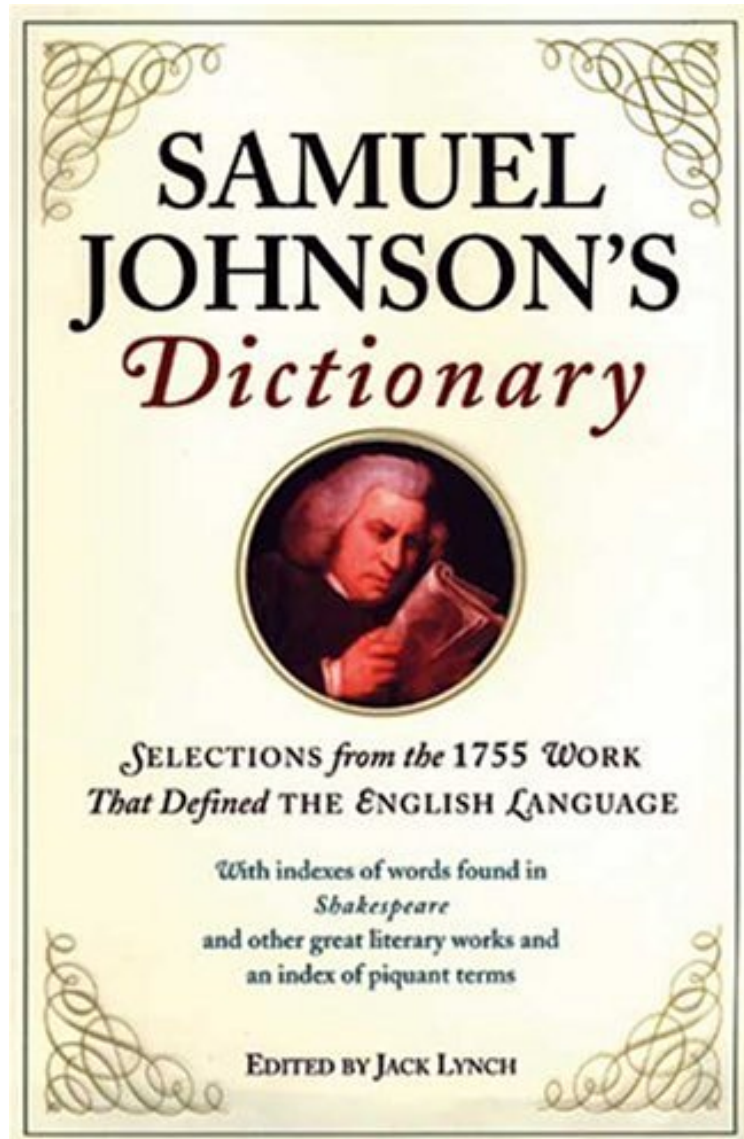


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## Samuel Johnson's Dictionary

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**From Brand: Walker n Company : Samuel Johnson's Dictionary** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Samuel Johnson's Dictionary:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bruce L. BerryJust as I expected.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Please explain, Dr. JohnsonBy Marcia YiapanI'm often amazed by what Johnson chose to include or omit. He was certainly an erudite fellow, as demonstrated by his literary examples, but the words one would most like to find seem to be missing. What I'm hoping to discover is what kind of friendship he had with Ben

Franklin, who was such a kindred spirit.<sup>47</sup> of 50 people found the following review helpful. An all-star book available again for browsing by Frank Lynch. In the 18th century, dictionaries weren't just consulted, they were browsed. That was largely thanks to Samuel Johnson's mammoth 1755 achievement, wherein he defined not just the difficult words, but also common words found in everyday speech; to their definitions, he added illustrative quotations from the finest works -- creating a volume that was a pleasure to read, an education, and one which provoked the reader down long paths. If you have the AMS reprint of Johnson's Dictionary (reprinted in the 1970's) you know it's a heavy volume, and not easy to sit in your lap. But Jack Lynch has extracted over 3,000 of the entries into a volume you can not only hold in your lap, but enjoy reading: the print is not tiny, so it's no strain. And it's a pleasure to read. Jack Lynch has also provided an informative, breezy introduction, which puts Johnson's Dictionary in the context of prior efforts and those that followed, describes Johnson's task and process, and tells you the impact that Johnson had. A wonderful addition is in the back, wherein there are some great footnotes (such as, Johnson's definition of war was part of a US Supreme Court decision regarding the US decision to bomb Kosovo) and a reverse index of the types of words to be found... Jack Lynch ALSO provides a special Shakespearean index -- so you can look up which words Johnson supported with quotations from The Bard. I already had the 1970s reprint, as well as the Cambridge CD-ROM, and wasn't sure I needed this. But I'm glad I bought it, it's wonderful to have, even for me.

Two volumes thick and 2,300 pages long, Samuel Johnson's Dictionary, published in 1755, marked a milestone in a language in desperate need of standards. No English dictionary before it had devoted so much space to everyday words, been so thorough in its definitions, or illustrated usage by quoting from Shakespeare and other great writers. Johnson's Dictionary would define the language for the next 150 years, until the arrival of the Oxford English Dictionary. Johnson's was the dictionary used by Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, Wordsworth and Coleridge, the Brontës and the Brownings, Thomas Hardy and Oscar Wilde. Modern dictionaries owe much to Johnson's work. This new edition, created by Levenger Press, contains more than 3,100 selections from the original, including etymology, definitions, and illustrative passages in their original spelling. Bristling with quotations, the Dictionary offers memorable passages on subjects ranging from books and critics to dreams and ethics. It also features three new indexes created out of entries in this edition: words found in Shakespeare's works, words from other great literary works, and piquant terms used in eighteenth-century discussions of such topics as law, medicine, and the sexes. Finally, Johnson's "Plan of a Dictionary of the English Language," seldom seen in print, which he wrote eight years before the Dictionary, is reproduced in its entirety. For those who appreciate literature, interpret the law, and love language, this a browser's delightan encyclopedia of the age and a dictionary for the ages.

From Publishers Weekly Here is a real treat for word lovers: 3,100 selections from Dr. Johnson's historic dictionary, with definitions, etymologies and usage illustrations. To buss is charmingly defined as "To kiss; to salute with the lips." And laced mutton, readers learn, is "an old word for a whore." The excerpts from the dictionary itself are complemented by the inclusion of Johnson's earlier "Plan of a Dictionary" ("of all the candidates for literary praise, the unhappy lexicographer holds the lowest place," he opines) and three appendixes: one of Shakespearean citations in the dictionary, one of additional literary citations and a third of "piquant terms." ("Ape: A kind of monkey remarkable for imitating what he sees.") In his introduction, Lynch, a Rutgers University Johnson scholar, dispels the myth that this was the first dictionary. It was, however, the first standard dictionary, the one used by Wordsworth, Austen and George Eliot--and this edition of it is fascinating. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Jack Lynch is a professor of English at Rutgers University and a Johnson scholar, having studied the great lexicographer for nearly a decade. He is the author of *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson* (Cambridge University Press) and the editor of *A Bibliography of Johnsonian Studies, 1986-1998*. He has also written journal articles and scholarly reviews addressing Johnson and the eighteenth century.