homo ('Oscar'), etc. I am used to it now." (boy, 17, independent school).

Oscar Wilde **1910** See OSCAR. **1933** "R. Meeker" *Better Angel* iii.ii.183 "Why, say! Ozzy Brosken is notorious. He's an American Oscar Wilde, belated and much less clever, but the same type — too heavy, too soft, too old." **1951** J. Jones *From Here to Eternity* xxv.375 "And of course, I'm not an Oscar Wilde; I don't have a yen for hairless infants; so they needn't fear for their offspring." **1962** R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* iii.110 "It's only three years since I left ...(Public School). It was quite incredible how the chaps behaved, like minor Oscar Wildes. I think it is disgusting, but while we used all the words, we really had no clue what it was all about. It was only horseplay and there was really nothing wrong."

So **Oscar Wildeism** *n* Male homosexuality.

1903 *Truth* (Syd.) 1 Mar. 4/4 With all due gravity and horror Truth proclaims it as a frightful fact that pederasty is preached, practised, and even praised among a growing coterie of cultured creatures in Melbourne. As for the preaching and praising of it, there exists a school of decadent artists and litterateurs, who justify Oscar Wildeism, and in a cant of putrid Paganism, praise the so-called Hellenism of which it is supposed to be a feature; although Voltaire in a forcible essay vigorously and vehemently denies that sex perversion was so deep-rooted among the Greeks as is supposed.

Also **Oscar Wildeist** *n* A practitioner of Oscar Wildeism: a male homosexual.

1903 *Truth* (Syd.) 1 Mar. 4/4 But it can do no harm to let such perverted crack-brained idle dabblers in the obscenities of science know that their outrageously flaunted prurientes have not passed unobserved. There is no room in Victoria for the Oscar Wildeist.

oscar *v* I have no other evidence of this usage. In 1938 Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 2 1019/2 recorded the verb *oscarize*, but that is likewise otherwise unattested.

1910 See OSCAR.

pouf *n* Now more commonly spelt **poof**. Also **pooff**, **pouff(e)**, **puff**. /pʊf/. A male homosexual; a male prostitute (*obs.*); a man deemed to be lacking in virility or to be effeminate. *Slang, orig. Brit.*; later also *Austral.* and *N. Z.* (in quots 1930 and 1995, the term is a Britishism and may also be in quot. 1997, though this instance may also be evidence that the word is creeping into U. S. English — there is sporadic evidence of U. S. use of the adjective form *poofy* in the 1990s). From Fr. *pouf*, *pouffe*, *pouffiasse*, low prostitute; *pouf* bustle; arse. Probably the same word as Fr., Engl. *pouf* = 1. an elaborate women's head-dress, a high hair-style or wig (18th cent.); 2. a gathered-up projection or bunch of a dress, a bustle; 3. an ottoman, a soft cylindrical seat or cushion; the semantic connexion being the ideas of 'plump, fat', and 'short, squat'. A fancifully elaborated form *poofster* arose in Austral. and N. Z. in the late-19th century, which spread to Brit. in the 1960s (or perhaps earlier).

1833 *Sessions' Papers, Central Crim. Court* 13 Apr. 378/2 Marchell began a conversation of his own accord, by saying there was gentleman who gave a great deal of money for boys .. — he said there was a gentleman in the City, too, that was one of these *poofs*, as he called them — neither I nor Wiggins said any thing to him to lead to these observations; I never heard the word *poofs* before. **185–** *Yokel's Preceptor* in

"Pisanus Fraxi" *Index* 404 See MARGERY. *Ibid.*, 406 Another fellow, called "Betsy H —," who walks the Strand, Fleet-street, and St Martin's-court, is a most notorious and shameless poof. [1890 Barrère and Leland *Dict. Slang* II.150 *pouf* (theatrical), an epithet for a silly fellow, who imagines himself to be an actor.] c1898 Stephens and O'Brien *Dict. N. Z. & Austral. Slang* f.251 *pouf*, or *poufing*, a sodomite, or effeminate fellow (B. & L. give: *pouf* — an epithet applied by actors to a silly fellow who imagines himself an actor.) c1899 — *Materials for an Australaealand Slang Dictionary* (= Mitchell Library uncatalogued MSS set 165) draft 2 p.121 (=f.387) *pouf*, or *poufter*, etc. (as above). 1903 "E. Dühren" *Geschlechtsleben in England* II, p. vii Treiben der Paederasten um 1850 — Die "Tommies," Margeries" und "Poofs." 1910 Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Pouf* = Schimpfname für einen männlichen Prostituierten. 1927 R. Graves *Lars Porsena* 21 But the prevalence of "unnatural vice" has added to the unforgivable list the synonyms "Nancy-boy," "fairy," and "poof." 1930 C. Van Vechten *Parties* iii.44 "O, yes. ... You must quit kissing parrots, Beauty [a man]." "I never did. More likely poofs." "I never did." 1932 W. H. Auden *Orators* III.98 And see where they're at — our proletariat. O my, what peeps At disheartened sweeps — Fitters and moulders, Wielders and welders, Dyers and bakers, And boiler-tube makers, Poofs and ponces, All of them dunces. 1932 "S. Wood" *Shades of Pris. House* xiii.199 Faugh! Give me a thief any time to "ponces" and "poofs" who giggle their way through the prisons of England back to the moral and physical obscenity of the brothel and leprous streets of the West End! 1936 "J. Curtis" *Gilt Kid* (1947) iii.37 A party of poufs were sitting together. *Ibid.*, xii.109 The pouf was not easily put off. His nightly promenade had accustomed him to rebuffs. 1937 Partridge *Dict. Slang* 648/1 *poof*. A male pervert. 1937 J. Worby *Other Half* 278 (gloss.) *pouf*, a homosexual. 1950 "P. Tempest" *Lags' Lex.* 163 *pouff*. The most commonly used word for a homosexual. 1951 "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* 111 I learned from a book .. that the British hoboes call the homosexual a *pouf*, but I have never heard this word in America. 1952 A. Wilson *Hemlock & After* (1956) I.ii.37 "I've no intention of telling you," he said, and turned on his heels. "Bloody little pouff," Ron said aloud. 1953 "R. Garland" *Heart in Exile* vii.124 I was twenty and good-looking, and so was the matelot; he thought I was a little pouf from the 'Dilly, and he gave me a whole day's pay. 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* ix.212 "You'd better look out. One of these days it'll be your turn — you little pouff!" 1961 G. Freeman *Leather Boys* (1972) There were more men's hairdressers than

women's now, in the district where he lived, the windows filled with photographs of men with elaborate hair styles. For poufs, his mother said. But it wasn't true. All the kids went. **1962** S. Lauder *Winger's Landfall* viii.73 "Look a right pouf with all that hair! If it grows any longer, mate, you'll have to move in with the queers." **1962** L. W. M. Smith *Prison Screw* 87 One of these "pouffes" came up with mincing step, Bible under his arm. **1967** R. Chopping *Ring* ix.193 She interpreted sexual indifference to her as satiety because of the "poofs" and not exhaustion because of the heat. **1972** G. F. Newman *You Nice Bastard* (1973) 20 He loathed dirty fingernails and took the trouble to have a decent manicure once a month — only poofs and gangsters had them done more often. **1973** S. McCosh *Children's Humour* (1979) 182 (boy, 13, Leeds) What's the definition of success? Two pouffes walking round with a pram. **1974** J. McNeill *How Does Your Garden Grow?* iv.107 "No wonder so many blokes are turning poof these days...." **1976** *Overland* (Melb.) lxiii.45/1 I jovially agreed with him that radicals were poofs and ratbags. **1981** *Breaking the Silence* 50 Father was mad: he said "I'm not going to have a pouf in the house." **1985** R. G. Barrett *You Wouldn't Be Dead* 201 "You wouldn't be the only bloke running around the Cross tonight kissing other men." "What?" Billy exploded. "Listen, I'm no fuckin' poof, pal." **1988** A. Hollinghurst *Swimming Pool Library* viii.172 "You can tell he's a fuckin' poof," said the one on top of the bin. It was an old problem: what to say, what was the snappy putdown? Clever, but not too clever. I acted out a weary sigh, and said, tight-lipped: "Actually, poof is not a word I would use." "Isn't it, *actually?*" said the leader, again with a smile that seemed to say he knew my game, he knew what I liked. **1990** *Independent* (Lond.) 14 May 5/8 The Press Council today ruled that the use of the words "poof" and "poofster" by *The Sun* were an "unnecessary crude abuse" — an about-turn on the council's previous rulings. **1991** K. Walker *Pete* I.vii.37 "He's gay." "What?" "Camp! A poof! Or hadn't you noticed?" **1995** C. Bram *Father of Frankenstein* iii.28 Whale certainly didn't expect a football player or fraternity rowdy, but he's mildly disappointed that Edmund Kay is so clearly a baby poof. **1997** D. Harris *Rise & Fall of Gay Culture* 182 In order to counter the straight world's expectations that all gay men were lisping poufs with bouffant hairdos and loud perfumes, leathermen strove to express their butchness in every aspect of their lives. **1998** R. Pelham *Shame* xiii.145 "Sex is banned in these toilets," said the skinner of the two white guys. "Yeah, to stop you poofs breeding," added the other.

So puff.

1902 Farmer and Henley *Slang* V.314/1 *puff*.3. ("tramps"). — A sodomist. **1941** *Western Telegraph* (Wales) 22 June When told at the police station that he would be detained Jarvis said "He got what was coming to him, the dirty puff." *Ibid.* Mr Morgan: What is the meaning of "puff"? Has it a special meaning? The Detective: Yes, a person who indulges in unnatural offences. **1958** B. Behan *Borstal Boy* 275 "Lots of puffs lives out that way," said Joe. Charlie flushed and bit his lip. "In bloody Soho, you mean, that's where the fughing puffs comes from." **1966** C. Dyer *Staircase* (1969) ii.58 "What am I going to say? 'Guess what mummy! — They're calling me a puff!'" **1974** P. Wright *Lang. Brit. Industry* xi.95 An infuriated spectator may shout at a plump, sleek referee, "You nasty little ponce!" (or *puff*). **1986** J. Robinson *Teardrops* x.152 "You must have heard about fairies!" "Not really," I said. "A fairy .. a puff! A guy that sleeps with other guys." "I thought they were homosexuals." "Homo what?"

b. attrib. passing into a.

1968 U. Zilinsky *Middle Gound* xi.160 "Founding a poof society did not appeal to me either." **1971** *Sexy* (Syd.) iii.12/4 If he doesn't come good, give him the A. He's obviously poof. **1983** J. Byrell *Up the Cross* 19 Around the El Alamein fountain the poof hookers were afforded an unexpected treat as Brucie The Rooster and Mick The Muso .. stripped the togs off Whitby Maloney. **1985** *Syd. Morning Herald* 3 Aug. 4/4 Vice Squad detectives on the night that Dr Duncan was drowned had talked about going to the river to engage in "poof flinging." **1994** *Independent* (Syd.) Oct. 36 Contemporary lesbian culture, she says, has been "influenced a lot more by poof (gay male) culture and its body esthetic — there are now a lot more looks."

quean, now usu. spelled **queen** *n* An effeminate male homosexual. In Australia and New Zealand the term was also used of a well-spoken, well-dressed male deemed to be deficiently masculine (cf. first quot. 1944). In homosexual usage, the term can be used of any homosexual, whether effeminate or not, and is also frequently compounded, again without reference to the question of effeminacy, with an attributive noun (i) specifying a particular taste, interest, or fetish, or (ii) designating a particular type or kind of homosexual — so *drag-queen*, *opera-queen*, *rice-queen* (a Caucasian having a sexual preference for Asians), *potato-queen* (one having a preference for Irish partners or an Asian homosexual having a preference for Caucasian partners), *dinge-queen* (a Negro homosexual; a White having a sexual preference for Negroes),

taco-queen (a Mexican homosexual; a homosexual having a preference for Mexican partners; also of other Latinos), *cocoa-queen* (one with a preference for West Indian partners), *lampshade-queen* (a gay interior decorator), *size-queen* (one interested only in sexual partners with large penises), *dick-queen* (one whose interest in his partner does not extend beyond his penis), *leather-queen*, *gym-* or *muscle-queen*, *golden-shower* or *piss-queen* (a homosexual urolagniac), *bog*, *cottage*, *privy*, or *tearoom-queen* (one who haunts public lavatories seeking casual sexual encounters), etc.

The early quotes illustrate the emergence of the sense. Quot. 1893 describes an annual Negro drag ball in Washington, D. C.; 1918–32 a drag ball held in New Orleans in the 1880s or 1890s.

1729 *Hell upon Earth* 43 It would be a pretty Scene to behold them in their Clubs and Cabals, how they assume the Air and affect the Name of *Madam* or *Miss*, *Betty* or *Molly*, with a chuck under the Chin, and *O you bold Pullet I'll break your Eggs*, and then frisk and walk away to make room for another, who then accosts the affected Lady, with *Where have you been you saucy Queen? If I catch you Stroulling and Caterwauling, I'll beat the Milk out of your Breasts I will so.* **1876** C. W. Stoddart in *S. F. Chron.* 9 Apr. We boys of the Quarter, who come only to look on and to renew our feeble but I trust virtuous indignation at such sights, turn at last from the girls in boys' clothes, and the boys in girls' clothes; from the jaunty sailor girl-boy who has just ridden around the room on the shoulders of her captain; from the queen of darkness who swept past us in diamonds and sables, and never so much as suffered her languishing eyes to rest for a moment on any one of us; from the misery of the jealous one in the corner who has been robbed of his prize; and the melancholy of the two who are advising one another to go home. **1888** Wilde *Let.* c13 Oct (to R. Ross) (1963) 225 I have been speaking at Stratford about Shakespeare, but in spite of that enjoyed my visit immensely. My reception was semi-royal, and the volunteers played God Save the Queen in my honour. **1893** *Alienist & Neurologist* xiv.732 Standing or seated on a pedestal, but accessible to all the rest, is the naked queen (a male) whose phallic member, decorated with a ribbon, is subject to the gaze and osculations in turn, of all the members of this lecherous gang of sexual perverts and phallic fornicators. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 –Bitch, Quean, mehr oder minder schmeichelhafte Bezeichnungen für homosexuelle Männer. **1915** R. Firbank *Vainglory* in *Three Novels* (1950) xviii.152 “At present,” she said, “I’m preparing a *Women Queens of England*.” “Isn’t it idle to insist?” “Not as euphony. *The Queens of England*, somehow,

sounds so bleak. And, really, rather like a brigade. ... More like history!" 1918-32 "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1981) xxi.237 It was a hell of a queen's ball at two in the morning. Most of the gowns were off, and some of the most respectable people you ever saw were playing at 69 on the staircase, and a daisy chain was going full blast in the parlour, linked buggery like a goddamn caterpillar. 1919 in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) iii.57 [O]perator Charles Zipf described the "feminine" attire found in Gianelli's room, reported his description of other "queens," and passed on "Salome's" description of having had sex with other men. c1920 E. Wilson *Twenties* 57 Each accused the other of being queer: Hogan was "just an old queen," and the boy was all too plainly "just a little fairy." 1924 R. Firbank *Prancing Nigger* xi.84 Incipient Cyprians, led by vigilant, blanch-faced queens, youths of a certain life, known as bwam-wams, gaunt pariah-dogs with questing eyes, all equally were on the prowl. 1924 *Truth* (Syd.) 27 Apr. 6/7 *Queen* — Effeminate person. 1926 Monaco and Leslie "Masculine Women! Feminine Men!" (*song*) Since the Prince of Wales In ladies dresses was seen, What does he intend to be, The king or the *queen*? Huhpha! 1927 M. West *Drag* (1997) ii.121 Well, she calls me up and asked me to come right over, she's hysterical. Well, I goes over and there was the poor queen ready to jump out of the window. 1927 A. J. Rosonoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 ii.vii.204 *Punk, lamb, queen, bitch, or prushun*, a passive sodomist. 1928 J. Glassco *Mem. Montparnasse* (1970) i.10 He spoke often of Joseph Conrad, under whom he had served at one time. "I've heard it said he was a queen, but I do not believe it." 1929 M. Lief *Hangover* vi.100 "Do you think Will Hays will let that play get by — with all those homos and everything?" "What's those?" "You know — all those queens." 1932 "P. Cain" *Fast One* (1989) i.10 "Ruth Parry says that the little queen with glasses shot Doc and sapped Dave when he spoke out of turn." 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* xiii.153 He had large eyes with a sex-life all their own and claimed to be the hardest boiled queen on Broadway. 1934 "J. M. Hall" *Anecdota* 181 A dozen synonyms for male homosexuality .. Fairy, pansy, queen, floosie, cock-sucker, gobbler, queerie, dickie-licker, femmie, Nancy, fruit, lapper. 1934 L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xvii.189 "You're a friend of Ernie Emerson's, aren't you?" "That queen." 1936 "M. Benney" *Low Company* vii.233 And consequently I was perpetually striving to create the impression that I was quite the reverse from a passive homosexual. I sought out the company of the most ribald anti-queens in the house, and joined in their bullyings with exaggerated malice. 1936 W. Lewis *Roaring Queen* (1973) v.66 "Very good, I can't have an affair with a

Quean, now, can I, mother darling? *It Takes Two to Make a Bedroom-Scene!*" "If we agree to that, nevertheless, all young men are not what you call them. What are queens, however — effeminate, I suppose?" 1936 Terman and Miles *Sex & Personality* xiii.294 At the age of 18 he met a groups of "queens" and was fascinated by their life and adventures. 1940 in B. Hornadge *Austral. Slanguage* (1980) xliii.261 In due course Noel Coward was introduced to [Lennie] Lower and, in a rather condescending manner, the great man exclaimed "Ah, the King of the Australian humorists, one presumes!" To which Lower, who had by then imbibed more liquor than was wise, retorted acidly: "Ah, the great QUEAN of the English stage, one presumes!" 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.303 Among homosexuals he permits his effeminacy freer play to the extent of being one of the gayest of the "queens." 1942 G. Legman *Limerick* 94 There was a young belle of Bombay Who never had thought herself gay, Till a quean of Siam Said, "My dear, you're not jam!" And brought that one out right away. 1943 *Sunday Telegraph* (Syd.) 3 Jan 18/1 "He tried to kiss me twice. I took him for a 'quean,' and I have no use whatsoever for those people." 1944 L. Glassop *We were the Rats* xiv.79 "I'm sorry," he said. "I thought ya was a bit of a queen. I done me block. Ya not crooked on me?" 1944 C. Jackson *Lost Weekend* iv.146 Nobody was quicker with the word "queen," used derisively at that, than the queen himself — like the Jew who cringes under the term "kike" but uses it twice as much as anybody else. 1949 M. De Forrest *Gay Year* I.ix.64 "[F]or the love of God let's ditch this dump before that toothless old Queen over there gets off his nuts looking at us." 1952 J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiv.285 "[Y]ou'd better grab him before some other queen sees him. He won't be free for long when the vultures see him." 1952 S. M. Steward in J. Preston, ed. *Flesh & Word* 22 And after the two of them left I sat there a little cold for a moment, thinking about two old queens using a kid that way. 1956 J. Baldwin *Giovanni's Room* (1963) II.v.116 But his friends tell him how rich Guillaume is, how he is a silly old queen, how much he can get out of Guillaume if he will only be smart. 1959 C. MacInnes *Absolute Beginners* (1980) ii.114 "With the law as it is, being a poof is a full-time job for so many dear old queens." 1961 L. Rand *Rough Trade* (1964) xii.105 "Some snotty young queen who used to hang around here shot herself with another guy." 1961 P. White *Riders in Chariot* xi.401 All the queans were shrieking their approval, if it was not their scorn. 1963 J. Mitchell *As Far as You Can Go* (1963) II.iv.172 "A guy called Henry Washburn. He uses make-up. He's a real old queen, the kind I hate." 1966 J. Barr *Occasional Man* I.i.23 "Look, .. I gotta get down there and relieve that

frantic little queen behind the bar, or she'll bust her Tampax!" 1966 A. Goodman *Mercenary Affections* 15 I thought it would be a lovely gesture to mankind if every queen on his fortieth birthday graciously retired from all sex, or disappeared altogether. 1967 R. Chopping *The Ring* vii.162 "Or how many of the men, besides us," said Royle quietly, "were queens." "I'm no queen," said the boy proudly, "don't you make any mistake. I just like sex. I like a lot of what I like, that's me." 1967 W. Churchill *Homosexual Behavior* ix.185 When they do not take themselves seriously, the sharp-tongued humor of the "queen" may be very amusing, although when they are in serious mood few people find them very amusing. 1968 "J. Coriolan" *Sand Fortress* (1976) iii.103 We should toss the whole pronoun system out and get a new one. The queens who insist on calling any man who carries on with another man "she" don't help. 1970 R. Allison *Three-Person Sex Acts* v.114 "That guy's a real nut when it comes to fucking ... can't get enough. Sometimes Tommy and I take turns with him until we're both wrecked, but that queen is still raring to go." 1972 Adamson and Hanford *Zimmer's Essay* 33 In the Bay, the screws don't allow the queens to wear make-up, but the girls can still pluck their eyebrows and walk like queens. 1972 G. Baxt *Sappho Burning* ix.159 He .. said with a magnificent air of supremacy, "You should know that inside every queen there's a truck driver struggling to get out." c1972 "T. Everts" *Heads Are Winners* viii.136 "It's kind of tacit agreement between the sucker and suckee, if you know what I mean. Most of the queens (that's gay for cocksucker) prefer straight men instead of their own kind and all you have to do is relax and enjoy it — and the bigger your prick, the better!" 1977 W.S. Hamilton *Coming Out* i.13 "They look perfectly presentable to me." "You're a man." His voice had an edge. "They're just queens. Who wants to grow up like them? Take a lover. Lose a lover. Get a job. Lose a job. Booze it up. Chase chicken. Get fat. Lose hair. I know all about it. They chase me." 1977 G. Melly *Rum, Bum & Concertina* v.58 He told me that if picked up by an old queen who, in the morning, turned out to be less than generous, he usually knocked them about a bit and then walked off with whatever he fancied. 1977 D. Whittington *Strive to be Fair* 31 There was no easy acceptance of homosexuals. They were still scathingly referred to as "queans" .. and "bum punchers." 1978 P. Monette *Mrs Carroll* (1979) xi.325 "Oh, wine queens don't like it either if they've had to buy it," Aldo said, who was a connoisseur of queens. 1978–79 in Porter and Weeks *Between the Acts* (1991) 141 "The attitude was, oh no, I couldn't sleep with her dear, you know, she's a queen! A queen was supposed to be passive and feminine and young.

An old queen was rather frowned upon. But there were old queens, of course. I mean people don't change their sexual habits just because they were older." 1982 *Panthology Two* 124 "Jeff is a queen," I told the boys. "He is very girlish, he is happy with himself and he very well-adjusted." 1983 *9PM* (Syd.) 28 July 22/1 (pers. advt.) Looking for that special horny active clean guy friendship or relationship. No fats or queens. 1985 P. Burton *Parallel Lives* ii.39 However, no self-respecting naff on his own was going to risk being sent up by a gaggle of queens. Threats of assault were more likely to be made when the numbers were reversed — and a crowd of naffs could gang up on a solitary queen. ... It's worth remembering, too, that many West End queens could *swing a mean handbag* (pack a punch) and were perfectly capable of fighting back if attacked. 1987 I. MacNeill in *Cargoes* (Syd.) i.5 The barman's a real queen. I like him a whole lot better than the macho queens who think they're doing you a favour if they serve you. 1988 R. A. Brown *Sherlock Holmes* iii.39 "Those are the Queen's soldiers!" I exclaimed. "They are," replied Wilde absently, "frequently." 1988 A. E. Lacey, trans. A. al-Tifashi *Delight of Hearts* v.187 "There was a teenage boy who belonged to a well-to-do family in the group. ... He had long been wracked with desire to follow his inner urgings and become a queen." 1992 G. Baxt *Noel Coward Murder Case* iv.34 "D'ya three bums know how lucky you are to have Null opening your place? Yuh know he takes tea with kings and queens ... I mean real ones .. and remembers not to stick his pinky out when he lifts the cup." 1995 G. Vidal *Palimpsest* 176 I sensed, correctly, that the grand queens would dislike the book [*City & Pillar*] not only for its lack of chic, but because the "hetero" boy gets fucked by the protagonist, an act very much against their nature. 1997 P. Blaizey *Screw Loose* v.48 Not for Brother Jasper the brutal imprecations of Leviticus, no, no, no; he was a modern churchman bearing Christ's message of love to the world, especially love between males which, he said, greatly surpassed the love of women. Since Brother Jasper was a fifties queen he disliked young females, believing they were flawed, accursed temptresses trying to ensnare wholesome young men.

rent *v* The verb has developed another sense since Pavia wrote; his sense is now only used historically.

