

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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O — OZYAT.

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PREFATORY NOTES.

O—Onomastic. This contains 2239 Main words, 269 Combinations explained under these, and 539 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., 3047 in all. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated under the Main words, but not requiring individual explanation, number 518 more, making a total of 3565 words. Of the Main words 1610 are now current English, 538 (24 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 91 (4 %) as || alien, or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, O to <i>Onomastic</i>	384	1444	1965	2086	3565
Words illustrated by quotations	298	456	621	181	2911
Number of illustrative quotations	1055	735	1938	244	14276

The quotations in Richardson, *O to Onomastic*, are 859.

The contents of this first section are fairly representative of the English vocabulary. They comprise a number of words of Teutonic origin, exemplified by the substantives *oak, oar, oat, oath*, the adjective OLD (which in its current uses covers so wide a field), the numeral and pronoun ONE, with its derivatives *once* and *only*, the adverbs *oft, often*, and the prepositions OF, *off*, ON. As already seen in *at, by, for, from, in*, the prepositions are among the most difficult words with which the lexicographer has to deal, and OF is, for special reasons stated under the head 'General Signification', probably the most difficult of the prepositions, to the concisest possible treatment of which many weeks of work and some twenty columns of space, with 955 quotations, have had to be given. On the whole, these words from OF to ONLY are the characteristic feature of the section. Among the words derived from Latin, directly or through French, are those formed with the prefix *ob-* (*oc-, of-*), including the many hundred derivatives which cluster round *obey* (*obedience, obedient, obedientiary*, etc.), *object* (*objection, objective*), *oblation, oblige, oblique, obscure, obsequy, observe* (*observatory*), *obstruct, obtain, occasion, occult, occupy, offence, offend, offer, offertory, office* (*officer, official, officinal*); also, the words *odour, oil, olive, omen, onion*, and the many compounds of *octo-* and *omni-*. Greek is represented by *oasis* (originally an African word), *æsofhagus*, and by groups of scientific or technical terms, in *ochlo-, octa, æco-, æno-, oligo-*, etc. From distant languages we have *obang, obeah* or *obi, ocelot, oka, okro, olla, omrah*. Among words possessing particular interest, in respect of history, etymology, or use, we have ODD, originally, in Norse, the point of a triangle, hence the third or unpaired one of a set of three, or the unpaired or uneven member of any group, with various qualitative applications, including the former sense of 'eminent, unequalled' as in Fuller's 'odde man indeed'. It is noteworthy that the positive sense of *odd* is peculiarly English: in most languages it is expressed merely by the negation of *even* or *equal*. Other noteworthy words are *oaf, oakum, oast, ocean, 'od* ('*od's bodikins*!), *oddfellow, ogee, ogive, ogre* (not related to *Ugrian*), *oleomargarine, olio, oliver* (hammer), *omelet, omer, omnibus, omnium, omnium-gatherum, oncosi*, and the curious old Exchequer term *o.ni.* or *oni*. Among the phrases, *obstacle-race, odour of sanctity, and oil upon the waters*, exemplify the varied elements of the *olla podrida* here presented.

Onomastical—Outing. This contains 2452 Main words, 212 Combinations explained under these, and 476 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., 3140 in all. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated under the Main words, but not requiring individual explanation, number 745 more, making a total of 3885 words. Of the 2452 Main words, 1828 are now current English, 478 (19½ %) are marked † as obsolete, and 146 (5¾ %) as || alien, or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures :-

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Onomastical to Outing</i>	340	1664	2190	2438	3885
Words illustrated by quotations	257	459	572	201	2857
Number of illustrative quotations	854	740	1656	262	13253

The quotations in Richardson, *Onomastical to Outing*, are 761.

To the student of the English Language the most important features of this section will probably be its historical treatment of the adjective pronoun OTHER with its numerous compounds, the possessive pronoun OUR (*ourn, ours, ourself, ourselves*), the auxiliary verb OUGHT, the conjunction OR, with its earlier and fuller form *other* (the history of which is here for the first time worked out), the adverbs OR = before, and OUT with its prepositional extension *out of*. OUT is one of the greatest of our native adverbial prefixes, as is seen from the general historical article on pp. 243-246, in which are classified 475 compounds, while 775 others are treated as Main words in the following 100 columns. An interesting point in the history of *out-*, as a prefix forming verbs with the force of surpassing or outdoing (OUT-17-23), is the great extension of this use which began about 1600, and the share therein of Shakspeare, as our earliest authority for many *out-* verbs, and the introducer of the phrases of which the earliest types are 'our prayers do out-pray his', 'he hath outvillained villainy', 'outfrown false Fortune's frown', 'it out-Herods Herod'. (See OUT-23 a, b.) Phrases of this kind, and, indeed, *out-* verbs as a class, were apparently eschewed by Shakspeare's contemporary, Bacon; and it is noteworthy that, while Shakspeare uses 54 of these verbs, for 38 of which he is our first, and for 9 of them our only authority, we cite Bacon only for two, one of which, indeed, *outshoot*, had, in those days of Archery, been in common use for more than seventy years. The contrast between the language of Bacon and that of Shakspeare in this respect is the more striking, seeing that other contemporary authors, e.g. Ben Jonson, used these *out-* verbs almost as freely as Shakspeare himself, without however yielding anything like the same number of first instances.

