

A new talk on a New Dictionary on Historical Principles on historical principles

Martin Emms

December 21, 2017

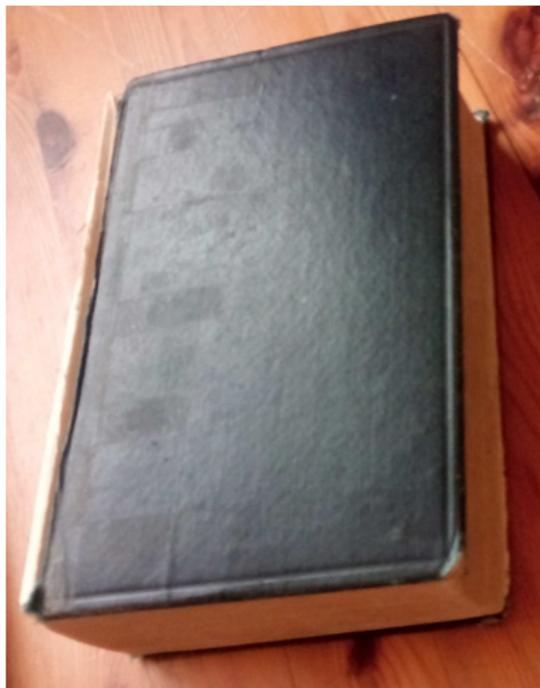
Introduction

Some Dictionary History

Building the 'New English Dictionary'

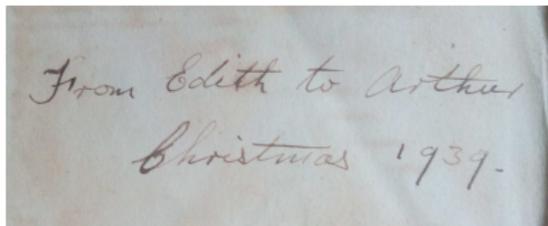
The nature of the beast

My 'Oxford' Dictionary



my first dictionary

My 'Oxford' Dictionary

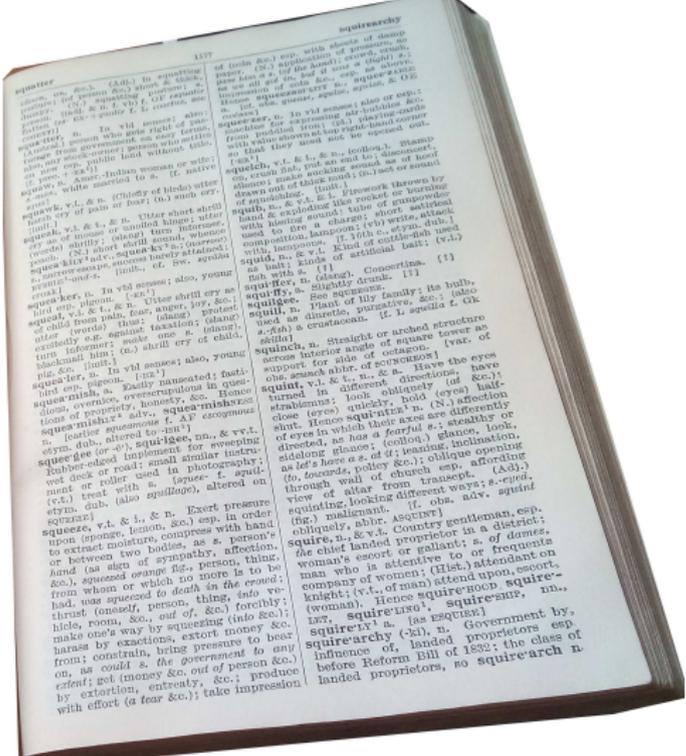


actually first given as a Xmas gift by my grandmother to her husband in 1939

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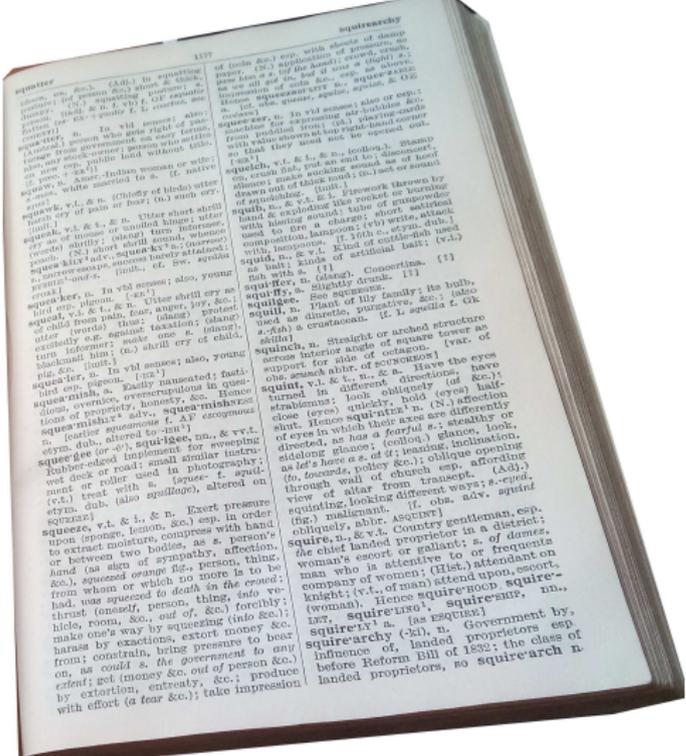
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gift by my grandmother to her
husband in 1939
passed on to me aged 8, 35
years later
fascinating: **oldest**, **thickest**,
only one with a '**PREFACE** and
ADDENDA (what *are* they?)

My 'Oxford' Dictionary



actually first given as a Xmas gift by my grandmother to her husband in 1939 passed on to me aged 8, 35 years later fascinating: **oldest, thickest**, only one with a **'PREFACE** and **ADDENDA** (what are they?) bizarre serendipity of its concept hopping due to alphabetic ordering (*squaw, squeak, squeamish, squeegee, squelch, squib, squid*)

My 'Oxford' Dictionary



actually first given as a Xmas gift by my grandmother to her husband in 1939

by-and-by hear phrase Oxford English Dictionary, and assume its my dark-blue dictionary;

many years later (~35?) realise how wrong about this I am

here is how the 'Oxford English Dictionary' looked when first published (my 'oxford' dictionary shown to the left)



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Says to his employers that it would take a long time, first researching and then actual writing

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Aside: FASCICLE, n

⋮

2. A part, number, 'livraison' (of a work published by instalments); = FASCICULUS n.2

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A - ANT

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES;

FOUNDED MAINLY ON THE MATERIALS COLLECTED BY

The Philological Society.

EDITED BY

JAMES A. H. MURRAY, LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MANY SCHOLARS AND MEN OF SCIENCE.

PART I. A—ANT.

