Peter Gilliver. *The Making of the* Oxford English Dictionary. 2016, xix + 625 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-928362-0. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Price: £40.

This comprehensive publication dealing with the Oxford English Dictionary as a project consists of thirteen chapters. It traces the development of the OED from its earliest beginnings through the various stages of its realization up to the present day. Two 'interludes' are placed in between the main chronological narrative. The first, following on chapter 2, examines the lexicographical output of the 'sub-editors' under the editorship of Frederick Furnivall during the 1860s and 1870s, and the second, following on chapter 6, describes the various stages of the process of compiling a Dictionary entry. Interspersed in the text of most chapters, but separate from the main narrative, can be found 'capsules', a term and concept which Gilliver borrowed from Norman Davies's Europe: A History (1996). For each of these a particular word forms the basis of a certain topic, such as an aspect of editorial policy, which seemed necessary at a specific point. Copious and informative footnotes are given at the bottom of each page of text. Forty-six figures, inserted in the text, show certain persons and buildings, or present specific entries and objects mentioned or discussed. The most important part of the front matter consists of the Preface, while that of the back matter concerns the extensive Bibliography and the detailed Index.

I

The first two chapters form an introduction to the next seven chapters comprising the greater part of the book which deals with the *Oxford English Dictionary* itself.

Chapter 1 'Beginnings: to 1861' mainly treats the announcement in 1857 of the Philological Society's Council that Herbert Coleridge, Frederick Furnivall and Richard Chevenix Trench had been appointed as a Committee to collect 'unregistered' words in English. With these were meant words which do not appear in two important dictionaries published before the Society's foundation in 1842: A Dictionary of the English Language by Henry Todd, the officially revised version of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary published in eleven parts between 1814 and 1818, and the New Dictionary of the English Language by Charles Richardson, containing the revised material in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Encyclopædia Metropolitana and published in two volumes from 1835 to 1837. However, later in the year a larger scheme for a completely new English Dictionary was proposed, and early in 1858 two supervisory Committees (a 'Literary and Historical' and an 'Etymological') were formed. Todd's and Richardson's Dictionaries were to be abandoned for purposes of comparison. The scope of the Dictionary was extended back to the middle of the thirteenth century, and for the purpose of collecting quotation evidence, the history of English was divided into three periods. For each of these periods readers were provided with a baseline (or 'basis of comparison') in the form of a wordlist.

The absence of an item of vocabulary from the wordlist could then prompt readers to supply a quotation for it. During 1859 Coleridge, who was offered the editorship established a more detailed editorial policy for the Dictionary. A document was drafted by Coleridge and approved by Furnivall and Trench before it was presented to the Society under the title 'Canones Lexicographici'. Before editorial questions could be tackled, a considerable amount of evidence had still to be collected. However, Coleridge had already been seriously ill and died early in 1861.

Chapter 2 'Furnivall's Dictionary: 1861-1875' describes how Furnivall continued with the work started by Coleridge. After having prepared and published three parts of the 'Basis of Comparison' for the three periods for which materials were to be collected, he appealed for collectors of quotations and for sub-editors of the material to come forward. The first group of co-editors, presented with a circular and an example entry, were set to work on certain letters of the alphabet. A Concise Dictionary was planned, Furnivall hoping that the work of the sub-editors would be of such a quality that only light editing would be necessary before publication. The publisher John Murray agreed to undertake the printing of the Dictionary. For the first years the project advanced on two fronts: sub-editing and collecting more material. By 1866, however, it became clear that the progress had slackened. By 1872 there was not much to report. During 1873 and 1874 Furnivall devoted little time to the Dictionary, because of the demands of other projects. Becoming frustrated with the near stagnation of the project, the Rev. George Wheelwright, who in 1862 signed up to sub-edit the letter F, in 1875 had a pamphlet published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, with the title 'An Appeal to the English-speaking Public on behalf of A New English Dictionary'. To this Furnivall's name and address were added as a point of contact for those wishing to offer help. As a result the Philological Society's Council discussed the possibility of raising a fund to pay an Editor of the Dictionary for ten years. Although Wheelwright died suddenly in December 1875, he spurned the Society into action again with regard to the Dictionary.

