WORM—WYZEN

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PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 1,522 Main words, 650 Special Combinations explained under these, 1,216 Obvious Combinations, and 1,100 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 4,488 entries. Of the Main words 660 are marked \* as obsolete.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words recorded</th>
<th>Castell's 'Encyclopaedic' and Suppl.</th>
<th>Century Dict. and Suppl.</th>
<th>Here.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>1,174</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>4,488</td>
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<td>258</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>3,490</td>
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<td>1,263</td>
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<td>2,066</td>
<td>20,077</td>
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In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 1,188.

Of the words treated here in the portion outside Wt—, the most important and most numerous are of Old English origin; the chief of these are: wise sb., wise adj., wish vb., wi/s sb., wi/s vb. (from which come, by different analogical movements, wis vb., wis vb., as well as weet vb.), with (covering nearly 10 pages) and its important derivatives withal, within, and without (filling another 5 pages). With, withy, witness, wise, wood, wo (with a remarkable history as interjection, adverb, noun, and adjective), wold, wolf, woman, womb, won (to dwell), wonder, won sb. (dwelling), wo, wood, woof, woold, work, world, worm, worry vb., worse and worst, worship sb., wort, worth sb., worth adj. (and + worthe), wort vb., wouth sb., sb.\(\!\)\(^{2}\), and adj., wound, + wulder, + wyle\(\!\) (warrior, man). Of this list several have Indo-European relations of various degrees, viz. wæll sb. and vb., withy, witness, wo, woold, wood sb., wood adj., wool, work, worm, and wort; others are purely Germanic formations, as wis, won vb., world, worry, worse and worst, worth sb., adj., and vb.; a few are peculiarly English, viz. woman, wo sb., and worship sb. Some early Middle English coinages deserve special mention on account of their subsequent importance: with sb., withal, witness vb., woeful, worship vb., and worthy adj. Interesting dialectal survivals of Old or Middle English words are seen in wooth, woot (hairy caterpillar) and wough (wall). Loanwords from Scandinavian are not numerous: the most important are witnessman, witness sb.\(\!\) and adj., witty, wroth sb.\(\!\) and sb., wothe. Borrowings from Low Dutch are still fewer: wisse, wissershine, woold, and possibly woodwall. The only considerable adoption from Anglo-French is + wynn, whence wyvern. A fairly numerous list of words is contributed by non-European languages, among them being witi, wotam, wong-wong, woodchuck (and woodchuck), woolsaw, wo, woarly, woote, + worral, + wor, + wory, + warly; wistow and wistie are originally onomatopoeic. Russia supplies Wogul (more properly Vogul), and Poland wischoura; woodoo is Turkish. Derivation from proper names is illustrated by + Witham, withamite, Winney, withichone, Woodbury, woollastonite, Wooleitch, Worcester, Worcestershire, Wormian, Woulfe, wulfenite, wurtite, Wyandotte, Wychita, Wyck, Wyckamist, etc., Wychamist, and, best known of all, worsted. Interesting and difficult problems of etymological origin abound, and are exemplified in the following articles among others: wisacre, wisful, wisch sb., wether vb., wlettes, within and without, wisicism, woodwall with woodwall, woa, woe-bone, wolfram, done sb.\(\!\) and sb., woot sb., workaday, wormwood, wortle, wulicoat, woype.
PREFATORY NOTE

Special historical or antiquarian interest attaches to with sb., wist sb., witan and wilenagemot, witereden, witheram, woman’s or women’s rights and new woman, wong, woodcut (earlier wooden cut), woodtern, wooden horse, shoe, spoon, and walls, woodhouse (woodhouse), woodsack, workhouse, working class, working-man, and worth sb.¹ The specifically United States use of woods in combination is to be remarked in woods-craft and woodsman, as well as in the less well known woods-camp, woods-smell, and the like; other Americanisms worth notice are witness-stand, woopy, wokey, the worst kind, and (originally) for all one is worth. Among notable Scotticisms are witselike, workloom (wark-), worricow, and woup.

The words beginning with the combination Wr- form a special group which is almost entirely of Germanic, and largely of native English, origin. Except in certain dialects, the w is now silent in the words which are still current; a large proportion of those formerly in use have either become obsolete or are retained only in dialects, and sometimes barely survive even in these. Among those which go back to Old English the more important are the nouns wrack sb.,¹ wrath, wreath, wren, wretch, wright, wrist, wret, the adjective wroth, and the verbs wrack, wrack, wret, wrestle, wring, write, wretie, wry. Among those which first appear in Middle English are wrack sb.,² wreck, wrench sb.,² wringer, wrinkle, writing, the adjs. wrathful, wretched, wrinkled, wrong, wrongful, and the verbs wrack, wrangle, wrapp (of obscure origin), wreck, wriggle, wrong. Among the sixteenth-century additions are wrangle sb., wrangler, wreath vb., wrinkle vb., wry adj. and adv.; similar formations on earlier stems continue to be added in the later period, as wrappage, wrathly (U.S.), wreckage, wrecker, wristlet, wirtable.

A limited number of the Middle English words appear to have been adopted from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German, and of these only wrangle and wriggle have obtained a place in the ordinary English vocabulary. The one important adoption from Old Norse is wrong. Among those of which the origin is obscure the most notable is the Scottish turaith. The sole non-Germanic word of any importance is the Cornish wraisse.

The interest of the wr- words is mainly linguistic, but items of a historical or legal nature occur under Wrangler 10, Wreck sb.¹ 1, Wreck-free a., Writ sb. 3, Writer 2, Writing vb. sb. 8 b, Wrong sb. 9 c, Wrong-doer 2.