

Bonas (popular), belles. The difference between *donnas* and *bonas* is thus stated in a music-hall ballad:—

Girls are in vulgar called *donnas*,
Some are called Miss and some Mrs. ;
The best of them all are called *bonas*,
The whole jolly lot's fond of kisses.

—*Broadside*: *O Fred, don't be so frivolous.*

Bonce (various), the head, called also "crust, chump." From *bonce*, a marble of larger size than ordinary, used by boys. The French slang for head, *bille*, literally a marble, bears out this derivation.

Bone (American), a fee; to *bone*, to pay a fee, or rather bribe, called *bone*, at the custom-house to induce the officials not to examine passengers' luggage, or to let it off lightly. From the slang *bone*, derived either from the French *bon*, or, as Murray suggests, from the middle English *boon*. This word is used with the sense of good by English vagabonds. ◇, their hieroglyphic for the word, chalked by them on houses and street corners as a hint to succeeding beggars.

(Masonic), a corruption of the Hebrew word for builder.

(Common), to *bone*, to steal, to pilfer, to purloin. Probably derived from *bon*, good, or, by extension of meaning, to seize on a good thing.

The while within the pocket of her gown
Childe Alice deftly placed the purse she'd
boned.

Alas! its contents were not worth a
"brown;"

His winnings all were "stumers," and
she groaned.

"The world is too much with us!" poor
Childe Alice moaned.

—*Bird of Freedom.*

This word, according to the Glossary of Cant in Bampfylde Moore Carew, also signifies to apprehend, to arrest, to take into custody, to "nab." Compare with the French cant phrase "être le bon," which has the same meaning.

(American cadets), to study hard; possibly a playful allusion to the more universal slang meaning of the verb "to *bone*," the meaning of course being to convey the idea of acquiring knowledge by *force*—an appropriate reading of the word for the cadets of West Point—but more probably from Bohn's translations. For other derivation, see BOONDER.

Bone box (old slang), the mouth; the teeth are now called the "ivories."

Bone-crusher (South African), a heavy bore rifle for killing big game.

African game require *bone-crushers*; for any ordinary carbine possesses sufficient penetrative quality, yet has not the disabling quality which a gun must possess to be useful in the hands of an African explorer. — *H. Stanley: How I found Livingstone.*

Boned (thieves), taken into custody. To *bone* is to take what does not belong to one. There is therefore a world of dry