1. *trans.* To extract money from (someone) under duress; to extort money from, to blackmail; to demand money from in return for sexual favours. *Brit.*, now mainly *hist.* with reference to Oscar Wilde or his circle. Wilde's own use of the term was bantering.

1893 Wilde *Let.* [?Feb.] (to Ld. A. Douglas) Have you been writing lovely sonnets? I never got the *Spirit Lamp*, nor ever a cheque! My charge for the sonnet is £300. Who on earth is the editor? He must be rented. I hear he is hiding at Salisbury. 1898 *Ibid.* 11 May 738 Bosie ... is devoted to dreadful little ruffian aged fourteen. ... also every time he goes home with Bosie he tries to rent him. 1910 I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 To rent = erpressen. 1938 F. Harris *Oscar Wilde* (1965) xi.103 “‘Why does he give it [a letter] back to me?’ I [Wilde] asked carelessly. ‘He says you were kind to him and that it is no use trying to “rent” you; you only laugh at us.’” 1967 R. Croft-Cooke *Feasting with Panthers* v.117 He was surrounded to the end by young men who rented him and stole from him. 1973 M. Fido *Oscar Wilde* (1988) 103 Cowed, the blackmailer sent a henchman to return the letter, saying it was no use renting Oscar as he only laughed at them. 1988 N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man?* v.156 Clibborn and Allen, two of Taylor’s employees, called at Tite Street and tried to rent Oscar for £60.

Hence 2. *absol.* To practise prostitution; to accept money in return for sexual favors. *Brit. gay, chiefly.*

1960 “G. Westwood” *Minority* viii.155 “There will always be young men who like to make easy money. ... They may start renting because they’ve been introduced into it by young normal boys, but they soon give it up because they’re not hard enough and probably fall for someone who can’t afford to pay them.” 1985 A. Hirst *Almost One* 35 In the deepest layer is the Metropolitan Railway, .. providing an opportunity and a monumental environment for the presence of squalid toilets, much policed but nevertheless constantly used by some of the hottest young men in Rome. Some are just renting; others wouldn’t say no to the offer of few thousand lire, but they’ll do it without it if they like the look of you. 1998 R. Black *Dr Reynard’s Experiment* i.v.58 “And you’ve been living rough since then, I suppose?” “Yes, sir. I’ve been renting on the streets, but it’s hard, sir.”

So **renting** *vbl n*

1998 R. Black *Dr Reynard’s Experiment* i.vi.67 “Oh, Doctor, it broke my heart to turn him out ... But he left me no choice. ... Said he didn’t want to do renting no more.”

renter *n* Orig., a young male prostitute who practises blackmail or seeks to extort money; a young male prostitute, a “rent-boy” (now the usual modern *Brit. and Austral. term*). *Brit. gay slang.* Orig. sense now chiefly *hist.*

1893 Wilde *Let.* [Mar.] (to Ld. A. Douglas) (1963) 336 I would rather be blackmailed by every renter in London than have you bitter, unjust, hating. **1895** M. Beerbohm *Let.* in D. Cecil Max (1964) II.iv.122 It was horrible leaving the court day after day and having to pass through a knot of renters (the young Parkers wearing Her Majesty's uniform — another form of female attire) who were allowed to hang around after giving their evidence and to wink at likely persons. **1898** Wilde *Let.* 25 May (to R. Turner) 747 Jarry is now the rising light of the Quartier Latin. In person he is most attractive. He looks just like a very nice renter. **1900** *Ibid.*, [May] (to R. Ross) 827 I wish you would write to me about Venice: it really is absurd: is it due to Symonds? Renters in Gondolas are absurd. **1910** I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Renter* = Einer, der geschlechtlich für Geld verkehrt, auch ein Erpresser. **1960** "G. Westwood" *Minority* viii.155 "Most of them are normals who attempt to make easy money for a time. The true homosexual is seldom a renter." **1973** M. Fido *Oscar Wilde* (1988) 89/1 And the indiscreet quickly found themselves at the mercy of "renters" who sold their bodies first, and then, at higher cost and over a longer period of time, their silence. **1978–1979** in Porter and Weeks, ed. *Between Acts* (1991) 8 "They're what they call renters. They're not homosexuals. They say, you give me five pounds, I'll come home with you." **1981** E. Bentley *Lord Alfred's Lover* 42 There is a small table, a single young man — an obvious renter — sitting at it, drinking and waiting for someone to occupy a vacant chair that is at his side. **1993** G. Michaels *Dead on Your Feet* xix.232 "You know what he did to me once? One time at dinner Max started preaching to me about my sex life and how dangerous it was. I had a renter with me that night and I was kind of insulted, not to mention what the renter must have thought." **1998** R. Black *Dr Reynard's Experiment* II.xvii.190 "He always says a renter should look his best, cos no wants to bed no tramp or sick boy." **1999** P. Markham *Love of Old Egypt* ix.133 Despite everything the renter was pretty. Yes, a bit too pretty for Welch's tastes, but not too bad at all.

send up *v trans* To place (someone) in a compromising situation; to mock, to deride; to make fun of. *Colloq., prob. orig. gay; orig. Brit., later also Austral.*

1910 I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *To send up* = jemand kompromittieren, jemandem einen Skandal machen. **1931** T. R. G. Lyell *Slang, Phrase & Idiom in Colloq. Engl.* 637 The last time he came in, he was sent up unmercifully by half the room. **1952** "G. Westwood" *Soc. & Homosexual* xx.126 "I ran into Norman in a

cottage and, of course, I sent her up about that. She wasn't trading but I'm sure she's T. B. H." 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* iii.29 "That dress is pure nylon. Also, I wore it for the last Vic-Wells Ball — and won a prize for it." "Runner-up for the Campest Costume, I suppose?" "Don't you sit there sending me up, Stanley Butcher. You might call yourself 'Butch' and put on that tough manly act, but everyone knows you're Queen of the Fairies." *Ibid.*, 51 "It's a complete transformation. Every detail is perfect. The dress, the shoes, the wig, the hat. The make-up is a work of art. So is my false bust." "It looks," said the woman, "as if Picasso designed it." "You're just trying to send me up," he said. "Send you up?" shrieked the woman. "You're up there already!" 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* 208 *send up*, v. To make fun of, to mock. 1965 See *CAMP* v in sense 1. 1967 R. Croft-Cooke *Feasting with Panthers* ii.40 What he certainly had not was that peculiar bright sense of fun which belongs to the cockney queer. ... To hear it today one must go to a queer bar or club and listen to a group sending one another up. 1968 K. Williams *Diaries* 9 Nov. 337 A prince of the realm playing the part of a priest in a play by Joe [Orton]! If only he were alive to appreciate the mad joke of it. Joe never stopped attacking the formal virtue which is the very thing for which the monarchy stands! Quite apart from the fact that he sends religion up cruelly, and the Prince wouldn't be there without religion and the organised church. 1969 F. Moorhouse *Futility* 15 I knew he wasn't queer because of his beard but I was on guard because I didn't know if he was going to send me up or whether he was going to bite me for a drink. 1976 J. Seabrook *Lasting Relationship* 86 There is an element of emulousness, but it is quite amicable, and doesn't seriously affect the supportiveness and gossipy camaraderie between the two couples; they are in fact fairly honest with each other, mildly camp, sending each other up. 1978–1979 in Porter and Weeks, ed. *Between Acts* (1991) 142 "The attitude to homosexuality in the army was protective. They used to send me up like mad. But if any stranger did it he was kicked to death, you know." 1984 P. de Rome *Erotic World* iii.63 "D'you follow?" And, of course, I did. I had been sent up and dressed down in the nicest possible way, and from then on I kept my place. 1985 See QUEAN. 2001 I. Gibson *Erotomaniac* i.ii.52 Ashbee may simply be intent on ridiculing, sending up or even taking revenge on a society in which "ultra-squeamishness and hyper-prudery" are the order of the day.

send-up *n* A public scandal (*obs.*); mockery, derision; a person who creates scandal (*obs.*); a person who mocks or derides. *colloq., prob. orig. Brit. gay.*

1910 I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 A *send-up* = ein öffentlicher Skandal oder eine Person, welche gern öffentliche Skandale hervorruft. 1958 K. Williams *Diaries* 24 Sept. 144 Broadcast of "Beyond Our Ken" went very well & I sang some 20's numbers, as a send-up of Bobby Beamish. *Ibid.*, 13 Oct. 145 Went to see the film *Man Upstairs*, very good really. The police were shown as the rotten & corrupt lot they really are. There was a send-up of an Army officer that was absurd. 1958 A. Wilson *Middle Age of Mrs Eliot* iii.355 [B]ut if she teased him a bit maliciously, it was with such caressing malice that the ragging was more like a flirtation than a "send up." 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* v.102 He had also to contend with Laura's thinly veiled insinuations about his "arty-crafty" friends. To use "Josie's" apt description, she was "just a great big send-up." He simply had to get away from it all. 1977 *Names* xxv.145 ("Cockney riming slang") *Darby and Joan* (alone, from the names of the proverbial old couple who have given their names to old peoples' social clubs, Sir Noël Coward's *send up* — "we loathe one another") were not real people.

so *a* Homosexual, gay. *gay slang, chiefly Brit; now usu. hist.* In quot. 1907 the word alone is cited from a letter.

[1907 C. W. Stoddard *Let.* 10 Sept. in R. Austen *Genteel Pagan* xi.165 Stoddard .. insisted that Joaquin Miller was not "so."] 1910 I. L. Pavia *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *So* = echt, homosexuell, *so-party*, eine homosexuelle Gesellschaft, *so-person* = ein Urning, *so-woman* = eine Urninde. c1910 "X. Mayne" *Intersexes* xiii.606 He had not made any confession of homosexuality to Rotenhan, nor had Rotenhan (who was emphatically "so," but cheerfully untroubled by conscience's misgivings) said in so many words anything to Platen. 1933 "K. Bruce" *Goldie* xi.129 "I was so!" he stated with comic emphasis, "but I let myself get fat." 1937 Partridge *Dict. Slang* 796/2 Thus "a *so man*" is a homosexual, "a *so book*" is a Uranian novel, poem, etc. 1956 H. H. Cross *Lust Market* (1959) xxxii.195 My friend shouted in his ear: "You drunken ape! Leave him alone. He is not 'so'" (a term used in this group to denote "queers"). 1962 M. Davidson *World, Flesh & Myself* ix.134 The word "queer," then [1924], hadn't been invented; the cryptic designation was "so," corresponding to *comme ça* in Montparnasse. "Oh, is he *so*?" one would ask, giving a slight ironic tone to the syllable. 1967 R. Croft-Cooke *Feasting with Panthers* x.265 Freddy's only failing as a stool-pigeon was his uncertain complexion, for he was still at the age of pimples, but with his pale blue eyes, loose fair /265/ hair and pert profile he was attractive enough for Burton's purpose, Burton himself

being "So" in the language of the time [i.e., 1891]. **1973** J. Justin *Prisoner* 41 "What am I to do! They're all picking on me because I am 'so.' I can't help it. It's not my fault." **1978–1979** in Porter and Weeks, ed. *Between Acts* (1991) "I've always been gay, except that it wasn't called gay in those days [1930]. One used to say, are you 'so'? Or he's *comme ça*, if you were higher up, or TBH (to be had)." **1981** E. Bentley *Lord Alfred's Lover* 21 Lord Alfred: What do they call it nowadays? Homosexuality, phew what a word! We just called it being "so." Is he so? Yes he's so. **1985** trans. J. H. Mackay *Hustler* III.viii.166 He let his eye travel over Unter den Linden, looking boldly into the eyes of the passing gentlemen he supposed were "so" or "could be so." **1988** R. A. Brown *Sherlock Holmes* ii.26 "[P]erhaps some friend of yours who is 'so' — " "I have no friends of your ilk." **1991** W. S. Gilbert *Spiked* 1.200 "And yet ... and yet ... we thought *you* were normal. We didn't know that you were *so*. We didn't know that you were musical. We didn't know that you were a friend of Dorothy. We didn't know that you were one of *us*."

sod *n* A slang shortening of *sodomite*. *Pop. slang, not excl. gay* and, indeed, *often pej.; chiefly Brit. and Austral.* The word has since developed other usages.

1. A man who engages in sodomy; a man who has a propensity for male homosexual relations, a man or boy homosexual.

In quot. 1810 Beckford describes the arrest of the Vere Street coterie, a group of homosexuals who had met at a public house in Vere Street, London. Quot. 1813 illustrates *Tommy*, elliptical form of the rhyming slang *Tommy Dodd*, on *sod*; the reason for the homosexuals' calling their "wives" (boyfriends) by this term is alluded to in the following clause. In quot. 1837 a witness is giving evidence to a British parliamentary committee on the prevalence of homosexual activity in Sydney. In quot. 1961 the person referred to is homosexual.

1810 W. Beckford in R. Norton *Mother Clap's Molly House* xiv.226 Poor sods — what a fine ordeal, what a procession, what a pilgrimage, what a song and dance, what a rosary! **1813** [R. Holloway] *Phoenix of Sodom* 11 It seems many of the wretches are married; and frequently, when they are together, make their wives, who they call *Tommies*, topics of ridicule; and boast of having compelled them to act parts too shocking to think of. **1818** *Sessions' Papers Cent. Crim. Court* 17 June 283/2 [T]he prisoner said he had offered him two guineas to ***** [bugger] him. ... The prisoner, "you young b—r, I'll throw you over the bridge." ... — the prisoner walked by me. ... As he passed me he said

the other was a b—y s—d [bloody sod]. **1837** House of Commons *Parliamentary Papers* XIX.45 729. Chairman. Amongst the convict population, would the suspicion of a person having been guilty of unnatural crime excite abhorrence and detestation? — No .. I have heard them jeer at one another, such as calling one another “sods.” Mr Leonard. Is that a term of reproof? — Yes, one convict will call another one so. **185–** *Yokel’s Preceptor* in “Pisanus Fraki” *Index* 405 Nay, it is not long since, in the neighbourhood of Charing Cross, they posted bills in the windows of several respectable public houses, cautioning the public to “Beware of Sodsl!” **1859** Matsell *Rogue’s Lex.* 83 *Sod*. A worn-out debauchee, whom excess of indulgence has rendered unnatural. **1868** *Index Expurgatorius Martial* 24 tr. Ep. ii 84 Philoctetes, forgetful of trumpet and drum, To all men, the story goes, opened his bum. Thus Venus, avenging beloved Alexander, Made a prostitute sod of a gallant commander. **1874** Victorian Public Records Office File 30 468/30/1 He heard Bradley say, “That old black Negro sod is in my bunk again.” **1881** *Sins of Cities of Plain* (1992) “No; I’ll have it now, or I’ll raise the house, you old sod. Do you think I’m a greenhorn? I want a fiver.” **1884** Victorian Public Records Office File 30 670/30 I then got my arms around him and carried his body ... into the dining room where the gentlemen were. I said to them, “Look at him. HERE THE SOD IS!” *Ibid.* I called him some names and let him pass. I called him a “dirty sod.” **1888–94** *My Secret Life* VI.vi (1966) 1152 “Don’t come near me,” she said to the sod. **a1896** “J. Flynt” in Ellis and Symonds *Sexual Inversion* 254 In a gaol ... I got acquainted with a tramp who had the reputation of being a “sod” (sodomist). **1899** *Horn Book* (n.d.) ii.42 I must not leave this effeminate tribe vulgarly know[n] as “sods,” which is the Cockney abbreviation for sodomites, without remarking that all those addicted to the Socratic vice are not quite so outrageous. **1903** Farmer and Henley *Slang* VI.181/2 *shit-hunter* (or *stir-shit*) = a sod. **1909** *Pleasure-bound Ashore* (1985) vi.93 The sperm of man, the sperm of man, Ambrosial fluid of the god, And yet I waste it like Onan, And lots of other silly sods. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Mary-Ann* = Schimpfname für homosexuelle Männer, ähnlich wie *Sod*, *bugger*, *twister*, (letzteres meistens von Soldaten gebraucht) usw. **1931** G. Irwin *Amer. Tramp & Underw. Slang* 176 *sod*. A drunken individual, one sodden with liquor. The word is not, as originally in England, used to designate a man with unnatural sex habits. **1941** G. Legman *Limerick* 116 A mediaeval recluse named Sissions Was alarmed by his nightly emissions. His cell-mate, a sod, Said, “Leave it to God.” And taught him some nifty positions. **1946** N. Coward *Diaries* 19 July (1982) 60 Am

reading more of Oscar Wilde. What a tiresome, affected sod. **1948** R. Maugham *Servant* xi.64 "You bloody sod," she shrieked at the top of her voice. "Call yourself a man, do you?" **1954** A. Heckstall-Smith *Eighteen Months* xi.131 "I never did nothing with the dirty sods and I didn't give them a chance to do nothing with me," he laughed. **1961** P. White *Riders in Chariot* xi.396 "You are no bloody good! Any of yez! That silly sod of a Norm, we know. Not that I don't take 'm for what he's worth." **1967** J. Orton *Diaries* 25 Apr. (1986) 142 "He's a little sod, you know," Kenneth W[illiams] said in a bridling manner. **1970** *What Rugby Jokes Did Next* 97 But the greatest love of all loves, Greater than that of a mother, Is the tender, delicate, intimate — lust Of one randy sod for another. **c1973** "S. Mallory" *Boy Who Asked for Sex* iii.20 "Caught yer in the act. Nasty little sod." **1976** E. Hiscock *Bells of Hell* i.ix.88 Lieutenant Clarke was terrified of him, and toadied to him on all possible occasions, but the old rascal saw through the pimply-faced sod, and never gave him an inch. **1986** J. Robinson *Teardrops on my Drum* vi.82 "You're a horny sod," I shouted. **1998** R. Black *Dr Reynard's Experiment* iii.iii.43 Walter froze, his hand still holding on to the deflating head of his cock. The snoring had stopped. "You dirty sod," said Phillip.

2. Used as a term of strong or violent abuse or of contempt.

1879 *Harlequin Prince Cherry Top* 26 You'd best begin your prayers, you spiteful sod. You've struck a Fairy and a Demigod. **1909** *Maudie* (1985) vii.83 "Now, I don't suppose you've had it this way, you fucking sod," she muttered. **1909** *Pleasure-Bound Ashore* (1985) i.8 There was a young man of Cape Cod Who put his best girl into pod. His name was John Tucker, The bugger, the fucker, The bleeder, the blighter, the sod. **1914–1918** in Brophy and Partridge *Songs & Slang Brit. Soldier* ed. 2 64 But the paupers answered "Balls!" This angered the workhouse master, Who swore by all the gods That he'd stop their Christman pudden, The dirty rotten sods. **1919** V. J. Marshall *World of Living Dead* (1969) 121 The educated element of the underworld was prone to describe his Honor as "biased old sod." **1928** M. C. Sharpe *Chicago* xxii.193 When sentence was pronounced, I got the shock of my life, but grinned just the same. Charlie went on like a mad man, tried to get at the judge to kill him, and called him a sod. **1940** M. Boyd *Nuns in Jeopardy* (1973) ii.49 George muttered to Tom: "That sod makes thirteen in the boat." ... Tom swore under his breath and said: "He'll be a bloody Jonah. Why did we take the sod aboard?" **1941** N. Langley *Hocus Pocus* vi.75 "I'm paying Esther and you for an original story, .. You can cut that out about the sod beg pardon Esther hating the sea." **1951** D. Stevens *Jimmy Brockett* (1959) 38 I don't know why she had to chuck her-

self away on a lazy sod who sat on his tail most of the day. **1963** A. Hunter *Gently Floating* (1965) vi.110 "All right you prying sod," she said. "Then I did have a fight with my old man." **1971** B. W. Aldiss *Soldier Erect* 1.64 [T]he constipated little C. O. with his silly speech about being morally pure. The sod was dead from the ball up! **1993** P. Robins *Ruined Boys* 223 "Toby. Know something? You're a patronising sod at times. You really are."

b. In weakened usage, as a term of mild derision or riposte, or good-humoured chiding or commiseration, or affection.

1936 B. Penton *Inheritors* ii.vi.116 "Go back — it's a duffer, .. The poor sods are living on grass." **1941** P. Larkin *Selected Let.* 17 Apr. 13 In reference to your wishes I am sending you a different coloured notepaper even though you are an insensitive sod who can't tell orange from pink (vide your last letter, for which many thanks). **1943** *Ibid.*, 5 June 58 Bruce Mont is getting a detective novel published by Gollancz, the lucky sod. **1958** B. Behan *Borstal Boy* 146 I found myself lying on the ground and Hanson standing over me, laughing, "Get up, you silly old sod, I could 'ave booted the head off you." **1961** M. Nelson *When the Bed Broke* ii.33 "Leave her alone and come on up, you silly sod." **1969** P. Tinniswood *Touch of Daniel* xxxii.222 "Poor old sods," said Mr Brandon. "Poor old buggers," said Uncle Mort. **1970** K. Williams *Diaries* 26 July 378 After washing-up I did the troll. King's X seems to be a sort of melting pot for the odds and sods. **1990** M. Keegan *Ill Wind & Fire* i.20 I wanted Greg to live with me, be my lover, embrace monogamy and live happily ever after, but the little sod turned me down.

3. Hence, **a.** Something difficult or infuriating.

1936 "G. Orwell" *Aspidistra* i.11 (OEDS) "Bare" is a sod to rhyme; however, there's always "air." **1940** P. Larkin *Selected Let.* 9 Dec. 3 I arrived her latish on Saturday after a sod of a journey. **1965** W. Watkins *Wayward Gang* (1972) vi.63 "Honestly now, don't you reckon this is a sod of a job."

b. not give a sod = not give a damn.

1958 A. Sillitoe *Saturday Night* i.ii.30 [M]ost of the time you didn't give a sod about them. **1989** M. Seabrook *Unnatural Relations* ii.86 "I don't give a sod what you do with it." **1993** P. Robins *Ruined Boys* 136 "*Doing it!* Is that how you see it? No one giving a sod for affection?"

sod *v* *slang; chiefly Brit. and Austral.* [fr. noun or a shortening of *sodomize*.]

1. *tr.* To bugger, to fuck anally. *Now rare.*

1868 *Index Expurgatorius Martial* 63 *tr.* Ep. ix.47 Since you know the opinions and systems so well By philosophers ever embodied, Will

you, Pannychus, do us the favour to tell Whose dogma it is to be sodded. *Ibid.*, 87 tr. Ep.xi.45 Cantharus, no man's so modest, From what place or race he comes, Who to please his passions, only Fucks or sods, or cunts or bums. **1879** *Harlequin Prince Cherry Top* 16 Gent: To ease her piles, whene'er her love shall sod her, This patent, medicated Star Bumfodder. *Ibid.*, 28 I'll wager long odds He frequently sods Your plump little rump, little Princess. **1879** *Pearl* Oct. 140 "But my arse he can't sod Because I am troubled by fistula." **1888-94** *My Secret Life* vi.vi II.1152 "Do let me sod you," — said he all at once and quite affectionally, "I should like to do it to you and take your virginity," and he shook his prick, and frigged it a little. **1982** I. Everton *Alienation* iii.49 "Where do you think they've gone to?" Peter asked. "Andrew's probably sodding him by now," Stephen said.

b. absol.

1966 P. Mathers *Trap* ii.31 Sodomist! And bugger! were the politest terms of that late afternoon. But Som never sodded.

2. tr. Used as a curse; = damn, fuck (stronger in force than *damn*; less intense, and less taboo, than *fuck*). Now the usual sense.