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Chapters 3–9 form a unity, starting with the idea of resuming the compilation of an English dictionary on historical principles and ending with the reprinting of the Dictionary together with the publication of the first Supplement.

Chapter 3 Manoeuvres: 1876–1879' describes how the Council of the Philological Society approached James Murray to compile a dictionary. After discussions with Macmillan to print the dictionary had failed, the Clarendon Press was approached. The Delegates of the Press commented on the specimen which Murray compiled for Macmillan. Murray then produced a revised one, the Delegates putting forward their views especially on pronunciation and etymology. Negotiations were opened between the Delegates, the Dictionary Committee of the Philological Society and Murray. Murray estimated that it would take three years before he could begin sending copy to the press, and

thereafter ten years overall. A 7,000-page limit for the Dictionary was envisaged. More than three years after the proposal to approach the Clarendon Press, agreements were at last sent to the Philological Society and to Murray.

Chapter 4 'The road to Ant: 1879–1884' describes how the material of the Dictionary was transported from Furnivall's house to the 'Scriptorium' erected by Murray at his house in Mill Hill. Material had also to be recovered from some of the sub-editors who left editing in various stages of completion. The material had furthermore to be sorted. Much reading of texts and recording of words had still to be done. The eighteenth century assigned to American readers twenty years earlier, had scarcely been touched. A renewed appeal for readers was directed to the public. Notwithstanding the incomplete sub-editing of A and the deficiencies in the material, compilation of entries began immediately. Editorial issues were discussed at meetings of the Philological Society. The slow rate at which Murray proceeded through the alphabet soon proved that it would be impossible to complete the Dictionary within ten years. Reference was made to corresponding pages in the 1864 edition of Webster's Dictionary. Although this was a useful yardstick to measure the scope of the entries, condensation was difficult and time-consuming. The Delegates now agreed to a limit of 8,400 pages. After typographical details had been finalized, printing could at last begin in May 1882. Part I was ready by 1883. Meddling by the Delegates in the wording of the Prospectus, and especially of the title-page of and the Preface and Introduction to the Dictionary, nearly caused Murray to resign, but finally, in January 1884, Part I of A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles was published.

Chapter 5 'The Dictionary divides: 1884–1887' deals with the appointment of a second editor. After the positive reviews and sales of Part I, the Delegates insisted that constant progress should be made by producing two parts a year. The appointment of a second editor was considered. Henry Bradley, who wrote an informed review of Part I was suggested. Murray now moved to 78 Banbury Road, Oxford where the Scriptorium was re-erected. More assistants were engaged. After Bradley had been appointed, he started with a section of Part III, which was only published in March 1887. The finalizing of Part IV was still done on a collaborative basis by Murray and Bradley. However, because of the slow pace, Bradley was made an independent editor. From the beginning of 1888 the Dictionary therefore also acquired a home in Bradley's house in Bleisho Road, Lavender Hill.

Chapter 6 'Storm and stress: 1888–1897' describes the vicissitudes of the Dictionary until the appearance of Volume III. With the publication of Part IV in March 1888, Volume I was complete. Although *New English Dictionary* remained the official title throughout the history of the first edition, the name *Oxford English Dictionary* now became used in advertising. Murray started making good progress, but Bradley's rate of progress remained slow, also because of the scale of his entries. A Committee was formed to look into the slow progress. Consideration was given to a third editor. It became apparent

that the letter C alone would be contained in Volume II, making it necessary to publish a shorter fascicle extending only to the end of C. This proved so popular with the public that the Delegates decided to continue publishing smaller fascicles. In September 1894 Charles Onions became an assistant. During the first half of 1896 the Delegates tried to force a scale of 6:1 of Webster onto Murray and Bradley, but eventually the crisis was solved when a scale of 8:1 was agreed on. Bradley was requested to move to Oxford, North House being offered to him where he settled in July 1896. As space was limited in the Scriptorium, he was given a room in the Press itself. In June 1897 William Craigie was appointed as third editor. When the last section of D was published in July 1897, Volume III, containing the letters D and E could finally appear. The date 1918 was now considered plausible for the completion of the Dictionary.

