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The *Oxford English Dictionary*:  
past, present, and future

Peter Gilliver

Associate Editor, *Oxford English Dictionary*

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## precarious, *adj.*

Text size: **A** **A**

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Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#)

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /prɪ'keɪəriəs/, U.S. /prə'keriəs/

**Etymology:** < classical Latin *precārius*... ([Show More](#))

**1.** Esp. of a right, tenancy, etc.: held or enjoyed by the favour of and at the pleasure of another person; vulnerable to the will or decision of others. Also *fig.* Now *rare* or merged in other senses, exc. in technical use with reference to tenancies.

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- 1638 G. LANGBAIN tr. G. Ranchin *Rev. Council Trent* vi. ii. 311 Bishops who loose that which belongs unto them, having it onely by way of loan, or in a precarious manner [Fr. *en nom de preaire*].
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* 26 With more excusable reservation may we shrink at their bare testimonies, whose argument is but precarious and subsists upon the charity of our assentments.
- 1673 W. TEMPLE *Observ. United Provinces* i. 48 Out of indignation to see himself but a precarious Governour, without force or Dependance.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 256. ¶10 This little Happiness is so very precarious, that it wholly depends on the Will of others.
- 1773 J. ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scotl.* II. III. i. §25 As a precarious loan may be recalled at the lender's pleasure, even at a time that may prove hurtful to the borrower, the borrower is liable only *de dolo et culpa* later.
- 1878 W. E. HEARN *Aryan Househ.* xviii. §5. 425 His holding was, in the language of the Roman lawyers, 'precarious', that is, upon his request to the owner, and with that owner's leave.
- 1958 *Amer. Hist. Rev.* 64 47 The poor peasant population carried on its existence cultivating a few small and scattered plots through a system of precarious tenancy.
- 1998 J. McMANNERS *Church & Society 18th-Cent. France* (1999) I. 102 Economic thinkers condemned this rule as a hindrance to efficient agriculture, since farmers on a precarious tenure are unlikely to embark on major improvements.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, March 2007).

[Publication history](#)

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In other dictionaries:

precarious: quick current definition in Oxford Dictionaries Online [\[x\]](#)

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Entry ▾	Date ▾
Precambrian, adj. an...	1864
precancel, n.	1903
precancel, v.	1909
precancellation, n.	1901
precancelled   preca...	1903
precant, n.	1624
precantation, n.	1623
precardiac, adj.	1890
precarial, adj.	1914
<b>precarious, adj.</b>	<b>1638</b>
precariously, adv.	1646
precariousness, n.	1666
precarium, n.	1681
precarv, n.	c1485
precarv, adj.	1606
precast, adj.	1914
precast, v.	1919
precasting, n.1	1863
precasting, n.2	1938
precation, n.	1548

**2.**

**a.** Of a line of argument, inference, opinion, etc.: insecurely founded or reasoned, doubtful, dubious.

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- 1642 H. MORE *Ψυχωδία Platonica* sig. E4<sup>v</sup>, The foundation of that argument will but prove precarious.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* II. III. 78 Though honest minds do glorifie God hereby, yet do they most powerfully magnifie him, who not from

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This magical city of bridges, cathedrals, gold-tipped towers and church domes has been mirrored in the surface of the swan-filled Vltava River for more than ten centuries.

*(Travel Prague: Illustrated City Guide)*

# Start of *OED Online* entry for *dome*

## dome, *n.*

Text size: [A](#) [A](#)

View as: [Outline](#) | [Full entry](#)

Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#)

**Pronunciation:** /dəʊm/

**Forms:** Also 16 *dosme*, 17 *doom*.

**Etymology:** In sense 1, apparently directly < Latin *domus*... [\(Show More\)](#)

1. A house, a home; a stately building, a mansion. Now only as a poetical or dignified appellation.

[Thesaurus »](#)

1553–1817

[\(Show quotations\)](#)

†2. A cathedral church; = *DOM n.*<sup>2</sup> *Obs.*

[Thesaurus »](#)

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1691 A. GAVIN *Observ. Journey to Naples* 71 The Ceremony..Celebrated..at the Dome (so they call the Cathedral Churches in Italy).

1707 *London Gaz.* No. 4382/3, There was a Jew Christen'd last Sunday in the Dome of this City [Berlin].

1718 J. ADDISON *Remarks Italy* (ed. 2) 45 Pope Lucius, who lyes buried in the Dome.

1753 J. HANWAY *Hist. Acct. Brit. Trade Caspian Sea* II. 1. iii. 15 There is also the dome, which is a cathedral church.

From: Maximilien Misson, *A New Voyage to Italy*  
(English translation, 1714)

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The ordinary Citizens Wives and Daughters wear a Kind of *Toilet* on their Heads, with a long Fringe which covers their Faces, and drives away the Flies like Horse-trappings. The Body

# Changes in the meaning of the word *toilet*

1530s	a piece of cloth
1660s	a piece of cloth covering a dressing table; a dressing table; items found on a dressing table (hairbrushes, cosmetics etc)
1680s	the action of taking care of one's appearance, or getting dressed
1790 or 1800	a room for dressing/washing in (also <i>toilet room</i> )
1880s	a room for urination/defecation (1850s for <i>toilet room</i> )

# Start of entry in *OED Online* for *smiley face*, showing the earliest known example (1957)

## smiley face, *n.*

Text size: [A](#) [A](#)

View as: [Outline](#) | [Full entry](#)

Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#)

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /'smɑːli feɪs/ , U.S. /'smɑːli ,feɪs/

**Etymology:** < SMILEY *adj.* + FACE *n.*

orig. *U.S.*

1. A simple graphic representation of a smiling face; *spec.* a round, cartoon-style face, originally and chiefly black on yellow.

[Thesaurus »](#)  
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The black and yellow design was originally devised by Harvey Ball, U.S. commercial artist, in 1963, for the State Mutual Life Assurance Company (Worcester, Mass.), as the logo of a corporate friendship campaign. It is freq. used as a symbol of hope, peace, solidarity, etc., esp. in youth culture (associated esp. in the United States with the 1970s). It is also specifically associated (chiefly in the United Kingdom) with the Acid House movement of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

1957 *Sarasota (Florida) Herald-Tribune* 8 Sept. (Family Weekly mag.) 14/1 Tape a paper plate to a mop head for a face, arranging the string strands on each side for hair. Draw a big smiley face on the plate!

1971 *Beaver County (Pa.) Times* 15 Sept. (Advertising suppl.), A happy face lamp with the new smiley face.

1989 *Chicago Tribune* (Nexis) 15 Feb. (Style section) 18 Inside the throbbing, strobe-lit Acid House clubs,..nothing symbolizes the endless 'don't worry be happy' mentality more succinctly than Smiley Face... The non-stop grin..becomes explicitly linked to the use of the now-popular club drug Ecstasy.

1993 R. HUGHES *Culture of Complaint* i. 50 A fixed white grin as inane as a 70s Smiley-face sticker.

2005 S. BOOTH *One Last Breath* xxxviii. 534 Someone had painted a smiley face on their wheelie bin.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)