1859 in *Engl. Dial. Dict.* V.605/2 w.Ys *Sod him*, he can go to — —. **1904** *Ibid.* *sod him*, may mischief befall him. **1939** "J. Curtis" *What Immortal Hand* xxi.234 "If I'd behaved myself I'd of come out nearly four years back, but after they give me the extra ten I thought sod 'em I show 'em." **1940** P. Larkham *Sel. Lett.* 20 Dec. 5 Anyway, sod them all. **1958** B. Behan *Borstal Boy* 310 "Well, sod him, anyway," said Jock. **1961** M. Nelson *When Bed Broke* i.11 "You've an appointment with Jacko." "Sod Jacko." "He's your agent, not mine." **1966** L. Thomas *Virgin Soldiers* (1967) ix.130 "Sod Daddy," said Briggs unfeelingly. **1975** J. Sandford *Prostitutes* i.21 "And then I said, 'Sod you, I won't go to bed, it's your loss.'" **1998** "R. Pelham" *Shame* xi.125 Ah, sod it — he wasn't going to stay here for ever, and it was best to live a bit. **1999** C. Anemogiannis *Medea's Children* iii.287 "Sod her," he said. "Let's go."

stall *n* One of two or more small partitioned spaces, usu. fitted with a door and each containing a lavatory, that afford privacy in a public lavatory; one of two or more adjacent urinals, separated by divisions, in a men's lavatory. Apparently *orig. gay slang* that became SE (cf. *booth*, *cubicle*, *compartment* same sense); OEDS records the first sense 1978 →, the second 1967 →. Also *attrib.* From SE *stall* a stable or cow-shed; each of the compartments for the accommodation of one animal within a stable or cow-shed.

1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Cottage* (Hütte, Häuschen) = ein Pissoir. *Stall* = eine Abteilung desselben. **1963** Florida State Legisl. *Homosexuality & Citizenship* [7] He enters a stall toilet, noting that the adjacent booth is occupied. There is a hole about the size of a fifty cent piece carved through the partition separating the stalls. **1966** R. E. L. Masters *Sex-Driven People* ii.196 “.. I had to stop to go to the rest room and .. in the partition between the stalls was what we call a glory hole and there was a man in the next closet who .. wanted relief.” **1970** in Jay and Young *Out of the Closets* 43 “.. Cal’s special police .. had removed the head doors to prevent homosexuals from sitting in neighbouring stalls and passing notes to each other or blowing each other through the glory-holes. **1970** *Queens’ Q’tly* (NY) Spring 27/1 On each side of a long room was a row of old fashioned toilet stalls and “connecting” them were glory holes. **1972** “D. E. Griffon” *Jocksucker* vii.154 [T]he last stall was the one with hole carved in the wooden partition. **1973** “D. White” *Old Queens* i.9 [H]e took the last stall in the row of cubicles. **1981** *Meat* 58 [H]e was so hot he came into my stall and face-fucked me till he shot a nice load of sweet cum. **1986** W. Leyland ed. *Hot Studs* 75 Sitting in this one-stall tearoom, patiently waiting for someone interesting to enter, I was soon rewarded with the appearance of this young stud. **1986** See TEA-HOUSE. **1995** *Tearoom Tales* (NJ) Nov. 8 The revelation that there were other guys in here in the same state as I was — guys sitting in the stalls and pounding their frustrated meat — got me so trembling with such excitement that I could hardly remain standing. **1998** *Ibid.*, July 8 “If you want a good blowjob meet me in the mens room tonite. Second stawl. I promus you a good blow.”

take it *v phr* To allow oneself to be pedicated; to allow oneself to be irrumated, to accept a penis into one’s mouth to perform fellation on it. From *take vt*, ‘to accept (a person) sexually; to accept intromission of (the penis) as a sexual act’; the *it* standing generically for the penis or the permitted sexual act. Despite U. S. glossators’ confident assertion that the phrase bears primarily a fellatory or irrumatory sense (quots 1941, 1955, 1965), there is little evidence to support the claim; U. S. writers have generally used it in the pedicatory sense (cf. quots 1925, 1966, 1972, 1973, 1984). The phrase is, however, often used with an adverbial complement that specifies the modality of the act, and this usage is treated separately below.

1868 *Index Expurgatorius Martial* 103 tr. Ep. xi.72 Priapus himself would a eunuch appear, Were Draucus beside with his giant like

spear, Yet Nata voraciously takes it inside him, Altho' you would swear it must surely divide him. 1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *To take it* = passive Päderastie ausüben. 1925 R. McAlmon *Sidtinguished Air* 102 Within three minutes she [masc.] glided back in the room, and out of a gayer mood, and of an habitual bitchy gaiety, shouted across the aisle to a German boy she knew, "O you Suzie stoopan takit, I got your number. It's — 96 — ain't it? You know dearie, I think yer queer." 1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1177 *take it* To accept the penis in the mouth for fellation. 1955 J. F. Oliven *Sexual Hygiene & Pathol.* xxii.443 *To take it*: to indulge in passive fellatio. 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* 208 *take it*. v. To perform the passive part in anal intercourse. 1965 *Gould Dictionary of Homosexual Terms* 44 *take it* (v.): The act of accepting the penis into the mouth for fellation. 1966 D. Carpenter *Hard Rain Falling* xiv.180 Jack was not afraid of Clifford or the other wolves, but Billy was. He had been caught twice, he admitted, and both times he thought he was going to be killed. "So I just laid there and *took it*, man," he said. "What the fuck, I ain't going to die for a virgin asshole." 1972 "J. Graves" *Campus Gang Bang* iv.70 "Can you dig taking it for a few minutes?" he asked hesitantly and in a weak voice. "I sure can." ... "I'm surprised I had the nerve," he said, "to ask if I could screw you. I'm kind of afraid to do it to anybody, but I want to so bad. ..." "And I want you to do it to me, too." 1973 *Digger* (Melbourne) 13 Jan. 2/2 I'd been told he was good for \$15, and I could push him for \$20. He said he'd only pay if I was prepared to take it; I said I was more than prepared to take it for money. 1973 "J. Maggie" *Three Ring Sex Circus* xii.150 "I've learned to take it, too, and once you've had it, you'll always come back for more." 1984 S. O. Murray *Social Theory, Homosexual Realities* 12 The "peers'" participation did not challenge their masculine status, so long as they gave nothing more than their cocks ..., i.e., so long as they "never took it." 1984 *Syd. Cruiser* Nov. 25/2 (pers. advt.) I have nine inches but I love to take it. 1985 S. Payne *The Beat* iii.84 Robbo hadn't been fucked like this for God know how long. He hoped Rick wouldn't be in to see it. Robbo didn't like it to get around that he enjoyed taking it. 1999 N. Drinnan *Pussy's Bow* ii.144 "Don't tell me, Dūng can't take it." "Not everyone, Doc, is as obsessed as you about taking it. Nor about douching afterwards."

b. With an adv. complement specifying the modality of the act. So **take it any way**, ~ **both ways**, ~ **from behind**, ~ **in** or ~ **up the arse(hole, up the bum, in the mouth**, etc.

1922 S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* 214 Q. Did you ever take it into your mouth. A: No, never. **1941** G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1177 *take it any way* To allow irrumation or pedication, as opposed to allowing only one or the other. See *one-way man* and *two-way man*. *Ibid.* *take in the (or one's) mouth* To practice fellation. *Ibid.* *take it up the ass* To submit to pedication. *c1951* *Rugby Jokes* (1968) 172 There's the Member for Ticklam, who says in a daze For a packet of Woodbines she'll take it both ways. **1962** "Hogbotel" and "ffuckes" *Santches & Lays* (9173) 36 I don't want to take it up the arsehole, Don't want me ballocks shot away. **1967** "C. Corley" *Brazen Image* iii.36 "He'll take it standing up. Just bend him over a little." **1967** J. Orton *Diaries* 157 "You didn't think I was a convert, did you?" "I wondered," I said. "Good God no," he said, "I shall be taking it up the arse as usual during the next fortnight." *Ibid.*, 167 Kenneth said they wanked each other, K. having a psychological (or physical) block about taking it up the bum. **1968** N. C. Heard *Howard Street* vii.119 "Your mother takes it in the ear." **1968** G. Vidal *Myra Breckenridge* xvii.97 He was a tormented creature, similar to Hart Crane, except that while it was Crane's kick to blow those sailors he encountered along the squalid waterfronts of that never-to-be-recaptured prewar world, Myron invariably took it from behind. **1971** "B. Cochran" *Crotch Bait* vi.62 "I've often heard the guys in the chorus line talking about taking it up the ass, and I could never understand how you could do that." **1971** "R. St. Clair" *Caged* iv.[64] "Sure. I take it that way too, but I don't like sex unless it's even." "Meaning I have to roll over too, right?" **1971** J. Tanner *Sex & Homosexual* v.91 "[W]hen one of them had forced him to take it in the ass, he nearly threw up." **1972** H. and R. Greenwald *Sex Life Let.* (1974) 168 I first heard about this act while sitting round at dinner break with other workman, when a "gallant" described his latest sexual conquest as "she'll take it anywhere, in her mouth, under her arms, between her tits and up her arse." **1972** B. Rodgers *Queens' Vernac.* 34 *blow* to suck a penis. Syn. *take it in the mouth*. *Ibid.*, 193 *take it anyway* open to all varieties of sexual aggression. **1974** "D. Gilbert" *Through Chute* ii.32 "I can take it at either end, whichever way you want to do it." **1975** "N. Jennings" *Chicken Lickin'* iii.45 "Much as I hate to disillusion you, baby, it's time you learned that daddy takes it up the old arsehole." **1978** "D. Curzon" *Revolt of Perverts* 12 Or why don't you go down to Folsom yourself and watch the queers take it in the asshole. **1981** *Meat* 45 The younger boy began to have second thoughts about taking it up his asshole. **1982** W. Leyland *Flesh* 12 I started taking it up

the ass at 12. **1984** "Flame" *Flame* xvii.101 You'd often see Kurt wandering around the house in his belt and suspenders, although he never used to take it up the bum. **1995** C. Tsiolkas *Loaded* 46 "I'm glad you don't act like a faggot, Ari." The words ring in my ears. I flex my muscles. I'm a man, I say, in a deep drawl. And I take it up the arse. Of course, you do, she answers, you're Greek. We all take it up the arse. **1996** J. M. Wilson *Simple Justice* xxi.131 "You don't all of a sudden go sayin' to the world that you suck dick. You don't go tellin' everybody you take it up the ass."

tip the velvet *v phr* To thrust one's tongue into the mouth of a person one is kissing, to deep-kiss, to "soul-kiss"; to perform an oral sexual act. Pavia's sense is not independently supported. The definition 'tongue a woman' is ambiguous but was, it seems, intended by some writers to bear the sense, 'perform cunnilinctus'. From there it is a short semantic step to 'anilinctus'.

1785 Grose *Vulg. Tongue* s.v. *tip the velvet*, tonguing a woman. **1796** *Ibid.* ed. 3 (1963) 360 *velvet*. To tip the velvet; to put one's tongue into a woman's mouth. **1797** H. T. Potter *New Dict. Cant* ed. 3 58 *tip the velvet*, to tongue a woman. [**1848** *Sinks of Lond.* 129/1 *Velvet*, to *tip the*, to talk to a woman, to impose by flowery language.] **1873** *Romance of Lust* (1968) II.161 When afterwards we were alone together, she told us that when the governess kissed her, she felt Miss F.'s tongue glide into mouth, and "tip the velvet" in a most delicious and exciting manner. **1879** *Pearl* Aug. (1968) 37 "Annie! Oh! Annie!" I gasped. "Give me the tip of your tongue, love." She tipped me the velvet without the slightest hesitation, drawing, at the same time, what seemed a deep sigh of delightful anticipation. .. I gently removed her hat ..., kissing and sucking at her delicious tongue all the while. **1881** *Sins of Cities of Plain* (1992) x.127 We kissed and tipped each the velvet with our tongues, till we both spent again — I in his arse and he on my belly, his seed shooting along all over my breast. **1883** *Boudoir* vi (1971) 327 "Strangers first," said his lordship, kissing Polly in the most amorous fashion, tipping the velvet tip of his lascivious tongue into her mouth as he did so. **1896** J. S. Farmer *Vocabula Amatoria* 28/1 *baiser à la florentine* = "to tip the velvet." *Ibid.*, 172 *langue (faire une)*. To tongue; "to tip the velvet." **1899** *Horn Book* (n.d.; 1960s) iii.87 She, clasping his neck, kisses him, tips him the velvet, and sucks his lips until the spunk flows from both and gives them complete voluptuous satisfaction. **1904** Farmer and Henley *Slang* VII.133/1 *tip the velvet* = to tongue a woman. **1909** J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 246/2 *Tip the velvet* (Crim. Classes). Kiss with the point of the

tongue. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *To tip the velvet* = Anilingus treiben. **1916** [H. N. Cary] *Slang of Venerly* II.166 *tipping the velvet* — To tongue a man or woman. **1939** "Justinian" *Americana Sexualis* 39 *velvet* .. Derivative: *tip the velvet*, to "tongue a woman," cunnilingus. C.17–20, low coll. Obsolescent. **1965** L. Revens "Introduction" Farmer and Henley *Slang* xxiv What the sex manuals now designate as deep-kissing (tongue in partner's mouth), gallant literature used to call *tipping the velvet*, but among the petters of the 30s, the girls called it *soul-kissing*; and the boys described it as *swapping spit*.

tom *n* A lesbian. Presumably a shortening of *tomboy*, rather than *tomcat*, as Pavia suggests. *General slang*.

1909 J. R. Ware *Passing Engl.* 247/2 *Tom* (19 cent.). In higher ranks, one who does not care for the society of others than those of her own sex. **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 —Bitch, Quean, mehr oder minder schmeichelhafte Bezeichnungen für homosexuelle Männer, sowie *Tom* (wahrscheinlich von von Tom-Cat deriviert, Kater), für ein homosexuelles Weib. **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxx.254 "Miss Tom and Mr Tom." "I am perplexed. Which is mister and which is miss?" asked Miss Savoy. "I can't tell which from t'other." **1963** D. Plummer *Queer People* ii.25 A Lesbian is called a "tom" or a "dyke" or "dike." **1964** R. Blake *Amer. Dict. Sexual Terms* 217 *tom* 1. A Virago; a female Homosexual or Lesbian. 2. A Prostitute, and in some cases, one who caters to Lesbians. **1972** B. Rodgers *Queens' Vernac.* 70 *dyke* .. Syn .. *Tom* (les sl). In later gloss.

trade *n* Casual sexual relations with a stranger; sexual activity, sex. *gay slang; orig. Brit.*, later also *Austral*. Pavia's verb phrase *have the trade* is not attested otherwise; the form that is found is *have trade*. The gay sense develops from the earlier sense of *trade*, prostitution, the business of prostitution, hence, the customers or a customer of a prostitute or brothel. Whether this gay usage was ever current in the U. S. is doubtful; quot. 1919 seems to indicate that it was known at that time, but the chief U. S. sense, sense 2 below, was also established by that date, as the second quotation 1919 under sense 2 serves to demonstrate, and soon overwhelmed the earlier usage if it was known. I also treat an important U. S. derivative verb phrase *do for trade* and a related gay catchphrase. Pavia did not mention another derivative phrase, *rough trade*, which I treat at sense 3. It may have been in use in 1910, although unambiguous supporting evidence has not yet been found (cf. quotes 1900, 1910). Quot. 1764 may be an isolated collocation of the

words, or it may be that the phrase was established by that date, and no other evidence of it has yet come to light.

The second quot. 1967 recounts an event that took place in 1936. In quot. 1986 the speaker (b. 1919) recalls first his experiences at a Sydney technical college in the 1930s and then in the army at Lae in Papua-New Guinea during World War II.

1728 J. Dalton *Genuine Narrative* 42 Let the Fops of the Town upbraid Us, for an unnatural Trade, We [*sc.*, mollies] value not Man nor Maid; But among own selves we'll bee free, But among, &c. **1739** *State of Rome, Under Nero & Domitian* 9 Here *Sporus* live and once more feel my Rage, Once and again I drag thee on the Stage, *Male-female* Thing, without one Virtue made, Fit only for the *Pathicks* loathsome Trade. **1869** E. Boulton *Let.* in N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man?* iv.91 I will confess I give you reason to think that I care for nothing but trade, and I think you care too little for it, as far as I am concerned. I will try not to talk so much about it when next we meet but I cannot help being excited can I? **1910** I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.41 *Trade* = Geschlechtsverkehr, auch im allgemeinen. *To have the trade* = mit jemand geschlechtlich zu verkehren. **1919** in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) iii.42 John Feiselman .. accused him of frequently "calling for trade." "What do you mean," asked a court member. "He just said trade," responded the operator, who described an occasion during which the cook kept "tapping his fingered against the arms of our seats" and calling, "trade, trade." "What did he mean?" the officer asked again. "I suppose he meant immoral practices from what I heard others say," replied Feiselman. **1960** "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.75 "Since I've come to London, everyone I've had trade with I've been introduced to, and I've always wanted to get to know them before I let them bed me." *Ibid.*, ix.171 "It wouldn't matter if I had trade at work 'cos if I did the other would be queer, wouldn't he?" *Ibid.*, 174 "Before I met Jack I would go out two or three nights a week, go for a drink and look for trade — not troll from place to place, but keep my eyes open." *Ibid.*, 207 Some homosexuals do not use any of the words in the vernacular ... But other words are peculiar to certain areas, groups, and socio-economic classes. For example, *to have trade* (meaning "to have homosexual relations") is used in lower economic groups, but might be misunderstood in the better-educated circles. **1961** J. Rose *At the Cross* 195 "When I think of all the trouble we went to over those bloody lists. We might just have well have stuck an electric sign out of the window saying 'Free booze and trade.'" **1961** P. White *Riders in Chariot* xi.392 Hannah would attempt not to let business interfere with

Norman Fussell's off-duty, but if it did he would doze down with a blanket on the lounge. Though he might also sometimes go in search of trade. **1962** R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* 167 ("gloss") *trade*, sex with men. **1967** J. Orton *Dairies* 8 Mar. 108 Bugden also said that Agadir was "nice" but trade was difficult because the hotels don't allow dragging back. *Ibid.*, 16 May 168 "Auden was receiving the King's medal for poetry or some shit so he said he might be late. 'Come when you like,' I said, and 'we'll go round the Hammersmith Bridge afterwards looking for a bit of young trade,' I said." **1984** "Flame" *Flame* xi.67 I like the look of him, and we ended up having trade. **1984** "Pickles" *Queens* 246 You have to walk a fucking mile to the toilet. And it's always full of little queens just hanging around for trade. **1986** G. Wotherspoon, ed. *Being Different* 47 There were a couple of toilets under the building, and they were really jumping places, the cubicles were always full. There was always a hell of a lot of trade there. *Ibid.*, 49 After the pictures it was common for all the camp guys, and the guys who just wanted sex, to go this building. ... And in there you could get more trade than you could poke a stick at.

2. A casual partner who plays only the so-called masculine role in homosexual relations (permits himself to be fellated or performs anal intercourse; he is or professes to be straight); a male prostitute catering to men; a casual sexual partner; such men as a group. *gay slang*, orig. U. S.

Quot. 1962 refers to the 1920s.

1919 in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) i.12 Those in the group who "solicited trade" offered to pay sailors who professed to be heterosexual for privilege of enjoying their genitals. *Ibid.*, 13 "[H]alf the world is queer, and the other half trade." **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 76 "For christ's sake, yer supposed to be men, not bitches when yer on the stage at least. Tomorrow night you come out with real make-ups on or we'll import a new bunch of fairies. This show ain't to be used for cruising your trade while you're on stage at least." **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 ii.vii.204 *Trade*, an active homosexual preferring irrumation. **1927** M. West *Drag* (1997) ii.121 "The trouble with her is she's sensitive of what she is. Now, I don't give a god-damn who knows it. Of course, I don't go flouncing my hips up and down Broadway picking up trade or with a sign on my back advertising it. (Laughs) But of course, I don't pass anything up either, dearie." **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiv.199 For one of flirtatious disposition, as Fay had become, this was a gala occasion. There was trade everywhere. Of course there was always the usual sprinkling of dirt,

but the clever ones, with their sharpened sensibilities, their so-called intuition, were almost mind-readers. And the trade, both rough and otherwise, adored Fay, for she could always amuse them — make them laugh, man's great craving. *Ibid.*, xxxii.293 Fay remembered with amusement how they had cruised together when she visited San Francisco, each lending coöperation in landing trade for the other, often exchanging favors. 1934 L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* iv.50 "I was afraid of you because the gang had you bracketed as trade." 1940 T. Williams *Let. D. Windham* 8 Aug. (1977) 11 But, oh, God, Fred, it's "competition in restraint of trade" — when you have to compete with a woman! 1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1177 *trade* Generic for male prostitutes to homosexuals, or for heterosexuals to whom homosexuals prostitute themselves; the existence or direction of any exchange of money being irrelevant. 1947 J. H. Burns *Gallery* 140 "Go to the Via Roma and peddle your stuff and stop trying to act like trade." 1949 M. de Forrest *Gay Year* II.ix.138 ... cruddy little bars in the Village ... with sawdust on the floor, ten cent beer and easy cruising. At these the "trade" stood ten deep on at the bar on Saturday nights. *Ibid.*, III.xi.259 Joe passed three boys whose elaborately waved hair and rolled up cuffs revealed them as trade in search of customers. 1950 G. Vidal *Thirsty Evil* (1974) 18 I knew, instinctively, that he was special, not like the rest of the trade around here. 1950 "L. Wahl" *Invisible Glass* x.217 He'd try playing the field. He was good-looking and masculine. He wouldn't have trouble getting taken care of or picking up trade anytime he wanted. 1951 "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* III.ix.111 An everyday word in the gay life is *trade*; it is common for a person to refer to another as *trade*. "Out looking for trade tonight?" someone will jokingly ask; or, "There goes the best trade in town." To me, the word originally meant a young person who accepted money in return for sex. My friends are quite vehement in insisting, however, that *trade* is the person indulging only in certain types of physical homosexual relations — the meaning which seems to be prevalent at this time in the larger cities of the United States. 1952 G. Legman *Limerick* 336 There was a young fellow, McBride, Who preferred his trade long, thick, and wide. But he never neglected Anything that erected, For "Peter is peter," he sighed. 1952 "J. Little" *Maybe — Tomorrow* xvii.213 "The bitch," Claude whispered "she's always after someone's trade. I wouldn't trust her with my dog." 1953 "R. Garland" *Heart in Exile* 60 Sometimes, of course, it is difficult to decide whether the other is "trade" or competition. He may look very young and poorly dressed; last year he may have been trade, but this year he may

have changed his status. [H]e wants to be free to make his overtures to someone else. 1955 F. J. Oliven *Sexual Hyg. & Pathol* xxii.443 Trade: usually a heterosexual "pick-up" who consents to or tolerates homosexual practices, but does not reciprocate actively. Also a male homosexual prostitute. 1955–1956 P. Goodman *Five Years* 36 Soon, he invariably turns over to be fucked. I am trade's trade, as Edouard used to say. 1957 Arch. Crim. Psychodynamics ii.845 They [*sc.*, adolescent boys], together with a much larger number of young men in their twenties, constitute what the homosexuals call "trade," that is, those who are willing to perform only the "male" role in homosexual relations or who expect to be paid for their services. 1959 B. Travis *Strange Ones* iv.35 The pattern was already too well formed and clear to Bruce, who had seen this same thing happen to most of the young men known as trade. They always began by prostituting themselves, saying they were only doing it for the money to enable them to exist in the city in a nice way, and vigorously protesting all the while that they were normal. This thinking always amused Bruce, because they could never see, these young men who began as trade, that if they were completely normal they wouldn't do it at all with other men. And it never took long before these virile, stupid young men became hunters, too, looking for other trade because they were usually the most handsome. 1961 L. Rand *Rough Trade* (1964) xii.107 Frankie said, "Let's go to the square and get some trade." 1962 M. Davidson *World, Flesh & Myself* ix.134 "My dear," somebody might say standing outside Wellington Barracks, "the third one from the right in the front rank — I know *he's* t. b. h.! — meaning "to be had"; as the modern queen will say "he's trade." 1962 R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* ii.49 "I am losing my youthful looks so I visit the cottages and I pick up my trade there." 1963 Flor. Legislature *Homosexuality & Citizenship in Florida* [4] They may be "cruising," driving or walking through areas where they believe they might find "trade," individuals not necessarily homosexual, who will serve as passive partners in the performance of homosexual acts. 1965 Gould *Dict. Homosexual Terms* 45 trade (n.): Generic for the male of masculine type and body build, usually heterosexual, who takes the positive, leading, inserter role in sexual relations with the homosexual, and who does not make (or may pretend so) any identification with homosexuality. 1965 "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* i.i.14 It's the ones that *aren't* obvious that you want, that most everyone wants; what's called "rough trade" or, if it's not rough, just "trade." Casual adventurers. Or week-end dabblers. Sometimes only once a month, once a year. 1967 M. Goff *Indecent Assault* vii.70 [D]espite this harmony, Cy had always had his little

philanderings on the side. "For these escapades, he always turns to trade." 1967 J. Orton *Dairies* 30 Apr. 147 "And if any of them neglect their tasks she calls him into the surgery, wags her finger and says, 'Now then, Dennis, you've neglected to feed the goldfish. What's your excuse?' And the lad might say, 'Well, you see, I had the trade in and I forgot.' 'Forgot!' this queen will say, 'Had the trade in and forgot! You've no right to have the trade until you've fed the fish!'" 1968 "J. Coriolan" *Sand Fortress* (1976) iii.121 It was my own fault — I had both of them convinced I was a big hunk of trade, a dumb hot stud. 1973 J. Justin *Prisoner* 42 "I had him last night. Lovely trade, dear." "I think he's just a teeny weeny bit camp." 1974 Clarke and Nichols *Roommates* 162 Most often, in fact, "trade" is a one-night affair and since such *machos* often carry with them a suppressed contempt for homosexuals, .. there is always an element of danger involved for the gay men who invite their company. 1974 "C. West" *Young Hawks* vii.107 Steve thought about how far he had travelled in recent times. In rapid sequence he had gone from trade to completely gay. 1979 Jay and Young *Gay Report* vii.256 "I have had a great many experiences with 'trade' in jails, the service, hitchhiking, and other places." 1980 W. Hamilton *Kevin* v.52 He knew about Bruce's occasional expeditions to Riverfront Road and the trade he bought home. 1981 *Meat* 79 "Stop here and give me a quickie," he said. "Then we can go somewhere safer where I can fuck you." I guess he had me spotted from the beginning as a guy who likes trade, the "straights" — the butcher the better. And I never expect reciprocation. 1984 "Pickles" *Queens* 115 "Get you, dear? Who do you think you're kidding? Have some more lines and find your own bloody trade." 1995 C. Bram *Father of Frankenstein* xv.207 David leans in to whisper, "You have no business bringing trade to one of George's parties." 1995 G. Vidal *Palimpsest* 232 Where Anaïs and I were incompatible — chicken hawk meets chicken hawk — Jack [Kerouac] and I were an even more unlikely pairing — classic trade meets classic trade, and who will *do* what? 1999 N. Drinnan *Pussy's Bow* ii.100 "I look at the boys next door and their lives seem like one big orgy. If they're not fucking each other they're picking up trade."

b. do for trade *v phr* Also **blow, suck**. To fellate (a man who does not and is not expected to reciprocate the activity). So **do trade**. To confine one's activity to fellation of one's partner.

