

## ACADEMY DICTIONARIES 1600–1800

This is the first unified history of the large, prestigious dictionaries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, compiled in academies, which set out to glorify living European languages. The tradition began with the *Vocabolario degli Accademici della Crusca* (1612) in Florence and the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française* (1694) in Paris, and spread across Europe – to Germany, Spain, England, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Russia – in the eighteenth century, engaging students of language as diverse as Leibniz, Samuel Johnson, and Catherine the Great. All the major academy and academy-style dictionaries of the period up to 1800, published and unpublished, are discussed in a single narrative, bridging national and linguistic boundaries, to offer a history of lexicography on a European scale. Like John Considine's *Dictionaries in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge, 2008), this study treats dictionaries both as physical books and as ambitious works of the human imagination.

JOHN CONSIDINE is Professor of English at the University of Alberta, Canada. He is author of *Dictionaries in Early Modern Europe: Lexicography and the Making of Heritage* (Cambridge, 2008) and is co-editor, with Sylvia Brown, of *The Ladies Dictionary (1694)* (2010).

# ACADEMY DICTIONARIES 1600–1800

JOHN CONSIDINE



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
 978-1-107-07112-4 — Academy Dictionaries 1600–1800  
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**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107071124](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107071124)

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First published 2014

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data*

Considine, John (John P.)

Academy dictionaries 1600–1800 / John Considine.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-07112-4 (hardback)

1. Lexicography—Europe—History—17th century. 2. Lexicography—Europe—History—18th century. 3. Encyclopedias and dictionaries—Europe—History and criticism. 4. Learned institutions and societies—Europe—History—17th century. 5. Learned institutions and societies—Europe—History—18th century. 1. Title.

P327.45.E85C65 2014

413.094—dc23

2014004087

ISBN 978-1-107-07112-4 Hardback

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*For my mother*

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## *Acknowledgements*

The writing of this book was supported by a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), for which I am most grateful. The Department of English at the University of Alberta helped me to administer this grant and provided all the institutional support I needed. At an early stage in this project, Mandy Bengts helped me to read some of the Danish and Swedish sources, and Peter Midgely helped me to read some of the Dutch sources; their work was funded by SSHRC.

I owe much to the staff of the libraries of the University of Alberta (especially the Inter-Library Loans (ILL) unit – and all the corresponding units across and beyond North America which have sent books and photocopies in response to my ILL requests), and to the British Library, the Bodleian Library (especially Alan Carter, Russell Edwards, and Jean-Pierre Mialon of Duke Humfrey's Library; and William Hodges, formerly of Duke Humfrey's), the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek in Hannover (especially Dr Friedrich Hülsmann and Frau Anke Hölzer), and the Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen. John Shoesmith, Outreach Librarian of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library of the University of Toronto, helped me to obtain the cover image.

In order to use early books day after day, I have depended heavily on the online availability of full texts in digital facsimile. I would like to acknowledge my considerable debt to Google Books, and particularly to the co-operation between Google and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek which has made a great many pre-1800 dictionaries from Continental Europe freely available during the period in which I have been writing. I am also indebted to the Internet Archive, to the Gallica service of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, and to many other providers of images.

Some of the work on Leibniz presented in Chapter 5 was first presented to the Third International Conference on Historical Lexicology and Lexicography (ICHLL) and to the Eleventh International Congress

*Acknowledgements*

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on the History of the Language Sciences; these presentations were rewritten and published as my ‘Leibniz and lexicography’ and ‘Leibniz as lexicographer?’. The material on Matthias Moth in the same chapter was first presented to the Second ICHLL; this presentation was rewritten and published as my ‘Matthias Moth and the dictionary project as cultural treasury’. All six of the conferences in the ICHLL series have enriched my understanding of lexicography, and I am indebted to many of their participants (especially Michael Adams, Fredric Dolezal, Rod McConchie, and Christopher Stray) and to their organizers: Julie Coleman; Giovanni Iamartino; Marijke Mooijaart and Marijke van der Wal; Charlotte Brewer; Bettina Bock and Maria Kozianka.

