

PREFACE TO LETTERS X, Y, Z

THIS portion of the Dictionary, which treats of the words beginning with X, Y, and Z, and thus forms the final section of the whole work, contains in all 4746 entries. Of that number 1722 are Main words, 2312 are Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., of which 1084 are compounds of the prefix *y-*, 216 are Special combinations, and 496 are Obvious combinations not requiring explanation. Of the Main words 1311 are still in current use, 270 are now obsolete, and 141 are alien or not completely naturalized. The number of illustrative quotations for the three letters is 12,580, of which X supplies 557, Y 9900, and Z 2123.*

Of the three letters dealt with in this section, X and Z are alike in comprising very little that is not of alien origin, whereas Y, except for certain words from Eastern or aboriginal languages, is Germanic. The history of the letters themselves is of unusual interest; the necessity of cross-references from one to the other indicating their points of contact is a remarkable feature. The name *yogh* of the Middle English letter ȝ finds a place in a dictionary for the first time here. The various monosyllabic names of Z, viz. *zad*, *zard*, *zed*, *zee*, are recorded in their several alphabetical places. Words having initial X are with few exceptions derived ultimately from Greek, and are of a technical character. *X rays* and *Xylonite* are the only two that are generally familiar. The oriental *xebec*, the town-name *Xeres* (the original of *sherry*), and the abbreviation *Xmas* are worthy of note. The vocabulary of Z is larger and more varied. The most important Greek derivatives, mostly acquired through the medium of Latin, are *zeal* with its connexions *zealous*, *zealot*, *zelator*, and *zelotic*, *zephyr*, *zetetic*, *zeugma*, *Zeus*, *zizany*, *zizyphus*, *zone*, and the groups of words depending on ζῶή life, ζῶον animal (including *zodiac*), ζυγόν yoke, and ζύμη ferment. The number of words traceable to some Semitic language is considerable: among them are *zagaie*, *Zamzummin*, *zarf*, *zariba*, *zarnich*, *zecchin*, *zedoary*, *zenith*, *zero*, *zibet*, *ziczac*, *Zion*, *ziraleet*, *zuz*. From India comes the following, several being of Persian origin: *zamorin*, *zayat*, *zemindar*, *zenana*, *zendik*, *zerumbet*, *zillah*, *zumbooruk*. The Romance languages have supplied some dozen words; *zest* and *zouave* come directly from French, while *zany* and *zero* have a Franco-Italian origin; in *sendalet* and *zucchetto* we have perversion or misuse of Italian words; from Spanish come *zabra*, *zamarra*, *zambo*, *zambra*, *zorro*, *zumbador*. German we have *zeitgeist*, *Zeppelin*, *zinc*, *zinke*, *zither*, *zizel*, *zollverein*, *zwanziger*, together with most of the names of minerals, which are extraordinarily numerous, and comprise *zaraitite*, *zeagonite*, *zeilanite*, *zeolite*, *zeuncrite*, *zircon*, etc., *zorgite*, *zunyite*, *zurlite*, *zwieselite*, *zygadite*. From Slavonic languages are *zemni*, *zibeline* (through French), *zlotnik*; from languages of Africa, *zebrá* and *Zulu*; from Turkish *zaptieh*, from Tibetan *zho*, from Mexican *zopilote*. South African Dutch gives *zuur-veldt*, and the artificial invention *Zarp*, which has an analogue in the recently coined *Anzac*. Articles of etymological interest or curiosity will be found under the headings *zamia*, *zegedine*, *Zend-Avesta*, *zenic*, *zest* sb.¹, and *zoea*.

The outstanding characteristic of the letter Y is its wealth of ancient monosyllables; a large number of them are in very common use at the present day, such as *yard*, *yarn*, *yawn*, *yea*, *year*, *yearn*, *yeast*, *yell*, *yelp*, *yes*, *yet* adv., *yew*, *yield*, *yoke*, *yolk*, *yore*, *you* and *your*, *young*, *youth*; others are obsolete, archaic, or dialectal, such as *yain*, *yair*, *yap*, *yare*, *yark*, *yarm*, *yate*, *ye*, *yean*, *yed*, *yeie*, *yeke*, *yeld*, *yelt*, *yeme*, *yeo*, *yepe*, *yern*, *yerr*, *yet* vb., *yex*, *yisse*, *yore*, *yote*, *ythe*, *yule*, *yure*. Other important words of native origin are *yarrow* (the plant), *yellow*, *yesterday*, and the obsolete *yever* and *yomer*. Extraordinarily interesting examples of survival of Old English words in modern dialect are *yarrow* adj., *yed*, *yeo* sb.¹, *yes* sb.¹, *yeender*, and *youster*. Y includes a large class of words of an (ultimately) onomatopœic or echoic character; besides those which have their origin in Common Germanic, and are included in the list given above, there are many others that seem to have taken their rise within the borders