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# *OED*: the past

# The idea of a historical dictionary

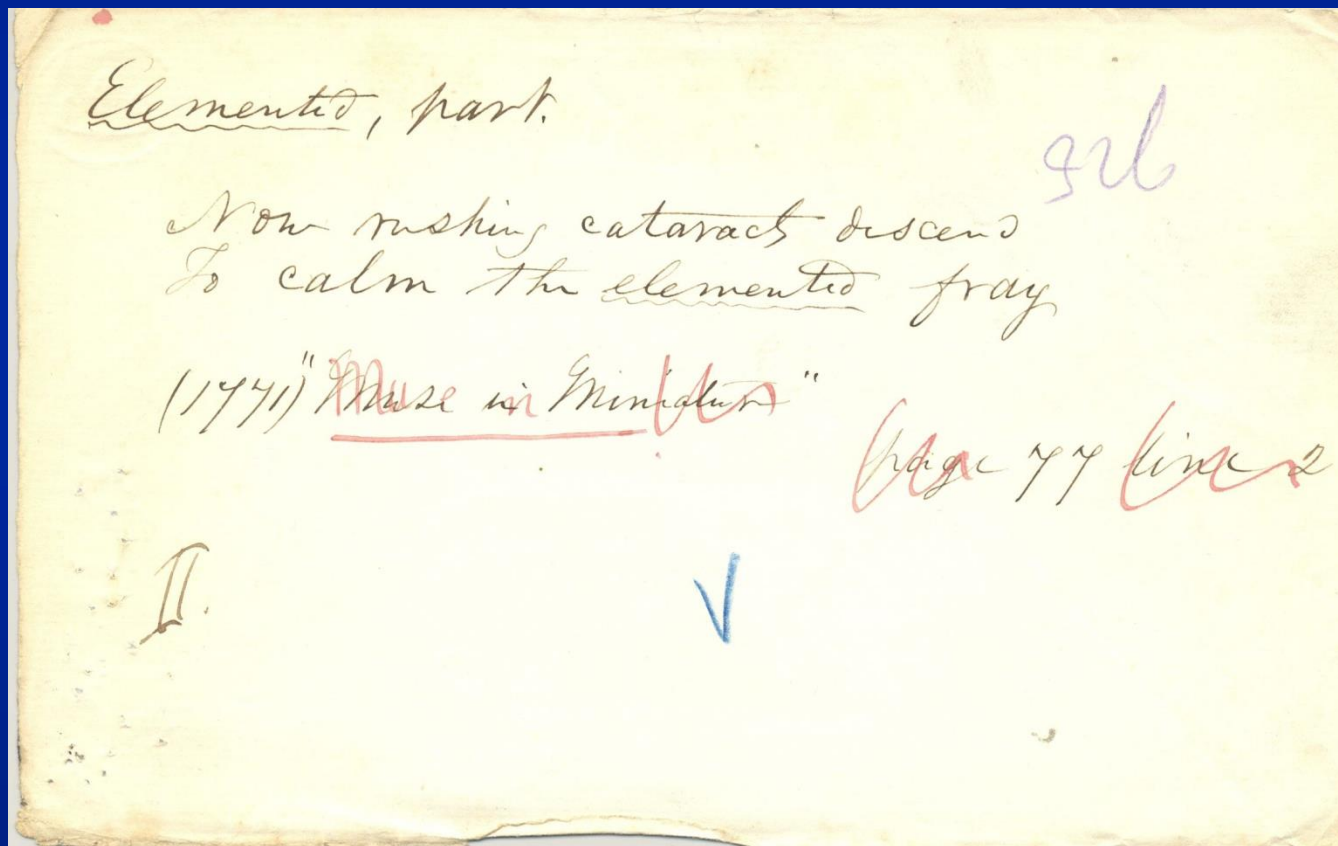
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- Each word should tell its own life-story
- The evidence for this life-story: quotations, showing how the word was actually used at different times
- Collecting this data: reading many thousands of texts, and writing out quotations by hand
- Use of volunteers ('crowdsourcing'), first by the brothers Grimm in the 1830s
- Technique adopted by the Philological Society of London in the 1850s

# The Philological Society's *Proposal*, 1858

PROPOSAL FOR THE PUBLICATION OF  
A NEW  
ENGLISH DICTIONARY  
BY THE  
PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Quotation from *The Muse in Miniature* (1771) for  
the word *elemented*, supplied by  
Winthrop Sargent, Jr. (1825–1870) of Natchez, Mississippi



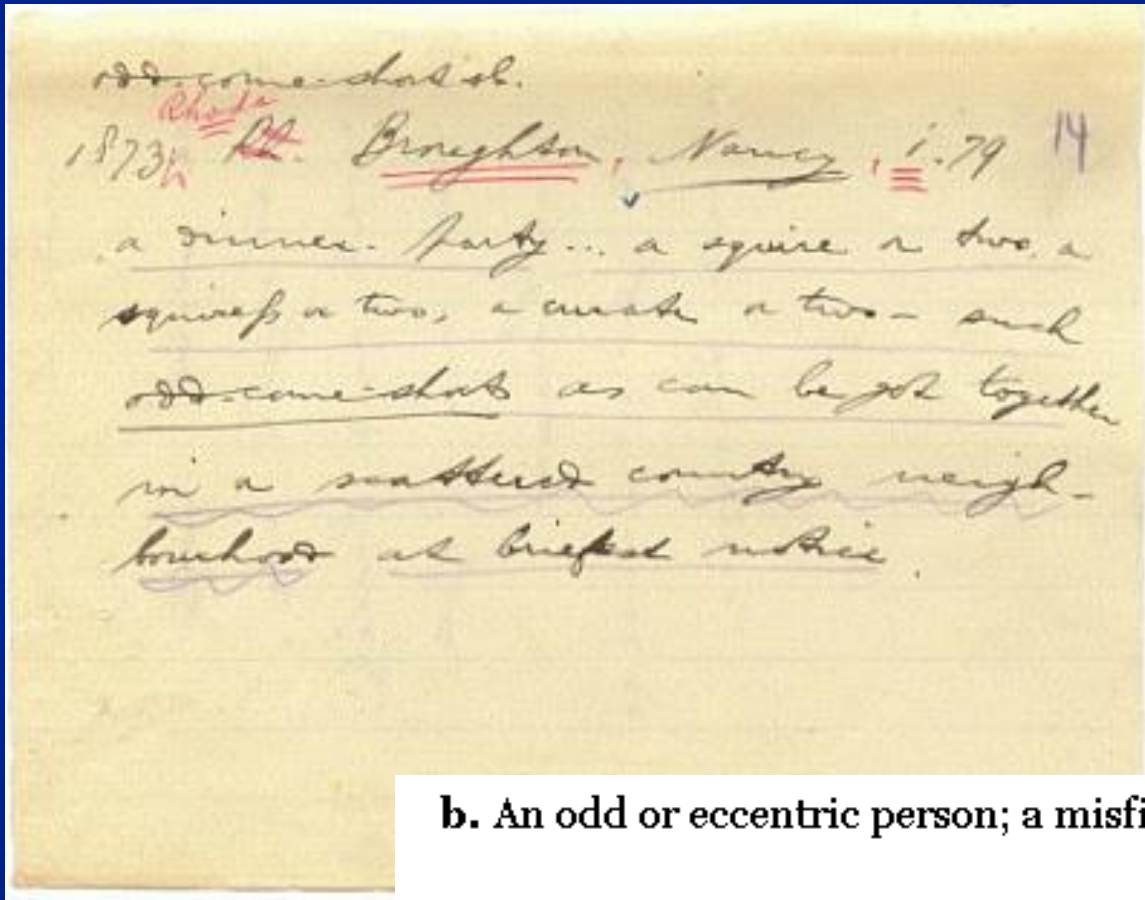
# Herbert Coleridge (1830–1861), first editor of the Dictionary



# Frederick James Furnivall (1825–1910), second editor of the Dictionary



# Quotation for *odd-come-short* contributed by Frederick Furnivall



Used in the *OED*:

**b.** An odd or eccentric person; a misfit.

1873 R. BROUGHTON *Nancy* I. 79 A dinner-party..a squire or two, a squires or two, a curate or two—such odd-come-shorts as can be got together..at briefest notice.

James Augustus Henry Murray (1830–1915), Editor of the *OED* from 1879, with some of his assistants





# James Murray's *Appeal to the English-Speaking and English-Reading Public* (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.

IN November 1857, a paper was read before the Philological Society by Archbishop Trench, then Dean of Westminster, on 'Some Deficiencies in our English Dictionaries,' which led to a resolution on the part of the Society to prepare a Supplement to the existing Dictionaries supplying these deficiencies. A very little work on this basis sufficed to show that to do anything effectual, not a mere Dictionary-Supplement, but a new Dictionary worthy of the English Language and of the present state of Philological Science, was the object to be aimed at. Accordingly, in January 1859, the Society issued their 'Proposal for the publication of a New English Dictionary,' in which the characteristics of the proposed work were explained, and

Quotation slip for *toggery*,  
supplied by Dwight Whitney Learned of Japan

Toggery, n.

159

vi.

