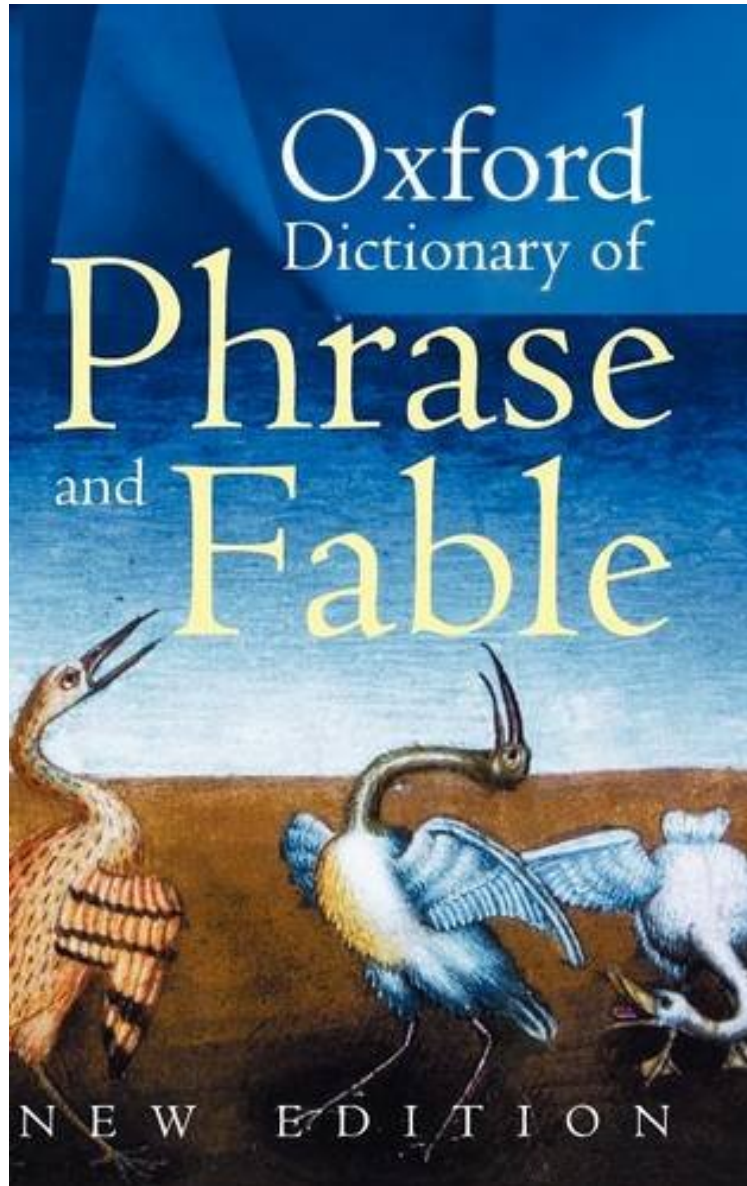


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From Oxford University Press : Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great, for what it is By Avid Fan I got this as an alternative to Brewer's dictionary of phrase and fable. It's very handy, as a tool for finding the background of phrases. The electronic version is undoubtedly better than the print, as I'm constantly doing searches. It's not quite as comprehensive as I

thought it would be, hence the 4 stars. But a great tool.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Caution: Fascinating Information Inside! By SingleEyePhotos This is really just a modernized version of 'Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable', and like Brewer's (which I also own) it is an absolute treasure-trove of (basically) useless information that will delight anyone with a love of words or phrase, and a good background in literature and history. This is truly a dictionary - words and phrases are alphabetized, and followed by a paragraph (or a few paragraphs) of explanation, discussion, and information.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By A.L. Very nice book, perhaps not as comprehensive as Brewer's but a lot less money.

