



EX ANTE

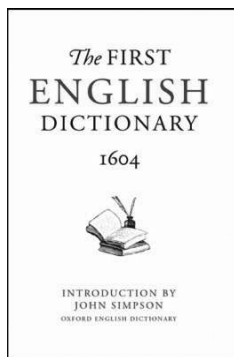
OUR MISTAKE

In our Autumn 2007 issue, *A Tale of Two Justices* attributed to the Justices of the Supreme Court a generous spirit of hospitality that eight of them may not in fact possess. The Justices do not, as previously reported, take the law clerks of all other chambers to lunch. Rather, by Court tradition, each chambers' law clerks invite each of the other Justices to lunch during the Term. The only exception is Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has each chambers' law clerks to her chambers for tea, accompanied by sweets prepared by the excellent baker to whom she is married. We hope someday to share his recipes with our readers.

- Linda Greenhouse, *A Tale of Two Justices*, 11 GREEN BAG 2D 37 (2007).

A TABLE APLHABETICALL

The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford has been collecting books for more than 400 years. Lately it has republished several that we have enjoyed, including *The Original Rules of Rugby*, *The Memoirs of Captain Hugh Crow*, and *Laurel for Libby*. None has given us more pleasure, however, than the Library's nicely re-typeset edition of the only known copy of the first English-language dictionary – Robert Cawdrey's *A Table Alpha-*



Ex Ante

beticall, conteyning and teaching the true writing and understanding of hard usual English wordes, borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latine, or French. &c. (1604).

In addition to interesting definitions (see the samples below), this edition features a fascinating introduction in which *OED* Chief Editor John Simpson cues up not only the dictionary, but also its extraordinary author. Simpson begins ...

Cawdrey was more than just the first person to publish a monolingual English dictionary. He was the central character in a legal ‘case’ (stemming from his ‘degradation’ or expulsion from the clergy) which was one of the more important issues to come before the Star Chamber in the sixteenth century. The story of ‘Cawdrey’s case’ was retailed in legal histories throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Recently the stories of Cawdrey the lexicographer and Cawdrey the defendant in the celebrated case have started to be pieced together, and a composite picture begins to emerge. The 2,500 or so entries in the first edition of Cawdrey’s *Table Alphabeticall*, reproduced here from the only known copy, in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, are a significant part of the picture.

But we must begin at the beginning ...

Borrow or buy Cawdrey’s book and read the rest of the story. And, as promised, here are a few samples from the *Table* itself (with original punctuation):

aduocate, a spokesman, attorney, or man of the law, plead.

elench, [gr*] a subtil argument

equitie, right, lawfulness

iurisdiction, authoritie, to make, or execute lawes in any place.

libel, a writing, or booke

vmpire, iudge:

● THE FIRST ENGLISH DICTIONARY 1604: ROBERT CAWDREY’S A TABLE ALPHABETICALL 7, 36, 48, 81, 83, 106, 108, 152 (Bodleian Library 2007).

* g. or gr. standeth for Greeke.