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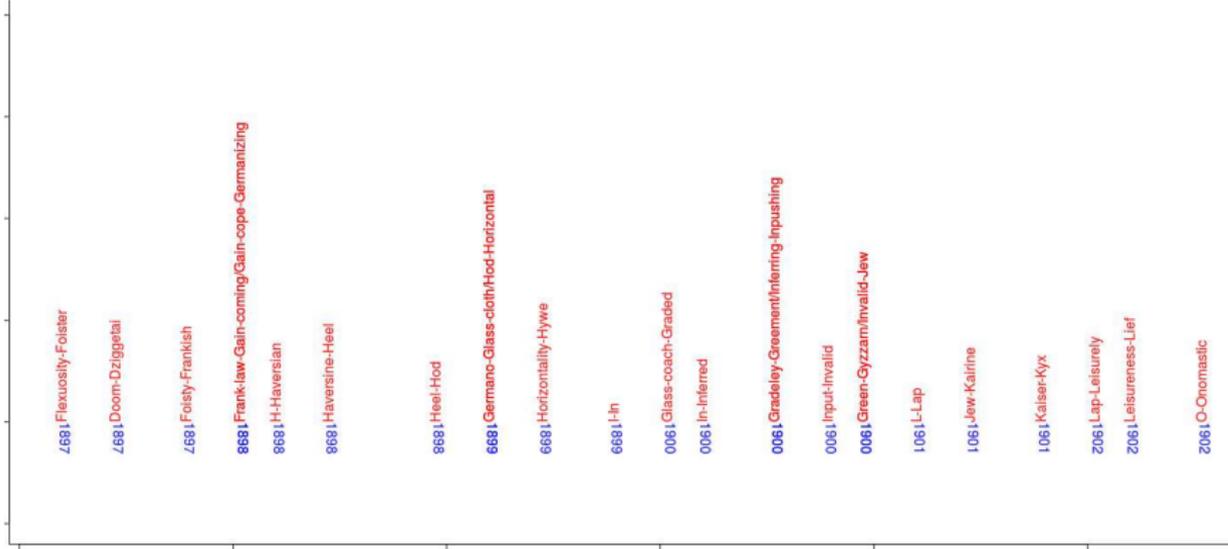
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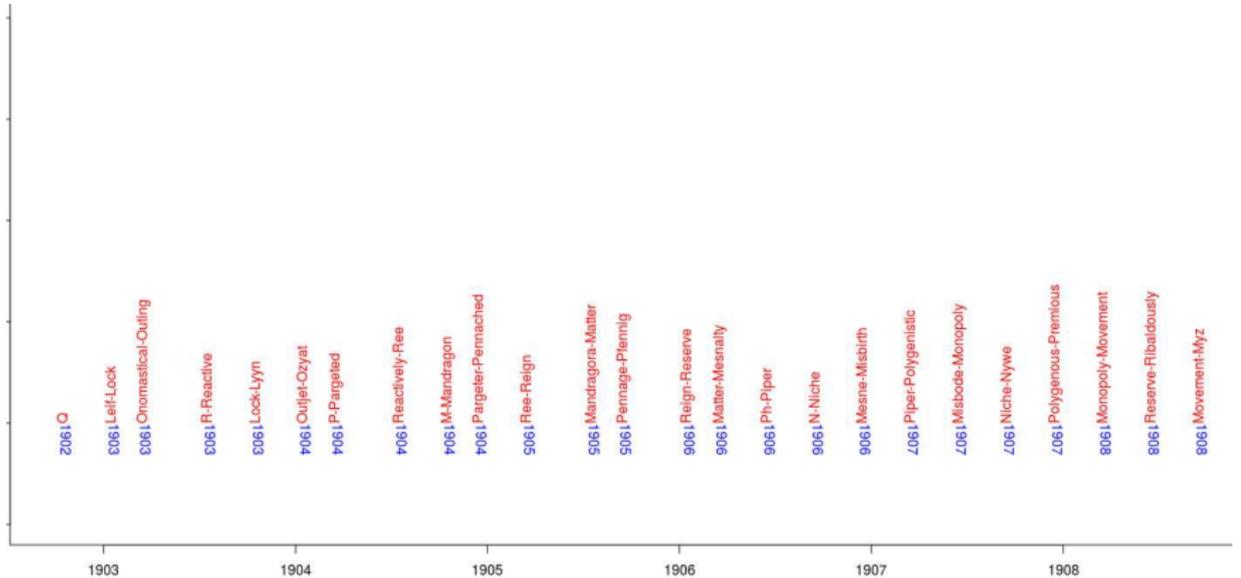
Price Twelve Shillings and Sixpence.

- ▶ so 5 years after his estimating it would take 10 yrs to do the lot he has done A-ANT
- ▶ so did he produce all the rest from A-Z in next 5 years ? not quite

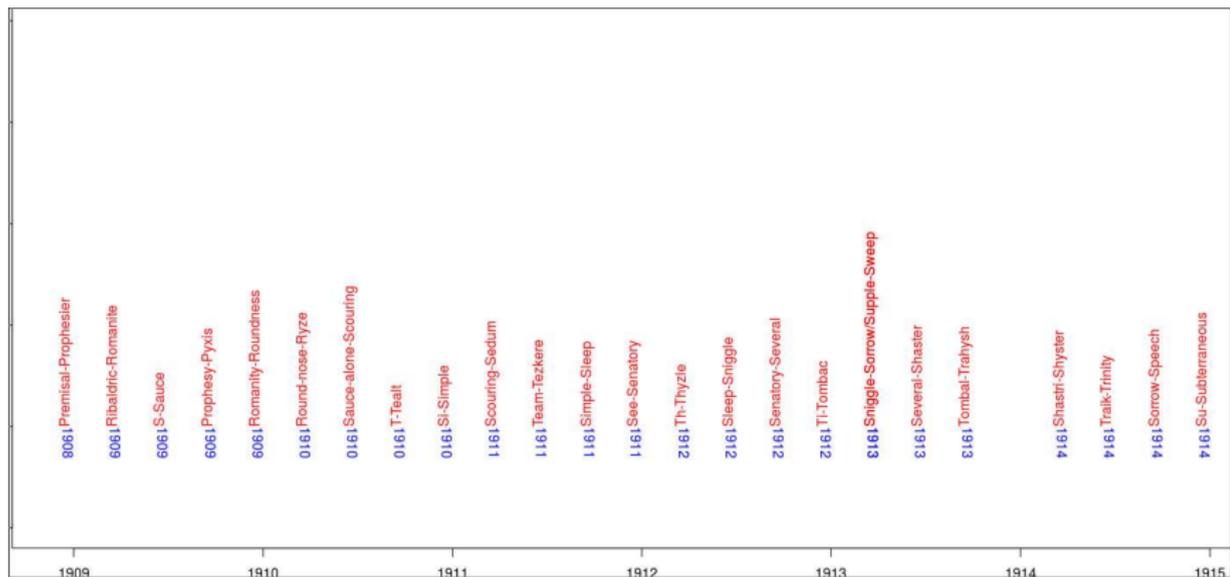
Progress fascicle by fascicle



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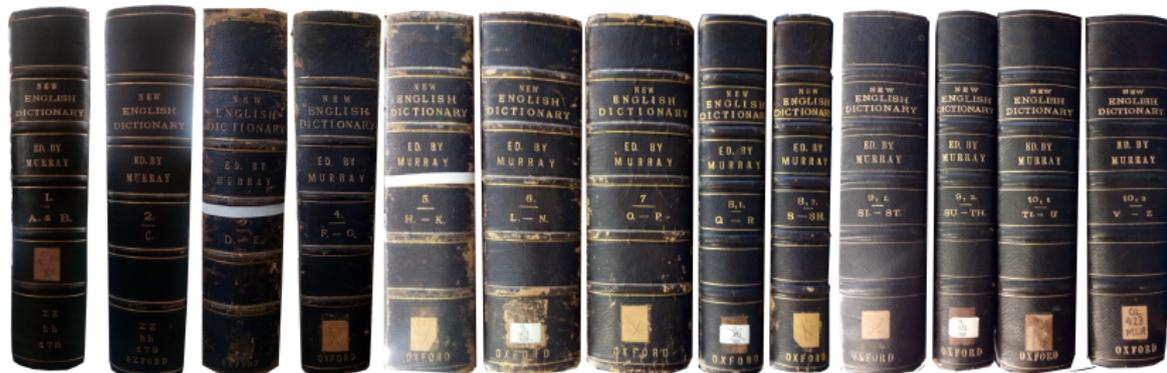
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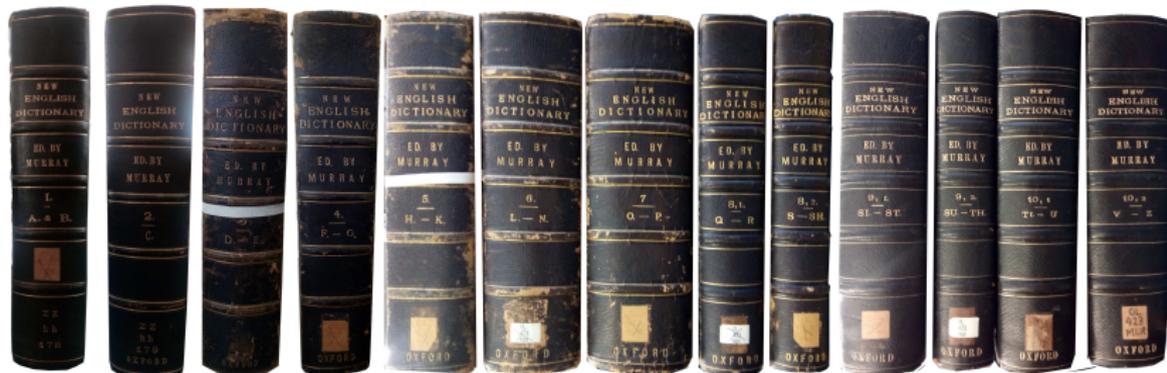
- ▶ as they went they pulled together the *fascicles* as *volumes* (picture from earlier shows these volumes from Trinity's Old Library)



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= 44 years

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- ▶ ?? so *why* why did it take from 1884 to 1928 ??
- ▶ ?? what kind of dictionary *were* they making ??

did they have fanastically ornamental pages, with illustrated capitals?