1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 157 Picked me up on Eighth Street and did me for trade in Christopher Street. 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.398 "I have no interest in the effeminate type or the overly masculine. I never did anyone for trade. I've no moral scruples

about it but I have my own nuts to crack — my own passion to be satisfied. Three or four times a week I am trade for someone else — someone goes down on me.” 1941 G. Legman “Lang. Homosexuality” in *ibid.* II.1177 *Do for trade*, to have homosexual relations with a heterosexual male (prostitute or otherwise), usually referring to fellating him, the object usually being interpolated into the idiom, as, e.g. “to do him for trade.” 1952 “J. Little” *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiii.274 He pulled off his pants, underwear and hung them on a door hook. “You’d better close that door before I do you for trade,” Gene giggled and his hand hit Paul’s buttocks. 1955 F. J. Oliven *Sexual Hyg. & Pathol* xxii.443 A homosexual can be *done* (or *blown*) for *trade*, i.e., he does not reciprocate. 1968 “J. Coriolan” *Sand Fortress* (1976) iii.126 If he wanted to be screwed long and hard, that’s what he got; and if he wanted to do me for trade, he got a big succulent clean dick to swing on and a full load of spunk — no pretense that his own drool was my joy juice. 1971 “V. Hilty” *Hot Butt Halfback* vii.150 I was not all that fired up about sucking his buddy for trade, or letting him know the joy of my rectum, but that was all changed when Ed showed me a picture of him. 1971 “H. Morton” *Gay & Happy* ii.23 A good stiff prick excited him into action as fast as a steaming twat. His only reservation was that he preferred it to be mutual. This was more a preference than a requirement, however, and he did do trade on occasion if it was really special. 1971 “R. St. Clair” *Caged* ii.[23] In due time he began to love doing it. He even began to blow guys for trade. *Ibid.*, iv.[56] “Let me do you, Dave. You’ve let me do you for trade before, why hold out now?” c1972 “R. Larson” *End Zone* ix.158 “I got Chris up here on a ruse, gave him some liquor to calm him down and then did him for trade” /159/ “What?” “Trade,” he said to Tim. “That means that one guy does all the work while the other one just lays there and does absolutely nothing.” 1972 “D. H. Love” *Brown Out* iii.51 “Hey, what’re you doing?” “You — for trade. All you have to do is lie back and enjoy it.” a1973 “R. Scander” *Star’s Young Boyfriend* iii.55 “I’m not really gay. ... I don’t make love. I just like to get my rocks off.” “You mean you want me to do you for trade?” “Something like that.” 1974 Clarke and Nichols *Roommates* 172 Let’s hope that one of those big brave hard hats (who’ll let you grovel on your knees and blow him for trade) doesn’t smash your Fundamentalists skull someday. 1985 *First Hand* (N. J.) April 121 “I don’t suck teenagers for trade.” 1985 K. Vacha *Quiet Fire* xv.172 That night the captain and I got drunk and I did him for trade. I thought, “Well, if there’s on other way back to the States, I’ll do him.” And I did. And nothing ever happened.

c. today's trade is tomorrow's competition. Also **next year's ~;** with other varr. *gay catch-phr.* A phrase expressing the common belief that many ostensibly or professedly straight men who allow themselves to be felled or perform anal intercourse but who refuse to display affection or reciprocate the activity sooner or later reveal their true nature when they are observed to be engaging in so-called passive homosexual activity.

Quot. 1988 is an historical novel set in the 1940s.

1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxx.259 Miss Stepp started to sing, "Remember, this year's trade is next year's" — "but someone interrupted, "Oh! Shut up! Don't destroy all illusions!" **1963** Flor. Legislature *Homosexuality & Citizenship in Florida* [12] The homosexual's motto is: Today's Trade is Tomorrow's Competition. This motto is spoken in every language in the civilized world. *Ibid.*, [25] *This year's trade is next year's competition.* A phrase used by homosexuals to indicate that a person participates in the passive role will eventually go over to the active state. **1963** J. Rechy *City of Night* ii.132 That sexually he liked girls, I never doubted. The other scene would have been too complicated for him to hassle .. And I never heard even the scores and queens, who would in bitchiness claim that "today's trade is tomorrow's competition," say it about Chuck. **1965** *Gould Dict. Homosexual Terms* 44 *Today's trade, tomorrow's competition*, a slogan meaning that the inserter who believes he is only taking the masculine role will soon become the fellator or the pedicated, the more feminine role. **1971** D. Rader *Govt Inspected Meat* iv.44 I was learning. Hustling paid trade, and early I knew I had to avoid becoming an unsalvageable victim: today's trade, tomorrow's competition. I had to avoid hell. **1974** "O. J. Fletcher" viii.131 He just laughed and said, "Today's trade is tomorrow's competition. Don't sweat it, Fletch." **1984** R. N. Boyd *Sex behind Bars* 21 *If you'll flip you'll flop* is a not-necessarily-true maxim which suggest that if you'll play the dominant role right now, you'll play the submissive role later (reminds of the saying of the late 50's-early 60's: "Today's trade is tomorrow's competition.") *If you'll pitch, you'll catch* says the same thing. **1985** L. Bayou *Bayou Boy* 110 It's my corner. ... Fixed her, fixture, like a urinal, like flushing places for excess come. Too versatile. Should stick to stud-ding. Be today's trade. Be competition tomorrow. No, that's old queen thinking. And I'm not that old yet. **1988** C. Bram *Hold Tight* vi.73 "Fairy, huh? Fairy!" Juke struck an indignant pose, perching the back of one hand on a tilted hip. "I may be more ki-ki than some of you trade. But today's trade is tomorrow's queen."

3. ROUGH TRADE Sexual partners who are of the working class; highly virile sexual partners of a lower social class than oneself.

Ruggedly masculine sexual partners who may also rob and/or beat one up (*orig.* and *chiefly U. S.*), and *transf.* Such a man. Sexual activity with such men or such a man. *Slang, orig. and chiefly gay.* Also *attrib.*

[1764 T. Bridges *Homer Travestie* II.23 Tydides then, with taunting cries, Insults poor Venus as she flies, From war's rough trade you'd best forbear, Such people have no business here; 'Mongst boys and girls your time employ.] 1900 Wilde *Let.* [late Mar.] (1963) 819 [D]ear Aleck passed before the little café behind the Madeleine, and saw me with a beautiful boy in grey velvet — half rough, all Hylas. 1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.45 Eine klassische Figur im East-End ist die eines homosexuelles Bäckers, der..ein grosses Vermögen erworben hat. Dieser in seinem Aussehen und seinen Gewohnheiten sehr kuriose Mensch ist einerseits von einer erschreckenden Sparsamkeit, anderseits, besonders unter dem Einfluss von Spirituosen, von auffälliger Freigebigkeit. Seine Manie für "Roughs" .. kostet ihm täglich eine beträchtlich Summe. 1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 77 She [masc.] swore she had passed herself off as rough trade upon her occasions, but her instincts were all womanly and housewifely. She liked to cook and sew, and she liked men, real men. *Ibid.*, 95 "I'm tellin' you Mary, I can act like a real lady when I needs to, but that night I talked like rough trade — real manly tones — and I sez." 1928 C. McKay *Banjo* xii.148 "What's his gag, pardner?" asked Banjo. "He's a regular guy. I just got a hundred francs outa him." "How come? Why didn't you put me next, too? Is he rough-trade business?" "Oh no! They're just bums like us — he and his friend. You know I don't pal around with rough-trade-business, though I appreciate them." 1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xix.147 There were bulldikers with their sweeties; fairies with their sailors or marines or rough trade. *Ibid.*, xix.147 When it was all over, Old Auntie Beach-Bütsch lapsed into very uncouth vernacular and exclaimed — "Well, I've had my bellyful of rough trade." Sissy Beach could not refrain from being cattish — "I'll say you have!" See also sense 2 above. 1933 M. Lincoln *Oh! Definitely* xix.295 "You don't know my friend, Miss Richbitch, do you?" he said to me, indicating the youth beside him with a wave of the hand. "She doesn't come to refined places like this as a rule. Prefers rough-trade joints full of navvies and chauffeurs and people." 1935 A. J. Pollock *Underw. Speaks* s.v. *rough trade*, a person picked up on the street by a sexual pervert. 1938 *Ment. Hyg.* xxii.605 So long as the hoodlum homosexual can exhibit to his public a rough, aggressive, "hard-boiled" exterior, he is quite content. He preserves his *amour propre* among his kind by loudly protesting his masculinity, and perhaps by boasting a little of the "fags"

he has beaten and robs. He seems to justify the fairies' description of him as "rough trade." 1941 G. W. Henry *Sexual Variants* I.270 He is typical of the group of men, delicate and fastidious in their own persons, whose attraction is to "rough trade." *Ibid.*, 288 "I enjoy associating with people of breeding, but for purposes of sex I prefer strapping, hairy-chested, bow-legged virile young men with tattooed arms and the other earmarks of what is called 'rough trade.'" 1949 G. Legman *Love & Death* 78 Like the homosexual, who cannot have a love-relationship with men, and must satisfy himself with hate — with beatings-up in public toilets by sailors and rough trade — Elektra finds open to her only the furious passions of violence and strife. 1951 "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* xii.129 "Would she [masc.] look sweet, masquerading as rough trade." 1959 J. D. Mercer *They Walk in Shadow* 565 ("gloss.") *rough trade* .. A male who permits himself to be used or induced to engage in a homosexual act but later beats or robs the person he has allowed to induce him. 1961 L. Rand *Rough Trade* (1964) x.77 "I'll take along my own rough trade, though, instead of trying the house product." 1961 *Social Problems* ix.108/2 Lower-class ones [*sc.*, "fellators," i.e., homosexuals], by contrast, are more likely to face the threat of violence from adolescent boys since they more often frequent situations where they are likely to contact "rough trade." 1961 J. Stearn *Sixth Man* (1962) xiii.136 In recent years increasing swarms of male prostitutes, boldly preying on homosexuals, have aggravated the police problem. "Many of these are the 'rough trade,'" the Inspector said, "young toughs, hanging around street corners, wearing leather jackets and showing a great head of hair. That's what some of these homosexuals go for." 1961 B. Wolfe *Magic of Singing* xx.181 "You ever hear of rough trade?" Llewellyn said. "I'm rough trade, very rough. The next one who moves in this direction is going to get both his arms broken." *Ibid.*, xxii.193 To administer these beatings to queers was part of Llewellyn's main business in life, he made money out of it and also he rather enjoyed it. He considered the soft liberal's opposition to such roughness toward queers an invasion of *his* rights, too, a restraint of rough trade. This wasn't live-and-let-live. The queers only insisted on their right under the Constitution to be beaten up and the rough-trades only insisted on *their* right under the same dispensation to give them these ardently sought-after beatings. 1962 "G. Arthur" *Circle of Sex* 42 The longest time she spent with any one man was with a husky, happy-go-lucky, semi-gangster type, whose main source of livelihood came from rich homophiles. In other words he was, in the vernacular, "rough trade." 1964 H. Selby *Last Exit* ii.43 So her subjects petitioned the

Queen to summon forth her dashing husband and his rough trade friends, for tonight they were daring. **1964** E. Fey *Summer in Sodom* xii.127 "He's mean all right," remarked the other boy, reminiscently rubbing his jaw. "I don't think he's one of us." Jerry chuckled. "I'm in the mood for some rough trade tonight." **1965** "N. Jackson" *No End to Way* i.i.13 The kind of pub the gays seems to pick out and make their own, the world over. A bit tizzy, but not too flash to keep out the rough trade, like sailors and that. **1966** A. Jordan *Hollywood's Sexual Underground* 26 [T]hey in turn created Hollywood's leather bars, full of homosexuals with added kinks, along with rough trade. **1967** R. Croft-Cooke *Feasting with Panthers* viii.194 Gower, in fact, was a thorough-paced queer who liked rough trade and found time, in spite of a public career, to enjoy it prodigally. **1968** U. Zilinsky *Middle Ground* xiii.191 But later in the evening he sends around one of his rough trade boys with a present for me: the smallest and saddest of his Picassos. **1970** T. Coe *Jade in Aries* (1973) xv.108 Remington raised an eyebrow and shrugged. "Rough trade," he said, "with an eclair center." **1973** M. Harris *Dilly Boys* vi.82 The description of the boys as hustlers or TBH serves as a blanket covering of all male prostitutes, among whom will be the masculine, virile "rough trade." **1975** F. Norman *Down & Out in High Soc.* v.81 He's a screaming old queen with an insatiable appetite for rough trade numbers from the armed forces. **1976** D. Galloway *Melody Jones* xiv.116 "I mean how am I supposed to know if she jumped or was pushed or whatever except that I can tell them I know she used to have some pretty rough trade up there because I've seen some of the numbers he used to buy and there were some real roughies there. Oh, honey, it may turn you on but those guys can really do you some *damage*." **1977** G. Legman *More Limericks* 610 Actually [Pete] Doyle is not thought to have been a transvestite, but appears to have been standard rough-trade. **1977** G. Melly *Rum, Bum & Concertina* xii.159 It was clear that he had hoped for rougher trade than I, but we had quite a cosy time... **1980** G. Chapman *Liar's Autobiog.* (1981) xvii.231 Peter Bromilow, six feet twelve inches of mock-neo-Nazi-garbed S. S. rough-trade-chic, strode into the room. **1980** W. Hamilton *Kevin* xiii.117 It wasn't the first time that Bruce had dragged home rough trade, but Jerry seemed rougher than most. **1985** T. Fennelly *Glory Hole Murders* iv.41 Berman gives rough trade a bad name. (The word is that he once was blackballed from the Hell's Angels for bad manners.) **1986** *Guardian Wkly.* (Lond.) 21/3 He was also homosexual, given to rough trade, and unhappy about it. **1987** K. Lette *Girl's Night Out* 182 "They want to be dominated. Thrown across the bed and

ravaged. A bit of rough trade. It's the latest fad for middle class, well-educated women. Scum can be fun." 1987 C. Shively *Calamus Lovers* i.18 Whitman's homosexual lovers are insignificant to some critics because his beloved rough trade were "illiterate," "uncultured" or "uneducated." 1988 N. Bartlett *Who Was That Man?* 245 His [Henry Scott Tuke's] most famous painting was *August Blue* (1893) whose soft-focus rough trade inspired a whole school of white-on-blue "Boys Bathing" homoerotic poetry. 1989 S. Gray *Born of Man* ii.71 "[O]ne of them, one day, if you so much as flutter your eyelid'll be turned on by doing you in. That's what rough trade's all about." 1996 N. Curren-Briggs *Young Men at War* ii.vi.131 I could make a better guess than Charles, who was certainly unaware of Dennis's extreme promiscuity and love of rough trade. 1996 S. Home *Slow Death* ii.24 "Professional wimmen like getting their claws into teenage proles because rough trade actually finds it harder to establish a patriarchal domination over them than the seemingly more mild-mannered males of their own class."

twister *n* A homosexual man. *obs. Brit. military slang*. The word also meant 'a dishonest person, a crook', and so was and is used as a term of abuse, a usage that the military sense may have served to reinforce; see quotes under *b* (quotes 1966 and 1971 are military novels). There is some evidence that the word independently developed another sexual sense in U. S. English, 'a person having sexually abnormal or unconventional inclinations or proclivities or habits'; see quotes 1965, 1981, and 1990.

1910 I. L. Pavia in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* xi.40 *Mary-Ann* = Schimpfname für homosexuelle Männer, ähnlich wie *Sod*, *bugger*, *twister*, (letzteres meistens von Soldaten gebraucht) usw. 1965 in *Jrnl. Amer. Folklore* lxxxv (1972) 127 One say, "Hang him," another say, "Give him gas." A snaggle tooth bitch jumped up and say, "Run that twister through his jivin' ass." A woman jumped up and said, "Let him go free, 'cause there ain't nobody in the world can fuck like Stagolee." 1970 H. M. Hyde *The Other Love* v.160 In the guards homosexuals were known as "fitters" and "twisters." 1981 R. A. Spears *Slang & Euphemism* 405/2 *twister* a sexually perverted person. 1990 R. A. Spears *Forbidden Amer. Engl.* 189 *twister* a person obsessed with adventuresome or perverse sexual acts. .. "Wally is a real twister. In fact, he's weird. In fact, he's sick." "A bunch of twisters hung out in the apartment upstairs and made a lot of noise around the clock."

b. 1930 J. B. Priestley *Angel Pavement* vii.367 "He doesn't attract me," he mumbled. "If you ask me, he looks a rotten twister — a bit of crook or something." But in his heart he knew the chap was taller and

stronger and better-looking and better-dressed and altogether more important that he was, and he could have killed him for it. "He doesn't at all," said Lena. Then she laughed and made a face at him. "You're jealous, that's all." **1937** *Even. News* (Lond.) 12 Mar. 15/6 (advt) With the Lincoln and Grand National in the offing, the twisters, the welshers, the "spivs" and the "boys" are getting ready for a profitable session of rooking the racegoer. **1958** A. Sillitoe *Saturday Night* II.xiv.192 A ten-year-old girl scooped up the three-and-ninepence. "Dirty little twister." "Rogue." "Dead lucky." She refused to chance the money into play. **1966** L. Thomas *Virgin Soldiers* (1967) vi.84 "You bleeding twister!" said Tasker enthusiastically. "Why didn't you say so? Maybe she's got a friend." **1971** B. W. Aldiss *Soldier Erect* I.92 Geordie Wilkinson bought a wrist watch which stopped twenty-three hours later, and we never found the twister that flogged it to him.

Rosanoff's glossary

The clannishness of homosexuals has led to the development special slang expressions among them:

Temperamental or *queer*, a homosexual person.

Turk, *wolf*, or *jocker*, an active sodomist.

Punk, *lamb*, *queen*, *bitch*, or *prushun*, a passive sodomist.

Trade, an active homosexual preferring irrumation.

Fruit, *fruiter*, *fairy*, a passive homosexual who practices irrumation.

Orchard, a park or other such place frequented by homosexuals.

Tea house, a public lavatory frequented by homosexuals.

Cruising, going out in search of a partner.

Peddling, a punk or fairy 'looking for something'.

A drag, a social gathering of homosexuals at which some are in female dress; also an outfit of female dress worn by a homosexual.

Dirt, a pretended homosexual whose motive is blackmail.

69, position assumed for mutual irrumation.

Commentary on Rosanoff's glossary

bitch *n* See Pavia glossary.

cruise *v* The semantics and usage are more complicated than Rosanoff's gloss allows. *Slang, orig. U. S. gay*. These gay senses devel-

oped from the earlier prostitutional uses of the nautical term. Analogous transferred senses arose from the derived noun *cruiser*.

1. *intr.* To go out looking for a casual sexual partner, esp. in the streets, in a park, or at a beach; to be engaged in seeking a sexual partner. Constr. *for*, of the potential partner. So **cruise back**, to return sexual interest shown to one, to respond to sexual overtures.

1923 J. Alexander *Jeb & Dash* 30 July (1994) 66 For the first time in two months I wore my felt hat. It helped me to feel slightly disguised for cruising in the park [Lafayette Square, Washington, DC]. 1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 76 "We spent more time makin' up to go out on the streets cruisin' than we did makin' up for the show." 1929 *Jeb & Dash* 5 May 159 Walking alone afterward I met up with Isador. He was obviously out cruising and didn't want to walk on with me. 1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxvii.237 Of course, the chief came over on average once a month, and they taught him how to cruise. 1934 J. T. Farrell in *Other Persuasion* (1978) 88 He had been out cruising about the park when he had first met Caesar. 1947 *Jrnl. Clinical Psychopathol.* July 790 Sometimes alone and sometimes in the company of other passive homosexual boys, S would "cruise" (walk) around the streets, "signifying." The "signifying" consisted in acting and walking like a girl. 1949 M. de Forest *Gay Year* i.iv.33 When his two roommates were out "cruising" for new conquests, he sketched or talked to Lou. He did not have innumerable affairs. 1952 J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xiii.209 "I don't know how she does it with that face, but she drags home some dreams ... I can't do it. That's one thing I can't do and that's cruise." 1957 J. M. Reinhardt *Sex Perversions & Sex Crimes* iii.43 The great majority of the members of the "Manor group" — men and women — considered "cruising" to be not only dangerous, but not quite respectable. Yet fourteen males and one female admitted cruising at some time. *Ibid.*, 48 *cruise* — verb. To look for sex in public places; to flirt with strangers. 1958 A. Aldrich *We Too Must Love* iv.55 Connie glares at Jackie. "Cruising on our anniversary," she says. "That's just swell." 1960 "G. Westwood" *Minority* v.75 "Every time I go out cruising I tell myself how silly it is — what a big risk it is and how much I have to lose, but I must admit I go from time to time, say about once a month." 1964 E. Fay *Summer in Sodom* ii.23 He said to Eileen, "Keep your eye on Ted. If he starts cruising, he'll be mobbed." 1966 A. Jordan *Hollywood's Sexual Underground* 156 He just walked past the boy giving him the calculated stare that he had learned from five years of cruising and hustling. 1967 R. Allison *Lesbianism* ii.20 She is aggressive in all areas of her homosexuality, from making the first overture to a girl while "cruising," to her

actions in bed. **1970** *Queen's Qlty.* Spring 20/1 Older homosexuals may find it more convenient to buy a sex book, trudge home and masturbate, rather than risk rejection by cruising. **1972** P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* vi.174 First he's shown cruising on the street, where he picks up a girl. **1973** "F. Jeffries" *Deep Dick* iii.34 "I can't tell you how much I like the idea of coming home and finding you here, not having to cruise all the time, looking for new tricks, checking the tearooms, the baths." **1980** *Beach Boy* iv.63 As the two of them had been sitting there, they'd both been cruising. Of course, not everyone was cruising back, but ... **1981** *Meat* 99 He cruised and we cruised back. We stood looking at each other for a while and then he popped into the nearby john. **1986** R. Hughes *Fatal Shore* (1987) xv.545 It may be .. that Price was homosexual and had picked up his fluent criminal slang when cruising for rough trade. **1995** G. Vidal *Palimpsest* 153 We walked — cruised — a lot in the golden age.