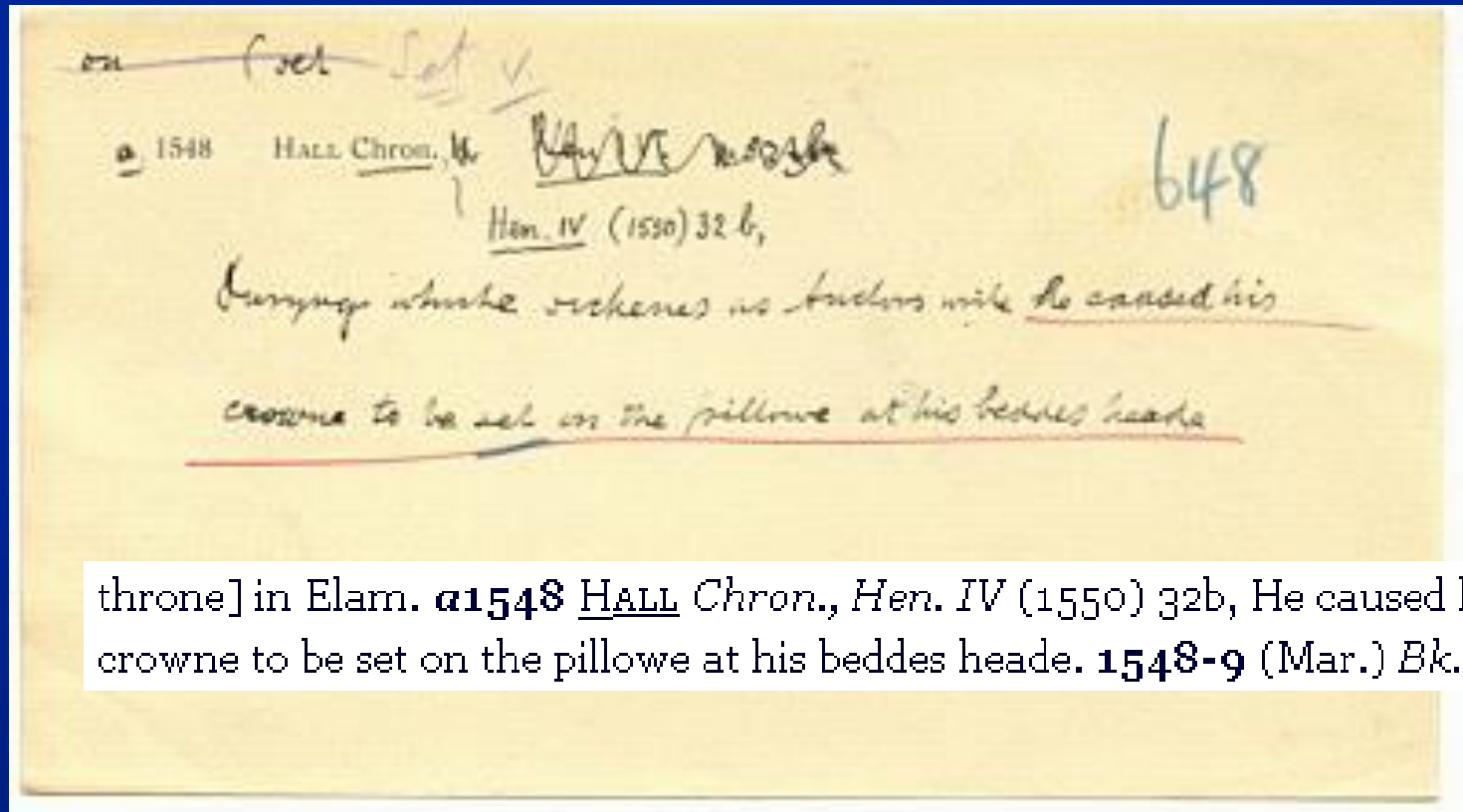
1877, C. D. Warner, in ~~the~~ servant, chap. c. 128, c. 128

The horse I rode on was not an  
animal to take advantage of the  
weakness of his toggery.

William Chester Minor (1835–1920),  
madman and contributor to the *OED*

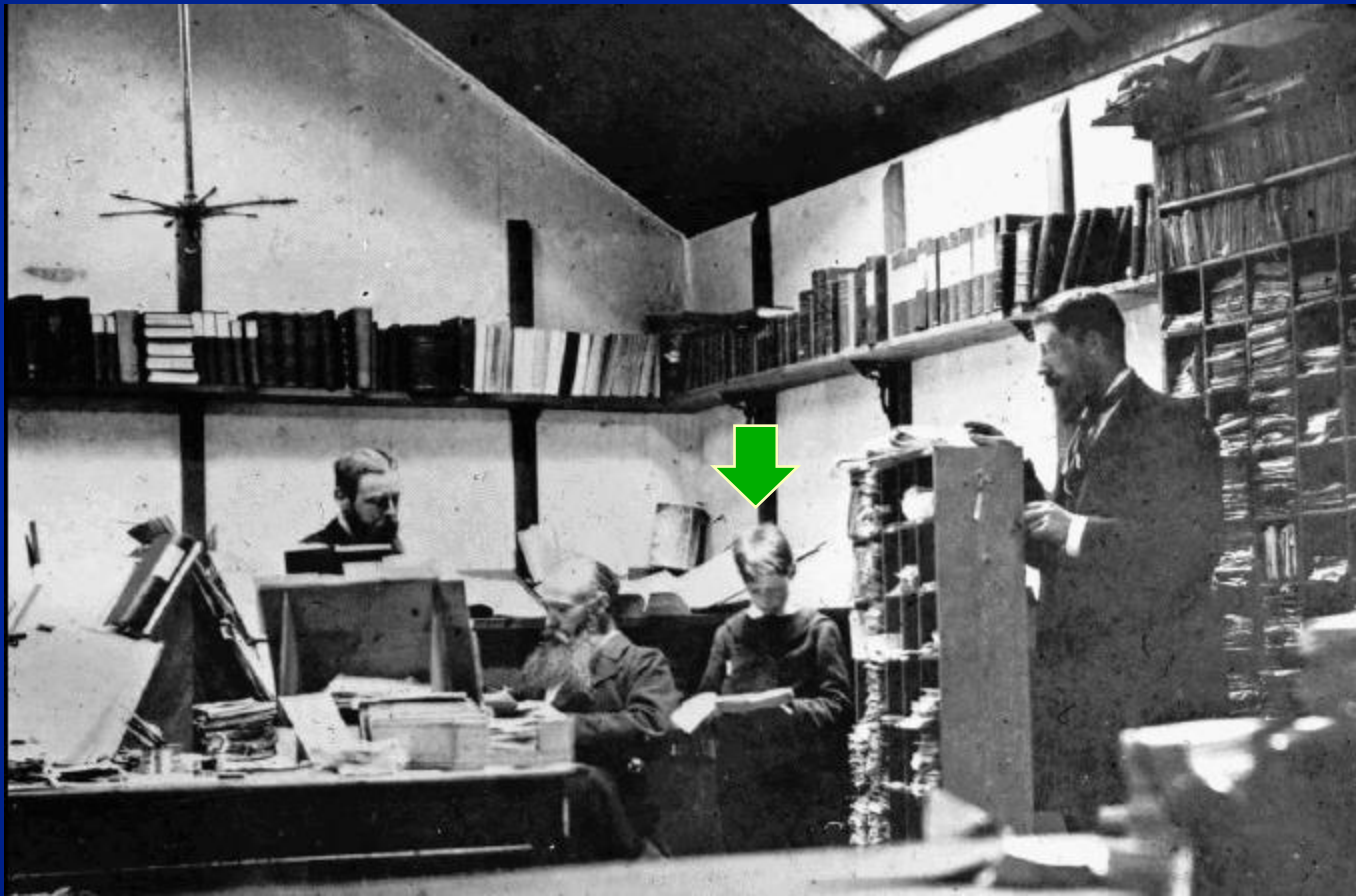


Quotation slip for the word *set*,  
contributed by W. C. Minor  
(and how it eventually appeared in the *OED*)



throne] in Elam. **a1548** HALL Chron., *Hen. IV* (1550) 32b, He caused his  
crowne to be set on the pillowe at his beddes heade. **1548-9** (Mar.) *Bk. Com.*

