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# Introduction

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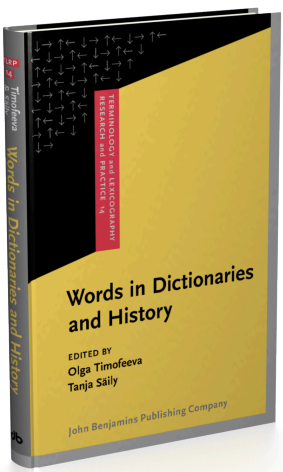


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Bringing together fifteen articles by scholars in Europe and North America, this festschrift aims to represent and advance studies in historical lexis. It highlights the significance of the understanding of dictionary-making and language-making as important socio-cultural phenomena. With its general focus on England and English, the book investigates the reception and development of historical and modern English vocabulary and culture in different periods, social and professional strata, geographical varieties of English, and other national cultures. The collection is based on individual (meta)lexicographical, etymological, lexicosemantic and corpus studies, united not only by the honorand's name on the cover but also by years of collaborative research and joint publication projects, through which many of its authors have met and become students, colleagues and friends of Rod McConchie.

The articles fall into two parts. The first part focuses on the history of dictionaries, analysing them in diachrony from the first professional dictionaries of the Baroque period via Enlightenment and Romanticism to exploring the possibilities of the new online lexicographical publications. The second part looks at the interfaces between etymology, semantic development and word-formation on the one hand, and changes in society and culture on the other. There are, nevertheless, so many overlapping relations between the two parts and individual articles that this division principle is inevitably fairly arbitrary.

The first three essays in the lexicographic part engage the reader into a discovery and exploration of three lexicographic works that have remained little studied and hence almost unknown until today. Ian Lancashire discusses a textbook published by Wynkyn de Worde in 1513 under the title *The flores of Ouide de arte amandi*. The article also explores how and why this work of Ovid was studied in early Tudor grammar schools and what was its connection to a wider philological context of the Humanist thought in Europe. Jukka Tyrkkö examines *A most excellent and learned vvoorke of chirurgerie* by a surgeon John Halle (1565), based on Halle's translation of *Chirurgia parua* by Lanfranc of Milan (1296) and accom-

panied by his own glossary. It was his comments and clarifications of Lanfranc's original work, his references to other authorities in medicine as well as the explanatory terminological glossary that won Halle renown and praise among contemporary physicians. For present-day scholars Halle's book is a valuable insight into the understanding of the contribution of sixteenth-century doctors to the history of lexicography. John Considine's investigation deals with a dictionary project that was announced around 1600 as a *Verball, or littel Dictionarie, with a Prosodia requisite for Poetry* but was never realised. This essay reveals the identity of its author, his family and social relations, and explains why, with the quantitative versification falling out of fashion in England, this guidebook to prosody failed to find its way to press.

The next two articles disclose new facts related to well-known and well documented dictionaries. Gabriele Stein's study presents Thomas Elyot's Latin–English *Dictionary* of 1538 in a wider context of both the English and the Continental traditions of bilingual dictionaries. She focuses specifically on definition styles that had been in circulation before Elyot's work was published and on what his original contribution to linking headword and gloss was. Giles Goodland deals with Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary* and its relationship to his literary language as shown by comparison between the *Dictionary* and a concordance of Johnson's own poems and plays. This analysis reveals that Johnson, the lexicographer, was a critical judge of Johnson, the poet, and included very few words from his own poetic work as illustrative examples in his dictionary.

Elizabeth Knowles contributes to our understanding of the impact of quotations and quotation dictionaries on our literary language. The case study examines *chaos and old night* from Milton's *Paradise Lost*, its use and misuse and subsequent wordplay based on it as exemplified by dictionaries of quotations, literary works and journalist articles from the eighteenth century onwards. Dealing both with the history of dictionaries of quotations and with the evolution of set phrases in the general vocabulary, this study provides a link between the two thematic parts of the volume. The first part ends, however, chronologically with Julie Coleman's survey of online dictionaries of English slang. This innovative essay analyses seven online resources on British and American slang, evaluating critically their search facilities, coverage and reliability. Although online dictionaries of slang do not generally fulfil the traditional requirements of content and quality, they do provide useful information on the most current usages, document debates between slang users, as well as enable professional lexicographers to determine frequencies, distribution, origins, and semantic development of slang terms.

The lexicological part opens with four articles whose scope can be described very broadly in terms of etymology. Matti Kilpiö's study of Christfrid Ganander's *Nytt Finskt Lexicon* (completed in 1787) has a twofold aim: on the one hand it is

one of the first publications that brings early dictionaries produced in Finland and their relation to etymological and lexicographical works produced elsewhere in Scandinavia and in England to international scholarly attention; on the other hand it examines Ganander's Old English etymologies of about fifty Finnish headwords, establishing both whether they can still be considered correct by contemporary historical linguistic standards and what are the possible sources of these etymologies, be they creditable or erroneous. Anatoly Liberman revisits the origin of *yeoman* in English. Rejecting numerous etymologies of the word in dictionaries and scholarly articles, Liberman suggests that the connection between *yeomath*, 'a second crop of grass,' its analogues in German and Dutch, and *yeoman* might give us the answer that lexicologists have long been looking for. Samuli Kaislaniemi's investigation of the origin and use of the word *lapidable*, that is, 'mature for sexual intercourse' employed by early-seventeenth-century merchants of the British East India Company offers meaningful insights into the history of written colloquial language. The essay emphasizes the importance of private letters for our understanding of both language history and cultural history. Cynthia Lloyd's article deals with the evolution of the French suffix *-al* in English action nouns. By carefully examining the morphology and semantics of this class of words in a series of small corpus studies, and by applying such analytical notions as productivity and analysability, she concludes that deverbal derivatives in *-al* with action senses did not appear until the seventeenth century.

Alaric Hall takes us back to the transitional period between Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation in early medieval England and documents it by means of place-names. Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica* provides material for this innovative research into place-name shift, which also shows the great potential that corpus studies based on Anglo-Latin may have for the history of the English language and language-related cultural phenomena.

Leena Kahlas-Tarkka extends the scope of this collection to translation, book history and the reception of Anglo-Saxon language and culture in the sixteenth century. This essay focuses on the Old English register of ranks, the *Geþyncðo*, and its interpretations in English and Latin works of two amateur historians of the Elizabethan Age, William Lambarde and Thomas Milles.

The final two articles once again demonstrate that lexicology and lexicography are interwoven disciplines, particularly when such electronic resources as the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* are used in the study of the vocabulary. Hans-Jürgen Diller looks at the growth of the lexical field of emotions and, more specifically, of *contempt*, while Joshua Pendragon and Maggie Scott explore the terminology of swordplay drawing on a variety of historical and etymological sources. Both essays emphasize once more the heavy impact of the Romance cultures on the formation of English lexicon.

In conclusion we would like to express our gratitude to the contributors to this volume for their readiness, patience and cooperation, and to acknowledge the professional help and advice we received from the two anonymous reviewers of our book and the editor of the series *Terminology and Lexicography Research and Practice*, Marie-Claude L'Homme. The editorial work was supported in part by the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence funding for the Research Unit for Variation, Contacts and Change in English (VARIENG) at the Department of Modern Languages, University of Helsinki, and by Langnet, the Finnish Graduate School in Language Studies.