

WORDS AND PHRASES... ***...FROM OTHER LANGUAGES***

There are countless words and phrases from languages other than English that we use in conversation and encounter in our reading. In *Faux Pas?: A No-Nonsense Guide to Words and Phrases from Other Languages*, author Philip Gooden provides an excellent reference work to sharpen your understanding in this area. A few excerpts from *Faux Pas?* are noted below

MEA CULPA *may-ah cul-pah* (Latin) Literally “(through) my fault” and so “an admission of guilt or responsibility.”

SUI GENERIS *sue-ee generiss* (Latin) “Of its own kind,” “unique.”

STURM UND DRANG *shterm unt drang* (German) Literally “storm and stress”; traditional phrase describing a “period of turmoil.”

BILLET DOUX *billay doo* (French) Literally a “sweet note”; love letter.

SIMPATICO *pronounced as spelled* (Spanish) “Pleasing,” “easy to like.”

PARVENU *par-venoo* (French) Describing someone with “newly acquired wealth or status” and so “lacking taste.”

VOX POPULI *vox pop-ewe-lie* (French) Literally “voice of the people;” “popular opinion,” “common talk.”

