



ACT I - FOOTNOTES

Scene I.1

Surfeiting: feed to excess, overindulge, glut

Hart: an adult male deer

Dian and the hart: in this story from Greco-Roman mythology, the hunter Actaeon accidentally spies Dian (Artemis) bathing and as punishment is turned into a deer and hunted by his own dogs

Scene I.2

Arion: in this story from Greco-Roman mythology, Arion, a musician, was saved from drowning by dolphins.

Elysium: Greek paradise for virtuous souls after death.

Eunuch and Mute: Eunuch is a castrated male and Mutes were people/characters that do not speak. Eunuchs traditionally had mutes as subordinates in eastern courts.

Scene I.3

Prodigal: waster, squanderer, spendthrift

Parish-top: a spinning toy top used for amusement by parishioners

Canary: variety of sweet wine from the Canary islands

Flax: long, thin strands of fiber used to produce linen

Distaff: device for weaving, spindle

Mistress Mall: "Mall" is a nickname for Mary - it is unclear whether Sir Toby refers to Maria, or a topical allusion to Mary Fitton, a disgraced maid of honor of Elizabeth I

Kickshaws: dainty trifles; an English mangling of French "quelque chose"

Galliard, Cinquepace, Caper, and Coranto are all dances

Scene I.4

Nuncio/Nuntio: messenger, emissary

Scene I.5

Colors: when used in the context of war or battle, "colors" refers to the colored banners flown by each side of the conflict.

Lenten: dismal, meagre

Gaskins: loose-fitting trousers, wide-breeches; Maria's joke is about suspenders

Quinapalus: Feste makes this name up

Botcher: tailor who does repairs, mender of old clothes

Motley: distinctive dress of the fool

Catechize: question systematically, interrogate

"Fool's Zanies": Clown's assistant

Bird-bolts: short, blunt-headed arrow for hunting birds

Pia mater: brain, membrane covering the brain

Con: to learn by heart, memorize

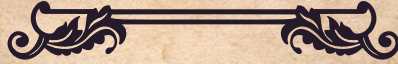
Comedian: actor, stage-player

Fee'd post: paid messenger





ACT II - FOOTNOTES



Scene II.1

Sooth: truly

Extravagancy: wandering, drifting

Scene II.2

Fadge: turn out, end up

Scene II.3

Betimes: early in the morning, at an early hour

Four Elements: substances believed to make up all things (Earth, Wind, Fire, Air)

We Three: a painting found in taverns depicting two loggerheads and the text "we three loggerheads" because they are looking at you, the third.

Catch: a song sung in a round

Pigrogromitus of the Vapians passing the equinoctal of Queuebus: Mostly nonsense, the result of Sir Andrew trying to remember something Feste said which was likely made up to begin with.

Impeticos thy Gratility: Feste mocks Sir Andrew's mangled words by over-Latinizing the fact that he put Andrew's Gratuity into his Petticoat.

Whipstock: whip handle

Myrmidons: followers of Achilles in the Illiad, slang for "unscrupulously faithful" followers. Feste's comparison to "bottle-ale" houses may also be a pun on "Mermaid Inn," a famous London tavern where Shakespeare allegedly spent time.

Testril: sixpenny piece

Welkin: sky, firmament, heavens

Cataian: scoundrel, rogue, villain. From of "Cathay," meaning China

Peg-a-Ramsey: Name of a spying wife in a contemporary ballad

Consanguineous: related in blood, of the same family

Cozier: cobbler

"Gull him into an ayword": trick him into making his name a byword for stupidity

Penthesilea: Amazonian queen, who helped Priam at Troy

"Call me cut": as a short-tailed or gelded workhorse

Scene II.4

Damask: light-red, pink. Shakespeare loves this word.

Scene II.5

Niggardly: mean-minded, tight-fisted

Sheep-biter: thievish fellow, shifty individual

Bear-baiting: a cruel bloodsport in which a bear is tethered and tormented by dogs, a popular entertainment in Shakespeare's day

Metal of India: gold

Overweening: Arrogant, over-ambitious

Lady of the Strachy: likely an invented example, containing in-jokes about Shakespeare's business partners.

"Woodcock near the gin": describes a bird nearing a trap

Lucrece: seal-ring, bearing the image of Lucretia, from Roman myth

Fustian: bombastic, inflated

Staniel:

"Sowter will cry... rank as a fox": Fabian uses hunting language to imply that despite the complicated riddle, Malvolio will find the connections he wants to find.