2. trans. To visit or be present at (a place) for the purpose of seeking a casual sexual partner.

1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxv.207 They continued to cruise Market Street. **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xvii.183 "I'm offa cruising towns of this type. The cops don't understand." **1941** G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.147 He is an esthete who, following the stimulus of a symphony concert, cruises Riverside Drive, picks up a sailor and takes him home to his father's study where they engage in an orgy of sex. **1950** "L. Wahl" *Invisible Glass* x.206 "I flit to the head at the Red Cross Club. After all, one never knows what lovely thing might be cruising the spot! Well! So help me, girls, there were two of the cutest things doing each other like mad! But mad! I felt like an old auntie watching them, but it was too choice to pass up." **1952** J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxiii.275 "'I'd just love to come but Jim and I are going to the theatre.' Going to the theatre ... huh ... probably cruising that old burlesque house on St Charles. I've got her number." **1961** L. Rand *Rough Trade* (1964) v.41 "Of course, you can cruise the main drag ... You might pick up service man." **1967** W. Churchill *Homosexual Behavior* ix.186 There are many people involved in the homosexual way of life who .. never frequent the bars or cruise the parks and public lavatories ... **1970** *Tribune* (Nassau) 15 Sept. 3 (DCEU) What daughter is safe from the fresh and rude men who are cruising these streets looking for their own pleasure? **1975** M. Amis *Dark Secrets* (1977) l.173 In the afternoons she cruised the Fulham road for minors. **1983** *Body Politic* (Tor.) Nov. 40/3 Robi, Nagua's hero, .. cruises the Tel Aviv parks. **1983** *Messer Rondo* 18 No cruising the cottages at rush hour for him either.

1999 J. M. Saslow *Pictures & Passions* v.181 Arrested while cruising a London urinal in 1873 and briefly imprisoned, he [Simeon Solomon] was swiftly ostracized by the terrified hypocrite Swinburne...

3. trans. To approach or accost (a potential sexual partner); to show by gesture or look sexual interest in (a person), to flirt with; to pick up.

1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 76 "This show ain't for cruising your trade while you're on the stage at least." **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.194 Some tough sailors whom some gay thing had cruised and dragged into the party... *Ibid.*, xxv.206 A little further on a lone Marine was standing. "That looks good to me," said Fay. "I'm going to cruise it." **1943** G. Legman *Limerick* 96 There was a young pansy named Gene Who cruised a sadistic marine. **1955–56** P. Goodman *Five Years* 39 We do not find traveling a bore, whether we cruise the passengers or watch the scenery. **1957** J. M. Reinhardt *Sex Perversions & Sex Crimes* iv.68 "Cruised a number down town — who took me out on a gay party." **1958** A. Aldrich *We Too Must Love* i.20 "She may wear a wedding ring and go home every night to her husband, but she cruises me like mad." **1966** A. Goodman *Mercenary Affections* 33 Opposite me near the side-street entrance I saw a second lieutenant undeniably cruising me. **1970** L. J. Hatterer *Changing Homosexuality* iii.55 "For months I'd just been dressing up, going to the Village, and walking around, sorta letting guys cruise me." **1972** P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* iv.136 [H]e cruises a black male in a men's room and we see them standing at the urinal — but that's all. **1982** F. Picano *Slashed to Ribbons* 141 Most guys he cruised cruised back pretty fast, picking up on his supercharged sexuality. **1987** C. Bram *Surprising Myself* vii.150 "I think that boy is cruising you." **1991** K. Walker *Peter* x.158 "Look, Peter," he said, "if I gave you the impression I was cruising you, I'm sorry." **1995** P. Scott *One Dead Diva* xii.87 "He cruised me shamelessly!"

dirt *n* A man or youth who poses as sexually available with the intention of robbing, blackmailing, or beating up his homosexual pick-up; such men considered collectively, a gang of such men. *U. S. gay slang.*

1927 A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.vii.204 *dirt*, a pretended homosexual whose motive is blackmail. **1932** V. F. Nelson *Prison Days & Nights* iv.104 Soon the word passed among the "fags" of the district that the Green mob was "dirt." **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiv.199 There was trade everywhere. Of course there was always the usual sprinkling of dirt, but the clever ones, with their sharpened sensibilities, their so-called intuition, were almost mind-readers. *Ibid.*,

xxv.206 Fay was downtown and stepped into the tearoom adjacent to the City Hall. The place was crowded with some rather rough looking stuff, but over in one corner she spied her good friend, Lindberg. She motioned to him and at the door said, "Come on! Let's beat it from this place. It's simply full of dirt." *Ibid.*, 213 "Where's the Marine? Isn't he going to have breakfast with us?" "He ain't goin' to have breakfast with us, now, nor never! He's dirt! If you eve hear of him tryin' to make trouble anywheres, let me know. ..." Thus grew up the tradition, perhaps wrongly, that "Marines is dirt." 1935 A. J. Pollock *Underworld Speaks* s.v. *dirt*, one who informs against a sexual pervert. 1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1163 *dirt* .. Among homosexuals *dirt* is also used to refer to a person who informs against a homosexual, or robs or blackmails him, or is likely to. In this latter sense the term is usually employed as a predicate nominative, e.g. "He's dirt, just dirt." 1955 J. F. Oliven *Sexual Hyg. & Pathol.* xxii.442 *dirt*: A "pick-up" sex partner or male prostitute who cannot be trusted because of possible blackmail or assault. 1961 E. Hooker in R. W. Weltge *Same Sex* (1969) iii.34 Warnings will be passed on about particular patrons who are know to be "dirt"; that is, who are likely to rob or demand money or possessions or beat up the sexual partner after the consummation of the sexual act. 1963 J. Blake *Joint* (1972) 199 He had a penchant for picking up pubescent finks (generic term, "Dirt") who were either digging for gold or hollering for the fuzz, or both. 1963 Florida State Legisl. *Homosexuality & Citizenship in Florida* [10] Such young people as this, known as hustlers, will frequently become "fairies," interested only in sex with men, or "dirt," willing to be passive in the homosexual act but given to robbing the homosexual of all money and clothing at its conclusion. *Ibid.*, [22] *dirt*: Rough trade — normal people the same as trade except they rob homosexuals after the affair, both of money and clothing. 1966 J. Barr *Occasional Man* II.i.175 "My dear, believe me, that sort can do you no good in this town. If the word ever gets around that you go for dirt, forget your chances of ever climbing very high in *our* world!" a1973 J. Maggie *Split the Sky* x.128 Len .. went to the john. When he returned, he sat down grinning. "I got felt twice on the ass and propositioned a couple of times. And not by dirt either."

drag See Pavia glossary.

fairy *n* An effeminate male homosexual; *orig.*, *spec.* one who performs fellation; also, sometimes implying or denoting expressly prostitution.

slang, orig. U. S. Also attrib. Rosanoff, like many others, did not understand the distinction between *irrumation* and *fellation* correctly: a fairy practices *fellation* but may only have *irrumation* practiced upon him.

The book by "Earl Lind" (alias "Jennie June"), *Autobiog. of an Androgyne* (1918), is the autobiography of a New York "fairy" active in the 1890s; his quot. 1922 refers to New York, 1894.

c1892 L. Steffens *Autobiog.* (1931) 223 I remember one morning hearing Riis roaring, as he could roar, at Max, who was reporting a police raid on a resort of fairies. "Fairies," Riis shouted, suspicious. "What are fairies?" And when Max began to define the word Riis rose up in rage. "Not so," he cried. "There are no such creatures in the world." There were fairies; there were all sorts of perverts. 1895 C. Scott in *Amer. Jnl. Psychol.* vii.216 This coincided with what is known of the peculiar societies of inverts. Coffee-clatches, where the members dress themselves with aprons, etc., and knit, gossip and crochet; balls, where men adopt the ladies' evening dress, are well known in Europe. "The Fairies" of New York are said to be a similar secret organization. 1899 N. Y. State Legisl. *Committee to Investigate Public Offices* V.1431 They have a piano there, and these fairies or male degenerates, as you call them, they sing some songs. 1908 J. M. Sullivan *Criminal Slang* 2 A fairy — An effeminate man. 1914 Jackson and Hellyer *Vocab. Criminal Slang* 60 *mouser*. Current in cosmopolitan circles. A "fairy"; a character obsessed by lewd passions. 1915 H. Ellis *Sexual Inversion* ed.3 (= *Stud. Psychol. Sex* II) v.299 [O]f recent years there has been a fashion for a red tie to be adopted by inverts as their badge. This is especially marked among the "fairies" (as a *fellator* is there termed) in New York. 1916 *Urologic & Cutan. Rev.* xx.350 Chicago has not developed a euphemism yet for these male perverts. In New York they are known as "fairies" and wear a red necktie (inverts are generally said to prefer green). 1917 *Amer. Jnl. Urol. & Sexol.* xiii.457 Lost to all sense of shame; believing himself designed by nature to play the very part he is playing in life, it was truly remarkable to hear this nervous, loquacious, foul-mouthed "fairy" of the most degraded slums of multi-millioned city chatter about his experiences, just as though he were talking about the rearing of fancy pigeons, or anything of a similar nature. 1918 A. W. Herzog in "E. Lind" *Autobiog. of Androgyne* p.v [T]hose homosexuals whose ways and manners resemble those of the female sex, and who in common parlance in the United States are called "fairies." *Ibid.*, 7 The present work discloses not only the life of an androgyne *per se*, but that of a "fairie" or "petit-jesus," the life of which..your author was apparently destined to live out in a way immeasurably more varied than falls

to the lot of the ordinary fairie... The "fairie" is a youthful androgyne or other passive invert (for they are perhaps not all members of the extreme class of androgynes) whom natural predestination or other circumstances led to adopt the profession of fille de joie. **1918–32** "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1970) xi.141 Society came off its high steps, mixed with gangsters, the artists and the singers and the fairies. **1920** in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) x.209 "One fairy will know another by signals." c**1920** E. Wilson *Twenties* 57 Each accused the other of being queer: Hogan was "just an old queen," and the boy was all too plainly "just a little fairy." **1921** *Medic. Rev. of Reviews* xxvii.369 "The 'Fairy' and the Lady Lover" (title). *Ibid.*, 371/1 One can imagine the soldiers state of mind when he learned that his benefactor had syphilis. This serves to prove that the "fairy" is as great a menace as is the prostitute. **1922** in S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* 217 [H]e [a detective] took off our hats and saw that our eyebrows were teased and said, "You are fairies." **1922** "E. Lind" *Female Impersonators* iii.111 The old-timers were remarking to the new patron of the "hostelry": "The little fellow with the red bow is a fairie." **1924** J. Alexander *Jeb & Dash* 6 Feb. (1994) 74 I wondered for a hellish moment if Henry knew that I was one of those he contemptuously speaks of as "fairies." **1925** R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 25 So, warned to take all that happened humorously, Kepler became expansively good-natured and joked the various fairies about the room .. and began soon to relate a variety of fairy stories which he had heard in the army, or about the sailors' training camp at Pelham Bay, New York, during the war. **1925** *This Quarter* I, no.2, 332 It [*sc.*, McAlmon's *Distinguished Air*] is about Lesbians male and female if you will. He calls them *fairies*. They ought to be disgusting to the average reader but they remain comic. **1927** C. Aiken *Blue Voyage* v.201 "— and this guy went into a saloon in Chicago, leading a tiger on a leash! ... 'Say!' says the bar-tender. 'The town you come from must be pretty tough!'...' *Tough!* You said a mouthful, bo. The town's so tough it kicked us fairies out.'" **1927** See FRUIT. **1928** N. Douglas *Some Limericks* (1967) 66 There was a young fellow called Carey, Who got fucking the Virgin Mary. And Christ was so bored At seeing Ma whored That he set himself up as a fairy. American; and it may be mentioned that "fairy" is the American term for a male prostitute. **1929** C. Brackett *Amer. Colony* 175 "I hear that old fairy Nat Washburn has had his face smashed in again." **1930** F. O. Matthiessen *Rat & Devil* Let. 21 Jan. 197 He [the Professor of Public Speaking] also told me that my way of speaking tends to be blurred & soft: does it? Am I just like any fairy? **1931** B. Niles *Strange Brother* iii.65

"What was it? A fairy run in?" "Yes. One of those god-damn plain-clothes men got him." **1932** J. Glassco *Mem. Montparnasse* (1970) xi.100 "Miss Knight" is a nice piece of writing. No one has got that type of fairy down on paper before. In fact McAlmon's pretty good when he's writing about fairies. **1932** V. F. Nelson *Prison Days & Nights* vi.149 The oral copulators are variously referred to as "muzzlers," "fairies," "pan-sies," and the like. **1933** "R. Meeker" *Better Angel* iv.v.259 "You've felt it, we've all felt it, the savage vindictiveness the normal man has toward our sort. We're all, to him, like the street-corner 'fairy' of Times Square — rouged, lisping, mincing." **1934** "Whidden Graham" *Crimson Hairs* (1969) vii.103 Master Prick was not unaccustomed to being sucked. It had been in the mouths of many men and, in their arse-holes too, mind you, but quite seldom. The paid fairies were not in favour of that; it hurt them. **1934** L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* xvii.187 Then anger pitched her voice high; "I'll put all the damn fairies in jail." **1935** B. Karpman *Individual Criminal* iii.112 [N]ot a few criminals will prey upon the "feminine" homosexual in some manner. They will frequent parks most often visited by the "fairies," induce them to go with them, then assault them or knock them unconscious, robbing them meanwhile of their money. **1936** Mencken *Amer. Lang.* ed. 4 vi.305 Hollywood .. has its own *Index Purgatorius*... It includes, as permanent fixtures, *broad* (for woman), *chippy*, *cocotte*, *courtesan*, *eunuch*, *fairy* (in the sense of homosexual). **1941** G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.365 "One of my classmates said I wouldn't get through the oral examinations because I looked too much like a fairy and he said a moustache would help." **1945** R. Brooks *Brick Foxholes* viii.86 Jeff knew from Monty's tone that Mr Edwards was a fairy. **1947–1948** J. H. Burns *Lucifer with Book* ii.104 "You're different from most of the fairies they got on this faculty." **1950** "R. Macdonald" *Drowning Pool* (1972) viii.61 "It chills a woman off," she said clearly and firmly, "being married to a fairy." **1956** "J. Little" *Somewhere Between the Two* xiv.151 "I've got a good mind to kill you, you God-damn fairy." **1958** W. Ross *Immortal* ix.182 "'Boy,' he said, rubbing his neck. 'I never knew a fairy could hit so hard.' I slapped him hard across the mouth. 'Don't ever use that word again,' I said. 'It's vulgar and cheap.'" **1964** E. Fey *Summer in Sodom* vii.70 "I'm a man, see? I ain't no limp-wristed fairy and I don't want no one sayin' things that might sound like I am." **1966** "J. Barr" *Occasional Man* ii.i.168 "So maybe it ain't queen's English, but at least I don't sound like a friggin' fairy like you do!" **1968** M. Crowley *Boys in Band* i.11 I think you know everybody anyway — they're the same old tired fairies you've seen around since day one. **1971** G. Merrick *One for Gods* (1972) 98 "Please, Champ. Do you

want to make me feel like the cheap fairy you like to say I am?" **1973** "R. Adcock" *17 x 9* iv.81 "You fucked me," I said. "You liked it. It felt good." ... "You're queer." "And what are you?" "I'm not fairy." "That's right," I spit, "I'm a fairy, and I'm a man, too. You're not even a man. You're not human. You have no feelings. It's disgusting." **1987** C. Bram *Surprising Myself* viii.196 "Yes, I do want to see him again... Oh do I want to. But it is a conundrum, isn't it? He liked me because he thought I was a model fairy. But if I go chasing after him, heart in my hand, he'll see his model fairy has little clay feet." **1996** T. Caffrey *Men's Room* 202 "See!" he said. "I told you that would get the fairies' attention."

non-U. **S. 1927** R. Graves *Lars Porsena* 21 But the prevalence of "unnatural vices" has added to the unforgivable list the synonyms "Nancy-boy," "fairy," and "poof." **1927** C. Mackenzie *Vestal Fire* II.iii.184 "Don't worry, old man, I'm going to clear this fairy out of Sirene." **1933** M. Lincoln *Oh, Definitely!* iv.33 Dennis..strove desperately to be a valet, a butler and a footman all rolled into one, and succeeded only in being a "fairy." "I'm sorry, madam," he lisped in reply to Sally's query, "but Sir Peter is out." **1933** K. Slessor *Darlinghurst Nights* 17 Oh, behold the Roman candles Of the window-boxes burst, As the fairies tap their sandals On the Alps of Darlinghurst! **1940** C. Stead *Man Who Loved Children* vi.i.202 "Ernie's nuts," said Little-Sam, "he's always studyin'; he's a fairy." "What did you say?" cried Henry ... After a devious discussion which revealed that Little-Sam used the word for anyone but a football hero... **1957** J. Cleary *Green Helmet* xiii.174 "I love you, darling. But I don't want waiters thinking you a fairy." **1964** Z. Progl *Woman of Underw.* ix.93 The witnesses were fellow "fairies" and all the guests were prostitutes. **1968** U. Zilinsky *Middle Ground* (1970) ix.127 "He's very decent. I mean, so he's a fairy, though you wouldn't think it to look at him." **1978** Robins and Cohen *Knuckle Sandwich* ii.81 "Where's your handbag, dearie? Going out with your fella, then? You little fairy." **1986** J. Robinson *Teardrops on My Drum* x.152 "What's a fairy anyway?" "Don't you know? ... You must have heard about fairies?" "Not really," I said. "A fairy ... a puff! A guy who sleeps with other guys." "I though they were homosexuals." "Homo what?" **1995** W. Corlett *Now & Then* 145 "Listen to me, Dixon. If I see you tormenting that boy ever again. ..." "Boy? Boy?" I heard Dixon say with a laugh. "The boy's a fairy, Walker. A nasty little pansy. You should know. You're in the play with him."

b. attrib. passing into *a.*

1918–1932 "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1981) xxi.236 Miss Carol was a partner in a fairy house; the madam there being a man

who was known only as Big Nellie — Miss Big Nellie. **1918** “E. Lind” *Autobiog. of Androgyne* 78 For the first time in my life I learned about the fairie inmates of the lowest dives. **1926–1927** C. McKay *Home to Harlem* i.vi.66 “Don’t hand me none of that fairy stuff, for I ain’t gwine to swallow it.” **1938** Sadler and Sadler *Living Sane Sex Life* vii.98 [T]he wife understands that he secures his sex relief in association with his “fairy” partner. **1964** Benjamin and Masters *Prostitution & Morality* x.334 He, too, says that R. is “just like us, only he won’t admit it. He doesn’t want to be gay. Well! Have I got news for him! Like it or not, he’s as fairy as they come.” **1969** P. Roth *Portnoy’s Complaint* 207 And the books I bring her, she carries them around from job to job in her tote bag — to read? No! So as to impress some fairy photographer, to impress passers-by in the streets. **1971** Marshall and Suggs *Human Sexual Behavior* 235 [S]o it is difficult to interpret such behavioral manifestations as the “fairy balls” or the transvestite “beauty contests” of some urban areas as anything more exalted than sociopathic manifestations of personality disturbances *complicated by membership in a pervasive subculture*. **1975** “R. Hammer” *Trucker’s Chicken* vii.115 Not that I would fuck her under any circumstances; my cunt-dipping experiences were over by then. I had discovered that for me there were only cocks and assholes. I was queer, gay, fairy, homosexual through and through.

fruit *n* An effeminate homosexual who performs fellation, a “cock-sucker”; an effeminate homosexual; a homosexual. Occasionally used collectively. *derog. slang, orig. U. S.*

. [?1900 *Dial. Notes* ii.37 (“Tulane”) *fruit*, *n.* ... An immoral man.] **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed.6 ii.vii.204 *fruit*, *fruiter*, *fairy*, a passive homosexual who practices irrumation. **1928** *N. Y. Times Book Rev.* 8 Jan. 15 Proust’s Harvest of Dead Sea Fruit (headline of review of *Cities of the Plains*). **1928** C. Panzram *Confess.* in Geddes and Long *Killer* (1970) 95 Then I thought he must be a bit queer sexually. I thought he must be a punk or some kind of fruit. But damned if that wasn’t wrong too. **1932** *Amer. Sp.* ix (1934) 26/2 (“prisons”) *Fruit*. A degenerate [= fellator]. **1932** “R. Scully” *A Scarlet Pansy* xix.150 Here one heard fruit, banana, meat, fish, tomato, cream, dozens of everyday words used with double meaning. **1933** N. Ersine *Pris. & Underw. Slang* 38 *fruit*, *n.* A sexual pervert. **1934** G. Foster *Lust* xxi.185 “Hell, I’d help any guy I could so long as he ain’t a muzzler or fruit. I guess even day gotta live but I don’t want ’em around me.” Not knowing exactly what he meant Ted made no reply. **1938** D. Castle *Do Your Own Time* vii.71 “I’ll tell you about prison jockers, punks, queens, and fruit some other

time." 1938 Partridge *Dict. Slang* ed. 2 997/2 *fruit*. A "pouf"... anglicized, ex U.S., in 1937. 1947–1948 J. H. Burns *Lucifer with Book* ii.116 His skill at soccer had done more than anything else at The Academy to preserve him from the clandestine persecution meted out to the fruits and the arty clique. 1949 M. de Forest *Gay Year* i.iii.27 Looking at himself in the glass, he said, half in derision, "You little fairy. You fag. You fruit. You queer." Calling himself every derogatory term he's ever heard applied to a homosexual. 1957 K. Martin *Aubade* v.79 The way I'm acting anyone would think I was a fruit. Gary probably is. He looks like one. 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* ix.212 "Why — you bum cowboy!" "Josie" grabbed furiously at Larry's hand-painted tie. "Strangle me, would you, you fruit!" 1963 J. Rechy *City of Night* iii.196 "Sure, I'd make it with the fruits, take whatever I could from them — but I wouldn't put out." 1965 F. Colson *Devil Is Gay* ii.19 He heard on of them say, "That's enough. That'll teach the stinking fruit to leave real men alone." "Lousy pervert!" 1967 J. Herbert *Fortune & Men's Eyes* i.29 Rocky: Fruits always get ya in deep crap. 1968 W.B. Tressner *Queens of Quarter* vii.64 "Well, this bog butch soldier started making fun of her being queer, and Daisy Mae beat the shit out of him... Everyone just stood there watching this big fruit smear this tough-looking soldier." c1972 "R. Larson" *End Zone* viii.150 "But queers! Jesus! I don't want people to turn against me because I'm a fuckin' fruit." 1977 "J. Dick" *Blue-Blood* i.96 "Just relax now, and be yourself. You don't have to show-off in front of this bunch of fruits." 1980 *Body Politic* (Tor.) May 25/4 The others laughed and joked about smashing the fruits. 1983 *Advocate* (L.A.) 28 Apr. 25/1 He has a married brother who is partially brain-damaged. Michael says that when he spilled the news that he was gay his father said to his mother, "So this is what we have ... a fruit and a nut." 1985 "J. Dillinger" *Adrenaline* x.45 "A pair of fruits fighting. Fuckin' shit." Burke laughed loudly, as if the idea of two pansies trying to act like regular couple having a lover's quarrel was intrinsically hilarious. 1988 J. Beadle *Death Scene* v.66 "But Guy was gay, wasn't he? I mean — " "Oh yes, a real little fruit." 1990 "G. Parker" *Passion* iv.122 [F]rom the radio in his study came the muffled strains of Tchaikovsky's fifth symphony. Poor old Pyotr Ilyich — a frustrated lovelorn old fruit like himself. He chuckled. 1998 A. Hollinghurst *Spell* x.117 It was Mike Hall who had said, when shown a volume called *The Cultivated Fruits of England*, "Good god, a book about Woodfield and his chums." 1998 D. McGill *Complete Kiwi Slang Dict.* 76/2 *Kiwi fruit* A New Zealand homosexual.

b. Applied to a lesbian. *rare*.

1972 G. Baxt *Sappho Burning* ii.35 "Something to do with something she's writing about that Sappho fruit." *Ibid.*, ii.35 "Phone the Drake fruit and see what's she's got on her mind." **1978** J. Carroll *Basketball Diaries* (1987) 7 [She was] Probably a fruit, too, 'cause she had all these pictures of nude ladies in the bag.

fruiter *n* Also **fruitier** (*rare*). A homosexual who performs fellation, a "cock-sucker"; (*underw. and tramps*) a boy or young man who takes the passive role in homosexual intercourse; a homosexual man. *U. S. slang, obs.* The derivation is unclear: it could be either an elaboration of *fruit* or an alteration or perversion of *fluter*, same sense (recorded from 1904).