# James Murray in his 'Scriptorium', with two of his assistants, and his son Harold

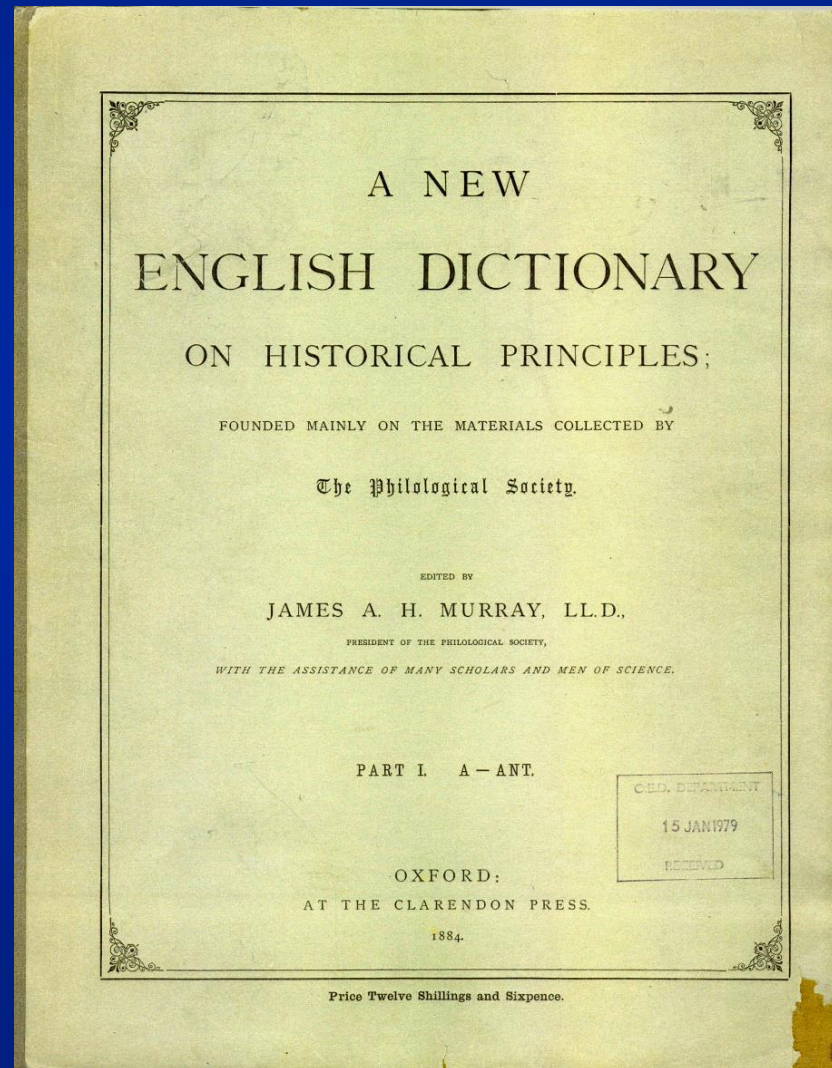


# The *New English Dictionary* as envisaged in the 1879 Agreement with OUP

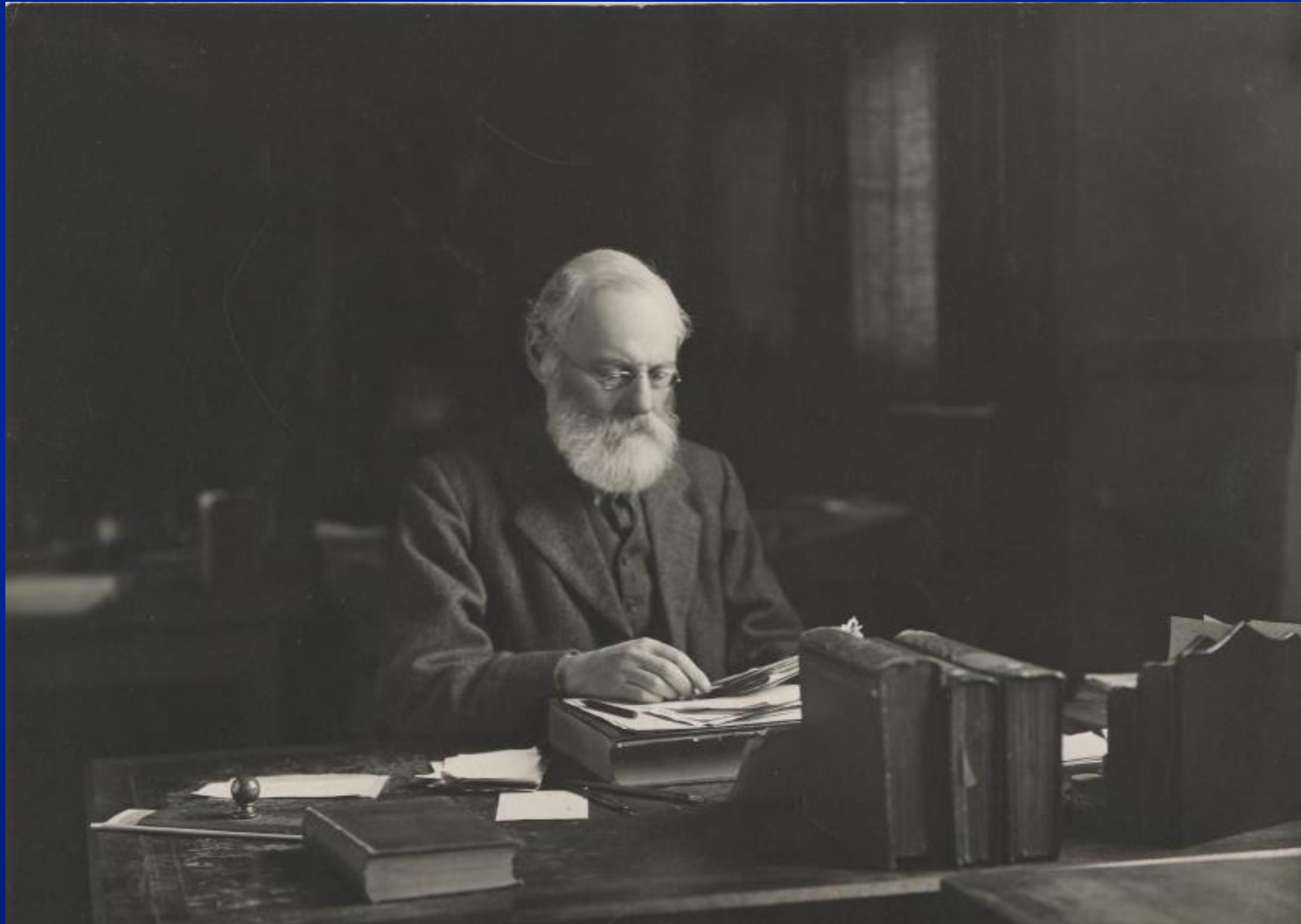
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- Four volumes
- 6,000 pages
- 10 years' work