Cross-garter'd: wearing criss-crossing garters.

The Sophy: The Shah of Persia

Tray-tip: a type of dice-game

The gates of Tartar: entrance to the underworld





ACT III - FOOTNOTES

Scene III.1

Tabor: a small drum, especially used in reveling

Chev'ril Glove: flexible, yielding, pliant goat-skin glove

Wanton: equivocal, uncontrollable / sexually hot, passionate, sportive

Pilchers: pilchard, sardine

Pandarus of Phrygia, Troilus, and Cressida: Pandarus served as go-between for the lovers Troilus and Cressida of Troy, and in some versions Cressida becomes a beggar (but not in Shakespeare's version, incidentally)

Music from the Spheres: It was thought that the sky was made up of a series of concentric spheres, the movement of which accounted for the movements of stars, and they were thought to give off a music - an idea that roots back to Pythagoras

Grize: step, degree, grade

Maugre: in spite of

Scene III.2

"I had as lief": "I wish"

Brownist: follower of the Robert Browne, founder of a 16th Century Puritan religious sect advocating a new form of church government

Goose-pen: goose-quill pen

Cubiculo: bedroom, bedchamber

Manikin: little man, puppet

Wainropes: waggon-ropes

Spleen: amusement, delight, merriment (because of the believed role that the spleen played in production of the humors)

"The new map, with the augmentation of the Indies": probably allusion to Edgar Wright's 1600 map showing the East Indies, which is covered in rhumb lines

Scene III.3

Toy: trinket, trifle, trivial ornament

Scene III.4

"Nightingales answer daws": Jackdaws are birds with a graceless song, whereas nightingales are known for their melodious singing. Malvolio uses this Metaphor to say that he is of a different station than Maria.

Legion: another name for Satan

"Carry his water to th' wise woman": meaning, take his urine to the local medic, a practice particularly common for the diagnosis of venereal diseases

Bawcock, Chuck, Biddy: all cutesy terms of endearment, here used condescendingly

Cherry-pit: a children's game of throwing cherry-stones into a hole

Collier: coalman, coal-vendor

Bum-bailiff: sheriff's officer, known for catching people by sneaking-up on them

Clodpole: blockhead, dolt

Cockatrices: murderous serpent

Unchary: carelessly, incautiously

Tuck: rapier, long sword

Yare: quick, deft, adept

Carpet Consideration: Sir Andrew is a knight who purchased his knighthood, i.e. dubbed on the "carpet" of the court rather than on the battlefield

Firago: virago, hero, fighter

Duello: the established dueling code

Sage Saws: solemn or wise sayings





ACT IV - FOOTNOTES

Scene IV.1

Lubber: clumsy dolt, blundering lout

Cockney: milksop, sissy, soft

"Foolish Greek": buffoon, silly person; usually presented as "merry Greek"

"In Lethe steep": in myth, the River Lethe's waters wiped the mind of the drinker -- Olivia thinks she must be dreaming and does not want to wake up.

Scene IV.2

Curate: parish priest, parson

Dissemble: to disguise, or represent falsely, or lie

King Gorboduc: a legendary King of Britain, but the event described is likely Feste's invention

Barricadoes: barricades, barriers

Clerestories: upwindows, designed for letting in light

Egyptians in their Fog: an allusion to the Biblical plague of darkness

Pythagoras and Wildfowl: Greek Pythagoras included reincarnation in his philosophy, an idea abhorrent to the Puritans. Feste uses this line of questioning to trick Malvolio into the obvious Puritanical answer, then scold him for it.

Five wits: faculties of the mind, namely common wit, imagination, fantasy, estimation, and memory

Shent: [from the obsolete verb "shend"] blamed, rebuked, reproached

Scene IV.3

Chantry: small, private chapel



ACT V - FOOTNOTES

Scene V.I

Bells of Saint Bennet: The medieval name of Saint Benedict, here given to a church

“Black as Vulcan”: Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and blacksmith to the gods and was notoriously dark with soot

Candy: Candia (modern Heraklion), a port in Crete

Tiger: the name of a ship. Shakespeare uses it in MacBeth, as well.

“A grizzle on thy case”: gray hairs on your skin (case is "animal hide")

Coxcomb: head

Passy-measures pavin: dancing with a slow pace

Maiden weeds: woman's clothing

Durance: confinement, imprisonment

Beelzebub: the Devil; or a principal devil

Vox: provoice, right manner of speaking

Perpend: Consider, ponder, reflect

Toss-pots: drunkard, sot, tippler