

This is an expanded version of Peter Gilliver's "Appendix II. *OED*Personalia", first published in Lynda Mugglestone (ed.), *Lexicography and the OED: Pioneers in the Untrodden Forest* (Oxford, 2000), the text of which is © Oxford University Press, and is reproduced with permission.

An asterisk against an individual's name indicates that he/she appears in the [Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#); in such cases, the reader is referred to the *ODNB* for information beyond that given in the entry. Beside some entries in this list, there is additionally a *More details* link, indicating that an individual entry and a sample of their handwriting can also be seen on this site.

- Amours, François (Francis) Joseph (1841-1910). Schoolmaster (at Glasgow Academy and Glasgow High School) and man of letters. Edited texts for the Scottish Text Society. Read and annotated *OED* proofs from *C* onwards; also contributed a collection of early instances of French loanwords in English.
- \*Amphlett, John (1845-1918). Historian and diarist; author of several books on Worcestershire. Reader for *OED*.
- Anderson, William Johnston (d. 1900). Of Markinch, Fife. Reader for *OED*; sub-edited in *M* and *P*.
- \*Anson, William Reynell (1843-1914). Jurist, and warden of All Souls College, Oxford. Acted as consultant to *OED* on many legal terms.
- Apperson, George Latimer (1857-1937). School inspector and man of letters; editor of the *Antiquary* 1899-1915. Reader for *OED* (credited with 11,000 quotations in 1888); sub-edited in *B* and *C*; later drew heavily on *OED* in compiling his historical dictionary *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases* (1929); also produced *A Jane Austen Dictionary* (1932).
- \*Arber, Edward (1836-1912). English scholar; professor of English language and literature at Birmingham from 1881 (professor emeritus 1894). Edited many early modern texts for publication or reprinting. Friend of Murray, whom he supplied with copies of his 'English Reprints' series for reading, and with whom he corresponded on many specific points.
- Ardagh, Richard Drapes (1823-99). Soldier, serving in India and Burma; Commissioner of Pegu, 1863-78; also an authority on Burmese, which he taught at Oxford and Cambridge. Read for *OED* (credited with 8,400 quotations in 1884).
- Atkinson, John Christopher (1814-1900). Antiquary, and author of numerous works on Yorkshire, including a *Glossary of the Cleveland Dialect* (1868). Read for *OED*, and gave specialist advice on particular words.
- Austin, Thomas, junior. Of Oxford, Hornsey, and elsewhere. Probably the most prolific contributor of quotations to the first edition of *OED* (already credited with 165,000 in 1888), both as a reader and as a supplier of desiderata. Probably also the editor of *Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books* (1888) for the EETS.
- Balk, Charles Godfrey (1857-1915). Member of Murray's editorial staff 1885-1913. Also wrote a meditation on the meaning of life, posthumously published as *Life is Growth* (1922).
- Barry, Edward Milner (1819-1902). Clergyman; vicar of Scothorne, Lincs., 1852-91. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,000 quotations in 1884).
- Barry, Eleanor E. (b. 1835/6). Of London. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,600 quotations in 1884).
- Bartlett, James (1823/4-1908). Tutor, of Bramley, near Guildford. Sub-edited in *G*, *M*, *O*, *R*, and *S*.
- Bathoe, Maria Burnley (d. 1885). Of London; daughter of the radical politician Joseph Hume. Contributed many quotations to the *OED* (credited with over 5,000 in 1888), including many from the novels of Dickens.
- Bayliss, Henry James (b. 1868). Son of an Oxford gardener. Joined the staff of the Bodleian library in Oxford in 1884; member of Bradley's, and later Craigie's editorial staff, 1891-1932 (including work on the *Supplement*).
- Beazeley, Alexander (1830-1905). Civil engineer, involved especially in lighthouse construction; librarian of the Royal Institute of British Architects. 'A devoted friend of the Dictionary from its very commencement' (according to Murray in his 1907 preface to the section *Pennage-Plat*); read for *OED* (ultimately credited with more than 30,000 quotations), and contributed many desiderata; consulted on terms in architecture, engineering, and associated subjects. [More details »](#)