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No – though that was one of talents in James Murray's bizarre skill set

was it because he was also occupied with fighting the dark wizard Grindelwald, as documented by J.K.Rowling, as he and Dumbledore are clearly the same person

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was he a flahoul, gadfly who liked to hang-around doing things like this:

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from photo at blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/02/07/james-murray

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not actually a completely crazy idea

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- ▶ also some quite startlingly *modern* aspects of the endeavour
- ▶ and some subtleties in how to use it as reference work for diachronic matters

what's the quadrisyllabic word, basically meaning *linguistics* containing

LOL

what's the quadrisyllabic word, basically meaning *linguistics* containing

PHILOLOGY

Nov 5th 1857: The Philological Society

- ▶ 1842, the *Philological Society* is founded, a rather exclusive, learned society which you could only join by invitation
- ▶ stated aim to "*investigate and promote the study and knowledge of the structure, the affinities, and the history of languages*"

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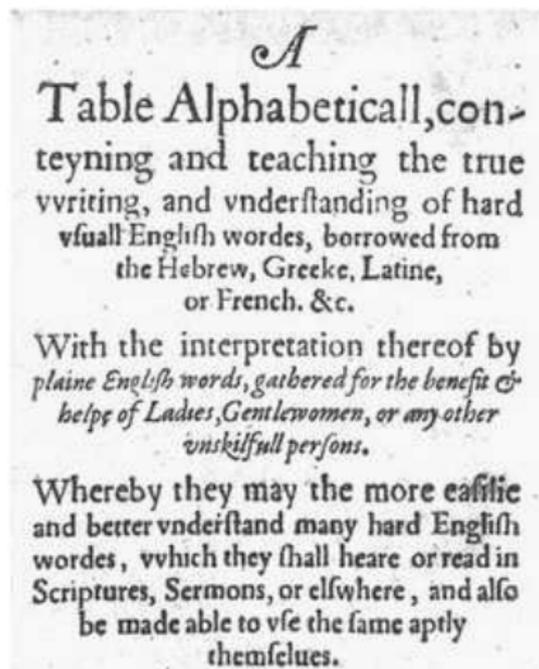
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On some Deficiencies in our English Dictionaries.
by Richard Chevenix Trench

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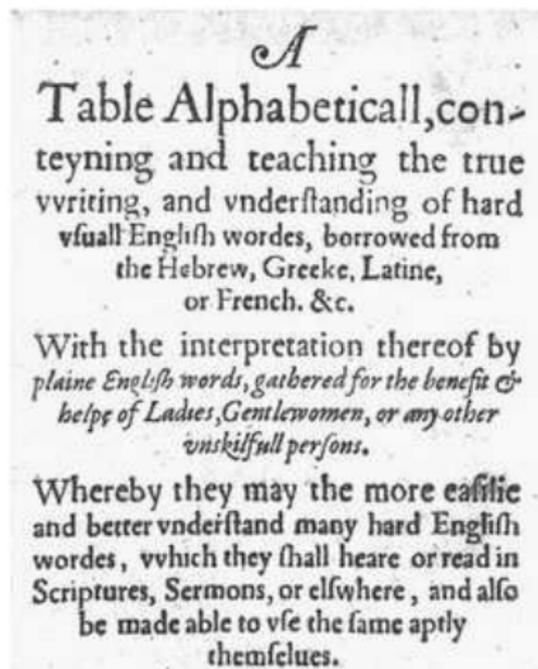
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- ▶ to set the stage going to take a quick look at some dictionaries *prior* to this

1604: Cawdrey 'A Table Alphabetical'

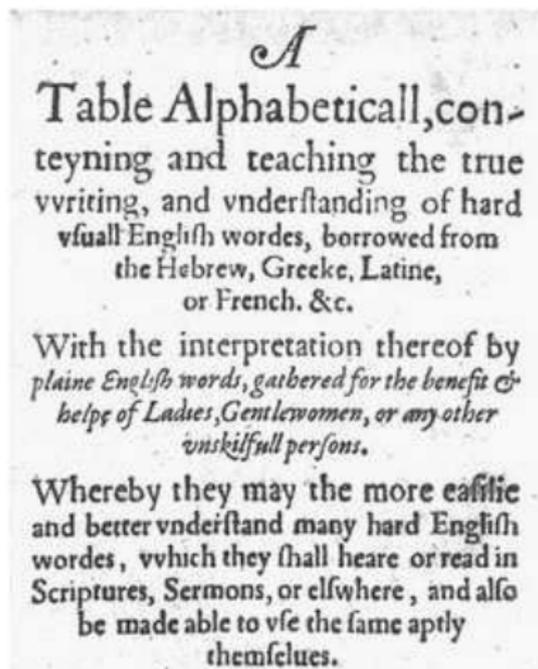
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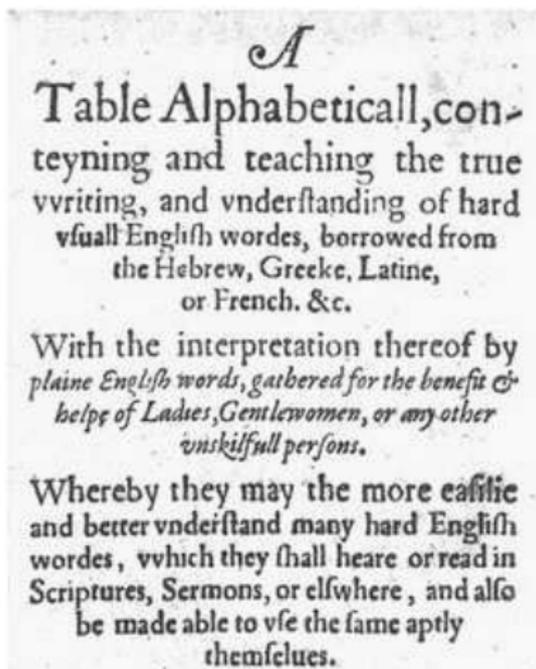


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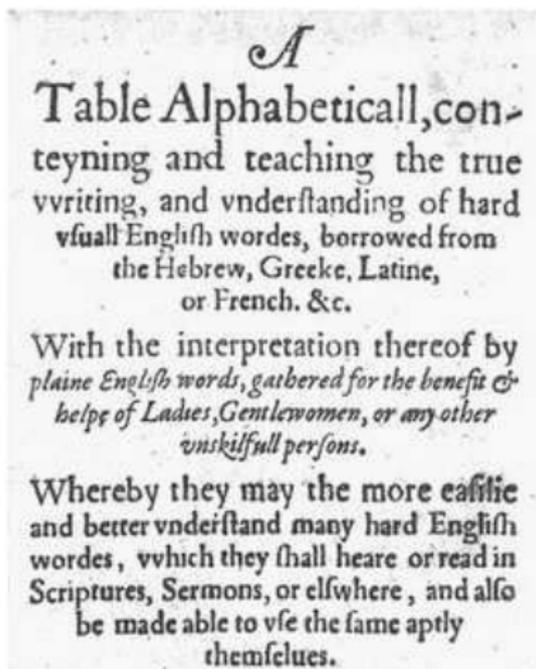
- ▶ first *in* English *about* English

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- ▶ 3000 words, 120 pages, 3.5 by 5.5 inches
- ▶ not common, but tricky, learned, 'inkhorn' words

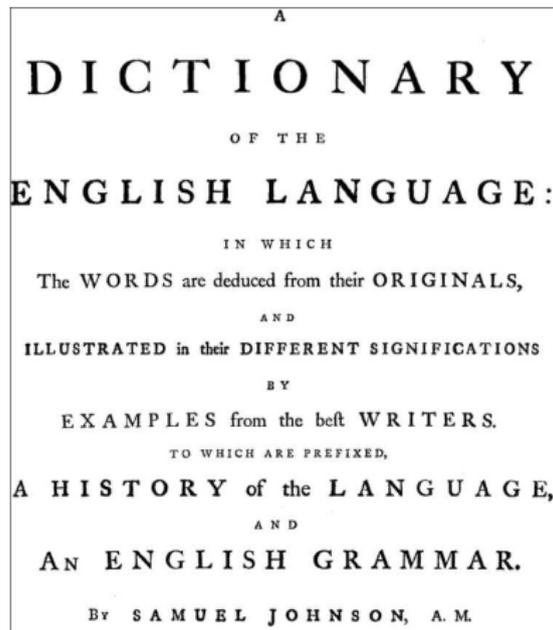
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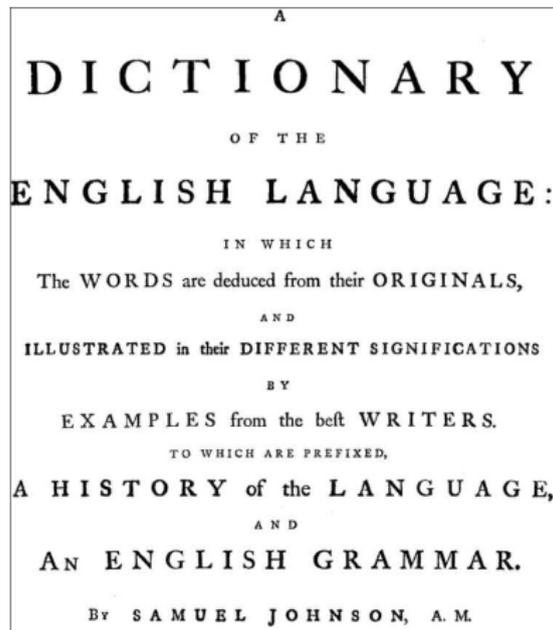
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- ▶ followed by others with similar ambition

