

THE OED SUPPLEMENT (O-Scz)

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1972 saw the publication of the first volume of the revised Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary, covering the letters A-G. The second volume, for the letters H-N, appeared in 1976. A review of the first two volumes of the OED (now usually abbreviated to OEDS) appeared in the May 1977 Word Ways. Various words included in the two volumes were discussed, and an extensive list of "new" words was presented.

The third volume of OEDS, spanning the sequence O-Scz, was published in Britain in the summer of 1982. This third volume of OEDS replaces the corresponding part of the 1933 Supplement, and continues the record of the English language in the last hundred years. With the publication of the third volume, the OEDS has now reached the three-quarters mark. The letter S - the longest one in the alphabet - needed to be divided. Calculations of various kinds were made, and in the end it was decided to make the division at SCYTHISM. The fourth and final volume, expected to be published in 1985, will begin with an entry for the word SEA. The following quotation comes from the dust cover of the third volume of the OEDS:

The pleasures of historical lexicography are a source of endless delight: they can be seen in the burgeoning of the word O.K. in its numerous spellings and variations; the engaging curiosities of the letter Q (this, with X, the letter always dealt with at greatest speed by lexicographers); the words of Yiddish, German, Greek, and Italian origin beginning with SCH-, a vigorous group if ever there was one; the numerous Chinese loanwords or loan translations - for example, PIPA, PUTONGHUA, LITTLE RED BOOK, RUNNING DOG and SCORCHED EARTH - with the Chinese originals expressed in the revolutionary (and one hopes permanent) Pinyin transliteration system; and the numberless entries with POST-, PRE-, PRO-, and RE- as their first elements. Those who wish to explore the volume further rather than simply use it as a work of occasional reference may derive pleasure (according to taste) under at any rate some of the following assorted entries: OUNG (of an elephant, to drag logs along a stream); PARP (invented apparently by Enid Blyton); PERSON (as in the entry CHAIRPERSON); PIP, SQUEAK AND WILFRED; PRINCETON-FIRST-YEAR (Auden); PUDDLE-DUCK (an earlier use than in Beatrix Potter); controversial words like PICCANINNY, SAMBO, and SCIENTOLOGY; SCRIPOPHILY (one of numerous invented words for various collecting habits); and SCROLLOPING (Virginia Woolf).

Though I have not had a chance to plumb fully the depths of this third volume for items of logological interest, I have noticed a few items while flicking over the pages. For example:

1) There is a smattering of words which have a Q not immediately followed by a U. These all appear: P1BLOKTOQ (a form of hysterical illness prevalent among Eskimo dogs), QABAB (a variant of kebab), QANON (a musical instrument), QI (the physical life force postulated by Chinese philosophers), QWERTY (designating a typewriter), RAFIQ (in Arabia, a companion or escort), and RAS-TAQUERE (a dashing but untrustworthy foreigner)

2) A few palindromes are listed: EPEPE (a West African tree), OBO (in Mongolia, a ritual cairn of stones), and PNP (designating a type of semiconductor)

3) Various tautonymic terms are given: OFF-OFF (pertaining to experimental or avant-garde theatres, an elliptical form of off-off-Broadway), OHOH (an exclamation of alarm), PIP-PIP-PIP (a time signal used in the British "speaking clock" telephone service), PLONK-PLONK (a heavy thud), POCKETA-POCKETA (an imitation of the sound of an engine), POEE-POEE (a Polynesian food), POIPOI (the same Polynesian food), PO PO PO (an exclamation, used in Greece), RAH-RAH-RAH (collegiate), and RONGO-RONGO (hieroglyphic signs of Easter Island)

4) A few words are top-heavy with consonants: PFFT (to collapse), PHTT (to collapse), PSST (a hiss), SCHCHI (cabbabe soup), SCHRIJK (a sudden fright), SCHRONCH (a kind of slow dance), and SCHTSCHI (cabbage soup)

5) Though this third volume is meant to be a record of new words and new meanings, it contains some entries which were in Webster's Second Edition, but were excluded from Webster's Third Edition: PASSOVERISH (suggestive of the Passover), and RAMARAMA (an evergreen shrub of New Zealand)

6) For the collector of dictionary misprints and similar oddities, there are at least two worthy specimens: PHONE IREAK (that is, an upside down lower-case L, instead of an F), and PSYCHEDELIC^N (that is, with the -ZE sideways on)

7) ROTAVATOR, a well-known nine-letter palindrome, is included; though this has appeared in various other dictionaries of new words, it hadn't previously appeared in any major unabridged dictionary

8) There are several words that are known to word or number puzzlers: PANGRAM (a sentence containing all the letters of the alphabet), PANGRAMMATIC (pertaining to a pangram), PARANYM (a near-antonym), PENTOMINO (any of the 12 distinct planar shapes that can be formed by joining 5 identical squares by their edges), POLYIAMOND (a planar shape formed by joining a number of equilateral triangles by their edges), POLYOMINO (a planar shape that is formed by joining a number of squares by their edges), and PUZZLIST (one who devises puzzles)

Although PENTOMINO is given, the corresponding MONOMINO did not appear in the second (H-N) volume of the OEDS. It remains to be seen whether TROMINO and TETROMINO are included in the fourth (Se-Z) volume. However, MONOMINO, TROMINO and TETROMINO all appear in a 1961 illustrative quotation at PENTOMINO.

