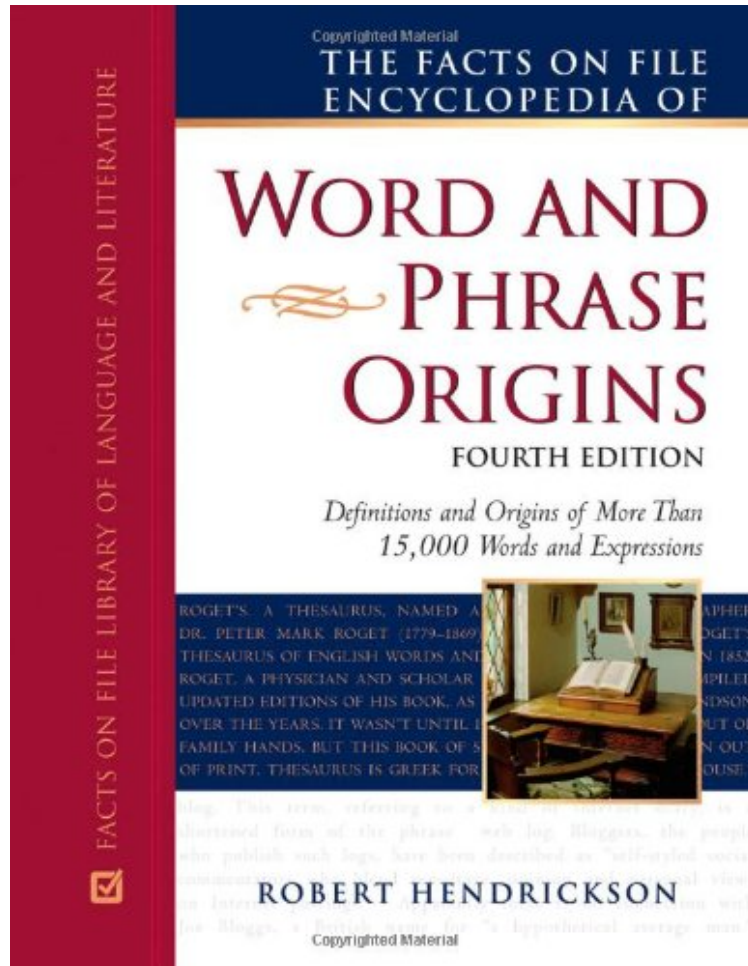


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From Booklist This is a unique dictionary that focuses on the origins of words and expressions in North American English not usually addressed in standard dictionaries. The definitions are filled with humor, when appropriate, as well as colorful examples. The new edition contains more than 15,000 entries up from 12,500 in the third (2003) edition arranged in two columns per page. Users will learn how expressions such as blog, easy as taking candy from a baby, Spanglish, State of the Union message, and X rated came into use. Explanations range from a few short sentences to several paragraphs and include the history of the word or phrase, how it is used, and who may have originated it. Terms range from the very current IED to those that are not much heard in contemporary times (mackintosh, for example) to the almost overused political correctness. There are entries for words derived from other languages, coined words, words from the names of people and places, and more. An index at the back of the book is especially useful for identifying terms attributed to particular people. Not only practical but entertaining as well, this work would complement any standard dictionary. It would prove useful in most libraries particularly public and undergraduate libraries. Teacher-librarians will want to note that it includes entries for four-letter swear words as well as many colorful variations, epithets, and phrases using swear words and their origins.