



Vocabulum: Or, The Rogues Lexicon

By George W. Matsell Compiler

The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd. Hardcover. Condition: New. 138 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.3in. x 0.8in. Matsell, George W., Compiler. Vocabulum; Or, The Rogues Lexicon. Compiled From the Most Authentic Sources. New York: Published by George W. Matsell and Co., 1859. vi, 130 pp. Reprinted 2005 by The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd. Paperback. New. As New York City's Chief of Police and an owner of the National Police Gazette Matsell 1811-1877 had an abiding interest in criminal speechways. Although Matsell compiled this dictionary for his colleagues in law enforcement, he recognized its value to the linguist. As he notes in the preface, criminal terms were beginning to enter general usage and appeared regularly in newspapers, court reports and other publications. Matsell's compilation includes such entries as acorn (a gallows), hemp the flat (choke a fool), rumbo (a prison) and tyburn blossom (a young thief). The appendix contains samples of criminal speech and writing (with translations) and the vocabularies of gamblers, billiard players, pugilists and stock brokers. Published just before the Civil War, this dictionary offers a fascinating glimpse into the American underworld in the first half of the nineteenth century. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from...



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