1927 *Immortalia* 46 So the loyal Duke of Essexshire Betook himself to France; When he swore he was a fruiter the King Took down his royal pants. **1927** See FRUIT. **1928** C. Panzram *Confess.* in Gaddis and Long *Killer* (1970) 157 A gunsel is a punk and a punk is a poofter and a poofter is a pratter and a pratter is similar to a fruiter. The only difference between the two is the one likes to "sit" on it and the likes to "eat" it. A face-artist is an exceptionally well-experienced fruiter. **1930** G. Legman *More Limericks* 213 An Episcopal Bishop coadjutor Proclaimed that he like persons neuter: For as long as they're tender The question of gender Is a relative one to a fruiter. **1938** T. Minehan *Boy & Girl Tramps Amer.* ix.143 But, as one of the boy tramps told me, whenever you see a trainload of transients, there is always a wolf on the tender and a fruiter on the green light. Like vultures following a caravan, the perverts trail boys, waiting with bribes and force to ensnare them. **1941** G. Legman *Limerick* 67 The late Brigham Young was no neuter — No faggot, no fairy, no fruiter. Where ten thousand virgins Succumbed to his urgin's There now stands the state of Utah. **1964** E. Cray *Bawdy Ballads* 39/1 So the loyal Duke of Essexshire Betook himself to France; When he swore he was a fruitier the king Took down his royal pants. **1970** G. Legman *More Limericks* 208 A young man who feared he was neuter Fed his details into a computer. The machine, in a flash, Printed out: FORGET GASH... YOU'LL BE FAG-OF-THE-YEAR AS A FRUITER.

jocker *n* Rosanoff records one of two related but distinct usages.

1. *N. Amer. tramps' slang.* A tramp in company with a boy or youth who is his sexual partner and assistant.

1893 "J. Flint" in *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 107/2 For years he [the "preshun"] has been subject to the whims and passions of various "jockers," or protectors, and naturally enough, when released from his

bondage, he is only too likely to wreak his pent-up feelings on the nearest victim. **a1896** in Ellis and Symonds *Sexual Inversion* 253 Concerning sexual inversion among tramps, there is a great deal to be said... On the road the lad is called the "prushun," and his protector a "jocker." *Ibid.*, 254 Some of them have told me that they get as much pleasure out of the affair as the jocker does... and I have known them to wilfully tempt their jockers to intercourse. **1898** "Jacobus X" *Untrodden Fields* ed. 2 I.t.ix.162 Each [*sc.* "prushun"] is compelled by hobo-law to let his jocker do with him what he will, and many, I fear, learn to enjoy his treatment of them. **1900** F. Niven in Partridge *Dict. Underworld* ed. 3 (1968) 836/1 *jocker*. A tramp who takes a boy round with him to do the begging while he waits in the rear. **1918** A-No. 1 *Mother Delcassee* iii.49 The outcome of the crippling of a vagrant is identical in every instance: the disgusting and dishonorable mutilation is made a means to separate gullible people from their money — donations invariably handed by the flopper to his jocker or a mob of nasty, able-bodied vagrants. **1923** N. Anderson *Hobo* vii.103 From the point of view of abnormal sex relations relations there are several types of tramps: A jocker is a man who exploits boys; that is, he either exploits their sex or he has them steal or beg for him or both. **1925** J. Tully *Beggars of Life* x.95 "You been on the road long, Kid?" "Not so long," I replied. "Ever have a jocker? You're a purty smart-looking boy." *Ibid.* 96 "Course it's all right. Some kids like a 'jocker,'" he stammered after a moment. "What becomes o' the punk kids when they get big?" I asked. "Oh, they turn out to be perfessional 'jockers' themselves, an' then they gits kids to be their 'punks,'" was the answer. **1927** *Amer. Sp.* ii.387/2 ("vagabond argot") Here and there, especially in southern California, men can be observed traveling with boys and living with them in the relationship politely known as Socratic love. The man is called a *wolf* or *jocker*; the boy has many names, — *punk*, *gazooney*, *guntzel* and *bronc*. **1931** "Dean Stiff" *Milk & Honey Route* xiv.161 It is so generally assumed to be true among hobos, that whenever a man travels around with a lad he is apt to be labeled a "jocker" or a "wolf" and the road kid is called his "punk," "preshun," or "lamb." It has become so that it is difficult for a good hobo to enjoy the services of an apprentice. It may be that he has the boy along only to wash his clothes or to bum his lumps. It is hard for people with morbid minds to understand this. **1932** Auden *Orators* iii.100 "Youth's on the march," says Jocker to Prushun. **1935** J. Conroy *World to Win* I.vii.66 "Hoboin' wouldn't be no worse," he said slyly... "Ye little fool," Terry stormed. "Some jocker'd be makin' ye eat out o' his hand afore a week."

2. Also **ockerjay**, pig-Latin form. *U. S. prison and underw. slang*. A man who takes the so-called active or insertor role in sexual relations with another man, i.e., fucks him or is fellated by him.

1927 A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.vii.204 *Turk, wolf, or jocker*, an active sodomist. 1931 C. R. Shaw *Natural Hist. Delinquent* xi.221 "I've never known of a jocker (a boy who plays the male part in the sexual act) that didn't sooner or later tire of his punk (one who plays the passive part in the sex act)." 1932 V. F. Nelson *Prison Days & Nights* vi.150 The active participants, on the other hand, who are known as "wolves," "jockers," "daddies," etc., are generally looked upon with comparative respect, chiefly because their behavior is essentially male. 1934 L. Berg *Revelations Prison Doctor* xi.160 Johnny, deprived of all the comforts to which his thoughtless mother had accustomed him, quickly yielded to flattery and gifts of tobacco, candy and other luxuries offered to him by a notorious "jocker." 1935 A. J. Pollock *Underworld Speaks* s.v. *jocker*, one who practices sodomy (ockerjay). 1938 D. Castle *Do Your own Time* x.100 "Jockers," he announced. ... "They're waiting for the fish to arrive. ... Look! Here they come now. Watch the jockers." Through the iron prison door trooped about thirty dishevelled prisoners. I noted that all but two or three were boys. Few were more than twenty. The jockers grew quiet, looking the boys over, and making a selection. 1953 T. Runyon *In for Life* (1954) vi.99 The perennial bachelor .. gained a certain amount of prestige in certain circles by supporting a boy — from being known as a wolf, or a jocker, or a Turk. 1965 C. T. Duffy *Sex & Crime* iv.36 When a man wants to return to a prison where he once served time it's a good bet that he has an old love partner there. A homosexual who reaches that stage is pretty hopeless, especially if he's used to assuming the female part, the "queen." But if he's a "jocker" — acting the part of the male all the time — there's an outside chance of helping him by giving him intensive treatment while keeping him away from his "sweetheart." 1970 Gaddis and Long *Killer* 349 The "active" pederast — the "jocker" who assumes the male role — is considered socially superior to the "passive" pederast or "punk." 1970 "D. Warman" *Some of My Best Friends* vi.88 "One of the studs was standing over the dummy, pounding his hole, while another one who was getting jacked off shot his load all over the jocker, and that started a brawl. The guard had to run for his club to break it up." 1982 Wooden and Parker *Men Behind Bars* vi.116 The policy official of the State Department of Corrections .. noted that it is not uncommon for a kid who has been turned out as a punk in one prison to, in turn, become a jocker once transferred to another prison. This is a clear example of the victim becoming the victimizer.

3. jocker *v trans* To play the jocker (in sense 1) with. *N. Amer. tramps' slang.*

1895 *Harper's* Oct. 782 (Lighter) There was no need to "jocker" the boy any longer. His welfare depended on his mother. **1899** "J. Flynt" *Tramping with Tramps* 396 An ex-prushun is one who has served his apprenticeship as a "kid" and is "looking for revenge," i.e., for a lad that he can "snare" and "jocker," as he was "snared" and "jockeyed."

lamb *n* A youth or young man who takes the so-called passive role in homosexual intercourse (the active partner being called, among other names, *jocker* or *wolf*); a tramp's youthful companion and sexual partner. *U. S. slang, esp. tramps' and prison. Obs.*

1923 N. Anderson *Hobo* x.148 The investigator during his study of this phase of the tramp problem made two unsuccessful attempts to step between men and their boys, or "lambs." In one case his interference was resented by both the man and his boy, but in the other it was rather enjoyed by the boy, though he would not be separated from his "wolf." **1927** *Dial. Notes* v.453 ("underworld jarg.") *lamb*, *n*. A young boy who succumbs to the pederasty of *wolves* or criminal tramps. They are equivalent to the "petits Jésus" of the French. **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* II.vii.204 *Punk, lamb, queen, bitch, or prushun*, a passive sodomist. **1931** G. Irwin *Amer. Tramp & Underw. Slang* 119 *lamb*. A young tramp, especially one under the domination of his "jocker" or "wolf." **1931** "Dean Stiff" *Milk & Honey Route* xiv.161 Always when you get large bodies of men together you will find evidences of perversion. It is most evident among sailors, soldiers and prisoners. It is so generally assumed to be true among hobo, that whenever a man travels with a lad he is apt to be labeled a "jocker" or a "wolf" and the road kid his "punk," "preshen," or "lamb." **1934** L. Berg *Revelations Prison Doctor* x.142 It was not uncommon to stroll through tiers and see youngsters with just a fuzz on their cheeks, deep in conversation with older men; a melancholy omen of the usual "prison marriage." Lambs are traditionally easy for "wolves." This is even more true of the prison variety. **1938** T. Minehan *Boy & Girl Tramps Amer.* ix.143 I have seen wolves and their little "lambs" or "fairies," and their relationship seemed to be one of mutual satisfaction. **1946** R. M. Lindner *Stone Walls & Men* xxii.466 A characteristic approach is that of the "wolf" who is already in the general population and who baits his line for new fish. Either through a "connection" in quarantine, or by direct observation, he fixes on a "lamb," who may or may not be homosexual or homoerotic.

orchard *n* I have no other evidence of this sense. It may be relevant that the word also bears the slang sense, a baseball pitch.

peddle *v* Rosanoff's sense is not the usual one if his phraseology means, going out in quest of sex or sexual partners. The verb is more commonly used prostitutionally. I also treat two related verb phrases, **peddle one's ass** and **peddle one's tail**.

1. *trans.* To sell (one's body, self, sexual services), to prostitute (one's body, self); to seek sexual partners, to look for sex.

1918–1932 “Nell Kimball” *Amer. Madam* (1981) viii.101 You’d find nigras gals peddling gash and joint copping in the alleys. 1926 R. McAlmon *Portrait Generation* 23 “Merde, my check came today/and I might as well be peddling/this gorgeous body on the boulevards tomorrow.” 1932 M. West *She Done Him Wrong* i.2 You couldn’t stand the gaff if she had to peddle her stuff on the streets while you did time. 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 157 [S]he [masc.] peddles her can. 1933 H. L. Marchand *French Pornographers* iv.x.246 And what a gap separates these prostitutes who peddle their flesh from the grisettes under Louis Philippe! 1947 J. H. Burns *Gallery* 140 “Go on the Via Roma and peddle your stuff and stop trying to act like trade.” *Ibid.*, 151 “So I told this Nellie to go peddle her fish somewhere else. And she did.” 1950 “L. Wahl” *Invisible Glass* x.209 “Go peddle your trade somewhere else, you battle-worn queen,” interrupted the infantry sergeant. 1953 “R. Garland” *Heart in Exile* 222 What happens in London is that ageing Guardsmen with pencilled moustaches and bad teeth come up to you in pubs and cringe drinks from you, if they are not anxious to peddle themselves. 1957 C. MacInnes *City of Spades* i.xi. 80 “But mostly it is a spot where fine young American coloureds can destroy themselves with the white trash peddled to them by West Indians and my fellow countrymen, who collect the women’s earnings and usually the G. I.’s pocket-book as well.” 1958 S. Delaney *Taste of Honey* (1959) i.ii.16 You know where you’ll end up? In the river or peddling your body down some back alley! 1959 P. Buckland *Chorus of Witches* v.104 “I’ve had dozens of screaming little queens up here, peddling and flaunting themselves, but it doesn’t get them anywhere.” 1968 B. Turner *Sex Trap* (1969) xiv.103 “Thought he was just another queer. Somebody said he was working a sort of badger game, peddling a bit of brown and then putting on the black.” 1972 “R. Cummings” *Bath Buddy* xii.155 That’s what Stacy was, a fucking hustler. Selling his schmuck for a living. Bargaining to peddle his bung at an advantage. 1972 Idem “S. U. C. K. xv.165 Once they’ve started peddling themselves, ten percent of all

brothers all help their siblings into hustlerdom. c1972 "T. Everts" *Heads Are Winners* vii.124 After he left home with no special talent, he found that he could peddle his magnificent body for a good price and sold it goodnaturedly. 1973 "F. Jeffries" *Deep Dick* vi.81 "And this is the way you earn bread?" "Sure. Ever since I ran away from my old man's shack in Mississippi I've been peddling prick in this town." 1974 "A. Peters" *Happy Hustler* x.82 He would rather peddle his prick than do a day's work. 1977 J. G. Dunne *True Confess.* (1979) iv.77 "She can't afford a dentist and she's selling her blood. She's also go a rose on her pussy, so let's assume she's peddling that, too." 1985 *Cruiser* (Syd.) 18 Aug. 13/1 A john candidate strolled past the park bench and glanced sideways at what Chich was peddling.

b. So **peddle it** *v phr* To practice prostitution.

1918–1932 "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1981) xx.231 An old hustler that worked all the Swamp in those days peddling it or cock-sucking, told me that the price for a woman, a snort of corn whisky and a kip for the night was one or two picayune (six cents was the value of a picayune). 1970 G. Walker *Cruising* (1980) xvi.127 "I don't want to see your face on my post again. Go peddle it someplace else." 1970 "D. Warman" *Some of My Best Friends* x.136 "You never ask a hustler to tell you about his tricks." "Well, I can understand that... I never peddled it myself." 1974 "A. Peters" *Happy Hustler* x.88 "I never took money from Uncle Tim," Robbie protested. "Sure you did. You were peddling it when you were seven years old." 1984 G. Davenport *Apples & Pears* 90 What saved her from getting biffed in the eye and being thrown out of the apartment to peddle it on the docks was that.

2. absol. To practice prostitution.

1970 "D. Warman" *Some of My Best Friends* iv.46 "If you're gonna stand on your feet in a movie or a supermarket for ten hours, you might as well peddle. It's easier work and it pays better, believe me, I've tried it both ways." 1971 D. Rader *Govt Inspected Meat* v.49 And I was frightened of ending peddling on the street, like my old man, too late with a product no one wanted anymore. 1973 "J. Wadsworth" *Cowboys for Me* iii.39 [B]y that time Brick had us by the balls. If I cross him, he'll turn me in to Mrs Abraham saying that he caught me peddling again."

3. So peddle (one's), ~ **the ass** *v phr*.

a. Also (*Austral., Brit.*) **arse**. Of a man: To prostitute oneself to men, to be a male prostitute; *transf.*, to engage in promiscuous sexual relations, to "sleep around." *slang, orig. and chiefly U. S.*

1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1157 *ass, to peddle one's*. To prostitute, or attempt to

prostitute oneself as a pedicant. **1949** M. de Forest *Gay Year* i.ix.63 That would have made his take for the night close to fifty dollars, if he had accepted the advances made by certain male passengers. If he ever decided to peddle the old ass, he told himself. **1956** "J. Little" *Somewhere Between the Two* vii.86 "Go on, I'm sure you can get a job there. You can peddle your ass there." **1970** L. J. Hatterer *Changing Homosexuality* vii.226 He said "I'm going to end up some tired old queen peddling my ass around town, a nothing, instead of being taken care of by everybody." **1971** *Camp Ink* (Syd.) Aug. 5/2 There is one boy who .. always asks you for a cigarette even if he can't peddle his arse. **1972** "J. Jackson" *From Steve with Love* v.75 "Where in the hell do you get the kind of money to afford this? Peddle your ass somewhere?" **1976** "M. Scott" *Private Passions* iv.117 "Wants to recruit me, get it? I told him no fucking way am I gonna peddle my sweet virgin ass." **1980** W. Hamilton *Kevin* xi.102 He peddled his ass. Yes. He peddled his cock and he peddled his mouth. He bartered his flesh for a new kind of knowledge. **1985** H. P. Jeffers *Portrait in Murder* 168 Apperson was no different from any other kid who ever peddled his ass. **1996** S. Home *Slow Death* i.13 "The problem is," the skinhead sighed, "I'm strapped for cash." "You could peddle your arse to some businessman and come back later," the girl suggested.

b. Also peddle ass. To be a prostitute, to practice prostitution. *U. S. slang.*

1953 G. Legman *More Limericks* 380 There was a young widow named Verity Who peddled her ass just for charity. **1955** *Ibid.*, 367 There once was a whore from Kilkenny Who peddled her ass for a penny. **1961** Forbes *Goodbye to Some* 76 (Lighter) "They caught some nurse peddlin' her ass... She was getting' five hundred a belt." **1969** P. Roth *Portnoy* 210 This is somebody whom I picked up off the street! Who sucked my cock before she even knew my name! Who once peddled her ass in Las Vegas, if not elsewhere! **1975** I. Biscol *Teen Confessions* iv.141 "I knew there were lots of girls around peddling their ass, especially in our neighborhood." **1977** D. Goines *Black Gangster* v.51 "I'd rather peddle ass for a quarter a throw than go back there." **1979** J. Hansen *Skinflck* vii.55 "She was peddling her scrawny little ass up and down the Strip all night." **1981** G. V. Higgins *Rat of Fire* vii.57 "[W]hy the hell should she take off for Las Vegas and peddle her ass to a lot of sleazes on the off-chance maybe she can make it big."

c. peddle someone's ass. To cause or make (someone) practise prostitution. *U. S. slang.*

1967 "Iceberg Slim" *Pimp* iii.59 He couldn't understand how a boy with a score of one hundred and seventy-five could do such a stupid thing like peddling a girl's ass on the sidewalk.

4. peddle one's tail *v phr U. S. slang*-PEDDLE ONE'S ASS.

1918-1932 "Nell Kimball" *Amer. Madam* (1970) xxvi.294 They became actresses — which means just that they went on tour with players and most likely were already peddling their tail on the side as most actresses did in those dingy one night stands. **1965** G. Legman *More Limericks* 159 There was a young lady from Vassar, At screwing none could surpass her. So she went up to Yale And peddled her tail From the bulldog up to the Headmaster.

prushun *n* Also **preshun**, **preshen**. The young companion of a tramp who begs for him and serves him sexually. *North American tramps' slang. unknown orig.* The relationship of this word and the presumably homophonous *prussian*, a tramp who has a boy-campanion, is uncertain.

1893 "J. Flynt" in *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 106/1 The ex-prushuns are young fellows who have served their apprenticeship as kids .., and are .. "looking for revenge"; *i.e.*, seeking some kid whom they can press into their service, and compel to beg for them. **a1896** "J. Flynt" in Ellis and Symonds *Sexual Inversion* 253 The majority of prushuns are between ten and fifteen years of age. *Ibid.*, 254 Among the men the practice [homosexual relations] is decidedly one of passion. The majority prefer a prushun to a woman, and nothing is more severely judged than rape. **1907** J. London *Road* 173 A boy on The Road, on the other hand, no matter how green he is, is never a gay-cat; he is a road-kid or a "punk," and if he travels with a "profesh," he is known possessively as a "prushun." I was never a prushun, for I did not take kindly to possession. I was first a road-kid and then a profesh. **1912** A. Berkman *Pris. Mem. Anarchist* x.175 "Pshew! Who cares for a heifer when you can get a kid? Women are no good. I wouldn't look at 'em when I can have my prushun." **1918** A - No. 1 *Mother Delcassee* ii.44 iii.44 *road kid or prushun* — boy held in bondage by jocker. **1927** *Dial. Notes* v.459 ("underw. jarg.") *prushun*, *n*. A boy who is enslaved by a tramp. Tramps induce boys to run away from home and break their spirit by acts of unspeakable cruelty. **1932** See JOCKER in sense 1. **1935** J. Conroy *World to Win* i.vii.65 "They'll hurt him! Let me go back," yelled the prushun, and Terry was too late to catch him. At this moment Dude scrambled up to roadbed a few hundred feet away, running low on all fours. He waved his arms and beckoned to the boy. "Come on, honey!" he hollered. ... The boy was not long in reaching him. Together they made their way down the embankment and out of sight. ... Leo and Terry could hear Dude and prushun galloping across the pasture, their feet thudding like hoofbeats. In later gloss. and dicts.

1923 N. Anderson *Hobo* vii.101 *road kid* or *preshun*. Boy held in bondage by jocker. **1931** See JOCKER in sense 1. **1942** Berrey and Van Den Bark *Amer. Thes. Slang* 473 *Catamite* ... *preshen*. In later gloss.

punk *n* A boy or young man who takes the passive role in homosexual relations; spec., a boy or young man who travels with a tramp and serves him sexually and otherwise; a prisoner who is forced to take the passive role in homosexual relations; a homosexual man, esp. if young or effeminate. The pig-Latin form **unkpay** is also recorded. *slang, orig. U. S. tramps' and prison*. The sense derives from the earlier SE meaning (OED 1596 →), prostitute, whore, harlot.

