PREFACE

Dryden remarks in his Preface to the Fables (1700):

'Tis with a Poet, as with a Man who designs to build, and is very exact, as he supposes, in casting up the Cost beforehand: But, generally speaking, he is mistaken in his Account, and reckons short of the Expence he first intended: He alters his Mind as the Work proceeds, and will have this or that Convenience more, of which he had not thought when he began. So has it hapned to me; I have built a House, where I intended but a Lodge.

This comment came into my mind when it became apparent that the material in the letters after G could not easily be contained in the two further volumes that were promised when Volume I (A–G) was published in 1972. This second volume of the Supplement ends with N, and there will be two further volumes. The fourth volume will include an extensive Bibliography of works cited in the new Supplement.

The main lines of policy laid down in the first volume are retained in this one, but the material in our quotation files has continued to expand and this expansion is reflected in the vocabulary included in the present volume. It would be difficult to describe every aspect of ‘this or that Convenience more’ included in the range H–N. Some of the new areas explored are mentioned in papers that I delivered to the Philological Society in 19731 and to the Royal Society of Arts in 1975.2 Others have been dealt with more briefly in several papers on miscellaneous topics.3 The main conclusions of these papers are, among others, that (i) offensiveness to a particular group, minority or otherwise, is unacceptable as the sole ground for the exclusion of any word or class of words from the O.E.D.; (ii) it is therefore desirable to enter new racial and religious terms however opprobrious they may seem to those to whom they are applied and often to those who have to use them, or however controversial the set of beliefs professed by the members of minority sects; (iii) it is also desirable, in order to avoid misunderstanding and consequent hostility, that the somewhat antiquated historical record of words like Jesuit, Jew, Negro, nigger, and others already treated in the O.E.D. should be brought up to date. These things we have done. Proprietary terms are of more than routine concern to lexicographers and I have endeavoured to establish a policy which safeguards scholarly standards while not doing anything to imperil the proprietary rights of the owners of such terms. It gave me particular pleasure that the United States Trademark Association reprinted my 1973 comments on the subject as part of a regular issue of The Trademark Reporter.4

For new general vocabulary we have repeatedly and profitably turned to North American sources, including long runs of regional American and Canadian newspapers as well as more traditional sources like the New York Times and the New Yorker, in addition to the principal publications of the United Kingdom. We have given somewhat more attention in this volume

than in the last to the special vocabulary of the West Indies and, nearer home, of Scotland. The rapid expansion of work in all the sciences has been fully taken into account: anyone interested in the history of scientific words will find much of permanent value in the pages that follow. The terms of the printing industry and the names of plants and animals have continued to yield lexical material of considerable interest. The historical treatment of words again provides many surprises: for example, minibus is recorded from 1845, and muggling, in its now current sense, turns out to be much older than most people supposed.

Most people, at one time or another, treat words 'as if they are people—beautiful, delinquent, degenerate, regal'. My colleagues and I, who prepared this volume, are no exceptions to the general rule. We do not personally approve of all the words and phrases that are recorded in this dictionary nor necessarily condone their use by others. Nevertheless, in our function as 'marshalls of words', we have set them all down as objectively as possible to form a permanent record of the language of our time, the useful and the neutral, those that are decorous and well-formed, beside those that are controversial, tasteless, or worse.

The late Professor Atcheson L. Hench (University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia) let it be known before his death in 1974 that he wished us to have access to the Hench Collection, a large miscellaneous collection of quotations from Virginian and other newspapers from about 1930 onward. As a result, the Sun (Baltimore) and the Richmond News-Leader, together with some other daily papers from various cities in the Eastern and Southern United States, appear fairly frequently in entries from the letter M onward. Professor W. R. G. Branford and the staff of the forthcoming Dictionary of South African English, especially Mr. John Walker, made valuable contributions to our South African English items, as did also Professor N. G. Sabbagh and Mr. N. van Blerk. Professor K. Koike (especially) and other Japanese scholars have assisted us with the entries for words of Japanese origin, and Dr. L. V. Malakhovski with words from Russian. In 1975 Professor G. A. Wilkes (University of Sydney) allowed us to copy his valuable collection of quotations for Australian colloquialisms and there was time to add some of these to the relevant Australian items in the later letters of this volume. Our indebtedness to G. & C. Merriam Co., described in Volume I, was as great as ever, and I should like to restate our gratitude to Dr. H. B. Woolf and to his successor Dr. F. Mish for their continuing co-operation. Mr. Clarence L. Barnhart and Professor F. G. Cassidy have also made important contributions to this volume by supplying quotations from their dictionary files.

