



Linda McCormick investigates the Victorian fashion of figging, and finds out it has absolutely nothing to do with fruit...

Figging is an age-old sexual practice that involves the insertion of a prepared finger of raw ginger root into the anus. Ginger is a natural vasodilator, which means it opens up the blood vessels. This improves blood flow and, according to figging enthusiasts, can lead to extremely powerful orgasms. It also creates an intense burning sensation in the sensitive anal lining that figging fans – generally aficionados of the BDSM scene – find extremely pleasurable.

Time and effort must be put into preparing the ginger before anything sexual begins. Practitioners suggest avoiding the pre-cut variety – most supermarkets these days sell raw, unpeeled ginger roots, known as hands. For starters, a single finger is cut off and carefully peeled. As the pièce de résistance, an indentation is carved about two-thirds of the way down, to prevent the finger being sucked up into the rectum. Lube isn't used as it acts as a sealant, preventing the ginger's potent

moisture from being released. Instead, repeated applications of cold water provide lubrication and maintain the ginger's impact.

Figging fanatic 'Master Michael' explains how enticing the preparation process can be in his article *The Art of Anal Ginger Play*: "When playtime rolls around, I usually like to have my [submissive partner] bound, face down on the bed over a pillow. No blindfold here. I make a point of allowing her to watch and hear me prepare the ginger. The anticipation is spectacular, especially if she's never experienced it before."

According to an entry in an 1811 dictionary of slang, figging may have originated from a fairly unpleasant equestrian practice. To 'feague' a horse meant to put ginger up its derriere. This would irritate the animal, forcing it to 'carry its tail well', which was considered desirable during dressage shows. (It gets worse. Before ginger became popular, live eels were used – oh the horror.) Feaguing also had the effect of making a docile

mare look more alert prior to sale – this, incidentally, is thought to be where the phrase ‘to spice up’ comes from.

Another definition for feague can be found in the 1913 edition of Webster’s Dictionary, which explains feague as “an obsolete word meaning to beat, whip, or drive”. This correlates with Victorian records on figging, which describe the act as an accepted means of disciplining children.

The Victorians, known for the ability to be creative with their punishments, were big fans of flogging, caning and hairbrush spanking, and deftly transferred the use of figging from horses to humans. The ginger was inserted and caning swiftly followed. The burning stopped the subjects from clenching their buttocks, increasing the impact of each strike. Spanking was




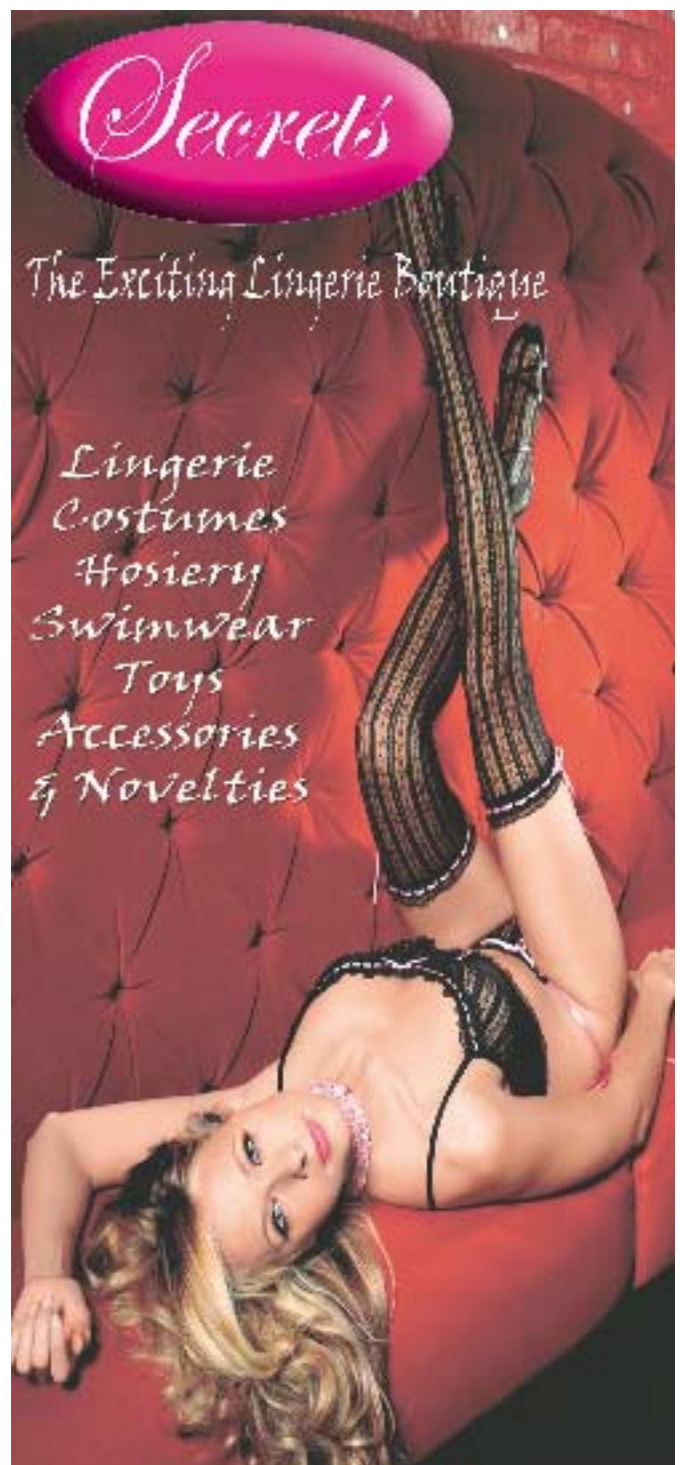
The Victorians deftly transferred the use of figging from horses to humans. Ginger was inserted and caning swiftly followed – the ginger stopped subjects from clenching their buttocks, which increased the impact



soon elevated to an art form in itself (although it was usually women who were on the receiving end of the birch), figging was eventually used in schools and the same punishment was dealt out to common criminals.

Nowadays, figging is employed as an enjoyable add-on to sex in the BDSM scene. Master Michael says, “Depending on the fortitude of the [submissive partner], the potency of the ginger and the mental attitude projected, you will get a variety of reactions. The effects of the ginger will last approximately 20 minutes or so, after which they diminish rapidly.”

While pain is obviously part of the pleasure principle for figgers, the use of ginger as a sex toy isn’t without risks. Naturopathic doctor Michelle Bodner says, “Ginger contains volatile oils that can redden and irritate the skin or tissue it is applied to; the mucous membranes are particularly sensitive. The area would continue to be irritated and red after the ginger has been removed, due to lingering volatile oils. It would be very difficult to remove or wash off these oils once applied, so the area could be quite irritated and may have a chemical-type burn if the ginger were applied for a very long time.” You have been warned... 



Secrets

The Exciting Lingerie Boutique

*Lingerie
Costumes
Hosiery
Swimwear
Toys
Accessories
& Novelties*

www.secretsworthing.com

01903 216222

*7 Warwick Laens, Warwick Street,
Worthing*

10% off & free delivery

Note "scat!df:io!u" at check out