What is a ham-and-egger? What are Anglo-Saxon attitudes? Who or what is liable to jump the shark? Who first tried to nail jelly to the wall? The answers to these and many more questions are in this fascinating book. Here in one volume you can track down the stories behind the names and sayings you meet, whether in classic literature or today's news. This authoritative dictionary draws on Oxford's unrivalled bank of reference and language online resources to cover classical and other mythologies, history, religion, folk customs, superstitions, science and technology, philosophy, and popular culture. Extensive cross referencing makes it easy to trace specific information, while every page points to further paths to explore. What is the fog of war? Who first wanted to spend more time with one's family? When was the Dreamtime? How long since the first cry of Women and children first? Where might you find dark matter? Would you want the Midas touch? Should you worry about grey goo?

From Library Journal Fables and commonplace phrases originate from the need to articulate concepts and circumstances that defy conventional phraseology. Evolving from both written and spoken sources (though more commonly from the latter), they bring together words, names, and expressions that have cultural resonance. These volumes provide ample documentation of such terms in the English language, citing both origin and common usage. Beyond simple definitions, the works also include quotations from classical and modern literature. Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase Fable, first issued in 1870, has flourished for over 100 years and has been updated frequently. (See LJ 7/00 for a review of the 16th edition.) The current work, ably edited by prolific lexicographer Room, who also worked on the 16th edition, borrows the style and approach of the original dictionary but focuses on material from the late 20th to the 21st centuries. Arranged alphabetically, this approachable work contains more than 8000 entries. Vastly more comprehensive, The Oxford Dictionary references some 20,000 citations. Knowles, managing editor of the Oxford quotations dictionaries, draws upon Oxford's unrivaled bank of language lore and literary tradition to span a vast array of topics, including classical mythology, religion, folk custom, history, science, and technology. The entries, whether brief citations or longer discussions boasting colorful details and lucid text, are distinguished by unparalleled research. Illustrative quotations and thousands of biographies are also included. Both of these volumes are vital reference tools required by all meaningful reference collections. Richard K. Burns, MSLS, Hatboro, PA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable has been substantially updated and revised since it was first published, in 2000. Although the first edition was a hefty 1,200 pages, this new edition is 805 pages. The reduction in size is comes from trimming the number of biographical and geographical entries, such as Ferdinand of Aragon and Zurich. The first edition also had numerous single-word entries, such as fault, faience, and zucchetto, that could be found in a regular dictionary. These types of entries have been taken out and replaced by many more contemporary phrases. Gone, too, are the boxed entries for special categories. The second edition has also changed the formatting of its entries, listing all phrases using the same word under that word, with numerous cross-references to related phrases. The first edition listed all phrases separately. What makes this new edition especially valuable are the many new entries from politics, popular culture, science, and contemporary language, such as axis of evil, chaos theory, elephant in the room, glass ceiling, ground zero, Sunni Triangle, and many more. All entries explain what the phrase means and where it was first used. The second edition has also expanded the number of phrases from classic literature, history, mythology, religion, and figurative language using Oxford's extensive word and language online resources. The major competitor is Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, the seventeenth edition of which was published in Great Britain last year. Brewer's was first published in 1870 and has always been very classically oriented, with numerous entries for the names of mythological characters, persons from the Bible, and historical personages, which were deleted from the Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. Without seeing the new Brewer's, it's probably safe to say that, although the two dictionaries have considerable overlap, each has a wide variety of entries that are unique. The Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable is a highly useful tool to help understand what phrases mean and where they come from and should definitely be added to all reference collections. It is recommended that libraries keep the first edition since many entries in the first edition have been deleted from the second. Libraries should also have Brewer's since its focus is more classical and it includes phrases that are not found in Oxford. Merle Jacob Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The emphasis is on the allusion or reference, though origins of the phrase are also often explained.... The cross-referencing is extensive." --Reference Research Book News "The strength of Oxford's resource remains the etymology incorporated

into the entries. Recommended."--Library Journal"A highly useful tool."--Booklist