Chapter 7 'And then there were four: 1897–1915' describes the period after the appearance of Volume III. An impression of continuous progress was effected by the issuing of small quarterly fascicles instead of larger, more irregular Parts. William Craigie, having been given a favourable assessment by Bradley after a three months' trial, was engaged for a further three years, the second of which was to be spent working under Murray's direction. At the end of March 1901 Bradley and Craigie took up residence in the Old Ashmolean Building. Both Bradley and Craigie still struggled to keep their entries satisfactorily compressed. Other publications were also undertaken. Work on an Abridged edition of the OED by William Little started in 1903. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English edited by Henry and Frank Fowler appeared in 1911. After this Frank Fowler started working on the Pocket Oxford Dictionary. Volumes IV and V of the OED were completed in 1901. Volume VI appeared in September 1908. After Onions had been given a trial period, he started as independent Editor in January 1914. Progress was slowed down by the War, which brought about a reduction in the editorial staff, and the staff in other departments of the Press. Murray's health now began to fail. The last Dictionary entry, which bears his handwriting is that for twilight. He died of heart failure on 26 July 1915.

Chapter 8 'After twilight: 1915–1923' deals with the period after Murray's death. The slower progress was caused, not only by the War, but also, as Bradley, Craigie and Onions pointed out, by a rise in the editorial standards and the amount of material to be assessed. The Armistice brought a return of absent staff, so that work could continue as usual. When the last of the manuscript of S was sent to the printers, the Dictionary was complete from A to T. Craigie started work on U, while Onions moved to XYZ. With the *un*-words scale soon became problematic. However, it was found that the deviation in the scope of *un*-words in comparison with the unabridged Webster of 1847 was not so big. Although Murray's final letter T had ended up with a Webster scale of 12 which was gradually accepted as a new realistic figure, the scale of V proved to exceed Webster considerably. By the second half of 1921 three sections of U, a sizable portion of W and Onions's XYZ were complete. When Little, working on the Abridged, died early in 1922, Onions and his staff were committed to

assist with the Abridged. Henry Fowler, busy on the *Pocket*, collected corrections and additions for incorporation in the *Concise*. The Supplement to the main Dictionary now also needed consideration for the future.

Chapter 9 'Limping over the finishing line: 1923–1933' deals with the completion of the main Dictionary and the Supplement. When Henry Bradley died in May 1923, Craigie had to assist with W. It now also became apparent that it might take Craigie longer to finish the unpublished portion of U. Although he accepted a professorship at the University of Chicago, he was still able to assist with the Dictionary. But progress slowed down considerably. During Craigie's stay in Oxford in the summer of 1926, he succeeded in finishing W, the last copy going to the press in July 1927. The final volume of the Dictionary was published on 19 April 1928, completing the first edition of the OED. Craigie secured funds for the extraction of material from Oxford for his planned period dictionaries, and also for an assistant professorship for George Watson in Chicago to help with the Dictionary of American English. Still trying to edit the Abridged at the same time, Onions and his assistants working on the Supplement soon fell far behind Craigie who was responsible for only the American vocabulary. There was therefore no satisfactory progress on the Supplement and the Abridged. As a reissue of the Dictionary became necessary, an accompanying Supplement was imperative to prevent criticism labelling the Dictionary as dated. James Wyllie was now given a trial on the Supplement, assigning him to prepare material for the letter L to be approved by Craigie, who gave Wyllie coaching during his summer visit to Oxford. The recruit Stella Mills was assigned to work on the Abridged, which Onions struggled to keep going alongside the Supplement. Onions failed to complete A-K by the end of June 1931. A separate unit within Onions's staff headed by John O'Loughlin was created, Onions taking a supervisory role. Onions and O'Loughlin undertook S-T as well as the remaining portion of G-K, and Wyllie, supervised by Craigie, the rest of the alphabet, with the final handover of copy on 1 December 1932, making publication in the spring of 1933 possible. The Abridged renamed the Shorter Oxford Dictionary was published on 16 February 1933. The Historical Introduction to the Dictionary written for the most part by Craigie was printed in both the Supplement and the reissue of the main Dictionary. This reissue now bore the official title of Oxford English Dictionary. The Supplement was also printed in a slightly different form to accompany the first edition. Both forms included, in addition to the pages containing the entries, a Bibliography of quoted sources and a list of 'Spurious Words'. The scheduled date for publication was 14 November 1933, thus concluding the endeavour of English historical lexicography started in 1877.