# The first section, or 'fascicle', of the Dictionary: *A to ant* (published 1884)

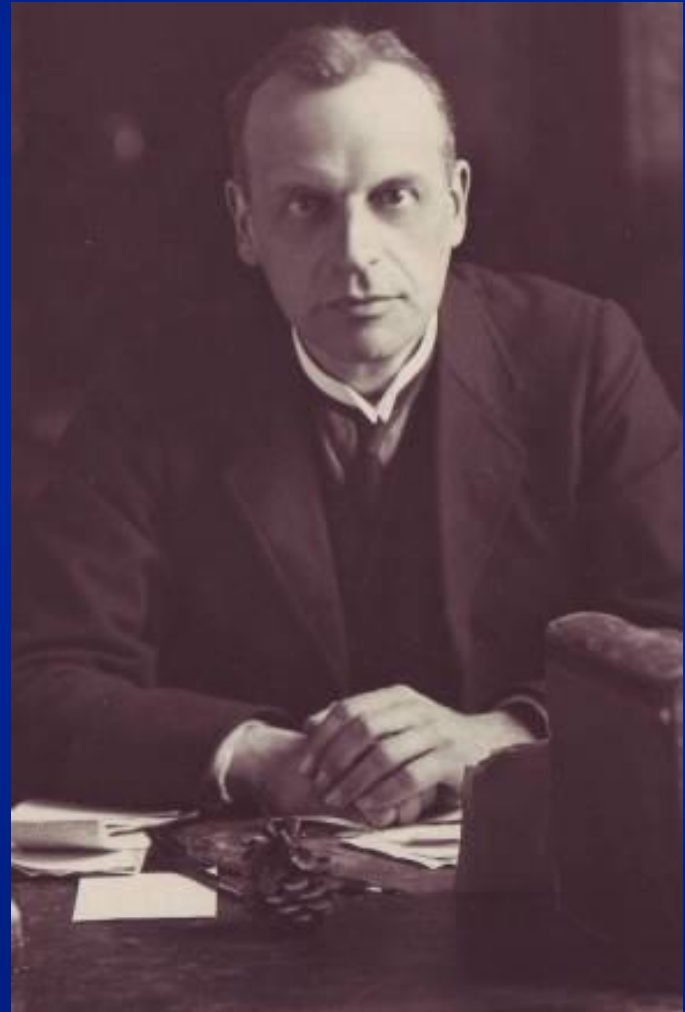
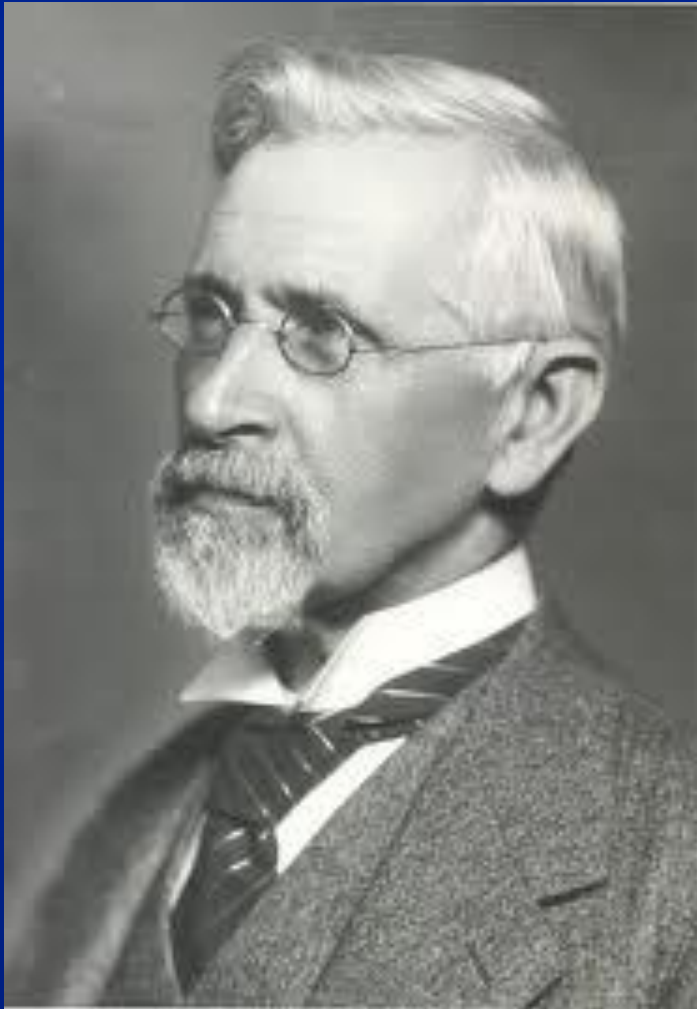


Henry Bradley (1845–1923),  
Editor of the Dictionary (alongside Murray)  
from 1887





William Craigie (1867–1957), Editor from 1901, and  
Charles Onions (1873–1965), Editor from 1914



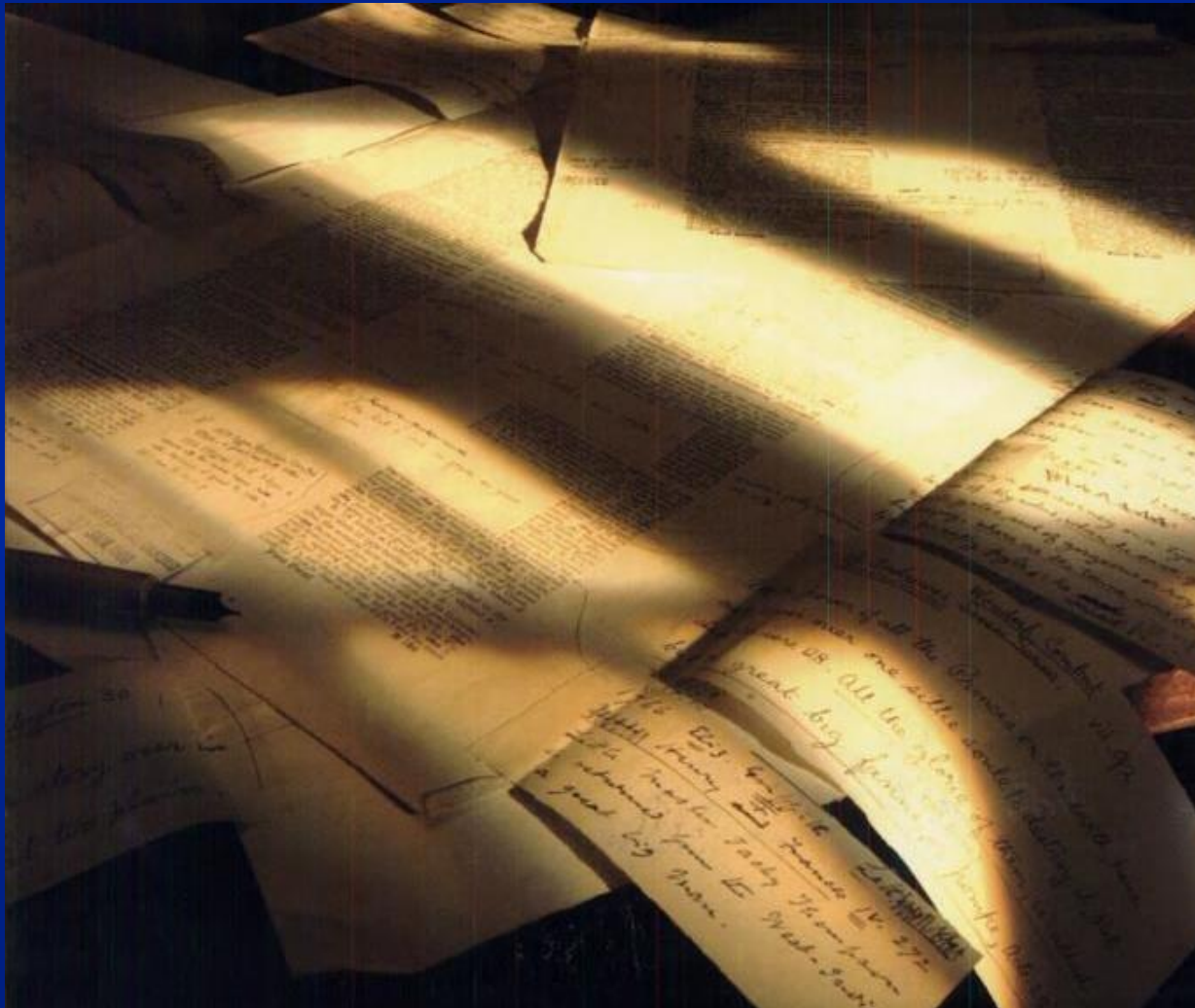
# Creating a dictionary entry

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- read through all the quotations for the word
- work out and define its different senses
- arrange the senses in chronological order, with each definition illustrated by a selection of quotations starting with the earliest known
- devise a structure of senses and subsenses which shows how these developed from each other
- write the pronunciation and etymology

