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WEBSTER's Old Gray Mare Ahoy !

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1 — Anyone wanting to keep up will find he must acquire the newest Webster Unabridged, now hot off the presses. He'll not be getting the creation of G. & C. Merriam's lexicographical skills alone, however. These are now compounded with a potent dose of merchandising gimmickry bugged in to double sales — the sale of edition II, originally vintaged in 1934, concurrently with this edition III.

The publisher's gimmick consists in putting just so much into III which II doesn't have as to make III attractive; and keeping just enough out of III that II *does* have as to make the *latter* attractive. So now, to all intents and purposes, Webster's becomes a 2-volume Unabridged, which is a sad letdown.

The first term I consulted in III ain't there, while II gives it a 10-line entry. It's *Stabat Mater*, there on the nose in II, forcibly evicted in III.

This forewarns us what we're being let in for. Entries won't be found in III; yet what the translator often wants even more than the definition is the *entry*, which tells him for sure that a given term exists and how it's spelt.

The cover of the new edition is not backward in telling the facts. The jacket blurb could very well have sought refuge in the "Fifth" but instead goes all out to spill the beans cold. It announces 450,000 entries for III, a bald drop from the 600,000 advertised for II; it claims 2,720 pages for III, a horripilant descent from the 3,350 pages of II.

Comparison shows why. Edition II, in my 1959 printing, has a supplement of 60 compact columns, 10 pages full, of Abbreviations. This supplement is now gone and only a scattered selection of abbreviations may be expected to recur in alphabetical place in the main body of III.

Edition II had a 10-page supplement of Arbitrary Signs and Symbols, of which no equivalent entries are apparent anywhere in the newest edition, which has also eased out such other helpful features as Forms of Address, Gazetteer, and Bibliographical Dictionary.

A drastic loss is that imposed by outright suppression of the invaluable notes in small type, thousands of them in all, set unobtrusively at the bottom of every page in II. These notes give the unusual variants of words already entered in the text proper, or words too rare for inclusion in the main text altogether. Because of this vandalic act, the translator, for whom the recondite is normal diet, is exposed to malnutrition in III.

The upshot seems to be this: If you own II, hold tight and rejoice. If you don't, better go out and get one while you can. But also save up for III, in decent response to the motivational gimmick in-built for you by the publisher.

Yet have IV in mind, too. Because the publishers, properly respectful of New York Times editorial opinion (October 12) and with an eye to the inherent commercial potential, will no doubt begin expediting a still newer and "definitive" Unabridged, embodying, let us hope, the virtues of both II and III. But that'll take years. Meanwhile users will have to invest double the jack to possess both volumes, and expend endless extra time and calories thumbing through both Websters, in order to extract from two what by rights should be there in one. Quelle misère!

2 — A COMPARATIVE CHECK OF WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED EDITIONS II AND III Published by G. & C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Mass.

Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language

	SECOND EDITION (II)	THIRD EDITION (III)
DATE	1934, 1959 printing.	1961
PRICE	\$40.00	\$47.50
COST	\$1,300,000.00 (doubled by this writer to update) \$2,600,000.00	\$3,500,000.00
PAGES	3,350	2,720

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ENTRIES	600,000	450,000
NEW WORDS	136 pages of New Words as <i>Addenda</i> precede the count of 3,194 pages proper in the 1959 printing.	Jacket blurb states: 100,000 new words or meanings in alphabetical place (hereinafter "in place").
DICTIONARY OF GIVEN NAMES	None (needed !)	None (needed !)
ABBREVIATIONS	A 10-p. supplement gives 3,000 abbr. used in Amer. & Brit. printed lit. Includes (random sampling) F.R.G.S., G.H.Q., G.O.P. NATO is in <i>Addenda</i> (see <i>New Words</i> above), as also FBI.	No supplement. No F.R.G.S. GHQ is in place. GOP you can go pack, as first <i>gop</i> entry is <i>gopak</i> , a dance. NATO is nowhere entered. FBI has a 5-line entry in place.
SIGNS AND SYMBOLS	Has a 10-p. supplement of Arbitrary Signs and Symbols in Aeronautics, Biology, Chemistry, Electricity, Math., Physics, Proofreading.	No supplement; and main text fails also to provide the information. Under <i>proofreading</i> , Funk & Wagnall's New Coll. Std. Dict. gives proofreaders' marks, as do all standard American dictionaries, save III.
GAZETTEER	A supplement gives 20,000 names. At random: Aleutian, Munich, Lake Titicaca.	No supplement. Aleutian and Munich are in place. No entry for Lake Titicaca.
FORMS OF ADDRESS	300 forms of address are supplied in a 3-page supplement.	No supplement nor any equivalent information anywhere.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY	A suppl. of 15,000 names. At random: Spinoza, Borrow, Sepulveda. All found entered. Borrow given as George Borrow and so repeated in main text under <i>Borrovia</i> n.	No supplement. The text word <i>Spinozian</i> , supplies Baruch Spinoza. No text entry <i>Borrovia</i> n, hence no mention of George Henry Borrow. No entry for Juan Gines de Sepulveda.
LOWER SECTION BOTTOM OR PEDESTAL NOTES	Some 85,000 notes are given at bottom of page throughout edition II. They supply variants, rare spellings, etc. "Explanatory Notes" Sec. 76 preceding II states use and high value of this feature.	Not very many of these 85,000 valuable entries reappear in III. Thus III practically undoes vaunted inclusion of 100,000 new words by indulging in what amounts to con game known as "the switch".
THE FIFTH (our p. 1, par. 5)	In the <i>Addenda</i> : <i>fifth</i> of a U.S. gallon, and <i>fifth column</i> appear. Neither the <i>Addenda</i> of II nor the text of III include the phrase or concept "take the Fifth", "plead the Fifth", with reference to the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This is of a piece with the omission from III of NATO (see <i>Abbreviations</i> above).	In place: <i>fifth</i> of a U.S. gallon, and <i>fifth column</i> .
HORRIPILANT (our p. 1, par. 5)	in place.	No entry.
WARHORSE (our footnote p. 1.)	5-line entry	No entry.
CON GAME (our p. 2, Lower Section)	4-line entry for <i>con</i> with <i>confidence game</i> as part of definition.	Given as <i>con</i> , with 9-line entry. <i>Con game</i> or <i>confidence game</i> are not mentioned.