Ш

Chapter 10 'Interregnum: 1933–1957' deals with the period before an editor for the new Supplement was appointed. Material collected for the first edition of the *OED* and the Supplement was used for a number of lexicographical under-

takings outside Oxford, some of which benefited more directly from contribution by OED lexicographers, and most of which retained connection with the Press for printing and publication, such as the period and regional dictionaries conceived by Craigie. In addition to the Oxford Latin Dictionary on which several editors consecutively worked, the various smaller dictionaries such as the Concise, Pocket and Little were revised. The collection of material was continued by a small group of readers, while Wyllie maintained his database of revisions and additions, referred to as the 'O.E.D. Collections'. Separate from these, Craigie accumulated his own collection of such material. After his memorandum of 1942, called 'O.E.D. Supplement 2', in which he envisaged an expansion of the 1933 Supplement, he continued work on his material for the remainder of the War. Onions also collected new words and meanings meriting a place in the OED, especially through his work of revising and expanding the two versions of the Addenda to the Shorter, which appeared in 1939 and 1944. By the early 1950s it became clear that a new Supplement was necessary because the OED and the 1933 Supplement were becoming dated, especially when compared to the new editions of the Concise, Pocket and Little. Searching for a suitable editor for both the revision of the Supplement and a new edition of the Shorter now began. Alan Horsman, who was appointed accepted a professorship however, and was replaced by Robert Burchfield. For the remainder of his time in Oxford Housman carried out preliminary work. For a wordlist of items to be included in the new Supplement he, with the assistance of Raymond Goffin, identified different sources that could yield material. It was anticipated that the greatest part of the new vocabulary would probably be technical. At this stage a Supplement of only a single volume was envisaged. When Horsman started to compile his wordlist, it became evident that constraints of space would require the list to be quite selective, especially with regard to technical vocabulary.

IV

Chapters 11–13 describe the developments regarding the *OED* and the smaller OUP dictionaries from the appointment of Robert Burchfield onwards.

Chapter 11 'Learning to swim (again): 1957–1972' deals with the collection of material for the Supplement until the publication of Volume I. The extent of new vocabulary coming to light far exceeded that which could be included in the new Supplement as it was anticipated to be completed in 1967. By the beginning of 1969 Burchfield started drafting entries. The publication of the third edition of *Webster's New International Dictionary* made him aware that the materials collected for the Supplement compared unfavourably with those in Webster, especially with regard to the profusion of new words in science and technology. By September 1963 Burchfield and his assistants had prepared copy corresponding to about 40 pages of the 1933 Supplement. The new entries, as well as the general style of presentation met with a favourable response. During 1964 and 1965 the drafting of entries continued. There was no

longer any question of confining the text to a single volume. Burchfield's editorial resources had now often to be diverted to other projects, including new impressions or editions of other dictionaries. One of these was to prepare, in collaboration with George Friedrichsen, a publishable text of the Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology which was left almost completed by Onions at his death. Redeployment in favour of the Supplement, and to the detriment of the Shorter took place during 1966 and 1967. A full-scale revision of the Shorter was abandoned in favour of a re-setting of the existing text with revised etymologies and Addenda. Philip Gove's offer to put the quotation files of Merriam-Webster (the publishers of Webster3) at the disposal of the Supplement provided antedatings for about a third of Oxford's material. Albert Boni's suggestion of publishing a Compact OED, which appeared in October 1971 proved to be very successful. When the proofs for Volume I were completed, Burchfield and other members of the Supplement were reassigned to the Shorter to ensure its publication in 1973. The appointment of John Sykes as editor of both the Concise and the Pocket in September 1971 meant that he was less available for work on the Supplement. Volume I, containing the letters A-G, finally appeared in October 1971.