The 45-letter PNEUMONULTRAMICROSCOPICSILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS is listed, and is defined thus: "a fictitious word alleged to mean 'a lung disease caused by inhalation of very fine silica dust' but occurring chiefly as an instance of a very long word." Notice that the definition says "chiefly" and not "solely". Three illustrative quotations are given. Those dated 1966 and 1973 both refer to the word as an example of a very long word. The third illustrative quotation, dated 1936, uses the word without reference to its extreme length. (The source is Bedside Manna, by F. Scully; this quotation uses the -KONl- spelling rather than the -CONl- one.)

SANSKARA is listed. This is a transposal of ARKANSAS which had been previously referred to in Word Ways. It's useful that logologists now have an up-to-date source for this word, the previous best being a 1945 Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged.

A close study of illustrative quotations reveals other logological oddities. For example, the eight-consonant PFFFFFFT appears in an illustrative quotation under PFFT, for which it is a variant form. The multiple RE word RE-RE-RE-RETURN appears in an illustrative quotation at the entry RE-. It comes from George Bernard Shaw, and is dated 1885.

I close this review with approximately 200 words in the new OEDS volume. None of these appear in Webster's Third, and very few in the Second Edition.

obnoxity, obo, occupatio, oceanization, octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, octli, octupush, odditorium, off-off, og, ogbanje, ohoh, O.K.-ness, ol, oligarchization, one-downmanship, onyongnyong, ooja-ka-pivvy, ooohh, oooops, operationalizable, ornithocoprophilous, orotate, ostrobogulous, Ouidaesque

paf, pakhawaj, palaeogeomorphological, palaeozoogeographic, palsie-walsie, panfan, Panhonlib, Panlibhonco, paprikahuhn, parafango, parajournalistic, paronym, pararhyme, parklet, parp, patholopolis, patienthood, patrolette, Pecksniffingly, pedagoguette, peepie-creepie, penpalmanship, perhapser, perv, pfft, pfuiteufel, phlizz, phtt, phwat, pibloktoq, pie-jim-jams, pimpmobile, pip-pip-pip, pirimicarb, pitmatic, pitter-litter, plannee, plantmilk, plav, playboyishness, pleasedrome, plig, plonk-plonk, ploshchadka, plotzed, plurisign, Plym, pnicoen, pnp, pocketa-pocketa, poee-poe, Poesque, poem-scape, poetese, polology, polyhex, poncif, poofdom, po po po, porno, pornogram, post-Bloomfieldian, preppers, pre-jazz, Princeton-First-Year, protonmotive, pseudohypoparathyroidism, pseudo-squeeze, psoralen, psst, psychophysiotherapeutics, puffinry, pugnozzle, pulamiting, pultrusion, pushmi-pullyu,

puukko, puzzlist, pyjimjams, pyrochki

qabab, qanon, qi, Q-spoiling, Q-switch, Quaalude, qualisign, quango, quank, quaresimal, quartzofeldspathic, quasi-jazz, quatorze juillet, Quellenforschung, Queuetopia, quidsworth, quinquagint, quislingize, Qum, Qumranite, qwerty

rabbit-o, Rachmaninovian, rackensak, radappertization, radiationless, radioimmunoprecipitation, radishy, radwaste, rafiq, rallycross, ramshackledom, rantjie (at 'randjie'), rastaquouère, rav, rayl, rebunk, redundantee, reflexivization, refugeedom, rehalogenization, reinga, reoxygenation, resistanceless, revolutionology, Rgveda, Rgvedic, rhymesterette, right-to-lifer, ringaring, ringle-jingle, ringocandy, ripripple, roadhoggishness, robinredbreasted, robotesque, robotomorphic, rockaboogie, Rockefellerian, rocksteady, roller-ski, Rolls-Royceless, Roman-nosedness, rongo-rongo, roocoocoo, roocooroo, rownsepyked, rucksackful, rummyrum (at 'ramarama'), rurp, ryiji

samfu, samprasarana, sanakatowzer, sandr, sanskara, saz, Scandiknavery, schchi, schlemazl, schlicht, schmutzik, schnozz, schriek, schronch, sctick, schvartze, scramjet, scribbledehobble, scrolloping, scunje, scuz

PATTERN AND NON-PATTERN WORD LISTS

Raja Books (Box 2365, Norman OK 73070) offers a set of non-pattern and pattern word books based on Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Seventh Edition.

- 1) Non-pattern words (3 to 14 letters) \$12.95
- 2) Pattern words (2 to 6 letters) \$9.75
- 3) Pattern words (7 and 8 letters) \$10.95
- 4) Pattern words (9, some 10 letters) \$12.95
- 5) Pattern words (rest of 10 letters) \$12.95

plus postage costs of \$1 per volume. However, the set of five volumes is available for \$52.00 postpaid.

Although these books do not have the scope of Levine's pattern word lists (based on Webster's Second and Third), Levine is out of print and exceedingly hard to find. Non-pattern words have no repeated letters; pattern words are arranged in groups, such as excess/bamboo. While the greatest usefulness of these books is in solving letter-substitution ciphers, various logological projects are facilitated as well.