1755: Johnson

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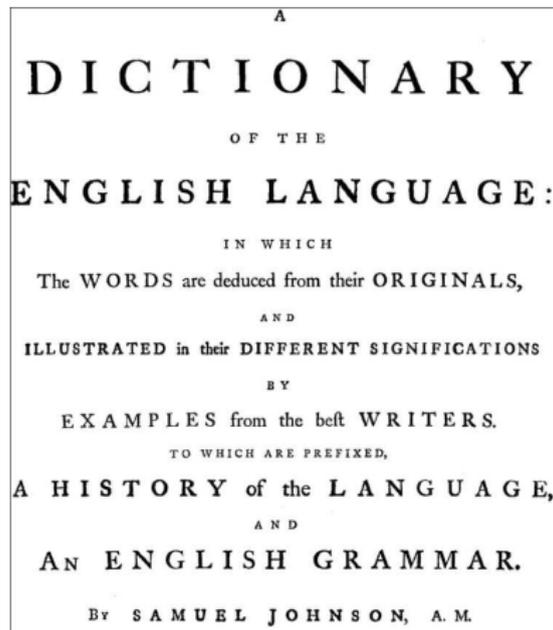


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Good in some ways

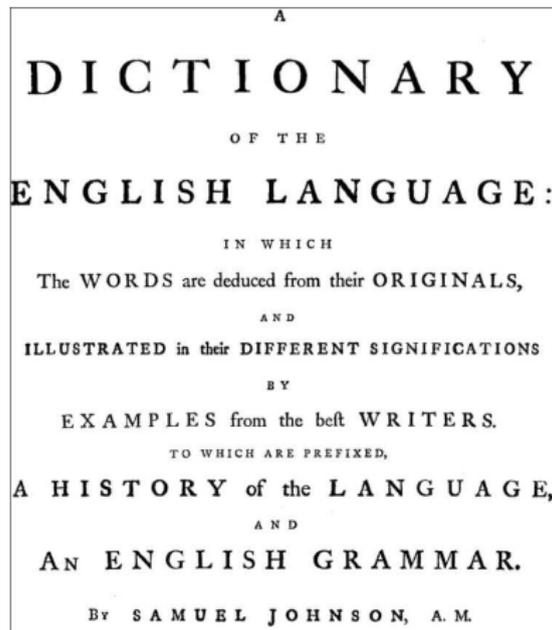
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Good in some ways

- ▶ started 1746, published 1755

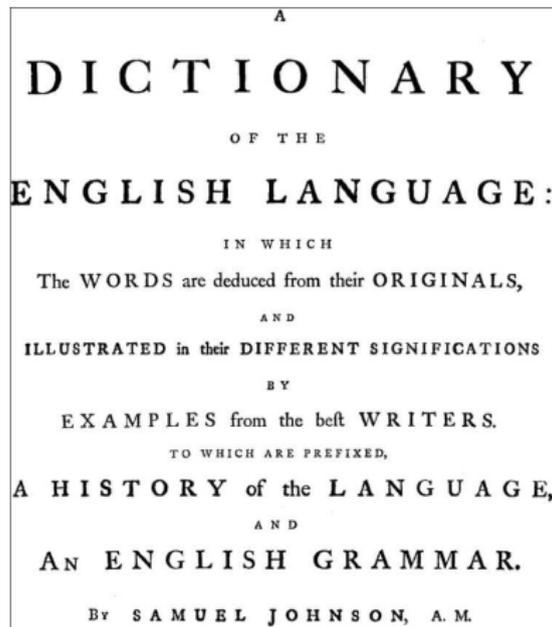
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Good in some ways

- ▶ started 1746, published 1755
- ▶ 43,500 words, 113 senses for 'take'

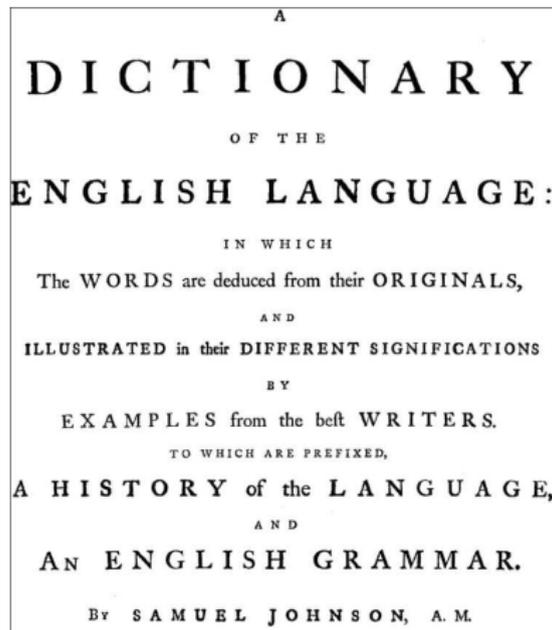
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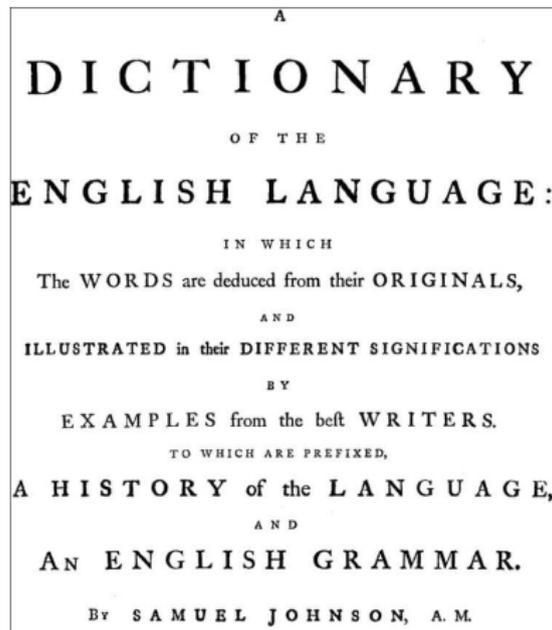


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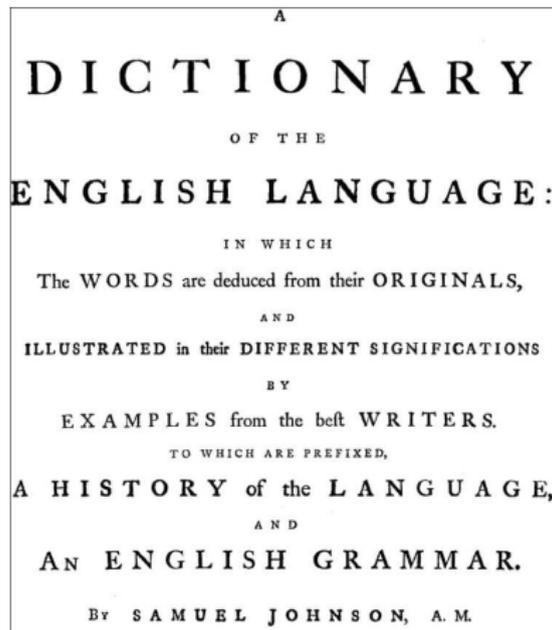
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Not so good in others

- ▶ likes to entertain

1755: Johnson



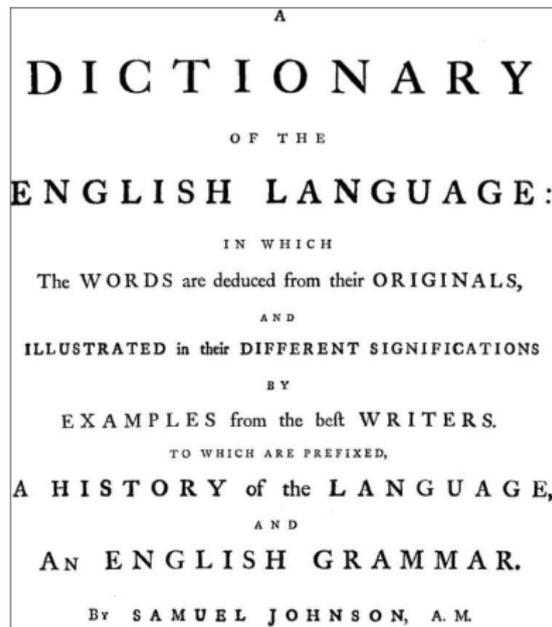
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- ▶ likes to entertain
- ▶ etymologies inaccurate
- ▶ could be opinionated and prescriptive

1755: Johnson

entertaining ...

