

(Free read ebook) Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English

Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English

Eric Partridge

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Eric Partridge : Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English:

29 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Two (generous) stars for Kindle edition only By K. Parent First of all, the text itself is great, and I have little doubt that the paper edition is unproblematic. My comments here apply only to the Kindle edition. The people who edited this fine text for the Kindle must not be Kindle users themselves. I recently needed the etymology of the word 'much.' However, the only way to get there is to do a search for the word 'much,' and of course, this produces 30 pages of hits, each with six results, or 180 all together. For each, the Kindle displays limited context, so you can rule out some of them, but others looked like the possible entry. After a few false hits, I finally arrived at the actual entry (from the 15th page of results), only for it to refer me to the entry for 'master.' This dictionary is full of such cross-references, which is fine except that they are not hyper-linked, so you will have to do another search or try to find the correct hit amongst the current search results. Thus we have a dictionary with no proper way to look up words. It's an extremely small minority of dictionary-users who read the tome cover-to-cover, and it's unfortunate that the Kindle edition was prepared in such an effortless manner that only such people are inconvenienced. I implore the publisher to take this into consideration. Kindle editions can be revised and re-downloaded at no cost to the user, and I request such a revision. Kindle dictionaries actually have a look-up function which was not used for this product. Weigh this complaint against the fact that this is a US\$60 purchase and not the

\$9.99 that most non-academic Kindle books are priced at. I don't mind paying more for scholarly work (and fortunately my purchase came out of grant money, which is the only reason I'm not returning it), but given that the author has been dead for over 30 years, this is an awful lot of money to be going to editors who didn't do enough work on the Kindle edition to justify their job titles. If the dictionary is revised in such a way that looking up words is a task easily accomplished, I will happily remove this review and replace it with the glowing review that the text itself deserves. I certainly don't think that the ability to look up words in a dictionary directly is an unreasonable request nor do I think implementing such a method would be difficult for the publisher as it involves a function the Kindle already provides but which the publisher didn't use. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. StupendousBy G. Johnson

This is a review of *Origins*, by Partridge, 1983 edition. (not sure where this review will be posted). Apparently there are some minor differences between some of the printings, and maybe there is a new in-print version of the book? I got this second hand off of .I like languages, speak three, learned a little of a few more, and teach English in a foreign country. While I have lots of "experience" w/ language, I have no formal training in linguistics, just a hobbyist. Simply put, this dictionary is GREAT and I highly recommend it to even just a curious layman. The information is very thorough and cross-references w/ development of parallel words in other languages (not always just a one-word-one-language origin, but actual development of the parallel word in say, German, from Old German spellings to modern spellings and use-changes.) This is not necessarily every entry. It is not useful just for curiosity's sake, but really gives you deeper insight into how words change, and how different languages continue to influence each other over time. There are quite a lot of abbreviations, but you get used to reading them, and the charts and introduction are very clear and easy to understand. Often this book is compared with Chambers etymological dictionary, which I have, and some prefer Chambers. I do not understand why. Chambers is good, but of the tens of times I have looked up a word or word set in both, I can remember only one where I really thought Chambers was better. Sometimes it has info that could complement *Origins*, but generally *Origins* is MUCH more in-depth and clear, and cross-referenced. I think some ppl like Chambers BECAUSE it is less informative-- there is less info to digest. Also it is written in nicer sentences usually with less abbreviations. Like I said, the abbreviations you get used to and I prefer the level of info in *Origins*. FYI, I also have the Shorter OED, and the American Heritage dictionary of Indo-European. I find *Origins* very useful in relation with those volumes. Of course, the Shorter OED is a regular dictionary with some etymological info. *Origins* complements that nicely w/ less thorough definitions of modern meanings, and very complete, exhaustive etymological explanations. They go well together. The Shorter OED by itself is just not a real etymological dictionary. The AH dictionary of Indo-European is a really interesting book to further deepen understanding of word origins, but is of course, focused on IE as opposed to English, and also has much fewer words in it as it is all they have managed to reconstruct from IE. Again it is fun to read together and compare things, but *Origins* is the best book. Also in comparison to Chambers as I stated above. In the end, this book is a better etymological dictionary than any other I have used, basically the three listed above. If you have a good solid dictionary like OED and want some more etymological info, then *origins* is your best bet. Chambers is OK, but *origins* is better, and it is very accessible to any interested untrained layman, once you get used to the abbreviations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gratitude.By ndstry Thank you.

This etymological dictionary gives the origins of some 20,000 items from the modern English vocabulary, discussing them in groups that make clear the connections between words derived by a variety of routes from originally common stock. As well as giving the answers to questions about the derivation of individual words, it is a fascinating book to browse through, and includes extensive lists of prefixes, suffixes, and elements used in the creation of new vocabulary.