2"Battle of the Books," Works, I, 114.

<sup>3</sup>Works, IX, 325-345.

<sup>4</sup>Louis T. Milic, A Quantitative Approach to the Style of Jonathan Swift, (The Hague, 1967), and C. S. and W. F. Matlack, "A Statistical Approach to Problems of Attribution: A Letter of Advice to a Young Poet," CE, XXIX (May 1968),

5"Introduction," Works, IX, xxiv-xxvii.

6See W. R. Chetwood, A General History of the Stage, (London, 1749), pp. 132-136.

7"Speaker and Style in *A Letter of Advice to a Young Poet*, (1721), and the Problem of Attribution," *RES*, X (1959), 63-67.

<sup>8</sup>Trans. James Shipton, (London 1699), p. 113. For some of these references to wit I am indebted to Edward N. Hooker, "Pope on Wit: *The Essay on Criticism," The Hudson Review*, II, (1950), 84-100.

<sup>9</sup>Works of Samuel Clarke, (1738), II, 603-604.

## Good Wif of Bathe

"By God, if women had but ..."

While the threshing April winds upon the road swell Dame Alice's high-coloured hue sly Jenkyn's ghost now glides, now zeros in, addressing her above the threatening crew, "Alisoun, dear wag your tongue and

needle these men."

All day long, ignored, while faring forth, bumping her palfrey's side in scarlet time, she's brooded long, and laughed until she's raged, "God's bones, I'm dealt out like a Venus aged begrudged some husbands, this headdress of twenty pounds — or worse."

Then suddenly she turns and, via Jenkyn from above the tepid sun, without much fuss, she floors them with her tale. Nay, she admits her taste for "coltish" sex "meek, young and fresh in bed" . . .

until *they* blush.

Anne Farrell Bailie