

Gazophylacium Anglicanum (1689), a turning point in the history of the general English dictionary

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Abstract

The anonymously compiled *Gazophylacium Anglicanum* (*Gazophylacium*, 1689) is a dictionary of English etymology that has seldom been discussed seriously among authorities. De Witt Starnes and Gertrude Noyes (1946: 67) and Martin Wakelin (1987: 161) criticized it as being a poor translation of Stephen Skinner's highly-acclaimed *Etymologicon Linguae Anglicanae* (*Etymologicon*, 1671), a type of English-Latin bilingual dictionary that provides etymological information on English words in Latin. However, when the *Gazophylacium* is compared with J.K.'s *New English Dictionary* (NED, 1702), which Sidney Landau (1984: 44) called "a turning point in English lexicography" for its first treatment of an abundance of daily words, it becomes clear that the *Gazophylacium* was actually instrumental in bringing about this *turning point*, exerting considerable influence on J.K.'s NED. At the same time, this also means that the *Gazophylacium* was, regardless of its quality, a bridge between the tradition of the English-Latin dictionary until Skinner's *Etymologicon*, which the *Gazophylacium* is based on, and that of the general English dictionary after J.K.'s NED.

Keywords

Gazophylacium, turning point, English lexicography

Introduction

In this paper I discuss the relations between two historical English dictionaries. One is the *Gazophylacium Anglicanum* (*Gazophylacium*), an etymological dictionary published in 1689 by an anonymous author, and the other is the *New English Dictionary* (NED), a general dictionary published in 1702 by an author who is known only by his initials, J.K.

As to the *Gazophylacium*, the title being in Latin, it was actually compiled in English. This dictionary is not widely known, having seldom been discussed seriously until today. The reason for this is that the dictionary has usually been regarded as little more than a poor translation of Stephen Skinner's acclaimed *Etymologicon Linguae Anglicanae* (*Etymologicon*), published in 1671, a type of English-Latin bilingual dictionary that provides etymological information on English words in Latin. De

Witt Starnes and Gertrude Noyes (1946: 67) once remarked that "The author [of the *Gazophylacium*] indeed simply translates the lists and definitions from Skinner, sometimes condensing or omitting matter from the original." And Martin Wakelin (1987: 161) remarked that "The author of the *Gazophylacium* [...] is predominantly interested in etymologies; which are frequently plundered from Skinner."

Concerning J.K.'s NED, this is widely acknowledged as the first English dictionary that treated a high number of daily words, thus divorcing from the tendency in the general English dictionary to lay particular emphasis on hard words of foreign origin. Referring to this point, Whitney Bolton (1982: 241) remarked that J.K. "managed to include about 28,000 words [in NED], most of which had never before appeared in an English dictionary," and Sidney Landau (1984: 44) expressed his opinion that J.K.'s NED marked "a turning point in English lexicography."

In this way, the *Gazophylacium* and J.K.'s NED are in sharp contrast to each other in two respects: their types and the experts' assessment of them. In spite of such differences, however, it is likely that J.K. perused the *Gazophylacium* as essential background material for NED. J.K. himself did not make any mention of the *Gazophylacium* anywhere in his dictionary, but if his NED is actually based on the *Gazophylacium*, it means that the *Gazophylacium* was, regardless of its quality, instrumental in bringing about "a turning point in English lexicography," thus, at the same time, being a bridge between the tradition of the English-Latin dictionary until Skinner's *Etymologicon*, which the *Gazophylacium* is based on, and that of the general English dictionary after J.K.'s NED.

My purpose in this paper is to provide historical evidence to support this possibility. In order to achieve this purpose, I will firstly aim to formulate a hypothesis that indicates the certainty of J.K.'s reference to the *Gazophylacium* by analyzing words that are contained in six general English dictionaries from Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall* (*Table*), the first general English dictionary published in 1604, to NED. By performing this task, it will also be rediscovered how unique J.K.'s NED is in terms of the words contained in it. Secondly, I will aim to verify

the hypothesis by means of comparing J.K.'s NED with the *Gazophylacium*, thus trying to clarify the relations of the former to the latter.

