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978-0-521-84844-2 - Anniversary Essays on Johnson's Dictionary

Edited by Jack Lynch and Anne McDermott

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## ANNIVERSARY ESSAYS ON JOHNSON'S *DICTIONARY*

Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*, the first great English dictionary and one of the most famous books in the English language, appeared in April 1755. To commemorate the 250th anniversary, this volume brings together fourteen original essays by international scholars representing several disciplines: literature, lexicology, linguistics, and bibliography. The essays explore familiar and unfamiliar aspects of Johnson's masterpiece, ranging from the history of patronage to the book's typographical design, from the political background to the treatment of compound words. Challenging the myths surrounding the book and offering the most comprehensive and wide-ranging study of the *Dictionary* ever attempted, these essays present the latest scholarship on the *Dictionary* and open up new perspectives and directions for future research.

JACK LYNCH is Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University. He is the author of *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson* (Cambridge, 2003).

ANNE McDERMOTT is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Birmingham. She has edited Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language on CD-ROM* (Cambridge, 1996).

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>List of contributors</i>	viii
<i>List of abbreviations and cue-titles</i>	xi
Introduction	I
<i>Jack Lynch and Anne McDermott</i>	
1 The mythology of Johnson’s <i>Dictionary</i>	10
<i>Paul J. Korshin</i>	
2 Dictionaries and power from Palsgrave to Johnson	24
<i>Ian Lancashire</i>	
3 What Johnson’s illustrative quotations illustrate: language and viewpoint in the <i>Dictionary</i>	42
<i>Howard D. Weinbrot</i>	
4 Reassessing the political context of the <i>Dictionary</i> : Johnson and the “Broad-bottom” opposition	61
<i>Nicholas Hudson</i>	
5 Johnson’s extempore History and Grammar of the English language	77
<i>Robert DeMaria, Jr.</i>	
6 Johnson the prescriptivist? The case for the prosecution	92
<i>Geoff Barnbrook</i>	
7 Johnson the prescriptivist? The case for the defense	113
<i>Anne McDermott</i>	
8 Johnson’s encyclopedia	129
<i>Jack Lynch</i>	

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-84844-2 - Anniversary Essays on Johnson's Dictionary  
Edited by Jack Lynch and Anne McDermott  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9	The law, the alphabet, and Samuel Johnson <i>John Stone</i>	147
10	Hyphenated compounds in Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> <i>Noel E. Osselson</i>	160
11	The typographic design of Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> <i>Paul Luna</i>	175
12	The <i>Dictionary</i> in abstract: Johnson's abridgments of the <i>Dictionary of the English Language</i> for the common reader <i>Catherine Dille</i>	198
13	Revision and the limits of collaboration: hands and texts in Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> <i>Allen Reddick</i>	212
14	Hidden quarto editions of Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> <i>R. Carter Hailey</i>	228
	<i>General index</i>	240
	<i>Index of Dictionary entries</i>	244

Illustrations

1	Robert Estienne, <i>Dictionaire francoislatin</i> (1539). By kind permission of Reading University Library.	page 177
2	Nathan Bailey, <i>Dictionarium Britannicum</i> (1730).	178
3	Benjamin Martin, <i>Lingua Britannica Reformata</i> (1749). With kind permission of the English Faculty Library, University of Oxford.	180
4	Abel Boyer, <i>The Royal Dictionary</i> (1727).	180
5	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1755).	184
6	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 3rd ed., 2 vols. (London, 1765).	185
7	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language . . . Abstracted from the Folio Edition</i> , “2nd ed.,” 2 vols. (London, 1760).	188
8	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language . . . Abstracted from the Folio Edition</i> (Dublin, 1758).	189
9	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 2 vols. (Dublin, 1777).	190
10	Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 6th ed., 2 vols. (London, 1785), and <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 9th ed., 4 vols. (London, 1805). By kind permission of Reading University Library.	191
11	Noah Webster, <i>An American Dictionary of the English Language</i> (1828), and the <i>Century Dictionary</i> (1889).	193

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84844-2 - Anniversary Essays on Johnson's Dictionary

Edited by Jack Lynch and Anne McDermott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contributors

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84844-2 - Anniversary Essays on Johnson's Dictionary

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*List of contributors*

ix

(Cambridge University Press, 1994); *Samuel Johnson and the Making of Modern England* (Cambridge University Press, 2003); and many essays on eighteenth-century literature, thought, and culture.

PAUL J. KORSHIN, Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, is co-editor of *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual*. An earlier comment on Johnson and language is his "Reconfiguring the Past: The Eighteenth Century Confronts Oral Culture," in *The Yearbook of English Studies* (1998).

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PAUL LUNA is Professor of Typography and Graphic Communication at the University of Reading, UK. He is involved in teaching the practice, theory, and history of the subject, and his research centers on the design of complex texts such as dictionaries. He was a book designer and design manager at Oxford University Press for twenty years and designed the second edition of the *OED*, as well as Oxford's range of English language and bilingual dictionaries, introducing the Nimrod and Swift typefaces for dictionary typesetting. He has recently designed the fifth edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, and is now working on a research project to improve the design of children's dictionaries.

JACK LYNCH is Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University in Newark. He is the author of *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and editor, with Paul J. Korshin, of *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual*. He is now at work on a study of forgery and fraud in eighteenth-century Britain.

ANNE MCDERMOTT is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Birmingham, and editor of *A Dictionary of the English Language on CD-ROM* (Cambridge University Press, 1996). She is currently working on a scholarly edition of Johnson's *Dictionary*, containing among other things the sources of all the illustrative quotations, which will appear online in 2005.

NOEL E. OSSELTON has held chairs of the English Language in both Holland and England, and was a founding member of the European Association for Lexicography. He is the author of *Chosen Words: Past and Present Problems for Dictionary Makers* (University of Exeter Press, 1995), and co-editor of *The New Routledge Dutch Dictionary* (2003).



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84844-2 - Anniversary Essays on Johnson's Dictionary

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

*List of contributors*

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# Abbreviations and cue-titles

1755	Samuel Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1755).
1773	Samuel Johnson, <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 4th ed., 2 vols. (London, 1773).
1825 <i>Works</i>	<i>The Works of Samuel Johnson</i> , 11 vols. (Oxford, 1825).
<i>Bibliography</i>	J. D. Fleeman, <i>A Bibliography of the Works of Samuel Johnson: Treating His Published Works from the Beginning to 1984</i> , 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000).
<i>Letters</i>	<i>The Letters of Samuel Johnson</i> , ed. Bruce Redford, 5 vols. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992–94).
<i>Life</i>	James Boswell, <i>The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, rev. L. F. Powell, 6 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934–64).
<i>OED</i>	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i> , 2nd ed., 20 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989).
<i>Yale Works</i>	<i>The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson</i> , ed. John H. Muddendorf <i>et al.</i> (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1958–).

Entries in reference works, including Johnson's *Dictionary*, are cited by headword, followed by part of speech and numbered sense when necessary.