

## Gilbert And Sullivan

### "Song Ludwig"

Visit "[Song Ludwig](#)" on [MotoLyrics.com](http://MotoLyrics.com)

At the outset I may mention it's my sovereign intention  
To revive the classic memories of Athens at its best,  
For the company possesses all the necessary dresses  
And a course of quiet cramming will supply us with the  
rest.

We've a choir hyporchematic (that is, ballet-operatic)  
Who respond to the choreut[us] of that cultivated age,  
And our clever chorus-master, all but captious  
criticaster

Would accept as the choregus of the early Attic stage.  
This return to classic ages is considered in their  
wages,

Which are always calculated by the day or by the week-  
-

And I'll pay 'em (if they'll back me) all in oboloi and  
drachm[us],

Which they'll get (if they prefer it) at the Kalends that  
are Greek!

(Confidentially to audience.)

At this juncture I may mention

That this erudition sham

Is but classical pretension,

The result of steady "cram.":

Periphrastic methods spurning,

To this audience discerning

I admit this show of learning

Is the fruit of steady "cram."!

CHORUS:

Periphrastic methods, etc.

In the period Socratic every dining-room was Attic  
(Which suggests an architecture of a topsy-turvy kind),  
There they'd satisfy their thirst on a recherche cold  
{Greek word }

Which is what they called their lunch--and so may you if  
you're  
inclined.

As they gradually got on, they'd {four Greek words}

(Which is Attic for a steady and a conscientious drink).

But they mixed their wine with water--which I'm sure  
they didn't  
oughter--  
And we modern Saxons know a trick worth two of that, I  
think!  
Then came rather risky dances (under certain  
circumstances)  
Which would shock that worthy gentleman, the Licenser  
of Plays,  
Corybantian maniac kick--Dionysiac or Bacchic--  
And the Dithyrambic revels of those undecorous days.

(Confidentially to audience.)  
And perhaps I'd better mention,  
Lest alarming you I am,  
That it isn't our intention  
To perform a Dithyramb--  
It displays a lot of stocking,  
Which is always very shocking,  
And of course I'm only mocking  
At the prevalence of "cram"!

CHORUS:  
It displays a lot, etc.

Yes, on reconsideration, there are customs of that  
nation  
Which are not in strict accordance with the habits of our  
day,  
And when I come to codify, their rules I mean to  
modify,  
Or Mrs. Grundy, p'r'aps, may have a word or two to say.  
For they hadn't macintoshes or umbrellas or goloshes--  
And a shower with their dresses must have played the  
very deuce,  
And it must have been unpleasing when they caught a  
fit of sneezing,  
For, it seems, of pocket-handkerchiefs they didn't know  
the use.  
They wore little underclothing--scarcely anything--or  
nothing--  
And their dress of Coan silk was quite transparent in  
design--  
Well, in fact, in summer weather, something like the  
"altogether"  
And it's there, I rather fancy, I shall have to draw the  
line!

(Confidentially to audience.)  
And again I wish to mention  
That this erudition sham

Is but classical pretension,  
The result of steady "cram."  
Yet my classic lore aggressive  
(If you'll pardon the possessive)  
Is exceedingly impressive  
When you're passing an exam.

CHORUS:  
Yet his classic lore, etc.

[Exeunt Chorus. Manent LUDWIG, JULIA, and LISA.]

LUD. (recit.):  
Yes, Ludwig and his Julia are mated!  
For when an obscure comedian, whom the law backs,  
To sovereign rank is promptly elevated,  
He takes it with its incidental drawbacks!  
So Julia and I are duly mated!

(LISA, through this, has expressed intense distress at  
having to  
surrender LUDWIG.)

Visit [Gilbert And Sullivan](#) page on MotoLyrics.com, to get more lyrics and videos.