

NOAH WEBSTER

A Century of Progress in the Development of

# WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY

G. & C. MERRIAM COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Visit the Merriam-Webster Exhibit, Hall of Social Science, A Century of Progress.

CARSON PIRIE SCOTT & CO., CHICAGO

### A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN THE



The Monroe Doctrine - Announced in 1823

In 1828, five years after the historical announcement of President Monroe, the first large American dictionary was published in two volumes containing 70,000 words. Noah Webster had spent twenty years in preparing this book which was to set the standard for accuracy, clearness, and adequacy of definition maintained in each succeeding edition of Webster's Dictionary.

# HISTORICAL TABLEAUX A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

1864, the year after Lincoln's immortal address, marked a new milestone in the development of the dictionary — the publication of the famous Webster's Unabridged Dictionary with a vocabulary increased to 114,000 words. The greatest Webster thus far was supervised by Dr. Noah Porter, later President of Yale.



Lincoln's, Gettysburg Address, 1863



Peary Discovers the North Pole — 1909

In 1909, the same year when Peary electrified the world with his dash to the Pole, the greatest of the Webster series was produced — Webster's New International Dictionary, with 442,000 entries. It contained more than six times the number of words in the 1828 edition, and a more full and scholarly treatment of the English language than had ever before been approached.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE DICTIONARY

In 1847, just a year before the epochal discovery of gold in California, the first of the famous line of Merriam-Websters was published, following arrangements made in 1843 by George and Charles Merriam to continue publication of Webster's Dictionary. This edition was supervised by Professor Goodrich of Yale, Noah Webster's son-in-law.



The California Gold Rush, 1848-1849

# IN THE MERRIAM EXHIBIT CHICAGO, 1933



First International American Conference, 1890

In 1890, this great Conference at Washington inaugurated relations between the United States and the South American Republics and helped to establish these Republics in international affairs. In the same year, the new edition of Webster was called Webster's International Dictionary in recognition of English as a world language and of Webster as the authority of the English-speaking world.

The Day of Miracles. Television, aviation, engineering — these and many other arts and sciences are making this an age of miracles. As man's mastery of his world increases, the language grows. New words are formed to express new knowledge. And as these new words come into our language, Webster's New International records, defines, and pronounces them, and makes them available for your use. In recent years 5,000 new and necessary words have been added to the vocabulary of Webster's New International.



The Day of Miracles

# MANY CENTURIES OF PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANGUAGE

Our words have come to us from sources and in ways that will prove most surprising to anyone who has not yet discovered the fascination of tracing words back to their origins. Some of them have lived for thousands of years and have played their parts in many lands and many

#### Candidate

One Clothed in White

In Latin, candidus means "glittering,"
"white." Among the ancient Romans, a man campaigning for office wore a white toga and was called candidatus "one clothed in white."
Directly from this origin comes our word candidate with the meaning "one campaigning for office"— but without the original significance as to dress.



#### Chapel

From the Sacred Cloak of St. Martin

When Saint Martin died at Tours, his cloak was preserved as a holy relic. Late Latin capella "a little cloak," came to mean also the sanctuary in which St. Martin's cloak was kept. Then capella came to denote any shrine in which sacred things were kept, and later any building used for sacred services. Latin capella became Old French chapele and English chapel.

#### Calculate

From the Counting Stones of the Romans

The Romans did their reckoning with the aid of little stones used as counters. The Latin word for the pebble used in this way was calculus, diminutive of calx meaning "limestone." From calculus was formed the yerb calculare "to calculate" and its past participle calculatus is the immediate origin of our word calculate.



civilizations. The "word stories" below are just a few of the many thousands recorded in Webster's New International Dictionary. The illustrations are photographs of the Word Origin tableaux at A Century of Progress exhibit.

#### Curfew

Cover the Fire

In the Middle Ages, peasants were required to cover or extinguish their fires at a fixed hour in the evening, announced by the ringing of a bell called the "cover-fire," French couvre-feu. The Norman French used it in England, the Medieval English adopted it as curfu, and it has come down to modern English in the form curfew.

#### Neighbor

Once Meant A Near-by Farmer

In Anglo-Saxon, neah meant "nigh," "near," and gebur meant "dweller," "farmer." These two words were combined into neahgebur meaning literally "a near-by farmer." From this same source came our own word neighbor, with a meaning broadened enough to signify even nations in the modern world.