* The scale of this work compared with that of some other large dictionaries for this portion of the alphabet is exhibited by the following figures:—

	Johnson 1755	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl.	'Century' Dict. and Suppl.	Here.	
Words recorded	X	none	396**	286	
	Y	96	592	3443	
	Z	31	653**	1017	
	TOTAL	127	1641	2335	4746
Words illustrated by quotations	X	none	36	262	
	Y	82	187	2290	
	Z	16	138	818	
	TOTAL	98	361	511	3370
Number of quotations	X	none	37	557	
	Y	303	287	754	9900
	Z	52	151	231	2123
	TOTAL	355	475	1016	12,580

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 380.

** These high figures are due to the inclusion in these encyclopædic lexicons of many Latin names belonging to the systematic terminology of zoology and botany which do not fall within the scope of this Dictionary.

of English itself; such are *yabble*, *yack*, *yaff*, *yaffle*, *yammer*, *yamph*, *yap*, *yar(r)*, *yawl*, *yawp*, *yaw-yaw*, *yike*, *yirr*, *yo-ho*, *yoll*, *yoop*, *youf*, *yow*, *yowf*, *yowl*, *yowt*; of these several express the barking or yelping of dogs. But a great part of Y consists of compounds formed with the prefix Y-, such as the following, not a few of which have a history of several centuries continued down to the modern period by archaistic usage: *yblent*, *yblessed*, *yborn*, *ybound* *yclad*, *yclept*, *ycore*, *ydight*, *y-end*, *yfed*, *yfere*, *yfound*, *yhere*, *ykid*, *yknow*, *ylike*, *ymong*, *ypent*, *ywroken*, *ywrought*. In addition to these, there is a multitude of subordinate entries recording Middle English forms of past participles and other words, and thus illustrating with detailed evidence the facts set out in the article on the prefix. Materials of another kind useful for the study of historical English grammar will be found in the numerous entries of dialectal by-forms with initial *ya-*, *ye-*, *yi-*, *yo-*, arising from the development of an Old English *éa*, *éo*, into *yá*, *yó*, or the prothesis of a y-glide to an *e* or *i* sound; some of these forms are of sufficient importance to receive the status of Main words, e.g. the Scottish *yill* (= ale) and *yird* (= earth). From alien languages the chief loans are *yacht*, *yawl*, *yokindale*, *younker*, *yuffrouw* from Dutch or Low German, *yarpha*, *yemsel*, *Yggdrasil*, *yolster* from Scandinavian, *yager*, *yiddish*, *yodel* from Modern German, *yam*², *yamstchik*, *yourt*, *yuft* from Russian, *yaboo*, *yercum*, *yoga*, *yogi*, *yoni*, *yug* from various languages of India; *yaourt* (or *yoghurt*), *yataghan*, and *yelek* are Turkish, *yashmak* Arabic, *yamun* and *yulan* Chinese, *yen* Japanese, *yak* Tibetan, *yucca* Carib, *ylang-ylang* Tagalog; *yam*¹, *yapock*, *yapon*, *yarak*, *yari-yari*, *yarke*, *yarran*, *yate* sb., *yaws* originate mostly in languages of uncivilized peoples, and their immediate source is not in every case ascertainable.

This section involves no very difficult problems of sense-development, but a few articles may be mentioned in which the presentation of meaning and usage reveals points of interest; such are *ye* and *you*, *yes*, *yet*, *yield*, *young lady*, *young man*. Problems of etymology are more conspicuous, and it would be possible to draw up a lengthy list of articles in which these have been treated with fuller evidence than hitherto; the following are representative:—the prefix *y-* and the six suffixes *-y*, *yankee*, *yawn*, *yeender*, *yeie*, *yellow-hammer*, *yelve*, *yeo* sb.¹, *yeoman*, *yepsen*, *yere*, *yerk*, *yesterday*, *yfere* adv., *yode*, *yokel*, *yokindale*, *yolk* sb.², *yon*, *yong* sb. and vb., *yule*. Students of Spenser will be interested in the conjecture recorded s. v. *yond* adj.²

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