OATS. *n. f.* [*azen*, Saxon.] A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.

PA'TRÓN. *n. f.* [*patron*, Fr. *patronus*, Latin.]

I. One who countenances, supports or protects. Commonly a wretch who supports with insolence, and is paid with flattery.

1755: Johnson

opinionated . . .

SHA'BBY. *adj.* [A word that has crept into conversation and low writing; but ought not to be admitted into the language.] Mean; paltry.

Obsolete words are admitted, when they are found in authors not obsolete, or when they have any force or beauty that may deserve revival.

1798 Horne Tooke, Richardson 1836

'deep' but wildly wrong 'etymology'

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'deep' but wildly wrong 'etymology'

Our English verb *To Bar* is the Gothic and Anglo-Saxon verb **BARIGAN**, Beorgan, Borgan, Býrgan; which means, *To Defend, To Keep safe, To Protect, To Arm, To Guard, To Secure, To Fortify, To Strengthen*. And the past participle of this verb has furnished our language with the following supposed substantives:

[**BARIGAN**. Býrgan.

A BAR

A BARRIER

A BARGAIN

A BARGE

The BARK of a dog

The BARK of a tree

A BARK—a ship

A BARKEN

A BARRACK

A BARN

1798 Horne Tooke, Richardson 1836

A **BAR**, in all its uses is a *Defence*: that by which any thing is *fortified, strengthened, or defended*.

A **BARN** (*Bar-en, Bar'n*) is a covered inclosure, in which the grain, &c. is protected or defended from the weather, from deprecation, &c.

A **BARON** is an armed, defenceful, or powerful man.

A **BARGE** is a strong boat.

A **BARGAIN** is a confirmed, strengthened agreement. After two persons have agreed upon a subject, it is usual to conclude with asking—Is it a **BARGAIN**? Is it confirmed?

A **BARK** is a stout vessel.

The **BARK** of a tree is its defence: that by which the tree is defended from the weather, &c.

“The cause is, for that trees last according to the strength and quantity of their sap and juice; being well *munit* by their **BARK** against the injuries of the air.”—*Bacon's Natural History*, cent. 6.

The **BARK** of a dog is that by which we are defended by that **animal**.

BACON—is evidently the past participle of **Bacan, To Bake, or To dry by heat.**

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LOUD—is the past participle of the verb *To Low*, or *To Bellow* (*Ŋlopan*, *Behlopan*) *Low'd*, *Low'd*. *To Bellow*, (i. e. *To Be-low*) differs no otherwise from *To Low*, than as *Besprinkle* differs from *Sprinkle*, &c. What we now write **LOUD**, was formerly, and more properly, written **LOW'D**.

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HEAD—Is *Heaved, Heav'd*, the past participle of the verb *To Heave*: (As the Anglo-Saxon 𐌆heafod was the past participle of 𐌆heapan:) meaning that part—(of the body—or, any thing else) which is *Heav'd, raised, or lifted up*, above the rest.¹

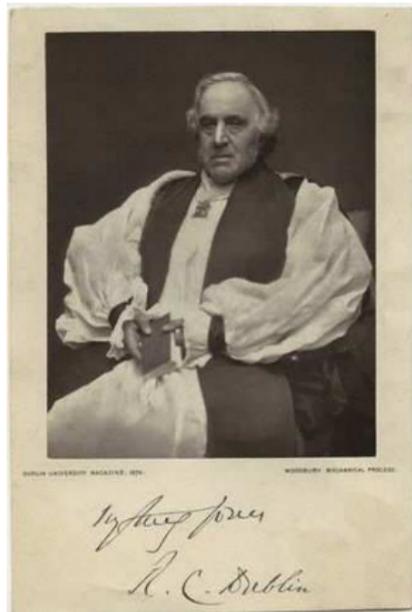
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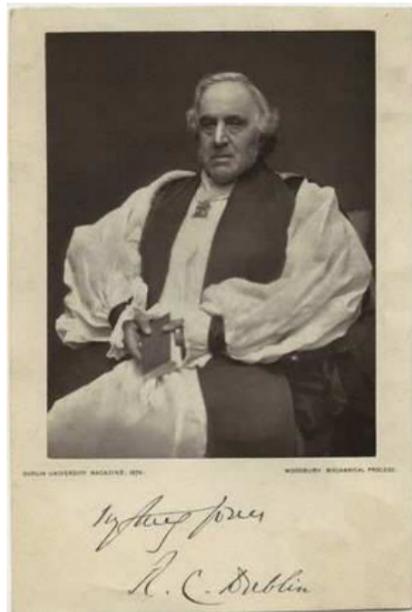
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SHUT and **SHIT** are also the past tense (and therefore past participle) of the verb *To Shite*. And though, according to

Richard Chevenix Trench



Richard Chevenix Trench



- ▶ wrote respected works on *forgotten senses of current words*

a bit of Trench's morally instructive etymology

In his *On the Study of Words* says

words often contain a witness for great moral truths – God having impressed such a seal of truth upon language, that men are constantly uttering deeper things than they know

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amuse: one of Trench's Senses Different from Their Present

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with the Muses is certainly an error; from whence

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vol. v. p. 82. Sufficient here to observe that the notion of diversion, entertainment, is comparatively of recent introduction into the word. 'To amuse' was to cause to muse, to occupy or engage, and in this sense indeed to *divert*, the thoughts and attention.

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⋮

Being *amused* with grief, fear, and fright, he could not find a house in London (otherwise well known to him), whither he intended to go.

Fuller, *The Church History of Britain*, b. ix. § 44.

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The cramp-fish [the torpedo] knoweth her own force and power, and being herself not benumbed, is able to *astonish* others.

Id., *Pliny*, vol. i. p. 261.

1857: Trench's talk at meeting of *Philological Society*

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There is a constant confusion here in men's minds. ... They conceive of a Dictionary ... to be a standard of the language ; ... It is nothing of the kind.

Trench's points contd

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 - earliest use***
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 - history should go 'right back' – **to circa 1150**
(eg. Johnson looked back just over 150 years)

Trench's points contd

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- ▶ that a dictionary should deduce and illustrate all of this word and sense history **with and from authentic quotations**
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Trench's points contd

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a drawing as with a sweep-net over the whole surface of English literature, . . . which we would count it an honour to be the means of organizing and setting forward ; being sure that it is only by such combined action, by such a joining of hand in hand on the part of as many as are willing to take their share in this toil, that we can hope the innumerable words which have escaped us hitherto will ever be brought within our net,

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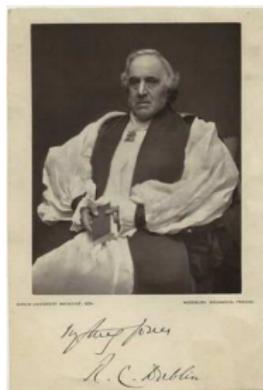
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- ▶ also startlingly ambitious
all words ?, *all senses* ?, *all with quotations* ?, *back to 1150* ?