Edmund Weiner trained me as a lexicographer, and he and John Simpson encouraged me to clarify some of my very earliest ideas on the history of lexicography. I have valued their friendship and support, and that of many other colleagues at the *Oxford English Dictionary*, with whom I have discussed many lexicographical problems over the years: I am particularly conscious of my debt to Philip Durkin, Anthony Esposito, Peter Gilliver, and Samantha Schad. Konrad Koerner and Toon Van Hal have helped me to see a wider context for my work in the history of the language sciences, and Ann Blair and Bill Sherman have helped me think about its context in the history of information.

I am grateful to Linda Bree of Cambridge University Press for her support, and to two anonymous readers for the Press who commented thoughtfully on the penultimate draft of the book.

Since my last book was published, two of my teachers have died: Robin Robbins, who was my supervisor at Oxford, and my father. My work on this book owes much to them, and to other teachers, particularly Tony Cockshut, the Reverend Michael Screech, and Andrew Wilson. It has taken its deepest life from the love and support of my family, especially Sylvia and Nicholas, and my mother, to whom it is dedicated with love.

## Conventions

Transcriptions from pre-modern texts, including the titles of books, are as far as possible in unmodernized spelling: hence, for instance, my consistent reference to the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française* (the form *française* has only appeared on the title page of this dictionary since 1835). Diacritics are reproduced as in the original texts, with the exception of those in Latin. Superscript *e* in German and Swedish is normalized to umlaut; *æ* and *œ* in Latin to *ae* and *oe*; *œ* in Latin and French to *et*. Square brackets in originals have been normalized to round brackets. Ellipses in quotations are my own unless otherwise indicated; italics in quotations are always in the original. Translations are my own unless otherwise indicated.

A number of quotations are from the unpaginated preliminaries of early printed books. These are given by signature, a system with which some but not all readers of this book will be familiar. If, for instance, the first gathering of four leaves in a book is unpaginated, but the second leaf has the letter A and the number 2 (or ii, or ij) printed at its foot, a quotation from the recto of that leaf will be identified as from sig. A2r, and a quotation from the verso of the last unpaginated leaf will be identified as from sig. A4v. Preliminary gatherings are sometimes identified by a typographical symbol rather than a letter, and so I give some references in forms like sig. \*3r or sig. )(2v. Where preliminary gatherings are unsigned, it is sometimes possible to supply a signature: an unsigned gathering before gathering B is gathering [A]. Otherwise, the first gathering is conventionally assigned the signature π. So, when a footnote identifies a passage as, for instance, from sigs. )( )(3r–4v of a given book, this is not a typesetting error: the second gathering of the book is not paginated, but its leaves are marked with a signature of two back-to-back pairs of parentheses, and the footnote refers to a passage which begins on the recto of the third leaf of this gathering and ends on the verso of the fourth leaf.

Spellings of British proper names generally follow the forms given in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; spellings of others generally



follow those in E. F. K. Koerner's *Universal Index of Biographical Names in the Language Sciences*. Consistency in the spelling of proper names is notoriously unattainable, and I have tried to avoid pedantry: so, for instance, at one point in my text Catherine the Great (whom I was unwilling to call Ekaterina Velikaya) and Princess Ekaterina Dashkova (whom I had no intention of calling Catherine Dashkova) come into contact.

I have regularly consulted the standard biographical dictionaries and the online British Book Trade Index for personal information; the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the other standard dictionaries of European languages for lexical information; and the standard bibliographies and online library catalogues (especially the English Short Title Catalogue, COPAC, WorldCat, and the catalogues available through the Karlsruhe Virtueller Katalog) for bibliographical information. I have only indicated my use of such sources where it seemed strictly necessary.

In the bibliography, the alternative availability of printed sources online or in printed facsimile form has been indicated only occasionally, in the case of a few texts of which originals are particularly hard to find. I have inevitably consulted reproductions of many early books, and multiple reproductions of some, as well as handling many originals, and I have seen no value in pointing this out case by case, particularly since the availability of online reproductions changes from year to year (and even from day to day). Alphabetization in the bibliography ignores diacritics.