1904 "Number 1500" *Life in Sing Sing* xiii.251/1 *punk*. Bread; a pervert. **1907** See PRUSHUN. **1912** A. Berkman *Prison Mem. Anarchist* x.170 "Ever read Billy Shakespeare? Know the place, 'He's neither man nor woman; he's a punk.' ... A punk's a boy that'll..." "What?" "Yes, sir. Give himself to a man. Now we're talkin' plain. Savvy now, Innocent Abroad." *Ibid.*, xliii.433 My friend is very bitter against the prison element variously known as "the girls," "Sallies," and "punks," who for gain traffic in sexual gratification. **1914** Jackson and Hellyer *Vocab. Criminal Slang* 67 *punk* .. Also a sodomite youth — a yegg term. **c1918** in *Amer. Sp.* viii (1933) 30/2 ("prison") *punk*. Catamite. (Standard military and naval language.) **1922–1926** S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* viii.128 "Most punkies are small boys, who hang around, and use the rectal method. Punks are from 15 to 20 years of age; sometimes a little above." **1923** N. Anderson *Hobo* vii.103 From the point of view of abnormal sex relations there are several types of tramps: A Punk is a boy who travels about the country with a man known as a jocker. **1925** See JOCKER in sense 1. **1926** Nichols and Tully *Twenty Below* (1927) iii.78 "Poor kid, you were his punk, eh?" **1927** *Dial. Notes* v.461 ("underw. jarg.") *punk*, *n.* ... (3) A prushun. **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.vii.204 *Punk, lamb, queen, bitch, or prushun*, a passive sodomist. **1928** See FRUIT, FRUITER. **1931** C. R. Shaw *Nat. Hist. Delinq. Career* ix.173 "I met two bums, youthful ones, that I knew by sight. ... I did not know their full names. One was called Seippy and the other Punk. This Punk was what his name implied — a sex pervert." **1931** See LAMB. **1932** V. F. Nelson *Prison Days & Nights* vi.149 [T]he passive participants in sodomy are called "punks," "gonsils," "mustard pots," or even more direct physical terms are used. **1934** L. Berg *Revelations Prison Doctor* x.142 Prison philosophy — which is often very keen in its analysis of men, motives, and behavior — has it that a "wolf" (also called "jocker" or "daddy") is "an ex-punk looking for revenge." **1934** G. Foster *Lust*

x.84 [H]e lunged toward the nondescript creature but Flossie was too quick for him, running down the hall, screaming, "Wolf! Wolf!" in a high, shrill voice. "Shut up, ya punk," cried a hoarse voice. **1935** J. Conroy *World to Win* i.vii.58 "You don't have to if you don't want to, punk," growled the cook. "T' hell wi' that jocker. The sooner you ditch him, the better off you'll be." **1935** A. J. Pollock *Underworld Speaks* s.v. *punk*, a youthful marital companion of a sodomist (jocker) (unkpay). **1938** See FRUIT. **1939** Wilson and Pescor *Problems in Prison Psychiat.* x.202 He who can detect the lovelight in the eyes of normal lovers can also see it in those of the "wolf" and his "punk." **1940** D. Clemmer *Prison Community* x.260 Although boys' correctional schools and reformatories contribute some "punks" to the penitentiaries, the penitentiaries make pederasts of quite a few youngsters who have never seen such a school. **1944** *Amer. Sp.* xix.104 ("merchant marine") A boy who presents himself to the uses of buggery is a *punk* (common) or a *brat* (more special). **1946** Mezzrow and Wolfe *Really the Blues* i.15 The real trouble between the two gangs was caused by the fact that Big Six, a colored boy, had a white "punk." A punk, if you want it in plain English, is a boy with smooth skin who takes the place of a woman in a jailbird's love life. **1952** C. Himes *Cast First Stone* i.12 "You ain't nothing but a goddam punk yourself," Jeep said. "You're one of those swap-up bitches. One of those secret whores. You go in the coal shed so can't nobody see you." **1953** T. Runyon *In for Life* (1954) vi.100 Probably he [i.e., the "wolf"] hoped mainline prisoners would not describe him as "an old worn-out punk' hunting for revenge." **1955** E. A. Lindrop *Details Jeremy Stretton* xxv.145 "I want affection... I'm not like these creatures in here. I'm not a sally, I'm not a punk. I'm looking for something that *lasts*." **1958** G. M. Sykes *Society of Captives* 96 The *punk* .. submits to the importunities of the more active, aggressive homosexuals without displaying the outward signs of femininity in other aspects of his behavior. **1960** *Jrnl. Social Therapy* vi.170 Punks and brats are those prisoners who take the passive role in sodomy; there is a chronological age limit. **1962–1968** in B. Jackson *In the Life* iv.362 "The punks and the queens don't get along. That's our only sore spot: we don't like being locked up with punks. Our wing is about half us and half them because there's not enough of us free-world gay people to have a wing just for us." **1964** R. D. Abrahams *Deep Down in Jungle* iv.158 So they put me in the wagon and took me on down to the county jail, I didn't have a punk, fag or sissy to go my bail. **1967** "Iceberg Slim" *Pimp* iii.74 The fruits and the punks lay on the grass in the sun romancing with each other. **1968** "C. Corley" *Purple Ring* i.26 "I like a new one. Get curious every time I bump into a

fresh punk... My goal is to make every punk that comes to New Orleans." 1969 R. Jessup *Sailor* 107 "Unless, of course, you want to be his punk." 1969 J. Michie trans. Catullus xxv.51 Thallus, you punk, you're soft as ... (*Cinaede, Thalle, mellior...*). 1971 J. M. Heslin, ed. *Stud. Sociol. Sex* 378 Unlike the queen who openly chooses a life of passive homosexuality and even embraces the stigma of effeminacy as desirable, the punk is hated because his involvement in prison homosexuality is believed to result from either personal weakness in the face of pressure or from a mercenary willingness to sacrifice his manhood for certain goods and services. 1972 L. Madigan *Jackarandy* (1973) 106 "Since they showed *Midnight Cowboy* every punk in London's moved in on the game." c1972 "L. Rogers" *Fistful of Miracles* ii.30 "What fun would it be to jack off with you nelly little punks?" he asked in feigned disgust. 1974 *Jrnl. Homosexuality* i.209 When a new boy arrives, sexual exploiters will try to find out who knows him and whether he was ever a punk in another institution. 1978 in J. A. Holm *Dict. Bahamian Engl.* 162/2 "You're gay?" "Yeah, I is a punk." 1980 *Jrnl. Sex Research* xvi.259 Those who willingly and cheerfully submit are viewed as sissies, sometimes to be protected, often to be considered suitable cell partners. But the "punk," the unwilling guy who lets himself get raped without a fight, is scorned. 1982 B. Herron *Moritz!* 9 "What are you going to be? A punk for a couple dirty old bastards all your life?" a1983 *One Teenager in Ten* 33 "They stayed away from me in school, and called me 'queer,' 'fag,' and 'punk.'" [Male, 16, Arkansas.] 1985 P. Burton *Parallel Lives* ii.41 As in any language, polari is constantly enriched, constantly denuded — by the addition of new words and the loss of old. It is amusing to note here that the word *punk* now associated with anarchistic rock had an earlier meaning: a virginal young homosexual. 1985 *Lust* 39 While everybody knew we were tight buddies, they certainly did not suspect us of being queer, faggots, sissies, punks, or other emasculating labels bestowed on a few of the other boys in our school and neighborhood.

queen *n* See Pavia glossary.

queer Also **quare** (*Ir.*). Although Rosanoff collocates *queer* with *temperamental*, an adjective, he defines both terms nominally. So I shall treat both the adjectival and nominal uses.

queer *a* Homosexual; orig., effeminately or obviously homosexual; frequented by or catering to homosexuals. *slang, orig. U. S.*

1914 in *Jrnl. Hist. Sexuality* v (1995) 599 "[O]ne of the finest wardrobes among the 'queer' people." [1917 "A. T. Fitzroy" *Despised & Rejected* i.vi.93 The queer impetus that had made her love Hester had suddenly become paralysed, just as her pulses had ceased to hammer, the moment she arrived at the station. *Ibid.*, iii.vii.347 "He's got a queer strain of the maternal in him. ... It's a woman's passion as well as a man's that he feels for Alan; virile yet tender."] 1919 in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) i.13 "[H]alf the world is queer, and the other half trade." 1920 in *ibid.*, vi.146 "I said he was generally known that he was queer." c1920 See QUEEN. 1922 S. Kahn *Mentality & Homosexuality* viii.125 Many homosexual practices result from the company which they keep and through their contacts with queer people. 1923 S. Ornitz *Haunch* 142 The world comes to Lavelle's — a world of men...fitting, temperamental fairies, the queer effeminate men. 1924 C. Van Vechten *Excavations* (1926) 172 To be 1890 in 1890 might be considered almost normal. To be 1890 in 1922 might be considered almost queer. There is a difference, however. The colour is magenta. Oscar's hue was green. The fun is warmer; the vice is more léger. 1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 99 Seated one night in a queer café she noted the entrance of a party of English swells. *Ibid.*, 129 "Are all the roomers at this place queer women, or buggers and fairies?" 1926 C. Van Vechten *Nigger Heaven* ii.vi.244 "Who's that punkin-seed sheik in the corner?" she demanded. "Nothing for the little lady," Danny responded. "He's queer." 1927 C. Mackenzie *Vestal Fire* i.iv.68 Yes, he was a queer figure, as queer as some of the foreign residents. 1928 R. J. Tasker *Grimhaven* iv.38 "You mean to say that you don't know about your little cell-mate?" "Beardsley? No — what about him?" "Why, he's queer. He's one of the gals." 1928 M. West *Pleasure Man* (1997) i.161 Mrs Hetherington (To her husband): Ugh! Such people. I don't understand them. They're so queer. Hetherington: Yes, my dear — extraordinarily queer. I think queer is the word. 1929 J. Alexander *Jeb & Dash* 2 Sept. 174 Glimpsed Max strolling out of the Y with a young fellow from the fourth floor, queer. Sex has been on my mind today... 1929 *Amer. Sp.* iv.343 ("bums") *queer* — Degenerate; abnormal. 1929 M. Lief *Hangover* ii.27 "About as romantic as hell," she said. "I lived with him for three days and found out he was queer." 1930 L. Hughes *Not without Laughter* xxviii.305 Sometimes, .. he had heard the men talk about the queer fellows who stopped boys in the streets and tried to coax them to their rooms. 1931 B. Niles *Strange Brother* (1932) vii.137 People had called Tom "queer"; and now I knew that I was like Tom — 1931 A. Tellier *Twilight Men* iii.iii.204 "It may seem improbable, but our

host has undoubtedly met every queer person in New York." 1932 "R.Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xli.351 "Atwhay allshay away oday ithway ethay itchbay anday eerquay renchmanfay?" "Ivegay emthay ethay airay!" 1932 *Truth* (Melb.) 8 Oct. Queer cults with queerer customs are enjoying an ine[illegible] vogue in Melbourne. What has often puzzled the man-about-town is that distinguished visitors are often honored guests at these queer affairs. 1932 M. West *She Done Him Wrong* (1995) xix.174 "I got everythin' a guy could want unless he was queer." 1932 See WOLF. 1933 "R. Meeker" *Better Angel* III.i.174 "I'm always right — it's intuitive. We queer ones can spot our kind anywhere, any time." 1934 J. Fishman *Sex in Prison* vii.152 If .. he has just begun to practice homosexuality, due to an intense sexual urge which he could not gratify normally, he should not, because of this unfortunate circumstance, be branded "queer." 1934 L. Levenson *Butterfly Man* iii.32 "You mean she's queer?" "Divinely so, dearie," said Buddy ... 1936 A. Hardy *Autobiog. Pimp* ii.9 "It's that Mrs Moore up in 330," Dick replied. "She's queer, a pervert, and that girl's her lady friend." 1936 Terman and Miles *Sex & Personality* xiii.300 H9 is now rather social, but his favorite associates are "queer people and the intelligentsia." 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.398 "At times I pick up men on the streets and in the theater but mostly in bars. A queer person can almost instinctively sense another." 1944 R. Duncan in *Politics* i (Aug.) 210/1 But in what one believes the most radical, the most enlightened "queer" circles the word "jam" remains, designating all who are not homosexual, filled with an unwavering hostility and fear, gathering an incredible force of exclusion and blindness. 1945–1946 K. Tennant *Tell Mornig This* xlv.477 He had often wondered if David was "queer," or just under-sexed. 1946 H. Eustis *Horizontal Man* 130 "I think she's queer." "How do you mean, queer?" "Oh, you know. Regular sort of queer. I mean, she has such a deep voice, and goes about in pants all the time." 1951 F. Peters *Finistère* xiv.124 He'd known men who were queer but this man didn't look the part. 1952 "J. Little" *Maybe — Tomorrow* xxv.294 "I've never had an affair with a girl ... don't guess I ever will. I've been gay all my life. Queer, normal people call it." 1953 "R. Garland" *Heart in Exile* 59 The queer pub is different. 1954 C. Isherwood *World in Evening* II.iii.127 "He'd like us to march down the street with a banner, singing 'we're queer because we're queer because we're queer because we're queer because we're queer.' That's really what we keep fighting about." 1956 N. Coward *Diaries* 18 June 325 *Thin Ice*, Compton Mackenzie's novel about a queer diplomat: well-written but, as usual with books on homosexuality written by heterosexuals, not *quite right*. That dreadful,

unconscious superiority. 1960 A. Fedoroff *Side of Angels* xxi.317 "If they're all queer in this place, why aren't they all dressed up like women?" 1965 M. Leitch *Liberty Lad* iii.47 'Boy, but you're the quare geg." 1966 "R. Garland" *Sorcerer's Broth* i.6 I never let myself be taken to queer clubs or pubs. 1967 R. Croft-Cooke *Feasting with Panthers* viii.172 He [Wilde] was queer like others, like millions of others in the world then and today, and, after discovering the promiscuous, unstable, somewhat lecherous life of conscious homosexuals in London .., he abandoned himself to it. 1968 R. Lambert *Hothouse Society* xi.313 "I just worry about homosexual problems, the person I'm in love with. I'm queer, temporarily I hope, but permanently I fear, and because of this I'm a rebel" [boy, 18]. 1970 "D. Warman" *Some of my Best Friends* i.24 "But that doesn't answer my question: are you queer or not?" An edge of irritation sharpened Doug's quiet voice. "Do me one favor, Jerry. As long as you're around me, don't use that word. If you ask me, 'Are you gay?' or 'Are you homosexual?' I'll answer you." 1971 D. Rader *Govt Inspected Meat* v.63 HUSTLERS ARE NOT QUEER. Didn't he *know* that? Me, I was not miss mary pansy. I never let a score touch me, never, just mouth and meat ... 1971 D. Teal *Gay Militants* iv.76 "Queer" to the gay militant meant a "mistake," a "misfire," a "failure" — "gay" is not. Nor is Gay Power. a1973 "D. White" *Old Queens Never Die* ix.159 "Anyone who can be fucked, sucked and sucks somebody else at the same time is completely queer in *my* books!" Jack retorted. 1973 See FAIRY. 1973 "F. Jeffries" *Deep Dick* ii.34 "Look, darling, one of the things I like about being queer is that we're different. We stay together because we love each other. To me that's more important and more binding than some silly ceremony and wedding ring. I know lots of gay couples that observe their wedding anniversaries and all that other straight world crap. To me it's silly, because it makes a farce of the gay life." 1975 M. Amis *Dark Secrets* (1977) 1.175 Oh, let him not be queer, she beseeched. 1981 *Breaking the Silence* 37 "I can remember being called queer when I was 14." 1982 *Panthology Two* 108 "Thanks. Jimmy's right: I'm queer. But I was only queer with Jimmy. I haven't touched Jerry." 1983 *Messir Rondo* 97 Sutclif was silent. He had only just realised that "queer" — the deadliest insult in the playground — didn't mean "wrong in the head" as he'd casually assumed, but homosexual. 1986 P. Gale *Aerodynamics* 155 Until Venetia saw Seth being driven off by that pompously good-looking young man, she had never seriously entertained the possibility that he might be queer. 1992 M. Nava *Hidden Law* xi.93 "They tell me he's [Proust] is one of the great queer fathers." 1996 N. Currer-Briggs *Young Men at War* I.viii.79 Even after the rapturous night with Manfred .. I did

not think of myself as queer. Queers were limp-wristed pansies, and clearly neither he nor I were handbag-swishing queens. 1999 N. Drinnan *Pussy's Bow* i.82 Dūng looked at Murray in surprise. "Aren't you queer?" "Sure, I guess, but I'm not full-on gay."

b. So get, go, turn, come on queer. To come out as a homosexual, to become homosexual.

1925 R. McAlmon *Distinguished Air* 74 "I was talkin' to a guy — one of these here highbrows, you get me, just scientifically interested and all that, you know — and he sez to me, 'did you get queer in the army?' and I sez to him, 'my god Mary, I've been queer since before you wore diddies.'" 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 124 But Karel was thinking of Louis turning queer so beautifully gradually. 1933 L. F. Potter *Strange Loves* v.75 We have already seen .. that hundreds of thousands of men and women, in all parts of the world, and in every station of life have turned "queer." 1952 J. Henry *Women in Prison* v.84 "Well, if the girls go a bit queer in 'ere, you can't blame them," said Lil. 1954 A. Heckstall-Smith *Eighteen Months* xii.146 "I mean, I wouldn't turn queer not nothin' like that," he added half defiantly. 1958 W. Ross *Immortal* ix.143 "Don't tell me that you have to turn queer — 'Watch your language,' I said. ' — homosexual in order to succeed in the theatre,' he said." 1962 *Amer. Jrnl. Folklore* lxxv.220 Did you hear the one about the Arabs that went queer? They were sitting under a tree eating their dates. 1964 E. Fey *Summer in Sodom* xi.111 Mrs Koburn chuckled. "Ted Raymond gone queer. Like mother like son." 1965 F. Colson *Devil is Gay* xviii.116 "All of a sudden you're coming on queer. The talk about you around college was just kidding. But now...." 1970 W. Watkins *Wayward Warriors* (1972) xvi.119 "Got to get back to the shielas or I'll go queer." 1973 "J. Coriolan" *Christy Dancing* (1984) xi.190 "Andy would go queer to suck either of those big dicks for an hour." 1984 R. N. Boyd *Sex Behind Bars* 125 "Whaddaya say? It's not like turning queer or nothing. I mean, we ain't gonna do nothing but jack each other off." 1999 R. Black *Hard Time* xviii.162 He'd almost stopped thinking about Jill — about women — at all. When he thought of sex, now, he thought of men. Of hasty and brutal sex in corridors and cupboards. Could he be turning queer? Was it possible?

2. queer for, occas. about, on. Feeling a special sexual attraction for or to; having a particular sexual predilection for.

1945–46 K. Tennant *Tell Mornig This* xlv.424 "And Rad's got pulled into Petworth. She'll hate that because she was queer on Julie, but it won't be long before she's falling all over Pretty Bet or one of the other screws." 1955 L. Coleman in *Different* (1974) 186 "She said she thought you were queer for me." 1956 J. Baldwin *Giovanni's Room*

(1963) i.ii.27 "Well, you may find this hard to believe, but, actually I'm sort of queer for girls myself." 1958 H. Kane *Triple Terror* II.viii.126 "Off. With the shoesies." "What goes with shoes? You queer for shoes?" "That's right. Fetishist, that's me." 1965 F. Colson *Devil is Gay* xxi.132 "Didn't you know he was going to ask me for a date? The both of you take out girls and nobody will believe you're queer for each other. Neat plan." 1966 J. Barr *Occasional Man* II.iii.206 "You big sonofabitch, I think you're as queer for him as I am." 1969 P. Goodman in *New Gay Lib Book* 99 I recall when, *Growing Up Absurd* having had a number of glowing reviews, finally one critic, Alfred Kazin, darkly hinted that I wrote about my Puerto Rican delinquents because I was queer for them. Naturally. 1969 "J. Greene" *Bitter Wine* i.27 "Hell, in a place like this with no girls around all summer it's only natural that something would happen. But it doesn't mean we've got to turn queer about each other." 1970 "P. Andros" *Boys in Blue* (1984) i.11 "Do me a favor, will you?" I said. "Leave your boots on," I said. "Queer for boots, huh?" he said. "Yeah," I said. a1973 J. Maggie *Split the Sky* ii.33 "Besides, I hear through the grapey that he's queer for redheads, guys with freckles." 1979 L. Ferlinghetti *Love Nut* He don't wanna/ be alone He may be queer on men. 1980 C. James *Unreliable Mem.* (1981) vii.73 At home there was rampant sexuality, most of it centred on Gary. But if I was queer for him, it was the outward expression of an inward yearning for the feminine. 1984 G. Davenport *Apples & Pears* 120 "But then you're queer for Adriaan's sweater and underwear because you're trying to magic him into loving you even more than he does. *Grote genade!*"

3. Hence, in extended use, applied to any non-heterosexual person, whether homosexual, bisexual, transsexual, or "transgendered."

1994 C. Paglia *Vamps & Tramps* 70 Homosexuality is not "normal." On the contrary, it is a challenge to the norm; therein rests its eternally revolutionary character. Note that I do not call it a challenge to the *idea* of the norm. Queer theorists — that wizened crew of flim-flamming free-loaders — have tried to take the poststructuralist tack of claiming that there is no norm, since everything is relative and contingent. 2003 *E. Peak* (Simon Fraser Univ.) 2 Sept. People in the queer and the heterosexual communities use labels such as "rice queen," "potato queen," "curry queen," etc.

queer *n*

1. A homosexual man or boy; occas. of a woman.

1914 in *Jrnl. Hist. Sexuality* v (1995) 593 "[T]hey would have the opportunity of meeting some of the prominent 'queers,' ... and the further attraction that some 'chickens' as the new recruits in the vice

are called, would be available." 1927 A. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.vii.204 *temperamental* or *queer*, a homosexual person. 1933 L. F. Potter *Strange Loves* i.6 "Twenty years ago 'queers' were a rarity — today they are quite the fashion. They are undoubtedly the heaviest drawing cards in the night clubs of today." 1934 J. L. Segal *Sex in Amer.* ix.154 The chief reason so few people can possibly comprehend that there are ten million male and female "queers" in this country is because of the fact that, in the majority of instances, there is no obvious difference between these abnormals and those we class as normal. 1935 *Amer. Sp.* x.19/2 ("criminal slang c.1910") *queer*. 3. A male homosexual. 1935 J. Conroy *World to Win* II.xi.195 One of the boys .. was exceedingly clever as a female impersonator... When he found out that it was being whispered around behind his back that he was a queer, Sammy Mulvaney gave up his impersonating. 1936 B. L. Reitman *Second Oldest Profess.* ed.2 xvii.258 If the majority of homosexuals in high society read the best and most scientific books on abnormal psychology and attend lectures on phallic worship, and still continue their practices, I don't see what good it will do to give the "hustling queers" who seek trade on the boulevard literature on the evils of the subject. 1939 E. Paul *Mysterious Mickey Finn* iii.26 "Sometimes I think the queers have an easier time of it, so help me Moses, I do." 1945 R. Brooks *Brick Foxholes* viii.80 "I ain't beaten up a queer in I don't know how long." 1947 V. Bourjaily *End of my Life* iv.42 "Yeah," said Rod, "he's a queer, all right. I've had him spotted for a long time, but I didn't want to say anything." 1949 G. Vidal *Season of Comfort* v.183 "You spend all your time with the queers, painting." 1951 J. Jones *From Here to Eternity* xxv.374 "Make up my own mind. About everything. Including queers." ... Hal was sighing heavily. "That is a harsh word to use. But then we are used to that." 1952 D. Sanderson *Dark Passions Subdue* III.vii.286 "Why don't you go home, you lousy queer. You're not wanted here." 1954 C. Isherwood *World in Evening* III.i.310 "I thought to myself: I can't be a C. O. because, if they declared war on queers — tried to round us up and liquidate us, or something — I'd fight till I dropped." 1956 L. McIntosh *Oxford Folly* vii.104 "If you look closely, you'll see that he's got all the mannerisms of a queer. The nervous, high-pitched laugh, the liberal use of after-shave lotion, the variegated wardrobe. It all adds up." 1956 See so a 1957 A. Bannon *Odd Girl Out* (1983) i.11 "Beth, you're going to make your poor little roommate think she's fallen in with a couple of queers," she said with a giggle. 1957 R. Chandler *Sel. Let.* 18 Jan. (1981) 416 I met Christopher Isherwood in Santa Monica and like him. I think he is the only queer I have ever felt entirely at ease with. 1961 See

TRADE in sense 3. **1964** "N. Blake" *Sad Variety* (1985) v.52 "I warned Peter he'd be in for trouble, taking on a lily-livered queer like you." "Don't you dare talk to me like that, you dung-faced bitch!" **1966** "R. Garland" *Sorcerer's Broth* viii.129 Some interior decorator with dyed hair, a shrieking queer ... **1968** R. Lambert *Hothouse Society* xi.318 "You have to exert strong will power not to be a practising queer here" (schoolboy, 17). **1971** "B. Cochran" *Crotch Bait* iv.44 Dan felt stunned. He had never heard anybody talk so openly about faggots before, except in a derisive manner. Usually whenever queers were mentioned it was always with some snide remark or insult. **1974** "O. J. Fletcher" *Reamout* iv.45 Mostly it was the word, "Queer." I was only sixteen and didn't yet know there was no such thing as a queer, that it was nothing but a derogatory term used by stupid, ignorant and intolerant people. **1980** J. Holman *Aussies* 27 He who dresses well or colourfully in this country is more often than not taken for "queer" (meaning a fellow how prefers men to women). **1981** *Breaking the Silence* 15 "As far as they [the speaker's parents] are concerned gays are queers." **1988** "M. Carson" *Brothers in Arms* iii.188 "I'm a lapsed Catholic trying to make the best I can by searching through the rubble for something to call my own. ... I'm not going to make you a bloody apostate as well as a fully fledged queer." **1992** R. Stevenson *Third Man Out* xv.121 "Pete, my ex, wasn't too crazy about John going around yelling about queers-this and faggots-that. 'How can he use those words?' Pete'd say. 'If he caught me calling a queer queer, he's go apeshit.'"

b. absol. use of a. Those who are queer; that which is queer.

1928 S. D. Schmalhausen *Why We Misbehave* xii.285 He tells of two girls he has recently grown fond of, "the queerest you ever met." He emphasizes the fact that they are "tomboys" who love sports and outdoor life, and that "they don't like boys" but associate preferably with girls. **1971** G. Merrick *One for Gods* (1972) 107 "Especially Peter. He's the tastiest trick I've ever seen in my life. Those eyes. He'd bring out the queer in any man."

2. Hence, in extended use, applied to any non-heterosexual person, whether homosexual, bisexual, transsexual, or "transgendered."

1995 *Lambda Book Report* Sept. 19/3 She is very aware that biphobia is a direct consequence of homophobia, and thus, does not try to separate bisexuals from other queers.

sixty-nine. Also **69**. Originally a noun, the word was being used verbally in Rosanoff's day and later came to be used adverbially. I treat all three uses. Rosanoff again reveals his ignorance of the meaning of *irrumation*. Ideographic in origin.

1. *n.* (An act of) simultaneous cunnilinctus and fellation or mutual fellation or mutual cunnilinctus. Also *attrib. slang*. Calque on Fr. *soixante-neuf*.