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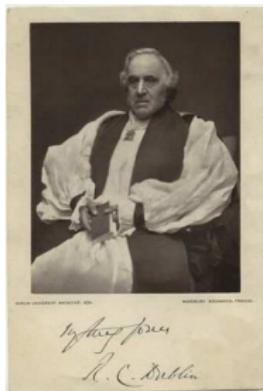
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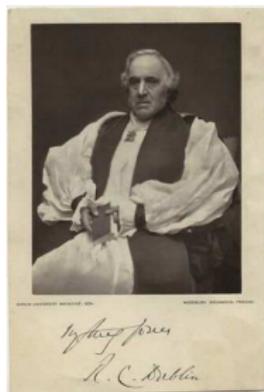
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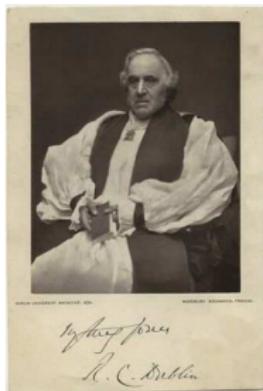
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Appeals to Readers, are made, in fact several, printed in *The Athaeneum*, sent to College Common rooms, . . . people volunteer and start to submit quotations, sometimes from books that have been assigned to them

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PS appoint **a committee to look into things**, inc. new editor ...

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- ▶ becomes a *teacher* 1854 (17) in Denholm, 1857 (20) in Hawick

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- ▶ 1870 swaps bank for teaching job (at Mill Hill School), continues philological study; by 1878 clearly has high schol. reputation: is asked to write article 'The English Language' for Ninth edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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- ▶ so in 1879 this dictionary project restarts – this is the point at which Murray estimates that the whole thing will be done in *10 years*

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for he is to work on this [from home](#), and for some time while [still working part-time as a teacher](#)

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- ▶ nothing for it but to launch new appeal for quotations from contributors (a kind of a re-run of first appeals 20 years earlier)

Appeal to Readers April 1879

AN APPEAL

TO THE

ENGLISH-SPEAKING AND ENGLISH-READING
PUBLIC

TO READ BOOKS AND MAKE EXTRACTS FOR

THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S

NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Appeal to Readers April 1879

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Appeal to Readers April 1879

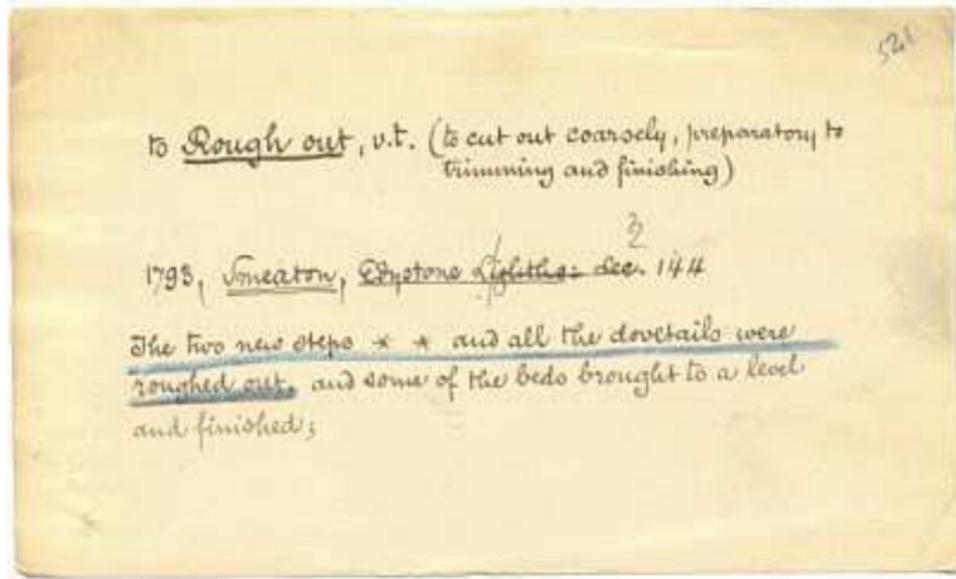
The data is to be returned on 'slips' formatted thusly (tho handwritten):

Rhinoceros, *n.* (*not yet naturalized*)

1616. PURCHAS, *Pilgrimage; Descr. India* (ed. 1864), 2.

*In Bengala are found great numbers of Abadas or Rhinocerotes,
whose horne (growing up from his snowt) * * * is good
against poyson.*

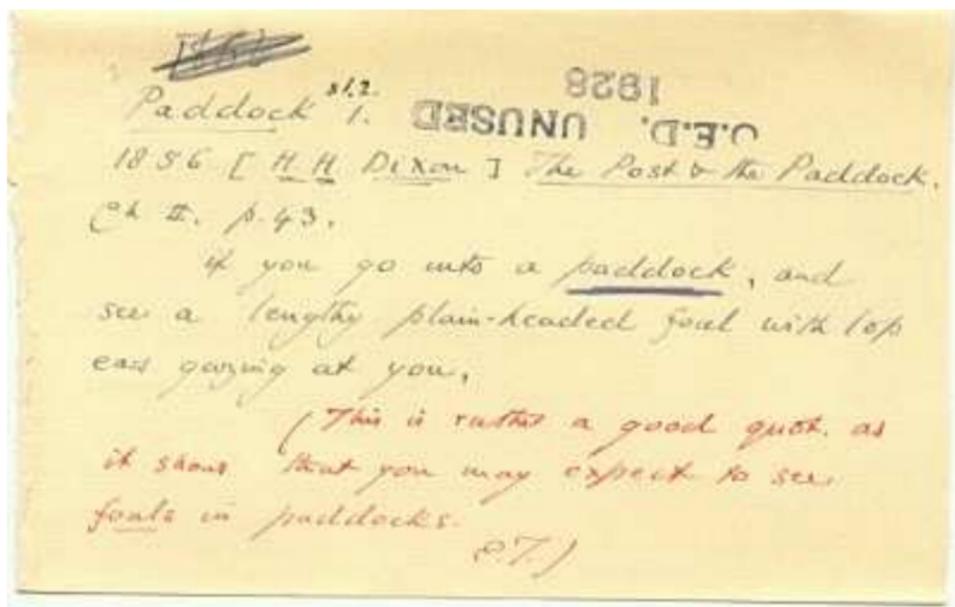
...and new 'slips' begin to arrive



rough: 1793 Smeaton Edystone L. 144

*The two new steps * * and all the dovetails were **roughed** out,
and some of the beds brought to a level and finished.*

...and new 'slips' begin to arrive



paddock: 1856 [H. H. Dixon] Post & Paddock ii. 43

If you go into a **paddock**, and see a lengthy, plain-headed foal with lop ears gazing at you.

Response to Appeal

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1879 – 1884 Getting to first A-ANT fascicle

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A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

FOUNDED MAINLY ON THE MATERIALS COLLECTED BY

The Philological Society

PART 1. A – ANT

1879 – 1884 Getting to first A-ANT fascicle

A NEW
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12" by 8" by 1"

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1879 – 1884 Getting to first A-ANT fascicle

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PART 1. A – ANT

12" by 8" by 1"

352 pages

8365 words

8 divisions of *amuse*

1998 marked (†) as obsolete

Getting to first A-ANT fascicle

some of the processes

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- ▶ a provisional entry by Murray sent for **type-setting**, then page-proof strenuously **reviewed by several volunteer senior sub-editors**

so *plenty* of reasons to take a long time

also Murray was still working part-time at Mill-Hill school and part-time in his
SCRIPTORIUM in his garden

esp. at start very under-funded to pay any assistants

Image skipped to respect copyright; orig in
The Making of the Oxford English Dictionary,
Gilliver

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picture shows only paid assistants in early days,
Fred Ruthven (his brother in law)
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Aside: Herrtage

Herrtage was a graduate of Trinity, seems to have been very capable, in fact head-hunted by a rival dictionary project *Cassell's Encyclopaedic Dictionary*, perpetrates unpardonable sin of doing work for Cassell's *using the materials in the* SCRIPTORIUM
... and is fired

practical effect of *On Historical Principles*

most dictionaries order senses by *current importance*, but OED orders senses **chronologically**, by their **date of appearance** in the language. Result: most 'obvious' sense can be way down the list, quite possibly preceded by now **obsolete** senses

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fascinating, *if* you have time to follow all the twists and turns that lead there

practical effect of 'stereotype's

OEDS1: after 1928 completion, there was a *Supplement* in 1933



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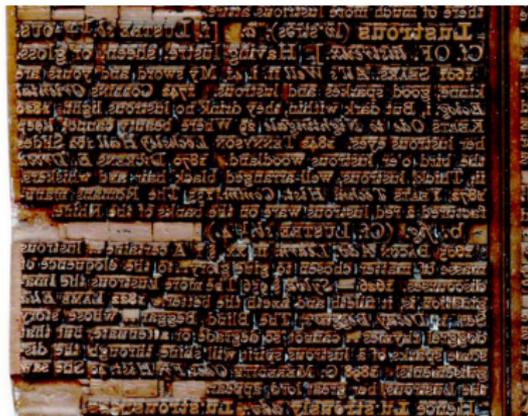
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(part) answer: *printing technology*. From 1884 on, after a finalised page had been type set in *movable type*, a mould was made from this, and a permanent *printing plate* cast from this.