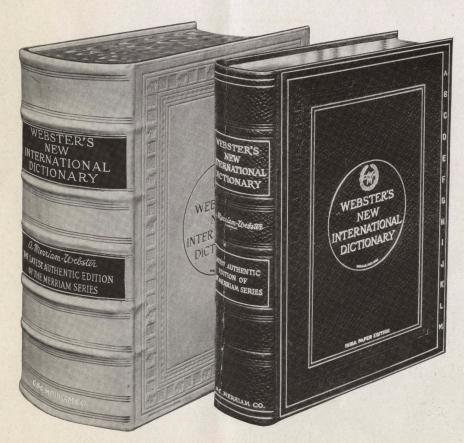
#### Broker

Originally a Vendor of Wine

Broker is derived from Old French broquier or brokier, a dialectal form of brochier "one who broaches or taps" a cask to draw off the liquor. Thus the original broker was a vendor of wine; later any small retailer, peddler, or agent; and from this lowly beginning the word has developed to its present dignity.



# WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY



Regular Edition

India-Paper Edition

# The "Supreme Authority"

It is the most authoritative modern reference library in one volume. Its type matter is equivalent to a 15-volume encyclopedia. In its 2,700 pages there are 452,000 entries, including 12,000 biographical entries; 32,000 geographical subjects; 100 valuable tables; over 6,000 illustrations. Its up-to-date, encyclopedic information makes it the most dependable general question-answerer on every subject.

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#### Get the Best

See Webster's New International Dictionary at your bookstore or write the publishers for full information and specimen pages. Remember: a Merriam Uebster appears on the cover of every dictionary for which G. & C. Merriam Company is editorially responsible. Regular Edition: Buff Buckram, \$16.00, Sheep, \$20.00

India-Paper Edition: Library Buckram, \$22.50, Full Leather, \$30.00

#### WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE

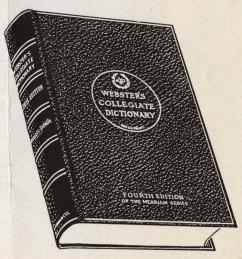
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Remember: A MERRIAM-WEBSTER appears on the cover of every dictionary for which G. & C. Merriam Company is editorially responsible



Noah Webster's own desk — a famous piece of furniture in the possession of G. & C. Merriam Co. and on exhibition at A Century of Progress, Chicago 1933

#### 1831 - 1933

# Over 100 Years of Experience

The year 1931 marked the 100th anniversary of G. & C. Merriam Company. It was in 1831 that George and Charles Merriam set up business as publishers and booksellers in Springfield, Massachusetts. Following the death of Noah Webster in 1843 the Merriams acquired all rights in the publication which has made the name G. & C. Merriam Company known the world over.

Under the editorship of Professor Chauncey A. Goodrich, Webster's son-in-law, the Merriams completely revised Webster's American Dictionary and in 1847 published the first of the famous line of Merriam-Websters. In 1850 this book was adopted by the State of Massachusetts for all of its schools and shortly thereafter by the State of New York, thus presaging the adoption of Merriam-Webster Dictionaries as the national school standard.

In 1859 the Merriams introduced for the first time in any American dictionary supplementary sections of classified illustrations, new words, and tables of synonyms—features now recognized as essential in any dictionary.

During the tumultuous period from 1860 to 1864 the Merriams produced the famous Webster's Unabridged. In 1879 "A Pronouncing Biographical Dictionary" was included and in 1884 "A Pronouncing Gazetteer." The complete revision of 1890 marked another epochal step. In recognizing English as a world language and in recognizing the use of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as the authority of the whole English-speaking world, the new edition was called Webster's International Dictionary. The third complete revision, Webster's New International Dictionary, was published in 1909. It contained 442,000 entries, almost double the number of the previous edition, and was prepared at a cost of more than \$400,000. Since the first publication of the New International the editorial staff has been constantly engaged in improving and enlarging the work to keep it up to date. 5,000 new words have been added up to the present time.

One hundred years of experience insure the scholarship and accuracy of the Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

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Printed in U.S.A.