Chapter 12 'Second Supplement to Second Edition: 1972-1989' tells how the next three volumes of the Supplement were completed and how these together with the main Dictionary and the 1933 Supplement were all combined for the second edition of the OED. Early in 1973 Burchfield could resume work on Volume II, after he had completed the new Addenda for the Shorter, which was now ready to be published. The new Concise, which appeared in July 1976 preceded the publication in November 1976 of Volume II of the Supplement, containing only the letters H-N. In addition to the English dictionaries, Burchfield became, from July 1976, also responsible for the planning of the Press's growing group of bilingual dictionaries. The misleading title of a talk by Burchfield on Webster3 caused G. & C. Merriam to withdraw from its collaboration with the OED project, as it was believed that the dictionary had been unfavourably reviewed. In the autumn of 1977 the Oxford Dictionary Department moved from 41 Walton Crescent to 37a St Giles'. Schedules for the Supplement had to be considered alongside those for all the other dictionary projects in progress during this time, causing editors often to be moved from one project to the other. John Simpson and Edmund Weiner were promoted to senior positions on the Supplement staff. Richard Palmer, having completed the Oxford Latin Dictionary at last, was also transferred to the Supplement. Publication of Volume III of the Supplement, containing O-Scz, took place on 15 July 1982, together with that of the new Concise. For the formation of an ongoing database, the New English Word Service (NEWS) was established. At the beginning of 1984 Weiner was moved over to the New OED computerization project. 'Phase 1' comprised the integration of material from the Supplement into the main body of the Dictionary. For the creation of an electronic database containing the integrated text of the OED and Supplement, from which it was also

planned to produce a printed version, a machine-readable text had to be prepared. The goals of 'Phase 2' included the publication of the Dictionary in electronic form, and the ongoing revision, updating and enhancing of the text. Simpson, now joining the *New OED* project, took over the running of NEWS. Volume IV of the Supplement, comprising Se–Z, was published on 8 May 1986. During 1986 new publications edited by other OUP lexicographers also appeared. Simpson and Weiner now became co-editors of the *New OED*. Many of the changes to this version of the Dictionary, which had begun to be referred to as the second edition were necessary, for example to bring about consistency in the presentation of the headwords and pronunciation and to incorporate additional senses in the main sense sequences of large entries. New entries prepared by the NEWS team were added to the *OED* database. A two-disc version of *OED*₁ was released in late 1987. Computerization of the *OED* now suggested the possibility of accelerating the editing process of the revised *Shorter*. The official publication of the twenty volumes of *OED*₂ occurred in March 1989.

Chapter 13 'Towards OED3: 1989-' deals with the post-OED2 period. OED₂ became available in a micrographically printed 'Compact OED₂' in 1991, followed by a CD-ROM version in 1992. New vocabulary items researched and documented by the NEWS team were further made available in the 'OED Additions Series', of which Volumes 1 and 2, co-edited by Simpson and Weiner, appeared in November 1993. A 'guide' to some of the words which became prominent in that decade, the Oxford Dictionary of New Words, compiled by the NEWS editor Sara Tulloch, was published in 1991. Apart from the collection of material for the OED database, two key publishing goals were reached. The publication of the Shorter, the new edition being called the New Shorter Oxford Dictionary, took place in September 1993. The planned intermediate dictionary (provisionally titled the Oxford Dictionary of the English Language in 1991) finally appeared in August 1998 as the New Oxford Dictionary of English, the 'New' being omitted in later editions. In 1993 the entire Dictionary Department moved from 37a St Giles' into offices in the main OUP buildings in Walton Street. During the year detailed investigation of particular points of policy and practice was carried out by the 'OED Revision' team. Also established was the OED Advisory Committee, an external body of linguists and others who could inform on key matters of policy. The most important policy decisions were those relating to the coverage of earlier periods of English, the scope of the etymologies and the inclusion of material. At the end of 1993 John Simpson became Chief Editor of the OED, with Edmund Weiner becoming Deputy Chief Editor to set him free to concentrate on specific key aspects of the revision process. While the work of creating the text of OED3 was continuing, the third volume of the OED Additions Series, edited by Michael Proffitt, appeared in July 1997. This was the last such volume as plans for OED Online were now sufficiently definite that new entries could become available through online publication. The publication model which was decided on would provide a new release of alphabetical ranges of revised entries every quarter. From March

 $2000\ OED_3$ material was released online, the first version containing the full text of OED_2 and the three Additions volumes, together with a range of 1,000 revised entries. After the retirement of John Simpson in October 2013, Michael Proffitt became Chief Editor, with Philip Durkin as second Deputy Chief Editor alongside Edmund Weiner.