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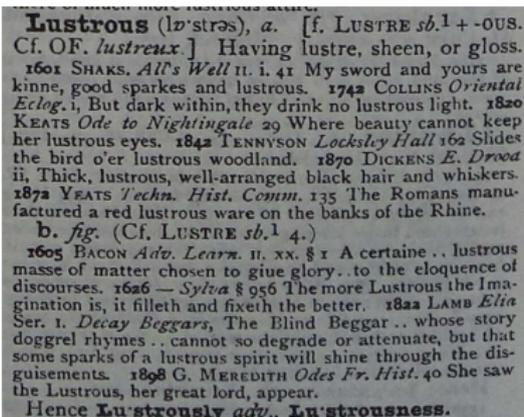
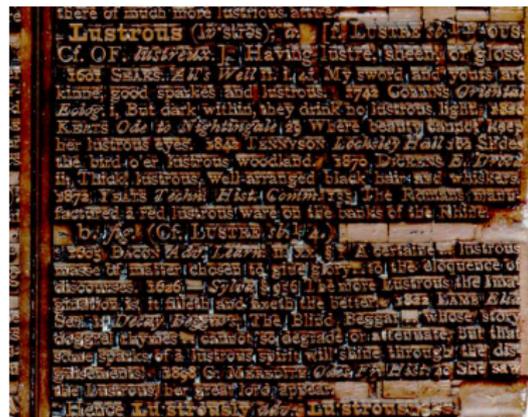
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Aside: stereotype

this process was known as making a *stereotype plate*

actually 1st sense of *stereotype* = 'printing plate' (first OED citation 1800)
the other 'simplistic exemplar' sense (first OED citation 1928) is an evolution from this printing sense (... via metaphor of replicated simple set of attributes)

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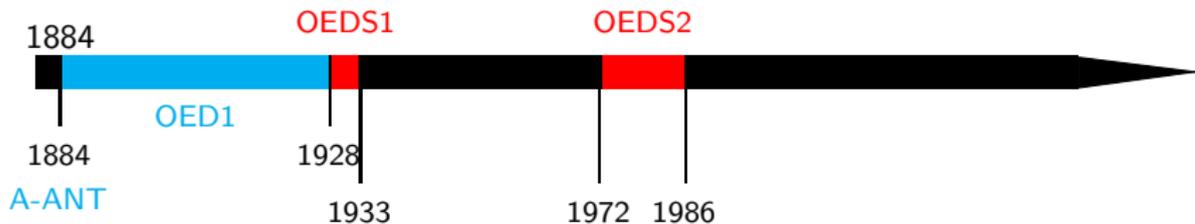
serialisation effect

more Supplements and 1989 '2nd Edition'

OEDS2 1972-1986: after a long pause, a 4 volume *2nd Supplement* is produced from 1972-1986.

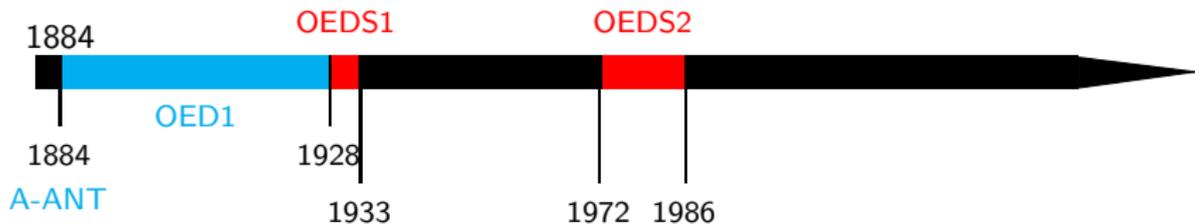
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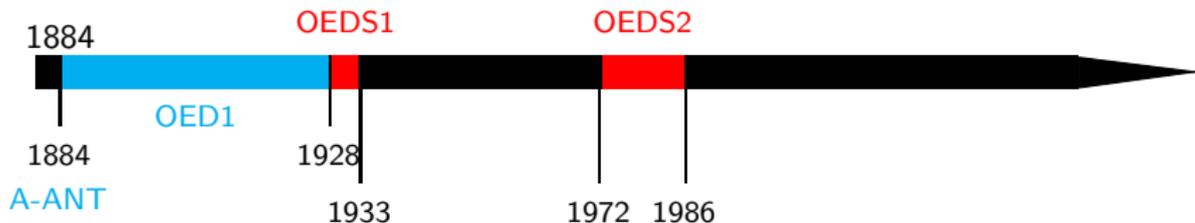


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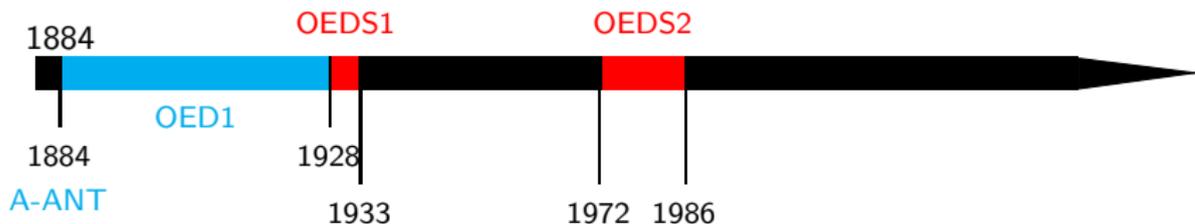
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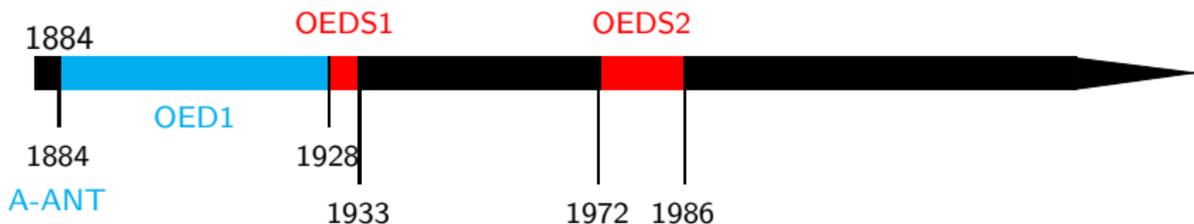
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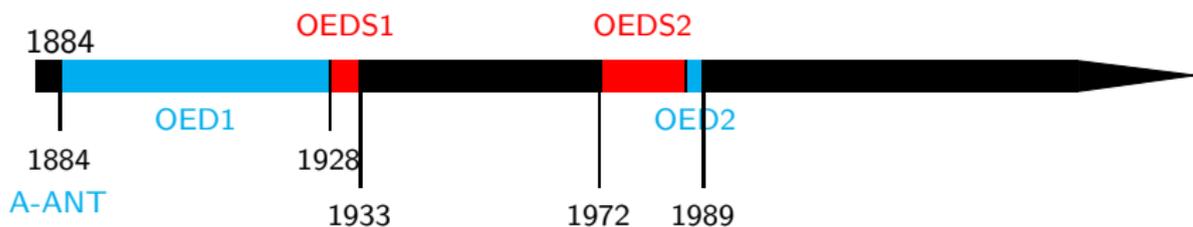
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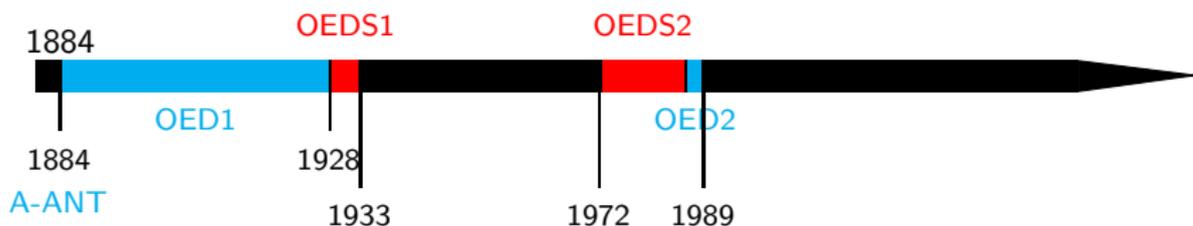
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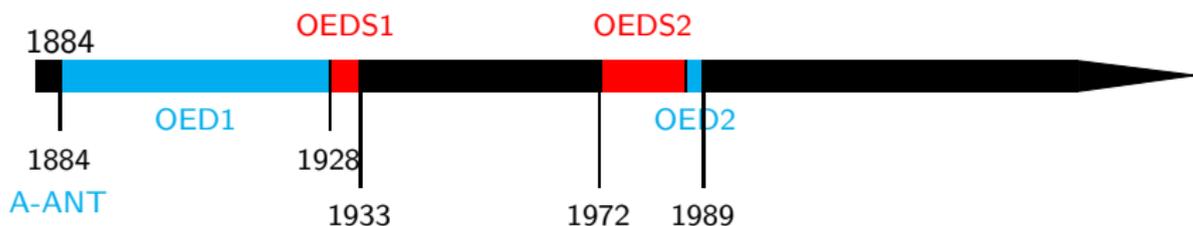


