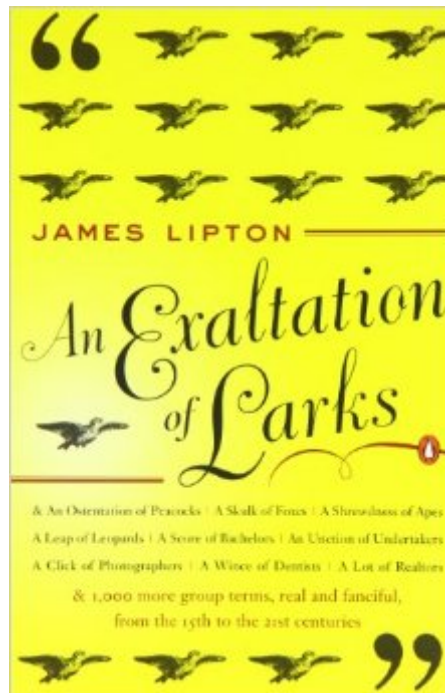




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# An Exaltation Of Larks: The Ultimate Edition



## Synopsis

An "exaltation of larks"? Yes! And a "leap of leopards," a "parliament of owls," an "ostentation of peacocks," a "smack of jellyfish," and a "murder of crows"! For those who have ever wondered if the familiar "pride of lions" and "gaggle of geese" were only the tip of a linguistic iceberg, James Lipton has provided the definitive answer: here are hundreds of equally pithy, and often poetic, terms unearthed by Mr. Lipton in the Books of Venery that were the constant study of anyone who aspired to the title of gentleman in the fifteenth century. When Mr. Lipton's painstaking research revealed that five hundred years ago the terms of venery had already been turned into the Game of Venery, he embarked on an odyssey that has given us a "slouch of models," a "shrivel of critics," an "unction of undertakers," a "blur of Impressionists," a "score of bachelors," and a "pocket of quarterbacks." This ultimate edition of *An Exaltation of Larks* is Mr. Lipton's brilliant answer to the assault on language and literacy in the last decades of the twentieth century. In it you will find more than 1,100 resurrected or newly minted contributions to that most endangered of all species, our language, in a setting of 250 witty, beautiful, and remarkably apt engravings.

## Book Information

Paperback: 324 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (November 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140170960

ISBN-13: 978-0140170962

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 103 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,650 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Reference >

Words, Language & Grammar > Alphabet #68 in Books > Reference > Words, Language &

Grammar > Vocabulary, Slang & Word Lists > Vocabulary #83 in Books > Humor &

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## Customer Reviews

An "exaltation of larks"? Yes! And a "leap of leopards", a "parliament of owls", an "ostentation of peacocks", a "smack of jellyfish", and a "murder of crows"! For those who have ever wondered if the familiar "pride of lions" and "gaggle of geese" were only the tip of a linguistic iceberg, James Lipton has provided the definitive answer: here are hundreds of equally pithy, and often poetic, terms

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James Lipton is the creator, executive producer, writer, and host of *Inside the Actors Studio*, which is seen in eighty-nine million homes in America on the Bravo network, and in 125 countries, and has received fourteen Emmy nominations. He is the author of the novel *Mirrors*, which he then adapted and produced for the screen, and of the American literary perennial *An Exaltation of Larks*, and has written the book and lyrics of two Broadway musicals. His television productions include Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Gala, the first presidential concert ever televised; twelve Bob Hope birthday specials, reaching record-breaking audiences; and *The Road to China*, the first American entertainment program from the People's Republic. He is a vice president of the Actors Studio, is the founder and dean emeritus of the Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University, has received three honorary PhDs, is a recipient of France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Very good condition. Looks good in bookcase and has inscription and signed. No wonder it cost so much. I will tell people my middle name is Michael.

Has a lot of contemporary as well as older collective nouns.

Awesome book, if you are into venereal nouns and their history you will love this book.

I had been a very happy owner of the 1977 Edition: *An Exaltation of Larks* or, *The Venereal Game*. It was much shorter and carried less text. This the updated, third edition seems a step down. Brevity, in this case being the soul of wit. This edition has more substance. It appears with a more

complete history of the collection of collections. There is what reads like a fair effort at providing etymologies for many of the terms. I found the text cluttered and the insistence on using script fonts hard to read. Lists in the first half contained thrown together items with little or no relation to one another. The last half was better organized but there seemed to be little care in selecting the best of offered examples. Some were too obvious and the obscure may or may not rate explanations.+++++Historically, terms of venery were mostly hunting terms. Pride of Lions, Murder of Crows, Herd of Hinds and etc. The term venery common root as venereal meaning to seek or desire , to lust after or for this book: to hunt. The earliest collection of list of collectives; Lipton gives as appearing in the 1300's in Norman French. He will offer as his inspiration the List of St Albanse written about 150 years later. It is also Lipton's opinion that this book was written by Dame Juliana and therefore the more interesting as coming from a time when few women could write and covering hunting, not a traditional 15th century center of female activity. Once Lipton gets past his history and a few stories about getting to see original copies of some of these books, he has divided the actual text into sections moving from the traditional to the modern. We are not given any complete list for nay of the early editions. Very old and not so old collectives may be found consecutively. While he will make some effort to identify which old source originated which terms, in the modern lists there are a few general statements about who may have offered items under which topic, but nothing in the way of footnotes. For me the consistently best part of this edition are the illustrations. Whimsical, detailed and entertaining, they best exemplify the humor and satiric aptness that is and was always a part of the Terms of Venery. Exaltation of Larks is not meant as a scholarly book, and it is not scholarly. It is meant to be entertaining and it is , mostly , almost. It is also cluttered, poorly organized, documented and rarely as funny as it might have been. The shorter earlier edition was a more entertaining read. This one is not a bad read, just not much of an entertaining read.

Very well researched and documented, the discovery of lesser known group names is a terrific process of exploration and discovery. The illustrations are quite entertaining. It's easy to pick up and come back to at casual intervals, because it's structured as a definition-formatted read. You can't help but starting to come up with your own inspirations for these namings, which is one of the hallmarks of a great work - inspiring you on to pursue the same path on your own merits.

An Exaltation of Larks is a wonderful book of collective nouns, verbal history and whimsy and was

born from a little gem .The original book was half the thickness of this one and had as much impact. If it wasn't for this largening it would be worthy of 5 stars. Highly recommended to the student of English and naming of things. Maybe I'm just being a Pickiness of Reviewers.

This is a great book by James Lipton. A gaggle of geese. A Murder of Crows. A Wince of Dentists. More amazing than learning all of the terms are the drawings and graphics on EVERY page. Great for a gift, coffee table read or just for you. Quite entertaining!

loved it ,for years me and my friends made a game of searching out some of the crazier appellations for animals ,now i have alot more

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