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Did you know:--that the word nice meant foolish or stupid in the thirteenth century?--that deer once referred to any animal?--that cumberbund, pundit and bungalow, all relics of the Indian raj, have been in use in English since the 1600's?--that such words as sandwich, boycott and malapropism take their names from people, both real and fictional?--that sombrero, which comes to us from Spanish, originally meant an Oriental umbrella? These are but a few of the thousands of fascinating tidbits to be found in The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Etymology. Here the reader

will find a clear and brief account of the origins, history, and sense-development of a major part of the modern English vocabulary, including both basic words and a wide selection of derivative forms. Begun under the supervision of the late G.W.S. Friedrichsen, this valuable reference book benefits from his many years of experience as an etymologist for the Oxford dictionaries. About the Author: T.F. Hoad is a Fellow of St. Peter's College Oxford.

From Library Journal C.T. Onions's Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology (Oxford, rev. 1969, \$45) is the source of this compact version, and for the most part the reductions are carefully chosen, as in eliminating the pronunciations of common words and technical terms. But this work is abridged: e.g., over two former pages, between *dickens* and *dignity*, entries for *dictaphone*, *dies non*, and *dight* have been deleted, and these deletions are representative. Secondary information has also been cut from individual entries. The result is a handy and compact desktop reference book, well printed and bound as expected from the Clarendon Press. However, both the original, and Ernest Klein's *Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language* (Elsevier, 1971, \$85) are in print, and larger libraries should have them as well. Stephen H. Cape, Indiana Univ. Lib., Bloomington Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A model of its kind--all that anyone other than a specialist needs to know about words."--Daily Telegraph From the Back Cover With over 17,000 entries, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* is the most authoritative and comprehensive guide to word origins available in paperback. Based on *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, the principal authority on the origin and development of English words, it contains a wealth of information about our language and its history.