1883 *Boudoir* iii (1984) 108 I already had a mistress in Ninette, the daughter of my concierge, a pretty little morsel, ripe and melting as a plum, acquiescent and charming, ready to make the beast with two backs, to play the game of 69, to exercise the delicate manipulation of her soft fingers, or do the lolly-pop trick with her ripe lips. **1888–94** *My Secret Life* viii.v II.1582 “Show me your arse, let me see your lovely buttocks and cunt. Lay over me, make sixty-nine.” — “Yes, but I am heavy,” said she. *Ibid.*, x.i 1961 Then the two played at sixty nine, his head being then hid from me by her magnificent buttocks which looked like ivory. *Ibid.*, vii 2046 A masculine sixty-nine. *Ibid.*, Index 2351/1 Sixty-nine (posture for simultaneous cock and cunt sucking). **1890** C. Pearl *Mem.* (1983) ii.47 When, after this, we laid upon the bed, it was..not in the normal fashion, but head to tail, so that while his member was within reach of my lips, his tongue was able to busy itself with me — this, he informed me, was a position known in his country as the *soixante-neuf*, or sixty-nine, from the resemblance of those figures to a representation of our posture. **1899** *Horn Book* (n.d., 1960s) i.23 They enjoy delicious “feeling” and countless tickling bouts on every part of their bodies, finishing up with a game of ‘Sixty-Nine.’ **1905** *Mem. Voluptuary* (1996) Then Hélène directed the four girls who had been sucking Angèle’s and Isabelle’s teats to take their places on the couches, a couple on each, in the position of sixty-nine. **1918–1932** “Nell Kimball” *Amer. Madam* (1970) vii.89 The act was most popularly known as Frenching, but is was hardly a French specialty. If mutually played, it was 69 or fork and spoon. See also QUEAN. **1919** in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* ii.57 “Did I ever tell you that I had a sixty-nine party with Grenelle?” *Ibid.*, iv.80 “He wanted to pull off a sixty-nine party, and said that if we did it would get hard.” **1927** C. Aitken *Blue Voyage* in *Three Novels* (1965) 77 The fifty-seven varieties were child’s play to me, and the sixty-nine, and the one thousand. You know that poem of Whitman’s — something about “bussing my body all over with soft balsamic busses”? That’s me — the omnibus. **1927** A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 ii.vii.204 69, position assumed for mutual irrumation. **1933** N. Erskine *Pris. & Underw. Slang* 67 *sixty-nine*, *n.* A perverted sexual act. **1937** *Confess. Engl. Maid* (1986) iii.42 “Frenchy wanted to do 69 but I told her I didn’t want to do it that way because I couldn’t get my nerve up to do that to a girl.” *Ibid.*, xlii.169 “Turn this direction, Monty!” I whispered, “so we can do it in the 69 way.” **1937** L. London *Abnormal*

Sexual Behavior 265 Their delight in each other grew with each new experience and eventually they added fellatio and cunnilingus to their erotic repertory, usually practicing "sixty-nine" (69). 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.484 When you do sixty-nine the tongue is on the wrong side of the penis and doesn't touch the sensitive parts. 1948 Kinsey and others *Sex. Behav. Male* iii.69 Homosexual history. ... Techniques: Positions involved (including 69). 1952 J. Little *Maybe — Tomorrow* xvii.208 "When we came into the room, they were having a mad sixty-nine party." a1953 W. S. Burroughs *Queer* (1985) iv.51 "One of the unsung heroes of British intelligence. ... Lived for years disguised as an Arab boy known only as 'Number 69' at headquarters. That was wishful thinking, though, because the Arabs are strictly one way." c1962 in D. Laycock *Best Bawdry* 80 Kinsey tells us eggheads do it More than peasants (those aren't fine). Tell her it's a cultured pleasure; She'll be hot for sixty-nine. 1964 Benjamin and Masters *Prost. & Morality* x.334 His customers "would mostly like for me to go down on them, or have a sixty-nine, or sometimes they want to fuck me (homosexual term for anal intercourse), but if you say 'no,' that's usually all right too." 1968 "J. Coriolan" *Sand Fortress* (1976) ii.73 [H]e seemed to want a loving long-delayed sixty-nine and, after we'd taken each other at the same time, I held him and loved him up until he was ready for another one. 1972 "R. Cummings" *S. U. C. K.* xi.122 They were on their sides, in the civilized British manner. This position takes the weight off each party. It eliminates the danger of rib cracking and is the only 69 position totally satisfactory to observers of ass. Once again, I saw Rip's broad ass in action, heaving as he wrestled with Joey. 1973 Saghir and Robins *Male & Female Homosexuality* xii.220 However, mutual cunnilingus or "69" was never experienced by 34% of homosexual women. 1975 "N. Jennings" *Chicken Lickin'* xi.155 We rubbed front-to-front till the sparks flew, then siphoned off the heat with a torrid sixty-nine session. 1983 B. McDonald *Cum* 70 We started out as him being strictly trade and after 5 or 6 times we started to have 69s. 1997 C. Bram *Gossip* xxv.265 "Oh look," he suddenly said. "Sixty-nine. How nostalgic. We used to think sixty-nine the height of fairness. So democratic. So mutual." 1998 R. Pelham *Shame* i.3 He .. felt the American ... swivelling around, bringing his head towards Martyn's groin and seeking, then finding his own tumescence, until they formed the perfect 69, each man hungrily sucking at the other's pre-come.

2. sixty-nine *v* slang.

a. *intr.* To engage in an act or session of sixty-nine. Const. *with*, of the partner.

1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* 163 And I said I would watch to see if he would 69 and he said of course he didn't. **1941** G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1176 *sixty-nine* .. Although seldom used as a specific noun, the verbal form, *sixty-nine* (with), and the verbal noun, *sixty-nining* are common... **c1962** in D. Laycock *Best Bawdry* 80 Once she learns it, once she tries it, She may never stay supine. ('Tis a danger — one must face it; She'll only want to sixty-nine. **1968** "J. Coriolan" *Sand Fortress* (1976) iii.131 He grabbed mine and took it and we sixty-nined until we gave each other our semen the same instant, as we'd both wanted to for so long. **1968** "J. Maggie" *Go Down in Valley* i.10 This time both Butch and his partner got naked. They sixty-nined. **1971** G. D. Bartell *Group Sex* vii.107 "Libby and I went up to the bedroom and after we undressed we were on the bed sixty-nineing" **c1972** "S. Chadwick" *Rough Trade* ii.30 "I'd sixty-nine, you know. Only I'd always manage to shoot first, then use that as an excuse to stop." **1972** "R. Cummings" *Suckhappy* ix.111 "Ever sixty-nine, Preston?" We'd reached about sixty-eight and a half at the moment. I was chewing his cock and my cock was brushing his lips. **1973** C. Gordon *Group Sex* iv.41 "She went down on me and did a fellatio bit. I performed a cunnilingus number on her. We '69'd' for a while." **1974** "A. Peters" *Happy Hustler* ix.75 We didn't sixty-nine, technically. Sixty-nine is a mutual session where two guys suck, synchronize, and swallow. Russ and I were too lust-hungry to synchronize. [**1982**] *Straight to Hell* (N. Y.) lii.6/2 We 69'd, sucked each other's balls, and he ate my ass. It was great. **1991** W. Leyland, ed. *Eighteen & Over* 80 [I]t finally dawned on me that he wanted to sixty-nine with me. **1994** A. Hollinhurst *Folding Star* III.xx.436 Later there was a horrible bedroom where the light came back off silvery "abstract" wallpaper, and two skinny boys who couldn't get erections were doggedly sixty-nining. **1999** C. Tsiolkas *Jesus Man* II.xi.194 Two women were sixty-nining on the screen, tongues around clits, finger fucking.

b. trans. To engage in act of sixty-nine with. Also with *it*.

c1967 Karr and Melton *Legions of Lesbos* v.123 "Usually we sixty-nine it ..." **1970** G. Legman *More Limericks* 168 A newlywed husband named Bynum Asked his bride to please sixty-nine him. **1976** J. Vasco *3 Hole Girl* vi.128 "Then Linda directed them to 69 each other." **1980** W. Hamilton *Kevin* x.92 "I mean .. if you've been sixty-nining it for half an hour, a guy's got a right to be exhausted."

3. sixty-nine adv slang. In the sixty-nine position, involving sixty-nine.

197- *Straight to Hell* lxii (1996) 10/2 After that we exchanged sucks, usually 69. **1972** P. Kanto *Lay-a-Day* vi.124 [S]he was kneeling

over him sixty-nine, his big old cock in her mouth, and she was sucking it .. and Ruf was doing his bit by gobbling her cunt. 1974 "O. J. Fletcher" *Reamout* x.154 The idea of going sixty-nine had simply never entered my head until I saw it in one of those prick-lifting flicks. 1975 *Gay* (Syd.) Aug. 61/1 We would..suck each other cocks silly, sixty-nine.

tea house *n* A public lavatory; occasional variant of the more common **tea-room**, a spelling-out of *T-room*, short for or euphemization of *toilet-room*. *U. S. gay slang*. Also *attrib.*

1934 G. Foster *Lust* xii.101 "Say, I always know when I'm hungry, and I get somthin' to eat pretty quick. There's always at least one muzler in de Tea House, an' I know how to make their tongues hang out."

tea-room *n* It would seem that the author of quot. 1934, which deals with life in Greenwich Village, New York, did not understand the slang sense of the word, which, one presumes, he had had heard gay informants use.

1932 "R. Scully" *Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.191 Fay and Bobby on their way home dropped into the tearoom which the Bütsches patronized at the time and where some of their number could be found every afternoon. *Ibid.*, xxv.206 Fay was downtown and stepped into the tearoom adjacent to the City Hall. The place was crowded with some rather rough looking stuff. 1933 Ford and Tyler *Young & Evil* He held my arm my dear as we walked back after I had petrified four or five males who walked into the tea-room. Two standing embarrassed at the urinal dying to and yet so embarrassed, waiting for my permission to pull their things out. 1934 I. S. Wile *Sex Life Unmarried Male* 150 Transient but intense personal contacts are characteristic of this "Bohemian" life of "studio" and "tea-room." *Ibid.*, 151 Many homosexuals are among the frequenters of "village" tea-rooms and studios. 1941 G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.196 They took me to the Turkish baths and to the tea rooms. That means public toilets. 1961 J. Stearn *Sixth Man* (1962) xvi.165 Their [*sc.*, blackmailers'] targets are were usually the well-dressed and the well-heeled, whom they came upon in parks, bars, and even the "tearooms," as homosexuals sometimes style public wash-rooms. 1965 *Guild Dict. Homosexual Terms* 44. 1965 J. L. Houston *Desire in Shadows* (1966) ii.13 "By the way, where's the head?" Sid, with a sigh of relief, pointed up the stairs. "Better be careful in the tea room; you just might get raped." 1968 Legman *Rationale Dirty Joke* v.305 [I]t was often reported — and once actually observed — that a certain plain-clothes detective on the New York "tea-room (toilet) squad" was winding a handkerchief around his penis as a decoy for homosexuals.

1970 *Come Out!* (N. Y.) June-July GLF must demand the complete negation of the use of gay bars, tea rooms, trucks, baths, streets, and other traditional cruising institutions. **1971** *Psychiat.* xxxiv.187/1 "He started taking me to all the places they refer to in the gay world as T-rooms, and I met other people and I went back there myself and so on." **1973** "F. Jeffries" *Deep Dick* ii.21 "I'm deathly afraid of the tearooms though, John. Some of my best friends have been entrapped and busted by the fuzz." **1975** "S. West" *Hard-Headed Dick* iii.39 I had run into Grant in a tea-room — The busy main floor crapper — a few months earlier. **1980** R. von Praunheim *Army of Lovers* 182 "He actually asked people who suck cock in public tea-rooms to stay home from the Boston Public Library." **1982** *Straight to Hell* (N. Y.) lii.6/1 All my sex until then had been in tea rooms, parks, the Y. M. C. A. shower. **1983** B. McDonald ed. *Cum* 130 I soon came, spraying ropy cum across the filthy concrete T room floor. **1991** D. Moore *Matter of Life & Sex* ii.48 He knew the Fat Man who was so round he had to move slowly in the confined space of the hillside tea room. **1995** *Tearoom Tales* (N. J.) Nov. 44 Wouldn't you know that, tearoom aficionado though I am, it never occurred to me to cruise the lavs during the shows.

b. So tearoom-queen *n* A male homosexual who frequents public lavatories in quest of casual sexual encounters.

1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1177 *tea-room queen* A homosexual who frequents toilet rooms to find persons amenable to his erotic or erotico-financial plans, or to scrawl homosexual dithyrambs or invitations on the walls. The ironic "tea-room" for toilet does not seem to occur in any other connection. **1965** *Gould Dict. Homosexual Terms* 44. **1965** K. Marlowe *Male Homosexual* v.75 They stand for hours at the urinals or sit on the stools and concentrate all their mental energy on finding instant, though temporary, sexual relief. They are known as T Room queens. **1972** E. Newton *Mother Camp* ii.27 There are no female counterparts of the male S-M queens, T-room queens, chicken queens..and so on. **1992** J. W. Dagion ed. *Meat Rack* 89 [A]lmost always an honest to god trucker and not T-room queens. **1996** *Telephone Tales* (N. J.) May 22 I spent the next week hitting the local tearooms. ... I'm basically not much of a tearoom queen, but I knew where they were. **1998** *Tearoom Tales* July 15 Andy Crew, the hope of Illinois and future big league player, was an out and out tearoom queen.

temperamental Rosanoff gives the nominal use, but that was never as common as the adjectival. I treat both. *U. S. colloq.* The *a* is now *hist.*; the *n obs.*

1. *n* A homosexual person.

1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxv.215 Fay and her party continued on their way to the vicinage of Camac Street, where they broke fast at a cellar which caters especially to the "temp'ramentals," a place presided over by one of the more humble members of the Dike family, a place where one almost needs to learn a new language to understand and take part in the conversation. **1941** See *a*.

2. *a* Homosexual.

Quot. 1992 refers to W. H. Sheldon's once fashionable theory of somatic types expounded in *Varieties of Human Temperament* (1942) and *Varieties of Delinquent Youth* (1949).

1913 M. Dodge *Let.* 13 Feb. (to G. Stein) in D. Gallup *Flowers of Friendship* (1953) 74 There is an article about you coming out in the N. Y. Times this Sunday & the editor sent a young man around to see me and talk about you... I had met the young man .. at dinner, & found him temperamental ... but rather nice! ... His name is [Carl] Van Vechten. **1931** B. Niles *Strange Brotehr* (1932) vii.156 People joke about "fairies," about being "queer" and "temperamental." **1931** A. Tellier *Twilight Men* iii.i.183 "Percy and Cyril ... they're all right, just a bit temperamental." *Ibid.*, iii.203 "I rather thought I'd see you here some time or other." "Why?" "All the temperamental artists and writers get here if they stay in New York long enough." Armand was not wholly pleased by his frankness. **1932** "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.177 Sissy Beach spoke in a high-pitched voice — "I wish to Gawd there was some place in these U. S. A. where a temp'ramental person could lead an untrammelled life and be and act natural." *Ibid.*, xxxviii.332 For Page's was the gathering place of all the temperamental set, native, Parisian or visiting. **1941** G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* I.251 "Then a girl was talking to me about boys who were temperamental and who like their own sex." *Ibid.* G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" II.1177 *temperamental* Homosexual. Usually an adjective; a noun the term is obsolescent. **1972** P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* iv.143 Encolpius and Ascyltos are young temperamental homosexuals, genuinely passionate, who start out by obeying the cultural mores of their time and place. **1992** L. Kirstein *Paul Cadmus* 66 The extremities in a spectrum of human contrasts implicit in the inhabitants of Fire Island's Cherry Grove, an invading annual vacation army of occupation, suggested a lurid setting for Cadmus's consideration of Sheldon's cosmology in *Fantasia on a Theme of Dr S.* Under the frail matchstick portico of a typical cottage, a tribal trio of temperamental types proclaim their idiosyncratic morphology.

trade *n* See Pavia glossary.

Turk *n* One who takes the active role in homosexual anal intercourse, esp. aggressively or by force. *U. S. slang, chiefly underworld and prison.*

[1882 E. A. Freeman *Reign Wm Rufus* II.ii.159 In him England might see on her own soil the habits of the ancient Greek and the modern Turk.] c1918 in *Amer. Sp.* viii (1933) 32/2 ("prison") *Turk*. 1. Irishman. 2. Active pederast. 1927 *Immortalia* 159 There was a young fellow named Buckingham, Wrote a pamphlet on women and fucking-ham; But a clever young turk Eclipsed this great work, With a volume on assholes and suckingham. 1927 A. J. Rosanoff *Man. Psychiat.* ed. 6 II.vii.204 *Turk, wolf, or jocker*, an active sodomist. 1932 *Amer. Sp.* ix (1934) 28/1 ("prisons") *Turk*. A degenerate; a sodomite. 1934 M. H. Weseen *Dict. Amer. Slang* i.42 *Turk* — A degenerate. 1941 G. Legman "Lang. Homosexuality" in G. W. Henry *Sex Variants* II.1178 *Turk*. A pedicator. 1950 Goldin and others *Dict. Amer. Underw. Lingo* 228/2 *Turk*. An active pederast. 1951 "D. W. Cory" *Homosexual in Amer.* 105 One of the many underworld synonyms for an active pederast is *turk*. 1953 T. Runyan *In for Life* (1954) vi.99 The perennial bachelor .. gained a certain amount of prestige in certain circles by supporting a boy — from being known as a wolf, or a jocker, or a Turk. 1965 *Guild Dict. Homosexual Terms* 46 *Turk* (n.): A pedicator (however, second to the ancient Greeks). 1972 B. Rodgers *Queens' Vernac.* 18 Active partner ... Syn. *turk* (19th century Turkish soldiers were reported to insult their dying enemies by anally abusing them).

b. So Turkish *a* Of or involving anal intercourse; also allusively. In the twentieth century, *U. S. slang.*

[c1671 ?Rochester *Sodom* (1957) 92 Bolloxinian: Since I have bugger'd human arse, I find Pintle to Cunt is not so much inclin'd. What tho the letchery be dry, 't is smart; A Turkish arse I love with all my heart. 1776 "H. Nettle" *Sodom & Onan* 12 When Justice lingers, Villains may defeat her, An Error that in British Legislature, Since such Exotics her attention draw, Their Turkish Crimes, shou'd feel the Turkish law. Which Instant at the Popilace request, Th'accused punishes; of if opprest, Acquits. But her the Laws leave Avenues, Which pow'rful Sod'mites frequently abuse.] 1919 in L. R. Murphy *Perverts by Official Order* (1988) iv83 "[He said he] never could get it [his penis] in him the Turkish way." 1932 "R. Scully" *A Scarlet Pansy* xxiii.184 A Miss Jackson-Browning, who had not been present at the beginning of the conversation asked: "Are you talking of a Turkish heaven?" "No," Miss Kitty explained, "just talking of freedom as it should be practised in these U. S., or any other place professing to be a republic." 1972 R. A. Wilson *Playboy's Book Forbidden Words* 158 When Stokely Carmichael re-

sponded to the new feminism by saying that "the proper position of women in the movement is prone," many were confused, some thinking that he had meant to say supine and others assuming that he was professing a personal predilection for Turkish pastimes. *Ibid.*, 246 *Turkish culture*. Code in personal ads. *Interested in Turkish culture* means interested in anal intercourse.

wolf *n* A man who takes the active role in homosexual relations, esp. with a boy, youth, or young man; a "jocker" (in sense 1); an aggressive or predatory homosexual. *Prison, underworld, and tramps' slang, orig. and chiefly U. S.* A specialization of the earlier slang sense, 'a sexually predatory man'.

1917 *New Republic* 13 Jan. 293/2 [T]he majority of the prisoners are either unmoral or immoral, and the sodomist, the degenerate, the homosexual "wolf" or boy-lover have many opportunities to ply their trade, sometimes at pecuniary profit. **c1918** in *Amer. Sp.* viii (1933) 32/2 ("prison") *wolf*. Boy-seducer. The first time I heard the word used in this reference was when a lad of 16 years old .. asked to be transferred back from an *open-cell wing* to a closed cell *because the wolves got after him every night*. **1923** N. Anderson *Hobo* x.145 He is just the type of boy that would attract the average "wolf" who idealizes pink cheeks and an innocent appearance. He travels alone because of his fear of "wolves." **1927** *Dial. Notes* v.467 ("underw. jarg.") *wolf*, *n*. A *jocker* who snares a boy, the "lamb." **1927** See JOCKER in sense 1. **1927** See TURK. **1928** C. Panzram *Confess.* in Gaddis and Long *Killer* (1970) 66 At that time and place I got to be an experienced wolf. I knew more about sodomy than old boy Oscar Wilde ever thought of knowing. **1931** J. T. Farrell *Guillotine Party* (1935) 48 Jeff waddled through the park...Big Schmaltz the wolf saw him ... Big Schmaltz got hot ... Big Schmaltz took him in the bushes. **1931** C. R. Shaw *Nat. Hist. Delinq. Career* x.189 Fellows that were always ready to take advantage of a good looking boy in such a predicament were called wolves. ... A wolf usually tried to manage to cell with a punk. Inside the cells were the only place that these perversions could go on. **1931** See JOCKER in sense 1. **1932** V. F. Nelson *Prison Days & Nights* vi.157 Now the "wolf" (active sodomist) .. is not considered by the average inmate to be "queer" in the same sense that the oral copulist, male or female, is so considered. **1933** "K. Bruce" *Goldie* x.119 In fact he had to walk the pavement for many evenings before another wolf came his way. **1933** N. Ersine *Prison & Underw. Slang* 79 *wolf*, *n*. 2. A homosexual male. **1934** J. Fishman *Sex in Prison* vi.143 The active participant in homosexuality, that is the "wolf," is accepted

with tolerance by the officers, while the prisoners do not consider him abnormal at all. 1934 See PUNK. 1935 J. Conroy *World to Win* I.vii.68 If he had to bum his way a mile some wolf would cabbage onto him and make his walk the chalk, all right. 1938 See LAMB. 1939 K. R. Cooper *Designs in Scarlet* xiii.260 There is no prison-problem worse than that of the homosexual; the more vicious and predatory type, known in prison as "wolves," prey on every youth who enters the institution. 1939 Wilson and Pescor *Probs. in Prison Psychiat.* ii.48 Among the masturbating and pathologically sublimating, there stalk the vicious specters of homosexuality — The "wolf" and the "punk," ready to seduce or be seduced. 1940 D. Clemmer *Prison Community* x.261 By clever innuendoes and coquetry they play up to a "wolf," and give the indication that if he treats them right he may sometime in the future be favored. 1946 See LAMB. 1950 Patterson and Conrad *Scottsboro Boy* II.ii.125 Then, I had to protect my gal-boy. Wolves would be making passes at him. 1955 D. J. West *Homosexuality* iv.46 Though he ["the average prisoner"] may laugh at the effeminate "pansy" boys, the fellows who chase young men, the "wolves" as they are called, he never thinks of [as] homosexuals. 1958 G.M. Sykes *Society of Captives* 97 The stress on the "masculinity" of the *wolf's* role is reinforced by the fact that many inmates believe his part in a homosexual relationship is little more than a search for a casual, mechanical act of release. 1962 R. Hauser *Homosexual Society* iii.111 "I was in Borstal. I got sex-starved; there was a kid who looked like a girl... The wolves had a go at him so he came to me to protect him." 1968 G. Cuomo *Among Thieves* x.217 Actually ... it was to your benefit that some one like Penney tried to fag you, as long as you could cut him down. That way word got around, and people left you alone. Because as soon as a new fish walked in there'd be fifty guys sizing him up, looking for a new stooge maybe, .. or like the wolves, like Penney, a new fag. 1972 P. Tyler *Screening the Sexes* v.166 His hand placed suggestively on the boy's knee is merely a deceptive irony. Actually he is a voracious wolf lusting after young male behinds. 1978 R. Caron *Go-Boy!* x.132 It also meant that the guards would watch me a little closer in an effort to keep the prison wolves away from my heels. 1980 D. Lockwood *Prison Sexual Violence* vii.134 A captain in the youth prison, getting "wolves'" names from complaining targets, keeps a special list of these men. 1984 R. N. Boyd *Sex behind Bars* 44 Probably the least common rape situation is one-on-one. Wolves run in packs, and the lone wolf is a rarity.

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