

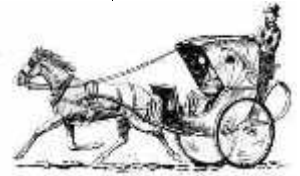
## Kathleen's Regency Glossary





A short glossary of some of the Regency words used in the Stranje House series. If you run across words that stop you and would like a definition, please write to me. I'd love to share my love of the quirky colorful Regency language.

Word or Phrase	Meaning
Addle-pated	Not right in the head, mentally deficient
apoplexy	suffer a stroke
arse	ass
balderdash	lies or nonsense
Balmy	insane, or deluded, not quite right in the head. (See daft)
Banbury Tale	A childish tale or fib. <i>Banburyis</i> drawn from a nursery rhyme of that name, and/or the fact that Banbury, England was where many fairy tales were published. Both lend the connotation that ' <i>the tale</i> ' is an innocent but unbelievable story told to avoid the truth. Most etymologists agree that Georgette Heyer coined this phrase. So, while it is not an authentic phrase it was quickly adopted as 'genuine' Regency vernacular.
<i>Beau Monde</i>	French for 'the beautiful people.' The elite members of London's high society. (See also <i>Ton</i> )
blackguard	a villain, a black-hearted fellow.
bombazine	a twill-woven black silk, often used for mourning clothes. Because it is stiffer it rustles more than regular silk, creases and wrinkles easily.
"the sticking point"	generally used to describe a young man brought to the point where he is either willing or forced to propose marriage, or enter into some other agreement with some reluctance.

cabriolet	a small two wheeled carriage, usually for hire. The forerunner of today's word for a cab.
chit	a pert young woman. May have originated from <i>kitten</i> .
Corsican	Someone from Corsica. For instance, Napoleon was actually Corsican rather than French.
Corinthian	A man of low morals; gambler, womanizer, but usually a fashionable high society gentleman
cudgel	A short club. Footpads and robbers use a cudgel to hit people over the head.
daft	stupid
folderol	nonsense
foolscap	a common type of writing paper
foxed	drunk
frogs (clothing frog)	a military type epaulet
fustian	pompous; or highly affected speech or mannerisms; sometimes used to scoff what another person is saying
greatcoat	a long heavy manly looking gentleman's overcoat, very popular during the Regency. Think Matrix.
gammon	telling a fib in order to trick someone, or teasing
high alt	Very happy or excited. (see up in the boughs)
Jibe - gibe (j be)	a tease, a barb, or a dig at someone's expense. Gibe is the more commonly used form of the two words. Jibe is a variant, not to be confused with jib, which is a type of sail.
laudanum	a liquid opium used for dulling pain, very addictive.
leech	doctor, a general practitioner, called a leech because of the common practice of applying leeches. (see also sawbones)
Lightskirt	A woman of low moral character.
macadam	tar and stone pavement for roads
mad	crazy, insane
missish	girlishly squemish or prim
missive	A letter
muddle	in the middle of a rather sticky problem
Mullioned glass	small panes of glass divided by strips of either metal or wood. Old mullioned glass will often have a slightly lumpy characteristic because glass is actually a super thick liquid, not a solid. Over time (centuries), the glass slowly drips and is no longer smooth.
nightrail	night gown, also called a <i>bed dress</i> , and it really was a dress, long sleeve high collar, ruffle along the bottom.
ninny or ninnyhammer	derogatory term calling someone stupid or slow. Although often said with affection much as we would call someone, silly, dum dum, or dummy. (see also slowtop.)



Oak Galls	<p>A growth on oak trees generally caused by insects. Galls have been used to produce ink since the Romans.</p> <p>Photo of a gall taken in Winchester UK by Bob Embleton, CC BY-SA 2.0, <a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2113912">https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2113912</a></p>	
Old Bailey	<p>The central criminal court of England and Wales. You can learn more and read actual court cases here: <a href="https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/">https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/</a></p>	
overset	upset, distraught, crying	
patten	a heavy wooden clog worn for work in the garden or to walk through mud.	
pelisse	An outer garment worn for warmth but often decorative → as well. Sleeves may be short or long, garment is buttoned or tied in the front, generally, the skirt extends full length to three quarters length.	
Portmanteau	a large two-sided trunk or suitcase	
Prince Regent	A Prince who rules in place of an incapacitated father. In this case Prince George IV rules because his father, George III, is mentally ill.	
puffed off	when a young lady is married off, much to her mama's delight.	
quizzing glass	a single lens spectacle with a short ornate handle generally worn on a ribbon or chain around the neck	
ratafia	A macerated fruit punch liquer, flavored with almond extract. Sometimes a touch of brandy is added.	
Regency	The years 1811-1820 when Prince George ruled as Regent during his father, King George's, mental illness.	
River Tick	To be deeply in dept. In the old days credit was drawn on a ticket—hence the shortened word 'tick.'	
Roly-poly	A very old word based on two origins: 1. Biscuit dough spread with jam. 2. rowle powle, a worthless fellow, a term originating from a 16th century rolling ball game	
sawbones	surgeon or doctor, originally meant army surgeon so often called upon to saw off bones. As soldiers returned home, usage enlarged to include all doctors. (See also Leech)	
scratching on the door	This was the common practice instead of knocking.	
<i>shilly-shallying</i>	indecisive, hesitating, taking too long to take action.	
slowtop	Derogatory term meaning someone is stupid or slow-witted. (see also ninny.)	
Stick/stuck his spoon in the wall	Died. "Poor fellow, got a chill and stuck his spoon in the wall." Poor fellow passed away.	
Sticking point	To bring a gentleman 'up to scratch', or 'to the sticking point' was to get him to propose.	

switch (as in applied to one's backside)	A switch is a slender flexible branch used to deliver a spanking, often a willow branch, stick or rod, used for giving a whipping. The law said it was legal for a man to beat his wife so long as the 'rod' was not bigger than his thumb. Hence the phrase 'rule of thumb'.
Thomas Coke	Thomas William Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester (6 May 1754 – 30 June 1842) known for many things, but his innovations in agriculture are featured in my books.
<i>Ton</i>	Short for 'the upper ten thousand.' The elite members of London's high society. (See also <i>Beau Monde</i> )
too high in the instep	someone who is very proud, or haughty. Snobbish.
Topsy-turvy	utter confusion, upside down. Derived from the obsolete 1528 English word <i>terve</i> to turn upside
up in the boughs	"Emotions flying as high as the treetops" Excessively emotional due to being upset or overly elated. (see also high alt)
up the River Tick	Bound for debtor's prison. "So poor one does not even have a mattress with which to float up the river tick." Speculative origins: some believe debtor's notes were called tickets - shortened to tick, meaning a river of debt.
Window Tax	During the Regency every window was taxed.

Here are three wonderful resources you might also find helpful:

[http://www.regencyassemblypress.com/Regency\\_Lexicon.html](http://www.regencyassemblypress.com/Regency_Lexicon.html) and for original thieves' cant try: <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/5402/pg5402-images.html> Don't miss the lovely Candace Hern's glossary: <http://candicehern.com/regency-world/glossary/>