



TO THE BAG

DENSELY WRITTEN

To the *Bag*:

Your praise of Bryan Garner’s neat handwriting (*see* 25 Green Bag 2d 3) brings to mind the most infamous example of lexicographical error caused by poor penmanship, *Webster’s Second’s* “Dord,” a misreading of “D or d” (abbreviations for “density”) as a word without any etymology. It lay undetected for five years before being removed. *Webster’s Third’s* editor, Philip Gove, later said that the removal was “[p]robably too bad, for why shouldn’t *dord* mean density.”¹ Some of us still bemoan the loss.

Philip R. Schatz
New York, NY



¹ Herbert C. Morton, *The Story of Webster’s Third, Philip Gove’s Controversial Dictionary and Its Critics* 120 (1994).