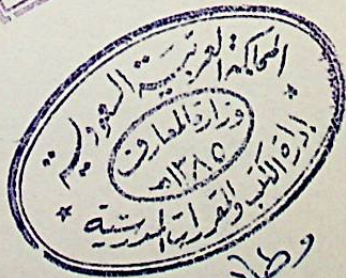
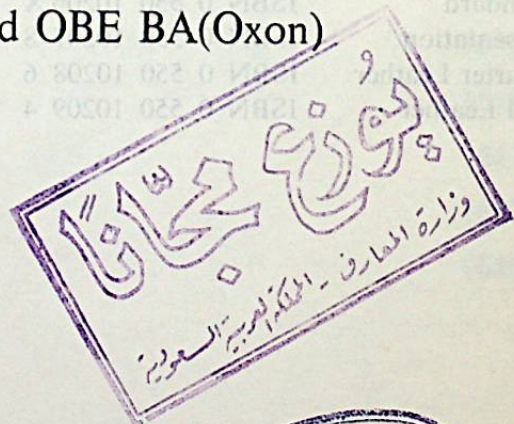


New Edition

CHAMBERS TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

Edited by A M Macdonald OBE BA(Oxon)



مطبعة وحيد

Chambers

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This new edition is almost one-fifth longer than its predecessor. In part this is due to the increased size of type: the main reason for the greater length, however, is the vast amount of additional material.

Many of the words and phrases added such as fibre optics, free-rider, genetic engineering, hologram, jet set, partial training mate, solar noise, value-added tax and velodrome are new. Other, older words (and these form a very important category) have recently acquired new and highly specialised meanings which have been added in this edition: for example, capsule, core, lish, gay, gutsy, kitsch, module, stewardship, underground, and table.

Publisher's preface

Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary has always faithfully reflected changes in a living language. Now the pace of change has increased rapidly, for many diverse influences are at work, and a new version has had to be prepared.

There have been revolutionary developments in the sciences and technology, and the influence of mass media has made new scientific and technical terms no longer the monopoly of the specialist. The hitherto somewhat rigid barrier between formal and colloquial English is collapsing to such an extent that some contemporary fiction is virtually unintelligible to those without a wide colloquial vocabulary. Again, the hitherto largely artificial gulf between 'English' and 'American English' is being bridged. At the same time Britain's closer ties with Europe are increasing the number of foreign words and phrases likely to be encountered by the reader of English.

As the 1970s dawned, it became clear that our normal continuous and painstaking revision of the existing text was inadequate for modern needs. A fundamental reappraisal was begun.

This, then, is the first entirely new edition of the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* in twenty years. For many years the most comprehensive dictionary designed for general use, it has now been brought fully abreast of the 1970s in its coverage of everyday language and affairs.

The continuing aim is to provide, in convenient and easily legible form, a comprehensive vocabulary aid for the present-day reader, speaker and writer of English. We have retained all the features which have made the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* the valued companion of the literary reader and writer, but the whole work has been thoroughly re-examined. To a large extent, however, we have concentrated on recording the changes taking place in contemporary English.

This new edition is almost one-fifth longer than its predecessor. In part this is due to the increased size of type: the main reason for the greater length, however, is the vast amount of additional material.

Many of the words and phrases added such as *fibre optics*, *free-rider*, *genetic engineering*, *hologram*, *jet set*, *patrial*, *running mate*, *solar noise*, *value-added tax* and *velodrome* are new. Other, older words (and these form a very important category) have recently acquired new and highly specialised meanings which have been added in this edition: for example, *capsule*, *core*, *dish*, *gay*, *gutsy*, *kitsch*, *module*, *stewardship*, *underground*, and *viable*.

This new edition is catholic and broadminded in its noting of colloquialisms and slang terms, as these may now be considered an integral part of spoken and written English. For example, definitions are given of such words as *drop out*, *hang-up*, *switched on*, *turn on*, *uptight* and *whizz-kid*.

Examples of the large number of foreign words and phrases appearing in the main text are *actualités*, *antipasto*, *apparatchik*, *batterie de cuisine*, *gesellschaft* and *souk*. American words in current use are no longer denied full acceptance by being glossed 'U.S.' and American spellings such as the following are given as alternatives: *defence*, in U.S. *defense*; *anaesthesia*, in U.S. *anesthesia*; *manoeuvre*, in U.S. *maneuver*; *moulding*, in U.S. *molding*.

Other distinguishing features are the detailed etymologies, the pronunciation guides, the appendices, the idiomatic turns of speech and, last but not least, the literary words from the sixteenth century onwards which have for so long made *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary* the chosen companion of the omnivorous general reader as well as the crossword addict's favourite tool.

Many hundreds of new words and meanings from many sources have been collected by the dictionary staff, but we are indebted also to scores of users of the dictionary who have sent in words and lists of words. We value greatly the interest they have shown.

The excellence and comprehensive nature of the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* still owes much to the sure foundations laid by three former Editors: Rev. Thomas Davidson, William Geddie MA BSc and John M. Dickie MA. The immense task of preparing this new edition has been directed throughout by Miss A. M. Macdonald BA whose experience of dictionary making is probably unrivalled. Her knowledge, advice and help have always been readily given to her colleagues, among whom Mrs E. Kirkpatrick MA and Miss P. Kerr MA have been the principal assistant editors. To all of them we, the publishers, wish to express our appreciation.