

Artesian (Australian, popular), Colonial beer. People in Gippsland, Victoria, use *artesian* just as Tasmanians use *cascade*, in the sense of "beer," because the one is manufactured from the celebrated *artesian* well at Sale, Gippsland, and the other from the *cascade* water.

Artful (popular), a word of wide application to intimate trickery, secrecy, and "dodges."

He'd an *artful* little bottle on an *artful* little shelf,
He was not "a little silly," but a very knowing elf.

—H. Adams: *Sister Hannah*.

Artful dodgers (thieves), lodgers; fellows who dare not sleep twice in the same place for fear of arrest.

Artichoke (American thieves), a low and old prostitute. It is curious to note that the French argot has the term *cœur d'artichaut* to denote a man or woman of a highly amatory disposition.

Paillasson, quoi! *cœur d'artichaut*.
C'est mon genre; un' feuille pour tout
l' monde,
Au jour d'aujourd'hui j'gobe la blonde;
Après d' main, c'est la brun' qu'i m'faut.

—Gill: *La Muse à Bibi*.

Article (popular), a poor specimen of humanity; also, a wretched animal.

Articles (American thieves), a suit of clothes; termed in the English slang, "togs, toggery, clobber."

Articles of virtue (familiar) (*i.e.*, *vertu*), virgins.

Artistic. It is a common error to suppose that *artistic* is a synonym for beautiful, symmetrical, or attractive. That only is *artistic* which, being made by the hand of man, indicates direct individual character and touch. The more machinery intervenes between the original pattern and the mere copy, the less *art* is there. The Sistine Madonna is truly a work of *art*, the most perfect chromo-lithographic copy of it is not. As used by many tradesmen, to indicate their cast works, machine-sawed furniture, &c., the word *art* or *artistic* is mere slang.

Asā, asāria, asārius (gypsy), thus, so, in this manner.

Ash path (running), a running path formed of pulverised cinders or black ash.

Ask boggy (old slang), an indecent evasive exclamation used by sailors when not wishing to answer any question.

Askew (old cant), this may be a corruption of *casuelle*.

Asking (turf), a jockey is said to "ask" or "call upon" a horse when rousing him to greater exertion.

Assay (American thieves' slang), commence, try it. From the

D