

Some Possible Examples of Folk Etymology

The following words have etymologies that involve changes of form that may or may not be due to folk etymology. The problem here is to try to find out which are true examples of folk etymology at work and which are examples of other kinds of change.

accidie
acolyte
advantage
aligreek
almuten
andiron
ante, n.1
approver2, apprower
apricot
arrière-ban
arthritic, a. and n.
asparagus
astonish, v.
avoirdupois
awning
baccalaur, -or; baccalaureate
baldmoney
belfry
bombinate, v.
bow-krickel
brash, n.2
bronstrops
calender, n.1
camlene, n.2
canvasado, -zado
catamite
cheeselip, -lep, 1, 2
choroid, a. (n.)
clothes
compliment
compost, n.2
corrumpent, a.
counterpane, n.2
dozener
edgeling, -long, adv.
electuary
elephant

Excalibur
feldspar, felspar
filibuster, n.
frenne, fren, a. and n.
frithborh
germander
glamour, n.
grammar, n.
icicle
island
Jerusalem artichoke
kinchin
lavender, n.2 and a.
manganese
mangel-wurzel, mangold-wurzel
manticore
mashie, mashy
passage
pastle
pediment1
pennyroyal
penthouse
pleat, n.
pompelmoose, pampelmouse
rime
sackbut
salt-cellar
sciatic, a.1 and n.
scruff, n.2
shamefaced
sirloin
stingaree
syllabus
syphilis
tamanoir
wayzgoose
weird, a.

More possible examples:

antigodlin
armscye
bowgrace
carryall
clear-eye
cockroach
coldslaw
cowage
curtail2
edgebone
fishgig
holluschick
intervale
iodine
isinglass
johnnycake
justicoat
kickshaw
Kriss Kringle
lemon sole
marijuana
mirabelle

mohair
mushroom
muskrat
naseberry
nasturtium
parting shot
permit2
rakehell
requiem shark
rosemary
sea puss
secretary bird
shamefaced
shoepac
sleazy
sockeye salmon
titmouse
tous-les-mois
Welsh rabbit
whiskey jack
woodchuck

Unexpected etymological connections:

answer, swear, sermon
hospital, posse
Pepsi-Cola, biscuit
atlas, tantalize
villanelle, ecology
estimate, tonsillectomy
sesquipedalianism, migraines
auditorium, anesthesia
nuisance, nectarine
ventriloquists, hysteria
Christmas, grime, grisly
calves, dolphins, Philadelphia
glamor, crabs
loudspeaker, slavery
bombastic (speech), silkworms
boudoirs, sulking
brassiers, brasseries
brocade, brochures, broccoli
acrimony, heaven
robot, orphan
maharajahs, majorettes
rectors, Dixie cups
walrus, Epicureans (?)
kindergarten, germs, eugenics
sordid, swarthy
entirety, integrity

jaunty, gentle, gentile, genteel