

Steele's "Curs" and Fielding's Hounds

Professor Sherbo (*Notes and Queries*, ccxv (1970), (302-2) cites Thomas D'Urfey's "Solon's Song" from the *Marriage-Hater Match'd* (1692) as a possible source for the names of five of the squire's vicious dogs in *Joseph Andrews* (1742).

However, it might further be noted that three of the dogs' names in D'Urfey's play are used by Steele in the *Tatler* of 1709, and, for thematic reasons, Fielding may have found this later usage interesting. In No. 59 Steele promises to represent "sharpers" or gamblers "under the shadow of a pack of dogs" who prey on the unsuspecting. Accordingly, in No. 62 he lists four "curs" to be found at a gamin house in Suffolk Street: Jowler, Rockwood, Pompey, and Ringwood. So in the mock-epic battle of *Joseph Andrews* (III, 6), as the squire's hounds surprise Parson Adams and Joseph, Fielding has Rockwood laying hold of Adams's cassock while Jowler and Ringwood tug at his great-coat. But it is Caesar (not Pompey) pulls Adams to the ground.

Thus Steele and Fielding settle on a pack of dogs as an appropriate image for predators of the innocent.

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