Two procedures are adopted in the paper. One is that I regard the English dictionary that experts have termed the "dictionary of hard words," or some early English dictionaries which almost exclusively treated hard words, as a type of general English dictionary. The other is that, by analyzing the bodies of related dictionaries, I take up entries on words beginning with the letter L; as Joseph Reed (1962: 95), remarked in his analysis of another English dictionary, this portion is a sample of convenient size and has the added virtue of its position in the dictionary.

Formulating a hypothesis: J.K.'s *New English Dictionary* in the first 100 years of the general English dictionary

In preparation for formulating the hypothesis concerning J.K.'s reference to the *Gazophylacium*, I want to show how the lexicographers of the early general English dictionaries selected words to be contained in their works. And, in doing this task, I will also have to clear up a prevailing misconception among experts.

As far as I can judge, quite a few authorities seem to hold the view that such lexicographers devoted themselves to increasing the number of words in their dictionaries in an arbitrary manner for approximately the first 100 years beginning with Cawdrey's *Table*. For instance, according to Daisuke Nagashima (1988: 69), "The total entry [count] of about 2,500 in Cawdrey's first monolingual English dictionary (1604) went through wayward accretion in the successive dictionaries and exceeded 60,000 in [Nathan] Bailey's *Dictionarium Britannicum* (2nd edition 1736)."

In the opinion of Nagashima, it is not necessarily wrong that for the first 100 years general English lexicographers tended to include greater numbers of words in their dictionaries than their predecessors had done. However, it can be misleading to regard this practice, as Nagashima did, as having been carried out in a wayward or arbitrary manner.

To put it precisely, during the first century since Cawdrey's *Table*, five other general English dictionaries were published. They are John Bullokar's *English Expositor* (*Expositor*, 1616), Henry Cockeram's *English Dictionarie* (*Dictionarie*, 1623), Edward Phillips' *New World of English Words* (*New World*, 1658), Elisha Coles' *English Dictionary* (*Dictionary*, 1676) and J.K.'s NED. Though most of the

lexicographers of these five dictionaries may have referred to quite a few words in the works compiled by their predecessors, none of them incorporated all the words of the preceding dictionaries into theirs. It may safely be said that this situation indicates that the five lexicographers, respectively, maintained their unique policies in compiling their dictionaries. In other words, they should not be regarded as having increased words in their dictionaries in a *wayward* manner.

This fact will be clearly understood when we examine entries on words beginning with the letter L in each of the six dictionaries, including Cawdrey's, and arrange the results in chronological order, which I did, resulting in the following list:

(1) Cawdrey's *Table* (1604) and Bullokar's *Expositor* (1616)

While Cawdrey included 59 words in the L's in his *Table*, Bullokar had 121 words, or 2.1 times more words than Cawdrey, within the same range in his *Expositor*. However, Bullokar disregarded 29, or 49.2%, of the 59 words Cawdrey had treated.

(2) Bullokar's *Expositor* (1616) and Cockeram's *Dictionarie* (1623)

Cockeram included 428 words, or 3.5 times more words than Bullokar, in the L's in his *Dictionarie*. However, Cockeram disregarded 34, or 28.1%, of the 121 words Bullokar had treated.

(3) Cockeram's *Dictionarie* (1623) and Phillips' *New World* (1658)

Phillips included 508 words, or 1.2 times more words than Cockeram, in the L's in his *New World*. However, Phillips disregarded 329, or 76.9%, of the 428 words Cockeram had treated.

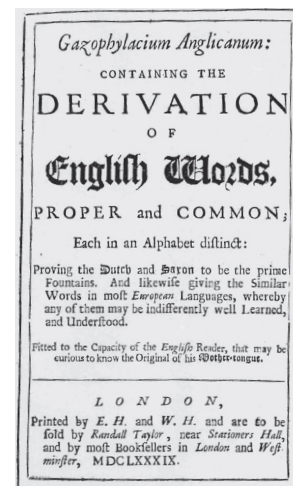
(4) Phillips' *New World* (1658) and Coles' *Dictionary* (1676)

Coles included 1,163 words, or 2.3 times more words than Phillips, in the L's in his *Dictionary*. However, Coles disregarded 43, or 8.5%, of the 508 words Phillips had treated.

