

ASSORTED ARCHAISMS, OBSCURITIES, & OBSOLETISMS FROM THE GONDOLIERS

allotment - the apportioning of shares of a corporation

Barataria - A mythical country in THE GONDOLIERS, the name of which originated in Cervantes' DON QUIXOTE

Garter, Thistle, Bath - various British knightly orders gay (obsolete) - happy and carefree

Grandee - a Spanish nobleman of higher rank than a Hidalgo

Hidalgo - a Spanish nobleman of lower rank than a Grandee

jimp (Scottish) - slender, slim, delicate, graceful, cute

at junket or at jink - at feast or frolic

Limited Liability - the British equivalent of incorporation

peruke - wig

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quarterings - the bringing in of various coats of arms upon one shield or crest to denote the alliances of one family with others through marriage. A number of quarterings suggested an old, established aristocratic family (though the Duke's 95 takes things a bit to extremes.

Republican - Adhering to a philosophy of government advocating that sovereignty should reside in the people, rather than in the person of a king or queen. Now that you know the somewhat quaint sense in which Gilbert used the term, you will not be tempted to think that the phrase "Republican fallacies" refers to supply-side economics or that "Republican equality" has anything to do with Nancy's new china.

shoddy - cloth manufactured from recycled wool; more generally, any inferior material

timoneer - a helmsman

titivate - to smarten, dress up

ween (archaic) - to suppose

Xeres, Manzanilla, Montero -- assorted Spanish sherries