Here are also many important words from Latin and Greek, such as *opinion, oppose, oracle, oration, orb, ORDER, orient, origin, ornament, optic, ORGAN, ORPHAN*, with the derivatives of *onoma-, onto-, ophthamo-, ornitho-, ortho-, osteo-*. Among those from other languages are *orlop* from Dutch, *osar* from Swedish, *orange* and *Ottoman* (by a long series of links) from Persian and Arabic; from remoter tongues, *oorali, opossum, orang-outang, ouabain, and ouananiche*. Words of interesting history are *opera, opportunism, optimism, Orange* (in politics), *oratorio, the Ordainers, ordeal, ordnance, oriflamme, Orthodox* (church), *Osmanti*; other words of interest are *ooze* (three words), *orchard, orchid, ORIEL, orphrey, osmund, osprey, osse, ossifrage, ostrich, ouch, and ounce*. Three words of legal antiquities, *OUTAS, OUTFANGTHIEF, OUTHORN*, receive fresh historical illumination. One inconvenience of a composite language is seen in the fact that there are *seven* distinct words spelt *ORE*, which moreover occurs as an obsolete spelling of *seven* others.

Outjet—Ozyat. This contains 2427 Main words, 211 Combinations explained under these, and 183 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., 2821 in all. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated under the Main words number 910 more, raising the total to 3731. Of the 2427 Main words, 1909 are now current English, 490 (20 %) are marked † as obsolete, and only 28 (1.15 %) as || alien, or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures :-

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Outjet to end of O</i>	299	1342	1333	1496	3731
Words illustrated by quotations	272	614	713	115	3073
Number of illustrative quotations	768	786	1463	139	11146

The quotations in Richardson, *Outjet to end of O*, are 927.

A large part of this section is occupied by the continuation of the OUT- compounds, from *outjet to out-Zola*, and by the preposition and adverb OVER, and the OVER- compounds. These are still more numerous than those of OUT-: the general article on pp. 286-289 exhibits 760 of them classified under 40 senses or uses, while 1413 others are treated as Main words in the following 50 pages. Many of these *out-* and *over-* words are of historical interest: such are *OUTLAW*, and its derivative *OUTLAWRY*, exemplified in the 'Bill for the more effectual preventing of Clandestine Outlawries', which has been introduced and read a first time in every session of Parliament for 160 years, before the King's Speech is read, as an assertion of the right of Parliament to take up business other than that for which the King has summoned it. There is also *OUTRIGGER*, the annals of which in boat-racing have been, with the help of a distinguished 'Old Blue', carefully collected. Its earlier equivalent was *OUTLIGGER*. Under *OUTPUTTER* will be found the record of a curious concatenation of Dictionary blundering, due to the early misprint of this word as *outparter*. The *OUTROOPER* was in 17th c. an important officer of the City of London; the *OUTROOP* was cognate with the northern *roup*. *OUTSPAN* is of 19th c. entrance from South African Dutch; *OUT-TAKE, -EN*, the native equivalent of *except*. Among interesting *over-* compounds are *OVERFALL* and *OVERLAND*; in *OVERHEAR* and *OVERTAKE* the sense of the prefix is difficult. The military *OVERSLAUGH* has been in use for 130 years, but is now for the first time explained in an English Dictionary.

Among other words are *OUZEL, OVEN, OWL, and OX*, of OE. age; the two latter with important derivatives, including the *OWLERS* of Kent and Sussex, *oxbow, oxgang, oxgate* and *oxlip*. The chief verbs are *OWE* and *OWN*; the former shows how a word originally meaning 'have' or 'possess' has come to mean 'to be in debt', i. e. to have less than nothing. *Own v.* is a derivative of *OWN a.*, originally a past participle of *OWE*, meaning 'possessed', hence *proprius*. Words of note from French are *OUTRAGE, outrance, outrecuidance, overt, OVERTURE*, a notable technicality of the Presbyterian church-courts, taken over, as is here shown, from the language of the Scots Parliament. French also gave us *OYSTER*, which with its brood, industry, and gastronomic, occupies 3½ columns; also the legal *OVER (and terminer)*, and the public-crier's *OYEZ!*, the spelling of which as *O ace*, once gave the eccentric plural *O's ace*. *OVATE* unveils a curious chapter of Welsh bardic etymologizing. The last 7 pages are nearly filled with chemical terms derived from or related to *OXYGEN* (the tardy and unwilling reception of which in England, instead of Priestley's cherished *dephlogisticated air*, is seen in the quotations from 1789 to 1800); its relative *OZONE* has, since its discovery in 1840, been responsible for adding more than 20 derivatives to the Vocabulary.

In order to complete O in this issue, the part has been extended to 356 pages; the excess will be allowed for in future parts.