# One page of Dictionary proofs, with corrections



## OED staff, 1915

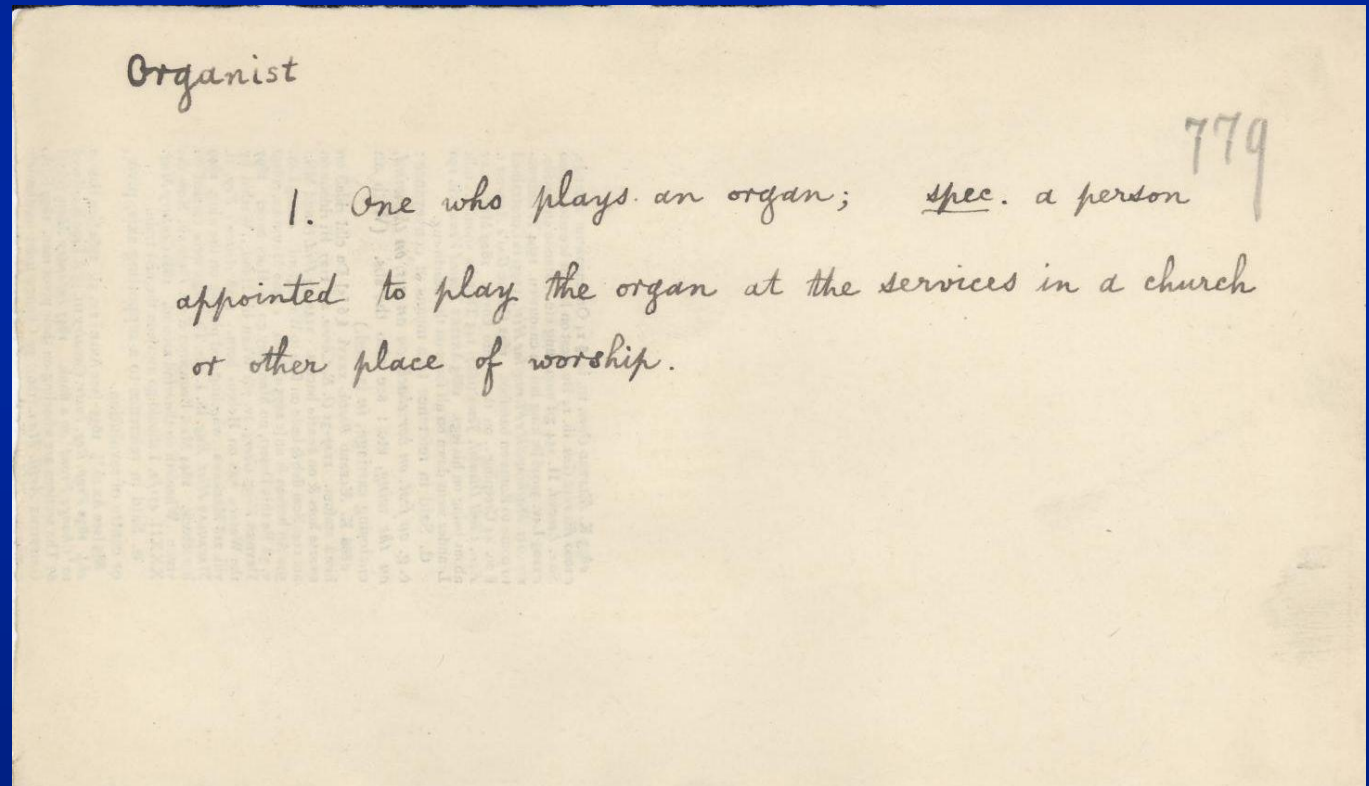


Murray and his assistants,  
in the Scriptorium

Onions, Bradley, and Craigie with their assistants,  
outside the Old Ashmolean



# Arthur Maling, assistant 1885–1928, and one of his slips for the word *organist*



# J. R. R. Tolkien, *OED* assistant 1919–20, and two of his slips for the word *walrus*



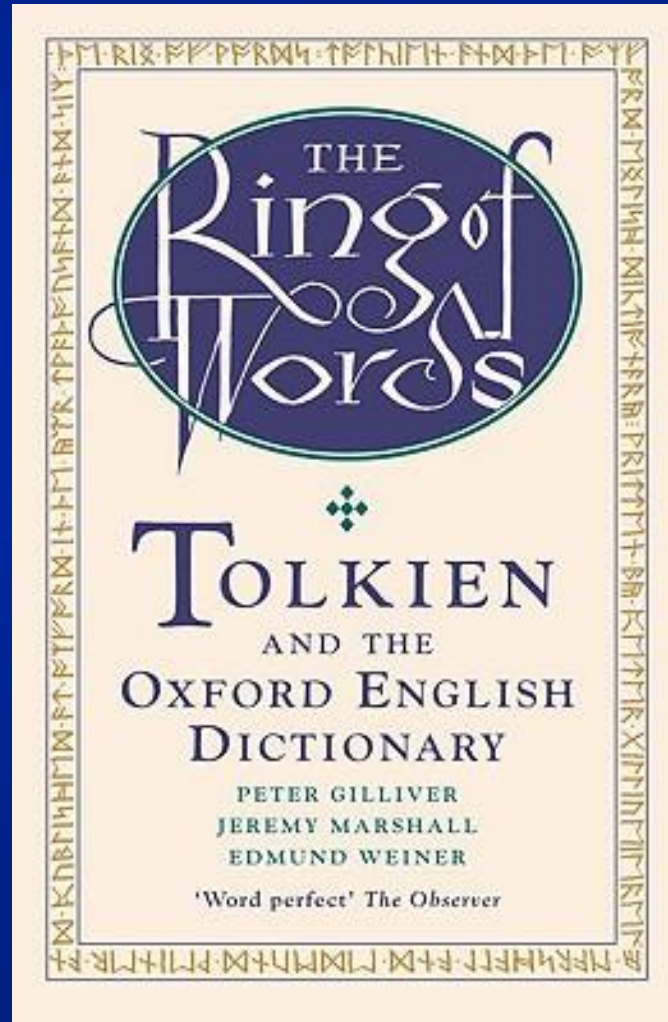
walrus, 949

Walrus (wɔː-lrʊs). Also s/pl. walruszes, g-russes.  
 [probably a. Du. walrus (walrus). Compare ¶(i) L.G.  
walrus, G. walrus (earlier also walrusz, walrusch), Sw.  
hwalross, valross (valross), Da. hwalros (earlier also  
hwalrusk), # walrus; (ii) ¶. OE. hōrschwal, early  
 mod. G. roszwal, ruszwal, Norw. russhval, # walrus, ? OFr.  
rohal (rohant, later rochal, cf. Du Cange rohanlum,  
-allum) walrus-ivory.  
 The forms under ¶(i) appear to be later than those under ¶(ii)  
 from which they, perch. arose (? in Du.) by metathesis and on  
 some analogy such as that of Du. walrusch whale.

OE. also earlier G. roszwal, ruszwal, Norw. russhval  
 ? OFr. rohal (rohant, later rochal by association with  
roche) walrus-ivory (but Du Cange rohanlum, -allum,  
 ).

This formation has been interpreted as 'horse-whale',  
 which is zoologically impossible and appears to be only one of  
 the popular etymologies that have influenced the forms of the  
 word. The existence of an ON. hrosshvalr  
 a kind of whale (not walrus) may have assisted this and  
 have been the origin even of the OE. form according to some  
 Alfred's record of the Scandinavian Athelwold's report. An  
 element in the puzzle certainly seems to be that speakers of  
 Southern Teut. languages heard and confused this word with

**COMMERCIAL BREAK.**  
Copies of *The Ring of Words*  
are available from all good booksellers.



# The completed first edition of *OED*, 1933

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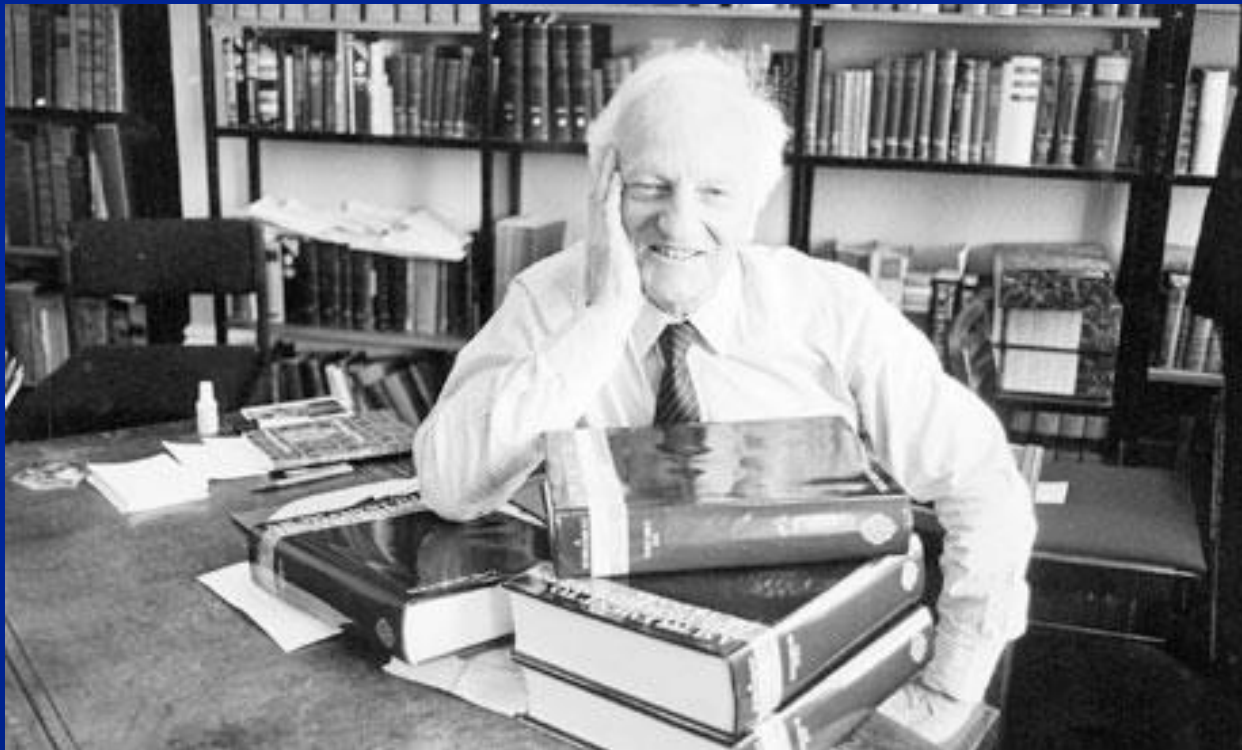
- 12 volumes, plus a 1-volume Supplement
- Over 16,000 pages
- Over 250,000 entries
- Approximately 2,000,000 quotations