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it was more of a **technology** update than a genuine **lexicographical** update

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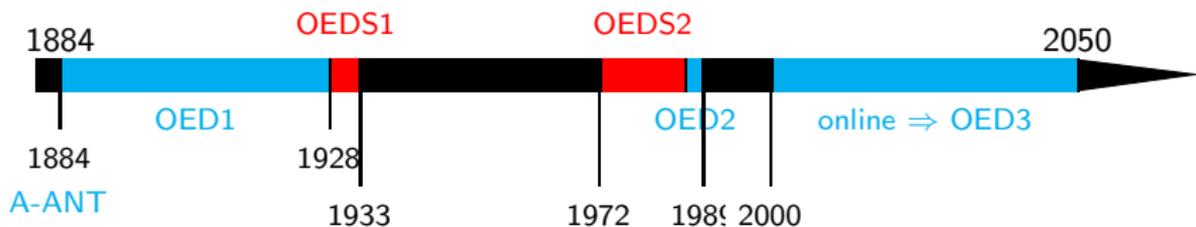
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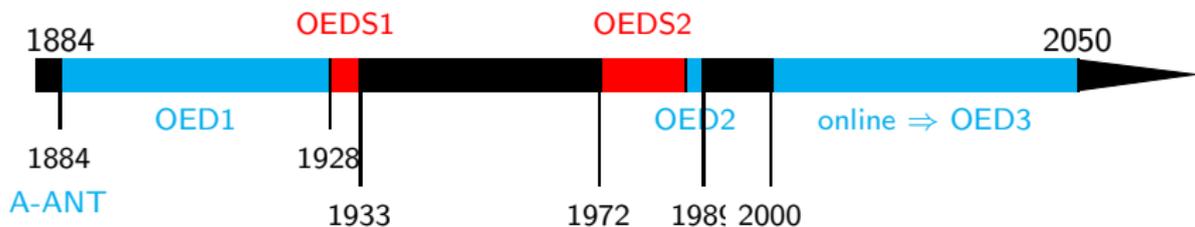


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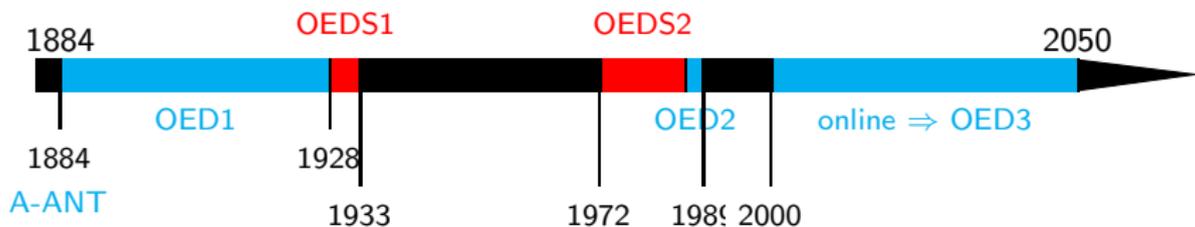
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'OED 3' is a destination; even if reached probably will never be printed

Old entries in modern dress

being online from 2000> allows great improvements in presentation and search

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Mostly this adds to fun of reading OED, but does mean you have to be quite canny about this if you are really going to the OED for 'gold standard' word and sense emergence datings

Old entries in modern dress: *bore*

from online OED

Etymology: This, and *BORE* *v.*,² arose after 1750; etymology unknown.

(Usually supposed to be < *BORE* *v.*, which is then regarded as a fig. use of *BORE* *v.*, with the notion of 'persistent annoyance' (compare German *drillen*). But it seems impossible in this way to account for sense 1, which is apparently the source of the other senses, and of the verb itself. If related at all to *BORE* *v.* or *BORE* *n.*, the connection must be much more indirect; possibly there is an allusion to some now forgotten anecdote. The phrase 'French bore' naturally suggests that the word is of French origin; *bourre* padding, hence (in 18th cent.) triviality, *bourrer* to stuff, to satiate, might be thought of; but without assuming some intermediate link these words do not quite yield the required sense.)

(Show Less)

†1.

a. The malady of *ennui*, supposed to be specifically 'French', as 'the spleen' was supposed to be English; a fit of *ennui* or sulks; a dull time.

Thesaurus »

- 1766 EARL OF MARCH *Let. Nov.* in J. H. Jesse G. *Selwyn & his Contemp.* (1843) II. 88
Augustus Hervey and Lord Cadogan are in a long *bore*.
- 1766 G. WILLIAMS *Let.* 9 Dec. in J. H. Jesse G. *Selwyn & his Contemp.* (1843) II. 108
He sits every night next to Lord Temple, and has a complete *bore* of it for two hours.
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Your last letter was the most cheerful that I have received from you, and, without that d—d French *bore*.
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(Hide quotations)

from 'original' OED entry 1887

umbd. & *umbd.* *v.*² means of *bore*-rods.

Bore (*bōr*), *sb.*² [This, and its vb. BORE² arose after 1750; etymology unknown.

(Usually supposed to be f. BORE *v.*², which is then regarded as a fig. use of BORE *v.*¹, with the notion of 'persistent annoyance' (cf. Ger. *drillen*). But it seems impossible in this way to account for sense 1 of the *sb.*, which is apparently the source of the other senses, and of the verb itself. If related at all to BORE *v.*¹ or *sb.*¹, the connexion must be much more indirect; possibly there is an allusion to some now forgotten anecdote. The phrase 'French bore' naturally suggests that the word is of French origin; *bourre* padding, hence (in 18th c.) triviality, *bourrer* to stuff, to satiate, might be thought of; but without assuming some intermediate link these words do not quite yield the required sense.)

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†b. One who suffers from 'bore' or *ennui*, or affects lack of interest in anything.

1766 G. J. WILLIAMS *Let. 25 Nov.* in Jesse G. Selwyn II. 86 You are...such a French *bore*, and all against your poor country, that I believe you imagine your letters are opened at the post-office.

2. A thing which bores or causes *ennui*; an annoyance, a nuisance.

1778 *Refutation* 16 Advice is well enough—reproof's a bore. 1807 *Antid. Miseries Hum. Life* 27 Conversation is a bore, as 'tis generally managed. 1831 *WHATLEY in Life* (1866) I. 211 A formal dinner-party even at Oxford is a bore. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 190 It is as great a bore as to hear a poet read his own verses.

Old entries in modern dress: *service*

current online entry for 'service' starts (my highlighting):

- I. The condition of being a servant; the fact of serving a master.
1. The condition, station, or occupation of being a servant. (In **modern** use almost exclusively spec. = domestic service n.)

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the online OED at least does indicate 'currency' along these lines

This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1912).

vs.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, September 2003).

thankyou for your attention

Bore (bōəɪ), *v.*² [App. f. BORE *sō.*²]
trans. To weary by tedious conversation or simply by the failure to be interesting.
 1758 EARL CARLISLE *Let.* 16 Apr. in Jesse G. Selwyn I. 291, I pity my Newmarket friends, who are to be *bored* by these Frenchmen. *Ibid.* 293, I have seen as yet nothing of Florence, therefore shall not *bore* you. 1774 *Private Lett. 1st Ed. Malmesbury* I. 278, I have bored you sadly with this catastrophe. 1821 BYRON in Moore's *Life* xli. 476 Hobhouse and others bored me with their learned localities. 1853 DE QUINCEY *Sp. Mil. Nun Wks.* III. 15 A man .. has no unlimited privilege of boring one. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 186 Whereas he had expected to be dreadfully bored, he had on the contrary been greatly instructed.
Bore, *pa. t.* and *obs. pa. pple.* of BEAR *v.*¹; *obs. f.* BOAR, BOOR; *var.* BOR *dial.*, neighbour.

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