SWITCH (our p. 2, Lower Section)	<i>Switch</i> to indicate sucker handing over lifesavings to con man for bundle of paper claimed to be worth double is given neither in II nor III. However, <i>switch</i> , as such, is allowed over 2 columns in II, with annotated illustration of an electric switch; over 1 column in III, with illustration of switchblade knife; in compensation, whereas II has no entry for <i>switcheroo</i> , III has an entry: <i>switcheroo</i> .	
IMBURSEMENT	This is an example of translator needing assurance he is not coining a word. In a given job a term was wanted besides <i>payment</i> and <i>reimbursement</i> . Translator thought up <i>imbusement</i> , took heart on finding it in II's pedestal notes. Its utter omission in III is therefore misleading.	
KYTOPLASM	Given in pedestal notes as "rare var. <i>cytoplasm</i> ".	No entry.
CYTOPLASM, PLASMATIC, PLASMIC, PLASMICALLY	<i>cytoplasm</i> , <i>cytoplasmic</i> , a 5-line entry.	An 8-line entry, giving all of the cited forms.
CYTOPHORE	No entry.	A 3-line entry.
CYTOPLASMIC HEREDITY OR INHERITANCE	No entry.	A 4-line entry with cross-reference to <i>plasmagene</i> , <i>plasmotogene</i> .
CYTOPLAST	3 lines: "Biol. The cytoplasmic contents of the cell, as distinguished from the nuclear contents. <i>Cytoplastic</i> , adj."	3 lines: "The cytoplasmic content of a cell - compare <i>Protoplast</i> . <i>cytoplastic</i> , adj."

Edition III abounds with speech novelties: Jimmy Durante can't *dig* British money; *beat*, *beatnik*, *fanny*, and any number of allusions to sex and anatomy once censored. Yet only an occasional true-blue 4-letter word creeps in, with the principal one still excluded. Translators abroad who must tackle avant-garde American writing will therefore find III only a partial help. Translators doing Hollywood scripts into the foreign may be better served.

In any case, translators cannot share New York Times' preoccupation lest inclusion of this usage in Webster's lend such vocabulary sanction. Translators want all the words they can get, enabling them to make their own choice. No style of writing is likely to be alien to the translator in the long run, for which reason he welcomes the entries, deplores the omissions.

Citations above from *cytoplasm* to *cytoplast* illustrate the tease by which III is made to contain something that's not in II, to render the new volume attractive when one's concern is with the new. *Kytoplasm* and other citations bear out omissions in III that are available in II, so making the old volume attractive when one's concern is with the bygone and conventional. Consequently, the new volume by itself cannot serve us well. Nor are its typographical innovations of a kind to recommend it to the user over the earlier volume. Yet the publisher will gain his point: for the earnest dictionary consultant will be obliged to spend for both volumes; also provide two workdesks, two lights, a double set of thumbs, twice the store of patience; and, ceasing to swear by the earlier edition, he will be tempted to swear at the two editions, as neither in effect is now truly a Webster's Unabridged.

Lewis BERTRAND



¶ RECUEIL des termes techniques de l'industrie des produits cosmétiques.

Le Dr G. Carrière, de Rotterdam, auteur d'un *Recueil des termes techniques de l'industrie des produits de lavage* dont un bref compte rendu a déjà paru dans la présente revue¹, vient de préparer, avec le concours de spécialistes allemands (W. Eckardt et S. Preisirger) et français (Y. Tollard d'Audicret), un *Recueil des termes techniques en français, anglais et allemand de l'industrie des produits cosmétiques*. Ce glossaire a paru dans la revue *Oléagineux* d'octobre 1961².