# Oxford English dictionaries, 1933–1951

1933	First edition of <i>Shorter Oxford English Dictionary</i>
1934	Third edition of <i>Concise Oxford Dictionary</i> (first edition 1911, second edition 1929) Second edition of <i>Pocket Oxford Dictionary</i> (first edition 1924)
1936	Second edition of <i>SOED</i>
1937	Second edition of <i>Little Oxford Dictionary</i> (first edition 1930)
1939	Third edition of <i>POD</i>
1941	Third edition of <i>LOD</i>
1942	Fourth edition of <i>POD</i>
1944	Third edition of <i>SOED</i>
1951	Fourth edition of <i>COD</i>

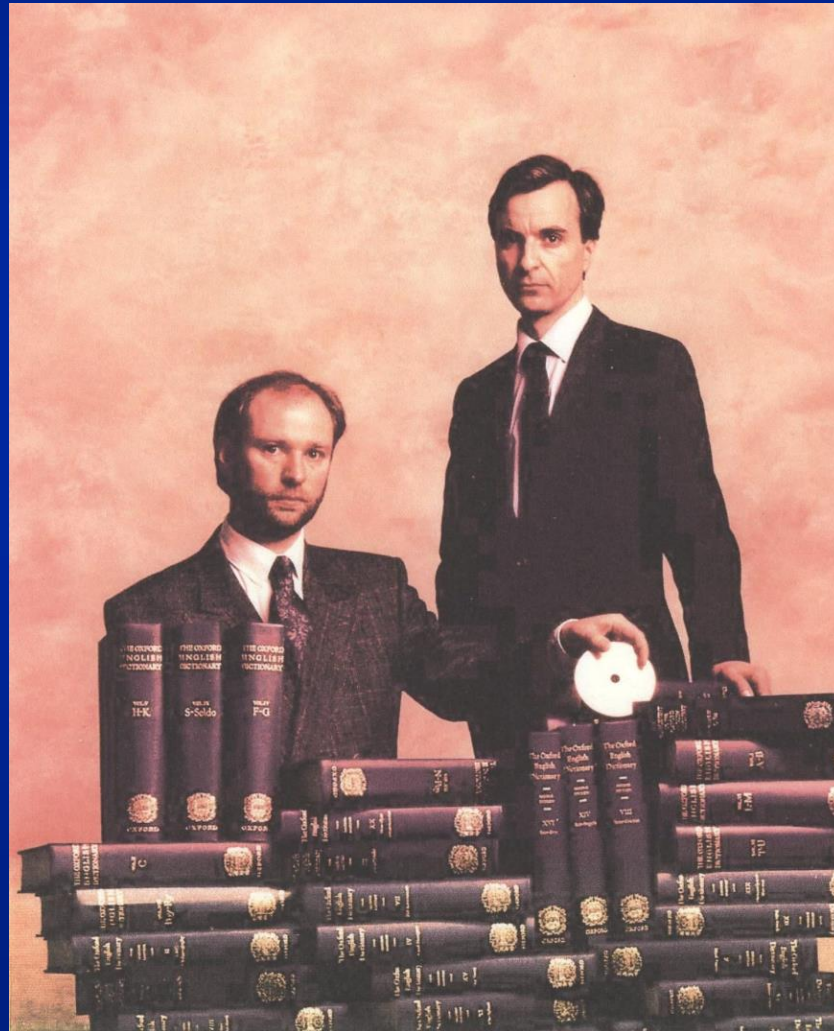
The revised *Supplement* to the *OED*:  
four volumes (expanded from one), published 1972–86



Robert Burchfield (1923–2004)  
with the four Supplement volumes

The second edition of the *OED* (*OED2*):  
first edition (*OED1*), plus four-volume Supplement,  
plus 5,000 additional new entries

John  
Simpson,  
Co-Editor



Edmund Weiner,  
Co-Editor

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# *OED*: the present

# Creating *OED3*

- 70 in-house lexicographers, researchers, and systems engineers; hundreds of specialist advisers
- Continuing to add new entries to cover new words and meanings
- Complete revision of every existing entry: definitions, quotations, arrangement of senses, pronunciation, etymology
- Online publication: a new batch of revised and new entries is published at [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com) every 3 months

# OED Online entry for Sudoku

## Sudoku, *n.*

Text size: A A

View as: [Outline](#) | [Full entry](#)

Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#)

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /su:'dɒku:/, /su:'dəʊku:/, /'su:dɒku:/, U.S. /sə'dou,ku/

**Forms:** 20– **Sudoku** (*irreg.*), 20– **Sudoku**, 20– **Su doku**. Also with lower-case initial.

**Etymology:** < Japanese *Sūdoku* (1984 or earlier) < *sū-* (in *sūji* number) + *-doku* (in *dokushin* single status), after *Sūji wa dokushin ni kagiru*, lit. 'the numbers are restricted to single status', former name of the puzzle.

Compare *Number Place*, name of a puzzle created in the U.S.A. by Howard Garns in 1979 (on which is modelled Japanese *Nanbā purēsu*, shortened to *Nanpure*, the generic name of the puzzle in Japan).

[\(Show Less\)](#)

A type of logic puzzle, the object of which is to fill a grid of nine squares by nine squares (subdivided into nine regions of three by three squares) with the numbers one to nine, in such a way that every number appears only once in each horizontal line, vertical line, and three-by-three subdivision. Also: any of various similar puzzles based on this, involving grids of different sizes, symbols rather than numbers, etc.


Some numbers (or symbols, etc.) are supplied at the start of the puzzle as a guide; the number and location of these dictates the difficulty of completing the puzzle.

- 2000 *New Pilot Files* (2 of 6) in *braunschweig.newfiles* (Usenet newsgroup) 24 Sept., Sudoku Number Place 0.2—Freeware Sudoku Number Place is a number puzzle that is simple yet entertaining.
- 2004 *Times* (Nexis) 12 Nov. (Features section) 15 The new numerical brain-teaser highlighted in T2, the game of Su Doku, is not just a sign of the intellectual Times.
- 2005 *Daily Tel.* 23 June 26/1 While the rules of this logic puzzle may be simple there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku.
- 2006 *Omaha* (Nebraska) *World-Herald* (Nexis) 7 May 1 E He's just driving, the car's visor snapped down against the yellow-orange of the setting sun, his wife working a Sudoku puzzle.

This is a new entry (OED Third Edition, September 2006).

[Publication history](#)  
[Entry profile](#)

In other dictionaries:

sudoku: quick current definition in Oxford Dictionaries Online 

Entry for *rodeo* in the first edition of  
*OED* (published 1909):  
earliest quotation is from 1834

|| **Rodeo** (*rodē·o*). *Amer.* [Sp. *rodeo* a going round, a cattle-ring, etc., f. *rodear* to go round.]

1. A driving together of cattle in order to separate, count, inspect, or mark them; a round-up. Also *attrib.*, as *rodeo-ground*.

→ 1834 DARWIN *Jrnl.* 16 Aug. in *Voy. Beagle* (1839) III. 311 Once every year there is a grand 'rodeo' when all the cattle are driven down, counted, and marked. 1851 *Laws California* xcii, Every owner of a stock farm shall be obliged to give yearly one general rodeo. 1891 B. HARTE *First Fam. Tasajara* vii, Her native-bred animal fondly believed that he was participating in a *rodeo*. 1892 GERTRUDE ATHERTON *Doomswoman* xxiv, The platform on one side of the circular rodeo-ground.

2. A place or enclosure where cattle are brought together for any purpose.

1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 24/1 To collect the herd once a week, driving them from all quarters to a *rodéo*, or circuit, where an account is taken of their numbers. 1866 *Athenæum* 24 Nov. 672/3 In fine weather they are left on the 'rodeo', a bare piece of ground near the house, to which they are driven to pass the night.

