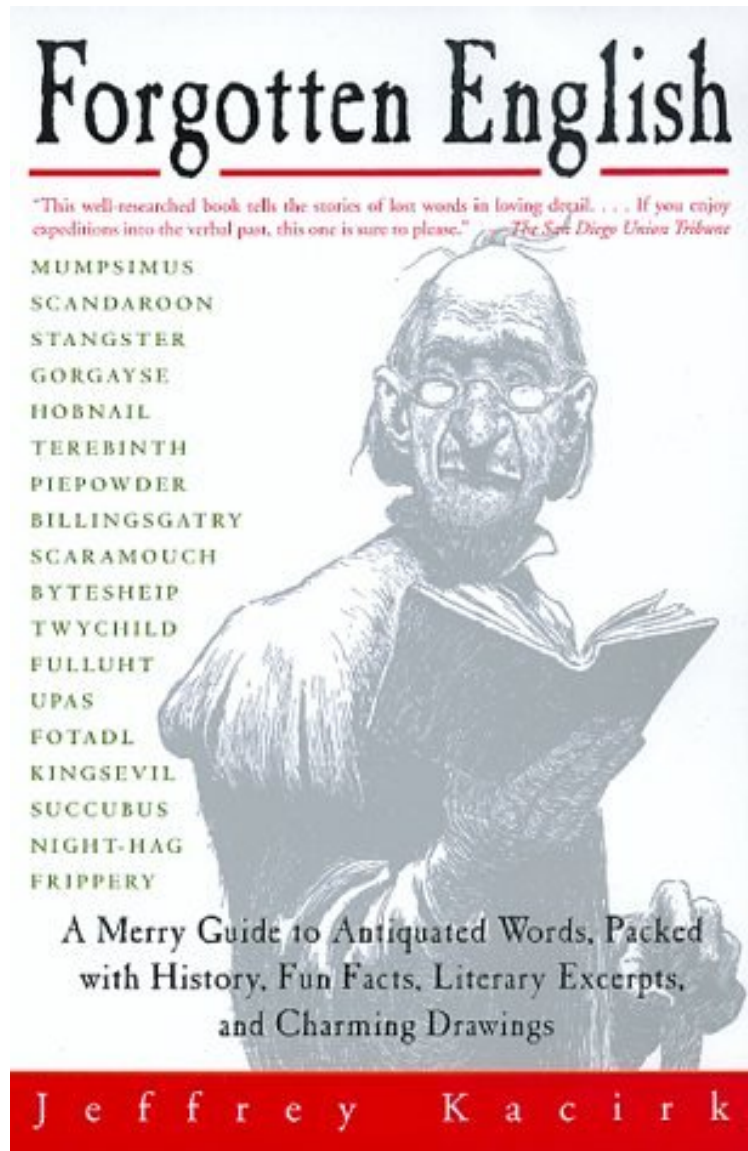


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Forgotten English: A Merry Guide to Antiquated Words, Packed with History, Fun Facts, Literary Excerpts, and Charming Drawings

Jeffrey Kacirk

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my time, and all praised *Forgotten English: A Merry Guide to Antiquated Words, Packed with History, Fun Facts, Literary Excerpts, and Charming Drawings*:

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By sandiegonanal've purchased this calendar for several years. Last year I had alot of trouble getting it and it was expensive. The format had also changed so the print was barely readable and the quality of the paper was lousy. I noticed in reviews that I wasn't the only one sorely disappointed! This year looks like all problems have been fixed and I'm delighted to have "the old calendar" back. I get a kick out of the old words and quirky "on this date" write-ups. It's like a mini-BBC series each day.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Archaic words!
By Pete RandallA nicely laid out book. Rather than set out alphabetically this book is arranged into chapters, or subheadings; from The Animal Kingdom (scandaroon c); through Fun Games (Tup-running, bladderskates karrows); and on through many other categories, culminating in The Final Curtain (Resurrectionists, Saunce-bell Twychild) (autocorrect is underlining almost everything I've written here!) You don't have to be an etymologist to be thoroughly entertained by this book. Hint - it would make a great gift for someone...
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By William D ThompsonFantastic book (laid out like a dictionary) of archaic English words that are no longer in use. It's a fun and surprising read. Highly recommended for anyone interested in Etymology and the English language.

Have you ever sent a message via scandaroon, needed a nimgimmer, or fallen victim to bowelhive? Never heard of these terms? That's because they are a thing of the past. These words are alive and well, however, in *Forgotten English*, a charming collection of hundreds of archaic words, their definitions, and old-fashioned line drawings. For readers of Bill Bryson, Henry Beard, and Richard Lederer, *Forgotten English* is an eye-opening trip down a delightful etymological path. Readers learn that an ale connor sat in a puddle of ale to judge its quality, that a beemaster informed bees of any important household events, and that our ancestors had a saint for hangover sufferers, St. Bibiana, a fact pertinent to the word bibulous. Each selection is accompanied by literary excerpts demonstrating the word's usage, from sources such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Chaucer, and Benjamin Franklin. Entertaining as well as educational, *Forgotten English* is a fascinating addition to word lovers' books.

.com Some think that the obsolescing of words from the English language is a sorry indication of its constant decline. Not so, argues Jeffrey Kacirk, the author of this charming collection of quirky antiquated words and the stories behind them. "In fact," he writes in his introduction, "the richness and maturity of a language may be gauged by the volume and quality of words it can afford to lose." The wonderful sounds these forgotten words make--nimgimmer, tup-running, mocteroof, frubbish, grog-blossom, wayzgoose, galligaskin, sockdolager--are half the fun. Their fabulous meanings, particularly those that seem inevitable once you learn them, make up the rest. And as the history of the words unfolds, so does history itself. Among the many strange and outmoded folk Kacirk introduces are the bird-swindler, a 19th-century "purveyor of expensive, exotic-looking birds that, upon closer inspection, were found to be one of several common varieties of local birds that had been trimmed and dyed"; the eye-servant, "a devious domestic or other employee ... who was too lazy to efficiently perform duties except when 'within eyeshot' of his or her master"; the prickmedainty, a 16th-century "man-about-town who coifed himself in an overly careful manner, frequently seeking the services of his barber"; and the dog-flogger, "a minor church official ... whose duty it was to supervise and discipline the unruly canines that traditionally accompanied their owners to English church services." About the Author Jeffrey Kacirk is a research aficionado with a special love for antique dictionaries. He lives in Marin County, California. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Crapandina Early sixteenth-century name for a mineral, also known as a toad-stone or bufonite, to which extraordinary, if perhaps ironic, healing properties were attributed. The stone was supposed to be a "natural concretion" found in the head of the common toad that acted as an antidote to poison. Thomas Lupton, in his 1579 *A Thousand Notable Things*, described how A toad-stone called crapandina, touching any part envenomed, hurt or stung, with rat, spider, waspe or any other venomous beast, ceases the paine or swelling thereof. He kindly informed his readers how to acquire this valuable stone: Put a great or overgrowne tode into an earthen potte, and put the same into an antes hyllocke, cover the same with earth, which tode at length antes wyll eate, so that the bones of the toad and stone wyll be left in the potte. Dried toads were once found in home medicine cabinets in Devonshire, to be used for such purposes as making the following dropsy recipe from Elizabeth Wright's 1914 *Rustic Speech and Folk-Lore*: Take several large, fully-grown toads, place them in a vessel in which they can be burned without their ashes becoming mixed with any foreign matter. The odd belief in the efficacy of the crapandina is evident in the famous lines from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*: Sweet are the uses of adversity Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous Wears yet a precious jewel in his head.