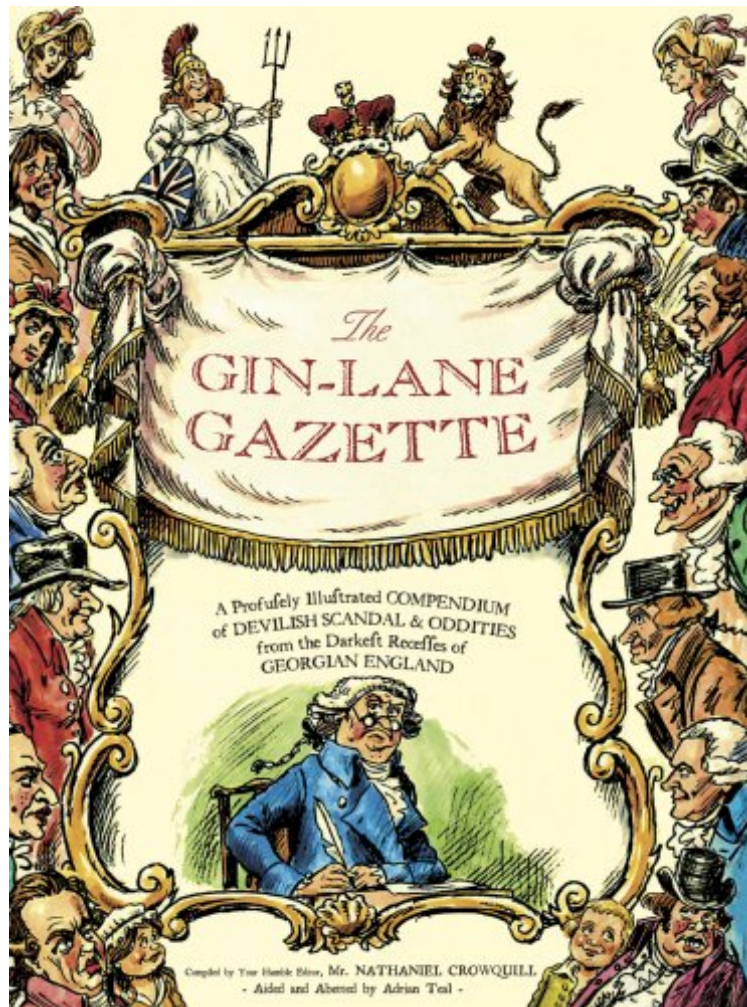


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The Gin Lane Gazette: A Profusely Illustrated Compendium of Devilish Scandal and Oddities from the Darkest Recesses of Georgian England

Adrian Teal

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Many of us think of the ill-behaved celebrity and the tabloid splash as modern inventions, but the antics of footballers and soap stars are as nothing when set alongside the hell-raising of the 18th century celebs. The *Gin Lane Gazette* is stuffed with true stories of boozy MPs who settled their political differences with duels in Hyde Park; peers of the realm who sat the unburied corpses of their cherished mistresses at their dinner tables; entertainers who rode horses standing upright in the saddle, while wearing a mask of bees; and famous courtesans who ate 1,000-guinea banknotes stuffed into sandwiches, simply to make a point. Before it was dashed from their lips by the Victorian party-poopers, our Georgian forebears drank deep from the cup of life.

"Beautifully produced . . . a pleasure indeed." *History Today*