The major libraries in Oxford, London, and Washington, and numerous other libraries in other cities in various parts of the world, continued to give us every possible support as we continued with our work of research and verification. We were able to overcome the difficulties naturally resulting from the dispersal of books and periodicals to new areas distant from the main centres. Special mention should be made of the access to temporary book-stacks allowed to my scientific assistants by the Librarian of the Radcliffe Science Library in Oxford during a period of great upheaval while new sections of the main library were being built.

Sadly not all those who were associated with the Supplement survived to see the publication of this volume. Of members of staff, Miss Elizabeth Brommer died in 1972, a few months before the publication of A–G. Mrs. Joan Blackler (my secretary from 1966 to 1974) and Mrs. Peggy Kay (part-time library researcher from 1967 onward) both died in 1975. The following Contributors or Outside Consultants have also died since Volume I was published in 1972: Professor

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3 Adopting Joseph Trapp's description of Dryden as 'the best Marshall of words' as a phrase that comes as near as possible to a description of the perfect historical lexicographer, bearing in mind the O.E.D. definition of marshal, v. (sense 3) as 'to dispose, arrange or set (things, material or immaterial) in methodical order'.
Sir Godfrey Driver, Mr. W. Granville, Professor A. L. Hench, Dr. M. D. W. Jeffreys, Dr. D. Lack, Mr. J. C. Maxwell, Dr. L. F. Powell, Mrs. Stefanyja Ross, and Miss Phyllis Trapp.

To the list of Contributors in Volume I the name of Dr. D. S. Brewer should be added. Major contributors of quotations in the period 1972–75 included the following: Professor W. S. Avis, D. J. Barr, G. Chowdhary-Best, C. Collier, Professor M. Eccles, R. Hall, T. F. Hoad, Dom Sylvester Houédard, Miss M. Laski, Dr. D. Leechman, Dr. J. Lyman, Professor J. B. McMillan, Mrs. J. M. Marson, Mrs. M. Y. Offord, and D. Shulman. Of these, Miss Laski, Dr. Leechman, Mrs. Offord, Mrs. Marson, and Mr. Chowdhary-Best contributed altogether approximately 70,000 quotations and all the others named supplied between 1,000 and 3,000 quotations each. Smaller, but valuable, sets of quotations were received from numerous others, including the Revd. H. E. G. Rope, R. E. Hawkins, and Mrs. Darlune McColl.

To the list of outside Proof-Readers the names of M. W. Grose, T. F. Hoad, and Dr. Kendon Stubbs should now be added.

The following new Outside Consultants have assisted us in addition to most of those named in Volume I: A. D. Alderson, Professor W. S. Avis, Dr. R. P. Beckinsale, Professor T. Burrow, Sir Alexander Cairncross, Professor Elizabeth Carr, Miss P. Cooray, Dr. S. T. Cowan, M. P. Furnston, B. Greenhill, Professor O. R. Gurney, R. Hall, Professor C. Hart, P. A. Hayward, Dr. R. Hunter, Dr. Russell Jones, Professor J. B. McMillan, Dr. C. I. McMorran, E. Mendelson, Professor G. B. Milner, D. D. Murison, P. H. Nye, Dr. K. P. Oakley, Dr. A. B. Paterson, Professor Dr. I. Poldaup, and N. G. Phillips.

This second volume contains about 13,000 Main Words divided into some 22,000 senses. There are a little under 8,000 defined Combinations within the articles and just over 5,000 undefined Combinations. The illustrative quotations number 125,000.

Finally, the Editor would like to record his personal indebtedness to the following for assistance on many matters: Dr. J. B. Sykes, Deputy Chief Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary and Editor of the Concise Oxford Dictionary (1976), for valuable advice and co-operation at all times; Mr. A. J. Augarde, who has now moved across to the smaller Oxford dictionaries after a long period of service on the Supplement to the O.E.D.; the Managers and staff of the branches of the Oxford University Press for their efficiency and encouragement during the Editor’s lecture tours of the Far East, the United States, South Africa, and elsewhere in 1972 and in 1974; his colleagues at St. Peter’s College in Oxford; and, most particularly, his colleagues and assistants on the Dictionary staff itself, especially for their endurance and perseverance at many times when industrial and economic difficulties had their impact upon the O.E.D. Department as upon every other section of the community.

R.W.B.

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