# Entry for *rodeo* in the second edition of OED (published 1989)

**rodeo** (rəʊ'deɪəʊ, 'rəʊdi:əʊ). orig. U.S. [Sp. *rodeo* a going round, a cattle-ring, etc., f. *rodear* to go round.]

1. A driving together of cattle in order to separate, count, inspect, or mark them; a round-up.

1834 DARWIN *Jrnl.* 16 Aug. in *Voy. Beagle* (1839) III. 311 Once every year there is a grand 'rodeo' when all the cattle are driven down, counted, and marked. 1851 *Laws*

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3. a. A public exhibition of skill, often in the form of a competition, in the riding of unbroken horses, the roping of calves, wrestling with steers, etc.

1914 B. M. BOWER *Flying U Ranch* 16 They have them rodeos on a Sunday, mostly, and they invite everybody to it, like it was a picnic. 1925 *Annual Rodeo Program* (Tucson, Arizona) 3 We extend a cordial invitation to you to come to Tucson for our Annual Rodeo. 1938 D. COOLIDGE *Arizona Cowboys* ii. 27 The round-up had just begun. They call it rodéo, in Spanish, but the cactus cowboys pronounced it rodér. The contest riders of today have given it another twist and call it ró-deo. 1940 *Arizona* (Arizona Work Projects Administration Writers' Project) 72 That distinctively western entertainment, the rodeo, was

originally an exhibition of cowboy skill in the regular activities of cattle ranch and range. But today it is largely commercialized and many of its features are of the circus type, remote from the cowpuncher's everyday life. 1950 *Manch. Guardian Weekly* 5 Oct. 6/2 Madison Square Garden is presently dedicated to Gene Autry and the annual rodeo. 1976 *Columbus* (Montana) *News* 27 May 1/4 One of those injured was a prime mover and instigator of this rodeo, Ed Miller, who is currently in St. Vincent's with a broken leg.

b. *transf.* A similar exhibition of competitive skill in the riding of motor-cycles, fishing, etc.; also used more generally of other types of competition. Also *fig.* Cf. ROADEO.

1927 *My Oklahoma* July 23/1 Oklahoma is going to have a state-wide baby rodeo next year. 1928 *Daily Express* 7 May 15/3 On Wednesday... a motor-cycle rodeo in the afternoon will be followed by a carnival procession through the town. 1940 *Sun* (Baltimore) 11 Sept. 1/7 Nazi bombers smashed at London with increasing violence early today in their fourth consecutive dusk-to-dawn rodeo of destruction. 1949 *Daily Progress* (Charlottesville, Va.) 22 Aug. 9/1 Entries for the fishing rodeo for youngsters here must be in by Thursday.


4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *rodeo circuit*, *clown*, *cowboy*, *ground*, *parade*, *queen*, *rider*, *riding* (*sb.* and *a.*).

1961 M. S. ROBERTSON *Rodeo* 101/1 The California Rodeo... is one of the Big Four, the rodeos whose pioneering and consistent greatness bridged the years from the inception of the 'cowboy tournaments' to the modern \*rodeo circuit. 1980 *Country Life* 13 Nov. 1819/1 He... started bronc riding in the rodeos... Demobbed, he returned to the rodeo



# Current revised version of *OED* entry for *rodeo* (simplified)

## **rodeo** *n.*

- 
1. **[2]** A place or enclosure where cattle are confined, esp. in a round-up. Now *hist.* and *rare*.  
1811
  2. **[1]** Chiefly in the western United States: a driving together of cattle to be counted, registered, branded, etc.; a round-up. Now chiefly *hist.*  
1819
  3. **[3]** **a. [a]** Chiefly in the western United States and western Canada: a public exhibition or competition demonstrating traditional cowboy skills, such as riding bulls or unbroken horses, roping calves, and wrestling steers.  
Found earliest in sources relating to Chile. In early use freq. denoting such an exhibition or competition as part of a round-up; see sense 2.  
1824  
**b.** *fig.* and in allusive use: an activity, place, or thing regarded as spirited, boisterous, disorganized, wild, etc.  
1917  
**c. [b]** orig. and chiefly *N. Amer.* An exhibition or competition demonstrating any skill; (more generally) any competition or show. **not one's first (time at the) rodeo** and variants: one is not inexperienced or naive. Cf. *ROADEO n.*  
1927
  4. **[news2009]** In snowboarding: a type of aerial manoeuvre combining a flip with a rotation.  
1996

# rodeo, *n.*

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**Pronunciation:** Brit. /'rəʊdiəʊ/ , /rə(ʊ)'deɪəʊ/ , U.S. /'roudi,ou/ , /rou'deɪou/

**Inflections:** Plural *rodeos*, (*rare*) *rodeoes*.

**Forms:** 18 *rodéo*, 18– *rodeo*.

**Etymology:** < Spanish (originally American Spanish) *rodeo* place or enclosure where cattle are rounded up (1802), cattle round-up (although this sense is first attested later: 1843 or earlier), specific uses of *rodeo* act of going round (first half of the 13th cent.) < *rodear* to go round, to cause to go round (first half of the 13th cent.; < classical Latin *rotāre* (see *ROTATE* *v.*) + Spanish *-ear*, suffix forming verbs, especially frequentative verbs). In quot. 1819 at [sense 2](#) via French †*rodeo* round-up (1819 in the passage translated; rare before 20th cent.; now *rodéo*, and usually in sense 'public exhibition or competition demonstrating traditional cowboy skills' (1923 in this sense, after English)).

The stress of the Spanish word is on the penultimate syllable. In English, pronunciations closely resembling the Spanish pronunciation are frequent in areas of former Spanish settlement in the western United States, especially in California and the southwest. Alongside these, *Dict. Amer. Regional Eng.* (at cited word) records various naturalized pronunciations which show shift of stress to the first syllable (so especially in Midwestern and eastern states) and/or substitution of /i/ for Spanish /e/ or its naturalized equivalent /eɪ/ in the second syllable.

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orig. *U.S.*

**1.** A place or enclosure where cattle are confined, esp. in a round-up. Now *hist.* and *rare*.

[Thesaurus »](#)

[Substitutes](#)

1811 *Scots Mag.* Nov. 817/1 All the herds, who are feeding at liberty, run and unite in an open place marked out, called the rodeo: they are kept there for some time.

1821 *Monthly Mag.* 31 Jan. 622/1 They pursue the same method with the horses, which they collect not in the *rodeo*, but in the farm-yard.

1866 *Athenæum* 24 Nov. 672/3 In fine weather they are left on the 'rodeo', a bare piece of ground near the house, to which they are driven to pass the night.

1893 A. CHAPMAN & W. J. BUCK *Wild Spain* v.62 The bull finds this man between him and his companions in the *rodéo*, to whom he would now fain return.

1917 W. H. KOEBEL *Brit. Exploits S. Amer.* xxiv. 497 When he mustered cattle, it was to a *rodeo* that he galloped.

# Sense 1 of *rodeo* in OED Online, showing Historical Thesaurus links

**Etymology:** < Spanish (originally American Spanish) *rodeo* place or enclosure where up (1802), cattle round-up (although this sense is first attested later: 1843 or earlier), *rodeo* act of going round (first half of the 13th cent.) < *rodear* to go round, to cause to go round (first half of the 13th cent.); < classical Latin *rotāre* (see *ROTATE* *v.*) + Spanish *-ear*, suffix forming frequentative verbs). In quot. 1819 at sense 2 via French *troupeau* round-up (1819 in the *Dict. Amer.* cited word) records various naturalized pronunciations which show shift of stress to the especially in Midwestern and eastern states) and/or substitution of /i/ for Spanish /e/ or equivalent /eɪ/ in the second syllable.

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## Thesaurus

the external world » the living world » food and drink » farming » animal husbandry » keeping of cattle » [noun] » enclosing cattle » enclosure for cattle  
rack-yard (1765)  
lobby (1778)  
wro (1808)  
rodeo (1811)  
lair (1865)  
lairage (1883)  
ox yard (1885)

Thesaurus »  
Categories »

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- Search by language of origin
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- Search by subject, or language register (colloquial, etc.)
- Search by any of these in combination

## *OED*: the future

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- Possibilities for linking to *OED* entries directly from words in electronic text as the reader encounters them
- New projects investigating particular varieties of English: e.g. a community-based dictionary database for Philippine English
- Completing *OED3*: likely to take another 20 years or so

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