V

These summaries of the different chapters give the bare factual outline of the main historical development of the *OED*. In each chapter this development is described in great detail: the difficulties of acquiring competent staff, the intricate negotiations about remuneration, the struggle to let the projects progress satisfactorily ... To lexicographers these are all too familiar. To non-lexicographers it might be revealing to learn what such a project involves.

Interspersed within every chapter are also found the opinions and attitudes of a wide range of people, from the planners to the editors, about what lexicographical information should be presented in such a historical dictionary. These and criticism of the presentation can be garnered from all the chapters. The two 'interludes' and the thirty-two 'capsules' play a supplementary and enhancing role to these.

The first interlude, 'The work of Furnivall's sub-editors', gives an overview of the editing done before the project almost came to a standstill. Because Furnivall did not do any systematic monitoring of the work, there was a great variation of approach among the sub-editors. Some of them seemingly did no sub-editing. The method Furnivall set out did not differ essentially from the methods of the *OED*'s lexicographers, except that the organization of the senses was to be into a 'logical succession'. Although it was called a 'Concise' Dictionary, it becomes clear from the policies of presentation, scale, inclusion and documentation that it was conceptualized far more extensively. The idea was that the entries should have been brought to such a state of completion that they could have been printed immediately. However, a very small proportion of the alphabet was ever completed by Furnivall's sub-editors to a point at which printing would even have been possible.

The second interlude, 'Method: from quotation slip to published entry', describes the procedure followed in the compilation of entries, which remained essentially unchanged during the work on the first edition of the *OED*, and which was basically employed by each Editor's team. The components of this process were the sorting of the quotations, first alphabetically, and then chronologically for each word, the sub-editing and re-sub-editing comprising the identifying of the individual sub-senses and writing definitions, the drafting of entries and the selection of quotations by assistants and the Editor, finally followed by correcting the proofs and reading the corrected proofs again. All the Editors of the first edition of the Dictionary strove to create a stylistically homogeneous text, succeeding remarkably well. Murray seems to have man-

aged, most of the time, to achieve a higher degree of compression in his portions of the text than the other Editors.

The capsules describe decisions on inclusion which the OED lexicographers had to make, but sometimes also reveal their personal peculiarities. Apart from being informative, these capsules often reflect the enjoyment and fascination of working with words and treating their meanings, as can be seen from the following examples.

The capsule macadamized explains how the discovery of a quotation of unmacadamized, dated earlier than that of macadamized, led to a search for an earlier use of macadamized too, which led to a re-revision of the word in OED Online. The capsule inquorate describes how quorate was included in Volume III of the Supplement together with inquorate, for which there was no evidence when Volume II was compiled, an anomaly which could only have been rectified in the second edition. In the capsule discussing the almost obsolete agreeance compared to the far more common and familiar agreement, it is shown how the word gained renewed life when it was used by Fred Durst, the lead singer of Limp Biskit, resulting in its revised entry in OED Online. The capsule rime relates how Murray's preference for the spelling of rime over rhyme, which is the long established form became problematic when both forms appeared in definitions, therefore making two separate sequences of entries for the two spellings necessary. The capsule African tells how Murray at first omitted words derived from geographical and personal names by the addition of a suffix, but when this eventually proved untenable, he came up with a rationale for selective inclusion in cases where they either have other uses or have derivatives which need explanation. Under the capsule insinuendo where a value judgement is given in the OED Supplement, it is mentioned that evidence of prescriptivism in the OED is found since Murray and his fellow editors, a practice continued by Burchfield. The capsule *chav*, a word which only received a complete entry in OED Online, explains how it came about that every year two separate words, one each for British and American English, are nominated 'words of the year' by OUP lexicographers.

In conclusion: The book gives an absorbing and vivid account and a detailed and exhaustive presentation of the meticulously researched facts dealing with the development of the *OED* and its related dictionaries. At the same time it is a worthy and meritorious tribute to the hundreds of people, who collaborated in establishing one of the great historical dictionaries.

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