

The Wages of Sin



he experienced sexual athlete knows enough to shield himself from some of life's contingencies. For short-term protection he favors the **condom**.¹

The device is said to draw its name from the mysterious Dr. Condom or Conton, a physician at the court of Charles II (c. 1660–1685) who allegedly created the item to help put a cap on His Majesty's growing number of illegitimate children. Students of that period, though, have been unable to locate the good Doctor, and they're not even sure he really existed.

Other theories regarding the origin of the word range from a Colonel Condam in the Royal Guard to Condom, a town in Germany recorded as a fortress of considerable strength, to an oilskin case that held the colors of the regiment (18th–early 19thC). Some think the word may even be a unique blend of *cunnus* (for the female **pudenda**) and “dum” or “dumb”—together rendering the organ incapable of functioning.

Another claim regarding the invention of the **condom**, and its first published description, was made by Gabriello Fallopio (1523–1562)—whose name is most closely associated with the **Fallopian tubes**—in *De Morbo Gallico*, published two years after his death, in which he encouraged use of linen sheets as **condoms**.

It must have been great **between the sheets**. From what we know, however, the **condom** actually originated long before, in the slaughterhouses of medieval Europe where lamb intestines and the membranes of other animals were dried and then well lubricated to make them soft and pliant. In those days it apparently took guts to **have sex**.

Letter Perfect

The **condom** achieved its greatest popularity during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, often appearing in print as **c-d-m** and frequently spoken of as a **letter** (**French**, **Italian**, or **Spanish**,

It is said that President Carter is considering changing the Democratic party emblem from the jackass to a condom, because it stands for inflation, protects a bunch of pricks, halts production, and gives a false sense of security while one is being screwed.

—Anon., reported by Reinhold Aman, *Maledicta*, 1978