- Beckett, William Henry (1847/8-1901). Minister of the Congregational Church of Stebbing, near Chelmsford, and writer on the English Reformation. Reader for *OED*; sub-edited in *W*.
- Birt, John Wixon (b. 1890). Joined Onions' editorial staff in 1906, and continued (with a gap for war service 1914-19) until 1933, including work on the *Supplement*. Assisted Onions with various other lexicographical projects, including the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.
- \*Blandford, George Fielding (1829-1911). Physician and psychiatrist. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,150 quotations in 1884, including some desiderata).
- Bleek, Charles Thring (1828/9-85). Of Bath. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,300 quotations in 1884).
- Blomfield, family: James Stone Blomfield (b. 1856/7, a pupil at Mill Hill School, later a wool merchant) and his sisters Jane Charlotte (b. 1852/3), Mary Elizabeth (b. 1858/9), Emily R. (b. 1860/1), and Alice K. (b. 1862/3), all of Upper Norwood. They all read for *OED* (credited with a total of 6,050 quotations in 1884).
- Boulter, Walter Cousitt (1847/8-1912). Clergyman; chaplain to the Worcester Diocesan Penitentiary at Malvern Link, and vicar of Norton (near Evesham). A prolific contributor of quotations to *OED* (credited with over 2,000 in 1888), including many desiderata.
- Bousfield, George Benjamin Richings (1824/5-1897). Clergyman; curate of Carleton Rode, Norfolk, 1847-52, and of Swaffham 1852-3. Reader for *OED* (credited with 10,000 quotations in 1888); sub-edited in *F*, *G*, *R*, and *W*; also read proofs.
- Bowles, Samuel James (1826-85). Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1855-68, and thereafter rector of Beaconsfield. Did some sub-editing in *G* for Furnivall; also read for *OED* (credited with 6,000 quotations in 1884).
- Boyd, William. Of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Reader for *OED* (credited with over 5,000 quotations in 1888).
- Brackebusch, L. William (1837/8-89). Schoolmaster (of the High School for Boys, Finchley Road, London; later headmaster of St Paul's College, Stony Stratford). Sub-edited in *B*.
- Bradley, Eleanor Spencer (1875-1950). Daughter of Henry Bradley. Member of Bradley's, and later Onions' editorial staff, 1897-1932 (including work on the *Supplement*).
- \*Bradley, Henry (1845-1923). After 20 years working as a clerk to a Sheffield cutlery firm, during which he acquired a knowledge of many languages through private study, he was appointed in 1886 to assist Murray with the letter *B*, having demonstrated his considerable philological acumen in a review of *OED*'s first fascicle (in the *Academy* in 1884); became second editor in 1888 (initially working from London, but moving to Oxford in 1896), with overall responsibility for *E-G*, *L-M*, and parts of *S* and *W*; senior editor following Murray's death in 1915. Also prepared a revised edition of Stratmann's *Middle English Dictionary* (published by OUP in 1891). President of the Philological Society 1890-3, 1900-3, and 1909-10.
- Brandreth, Edward Lyall (1823-1907). Barrister. Joined the Philological Society in 1872, and regularly served on its Council. Sub-edited in *G*, *H*, *K*, and *N*; also read for *OED*, supplied many quotation desiderata, and assisted for many years by reading proofs and by verifying references at the British Museum.
- Britten, James (1846-1924). Botanist, working first at Kew and later in the British Museum, where he was Senior Assistant when he retired in 1909; co-author (with Robert Holland) of *A Dictionary of English Plant-Names* (1886). Consulted as an authority on botanical terms; also contributed quotations, and did some sub-editing in *P*.
- Brooks, Mrs. Of Birmingham. Reader for *OED* (credited with over 5,000 quotations in 1888).
- Brown, Jemima E. A. (1832/3-1907). Of Further Barton, Cirencester; published some religious writings, including a collection of sonnets *Thoughts through the Year* (1873). Reader for *OED* (credited with 4,500 quotations in 1884), and from 1882 one of its most indefatigable sub-editors, working on *B*, *C*, *D*, *I*, and *P*; close friend of Murray. Her sister Elizabeth (b. 1830/1) also read for *OED* (credited with 3,000 quotations in 1884).
- Brown, Joseph (b. 1841/2). Schoolmaster; sometime headmaster of Kendal Grammar School. The longest-serving of Furnivall's original sub-editors; he worked on *OED* for over 50 years from 1860, sub-editing in *M*, *S*, and *U*.
- Browne, Walter Raleigh (1842-84). Civil engineer, and writer on mechanics; also one of the founders of the Society for Psychical Research in 1882. Sub-edited in *S*. His wife Effie also read for *OED* (she was credited with over 5,000 by 1888).

- \*Brushfield, Thomas Nadauld (1828-1910). Physician (a pioneer of humane methods of treating the insane) and antiquarian. A prolific contributor of quotations to *OED* (credited with 50,000 in 1888), including many desiderata.
- Bryan, W. J. Member of Bradley's editorial staff c.1891-3.
- Buehrle, Robert Koch (1840-1920). Educationist, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,200 quotations in 1884).
- Bumby, Frederic Edward (1859/60-1918). Member of Murray's editorial staff 1885-7; also did some sub-editing in *N*; later read and annotated proofs. From 1897 taught at University College, Nottingham.
- Burton, Eliza Felicia (1821/2-1915). Of Carlisle; daughter of Charles James Burton, Chancellor of the diocese of Carlisle. A prolific contributor of quotations to *OED* (credited with 11,400 quotations in 1888).
- Byington, Miss A. Of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Reader for *OED* (credited with 2,450 quotations in 1884).
- \*Bywater, Ingram (1840-1914). Greek scholar; regius professor of Greek at Oxford 1893-1908. Delegate of the OUP from 1879 until his death; was associated with *OED* for longer than any other Delegate. Member (with York Powell) of a subcommittee appointed in 1896 by the Delegates which considered the issue of the scale of *OED* as compared to Webster's dictionary; supplied information on particular words for many years.