



Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English

By Philip Durkin

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The rich variety of the English vocabulary reflects the vast number of words it has taken from other languages. These range from Latin, Greek, Scandinavian, Celtic, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian to, among others, Hebrew, Maori, Malay, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, and Yiddish. Philip Durkin's full and accessible history reveals how, when, and why. He shows how to discover the origins of loanwords, when and why they were adopted, and what happens to them once they

have been. The long documented history of English includes contact with languages in a variety of contexts, including: the dissemination of Christian culture in Latin in Anglo-Saxon England, and the interactions of French, Latin, Scandinavian, Celtic, and English during the Middle Ages; exposure to languages throughout the world during the colonial era; and the effects of using English as an international language of science. Philip Durkin describes these and other historical inputs, introducing the approaches each requires, from the comparative method for the earliest period to documentary and corpus research in the modern. The discussion is illustrated at every point with examples taken from a variety of different sources. The framework Dr Durkin develops can be used to explore lexical borrowing in any language.

This outstanding book is for everyone interested in English etymology and in loanwords more generally. It will appeal to a wide general public and at the same time offers a valuable reference for scholars and students of the history of English.

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Editorial Review

Review

Philip Durkin has shown himself in this highly readable book to be a 'superstar' in the etymological history of words borrowed into English. Eric Stanley, *Notes and Queries* Written clearly and authoritatively, the *History of Loanwords in English* is a solid, scholarly piece of work ... While being intellectually rigorous, the monograph is also highly readable, and Durkin's skill of explaining very complex issues in an uncomplicated way, as well as his precise terminological apparatus are particularly worth emphasizing. One may wonder whether the book has any weaknesses at all. Mirosława Podhajecka, *International Journal of Lexicography* Philip Durkin introduces and investigates how successive phases of language contact have made their mark on the vocabulary of English. Underlying the whole enterprise is an impressive, sagacious control of basic (and more advanced) principles, which are gradually laid out before the reader and illustrated with much thought. This is an important and engaging book. Richard Dance, University of Cambridge an indispensable addition to the library shelves. Sarah Powell, *Reference Reviews*

About the Author

Philip Durkin, *Oxford University Press*

Philip Durkin is Principal Etymologist of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. His *Oxford Guide to Etymology* (2009; paperback edition 2011) has become the standard work in the field.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Hardy:

This *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This particular *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English* without we comprehend teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English* can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English* having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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