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Green's Dictionary Of Slang (3 Volumes)



Synopsis

The three volumes of Green's Dictionary of Slang demonstrate the sheer scope of a lifetime of research by Jonathon Green, the leading slang lexicographer of our time. A remarkable collection of this often reviled but endlessly fascinating area of the English language, it covers slang from the past five centuries right up to the present day, from all the different English-speaking countries and regions. Totalling 10.3 million words and over 53,000 entries, the collection provides the definitions of 100,000 words and over 413,000 citations. Every word and phrase is authenticated by genuine and fully-referenced citations of its use, giving the work a level of authority and scholarship unmatched by any other publication in this field. Winner of the Dartmouth Medal USA/ALA Outstanding Reference Source 2011 Booklist Editors' Choice Library Journal Best Reference 2011

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Customer Reviews

"Mr. Slang, aka Jonathon Green" -Martin Amis, Experience "The most-acclaimed British lexicographer since Johnson has every right to blow off ("late 18th century: to boast, to brag". What did you think?) as he wraps up a new edition of this most mind-bendingly addictive guide to taboo talk." -Boyd Tonkin, The Independent "Jonathan Green is the nation's indefatigable lexicographer of filth, a tierless troweller in the slurry of the unsayable." -John Walsh, "Hail to the Professor of Profanity", The Independent "Exhaustive three-volume historical lexicon---a stupendous achievement."---The Sunday Times "...an extraordinary contribution to our understanding of the history of the language and one hell of a good read."-New Statesman "...breathtaking...a major

achievement...The industry and scholarship underpinning it are massive." Times Literary Supplement"Hilariously subversive (or subversively hilarious), a new slang dictionary challenges the sanctity of language by helping us laugh at life...The publication of Greens Dictionary of Slang-a product of 17 years of work that make it the largest slang dictionary ever published in English-is a glorious event..."--Good "-- a product of 17 years of work that make it the largest slang dictionary ever published in English -- is a glorious event for anyone who loves words and likes to laugh." --CNN.com "Mister Slang has raised the bar with his three-volume behemoth...his monument to the inventiveness of speakers from Auckland to Oakland takes its place as the piece de resistance of English slang studies. To put it plain, it's copacetic." - The New York Times Book Review "This 6000-page compilation of some 110,000 choice unconventional English specimens is a verbivore's delight. The introductory essay on the nature and history of English slang is both entertaining and enlightening, while the user's guide, sample entry layout, and list of abbreviations are invaluable to making full use of the scholarship...Highly recommended for all public and academic libraries."--Library Journal "...a gold mine of historic and modern slang." - Copyediting.com"Jonathon Green's is a dictionary for the ages, as special a catalog of word-biographies as James Murray himself might have created, and likely to endure as long as the OED, to which it is a most wonderful appendix. To praise another way: Green's dictionary is, in short, the dog's bollocks."--NYROB"a dictionary for the ages, as special a catalog of word-biographies as James Muray himself might have created, and likely to endure as long as the OED, to which it is a most wonderful appendix. To praise another way: Green's dictionary is, in short, the dog's bollocks." --The New York Review of Books"Despite the fun which can be had with this work, Green's Dictionary is not a frivolous book but a heavyweight of scholarship...Dipping in and out of these three volumes has been a genuine treat."--Linguist List

Jonathon Green, a lexicographer, is the author of the Chambers Slang Dictionary (2008) and Chasing the Sun (1996). He has published books since the 1970s, on topics ranging from occupational jargon to censorship, and is a regular radio and television commentator.

I bought this Dictionary because I love words, their origins, their correct use, their misuse, their ambiguity (at times) and the fact that there is always one to describe what you're seeing or thinking or doing or thinking of doing, or have done, or will do. Jonathan Green, with the input of many others, has documented thousands of wonderful slang words used by all manner of people all over the world, and done a fantastic job of it. I'm sure he'll be the first to admit that there are many, many

others (I looked for several words and phrases that weren't there) but he should be very proud of this Sisyphean achievement. These tomes are a scholarly, interesting and educational, and frankly just plain fun read. Just pick one up and open it at random. Hard to put down, many entries will bring a smile. As a Kiwi, I was thrilled to find the word 'wopcacker' had been included, but disappointed to find it initially attributed as Australian. I forgive Mr Green this transgression given the tiring late nights he must've beavered to put together such a work of art.

Just about everything. The citations, dates, layout, fonts, paper size and quality, binding.... Such great fun to browse. The set I got is published by Chambers (2010), not Oxford (2011) as advertised here. Maybe Oxford is issuing it too. But I just love the Chambers style.

Clocking in at 6000 pages (and in small type at that) this is surely the biggest slang dictionary ever compiled. Yet there are some reasons to fear that quantity has triumphed over quality. For example, the entry on "gay" suggests that the meaning "homosexual" may have stemmed from 16th-century French "gaie." This claim is preposterous, for no such meaning for the French adjective has been documented prior to the introduction of the term from the anglophone sphere in the 20th century. The attribution stems from the "Lavender Lexicon" by an enthusiastic California scholar, the late Bruce Rodgers. His book abounds in nonce coinages--that is, words and definitions of words made up by particular individuals of Rodger's acquaintance. To be sure, the popularity of the book may have put some of these gems into circulation afterwards. If so, however, their acceptance should have been documented by another citation. Such is often lacking in the Green work, so that a misleading impression is conveyed. One cannot help wondering also whether some ephemeral words collected on particular US college campuses enjoy any real circulation. Prison usage presents similar problems. Perusing this set provides real pleasures, but it is not authoritative in the way that, say, Lighter's work on American slang actually is.

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