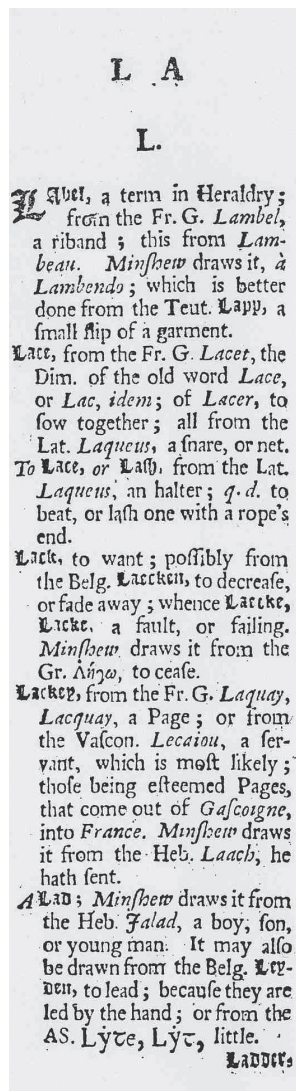
(5) Coles' *Dictionary* (1676) and J.K.'s *Dictionary* (1702)

J.K. included 841 words, or 30% less words than Coles', in the L's in his *Dictionary*. Besides, J.K. disregarded 941, or 80.9%, of the 1,163 words Coles had treated.

On the premise of what I have discussed so far, it should be acknowledged that this list also reveals especially notable facts about two dictionaries, Phillips' *New World* and J.K.'s NED. In the case of the other three dictionaries after Cawdrey's, they contain considerably more than twice as many words as their immediate predecessors. However, Phillips' *New World* contains only 1.2 times



the cover of
Gazophylacium Anglicanum



a column from
Gazophylacium Anglicanum

as many words as Cockeram's *Dictionarie*, and J.K.'s NED offers a smaller number of words than Coles'. In addition, while the other three dictionaries disregard not more than 50% of words that are contained in their immediately preceding dictionaries, Phillips' *New World* disregards 76.9% of the words in Cockeram's *Dictionarie*, and J.K.'s NED disregards 80.9% of the words in Coles' *Dictionary*. In this sense, Phillips' *New World* and J.K.'s NED should be regarded as particularly unique.

What, then, is the reason for this? Actually, Phillips' *New World* and J.K.'s NED were compiled in similar historical conditions. They were, respectively, compiled a few years after a special type of English dictionary had appeared, the etymological dictionary. To be specific, two years before Phillips' *New World*, Thomas Blount's *Glossographia* (1656) was issued, and thirteen years before J.K.'s NED, the *Gazophylacium*. This means that if we disregard the types of English dictionaries, the dictionary immediately preceding Phillips' *New World* is Blount's *Glossographia*, not Cockeram's *Dictionarie*, and the one before J.K.'s NED is the *Gazophylacium*, not Coles' *Dictionary*.

If we consider the historical background of each of Phillips' *New World* and J.K.'s NED from this point of view, there is a possibility that the former was influenced by Blount's *Glossographia* and the latter by the *Gazophylacium*. In fact, as to Phillips' *New World*, quite a few experts, including Starnes and Noyes (1946) and Landau (1984), have discussed the notion that it had been influenced by Blount's *Glossographia*. Moreover, Blount himself published a book entitled *A World of Errors Discovered in the New World of Words, or General English Dictionary* (1673), asserting that Phillips committed plagiarism from his *Glossographia*.

In contrast to the case of Phillips' *New World* and Blount's *Glossographia*, the relationship of J.K.'s NED to the *Gazophylacium* has not been discussed, as far as I can judge. However, as long as these two dictionaries were compiled in a historical context similar to that of Phillips' and Blount's dictionaries, it is also quite conceivable that NED was strongly influenced by the *Gazophylacium*. In the following section, I will try to investigate the relations between J.K.'s NED and the *Gazophylacium* in terms of the word selection, definitions and grammatical information.

Verifying the hypothesis: word selection

When we begin to collate J.K.'s NED with the *Gazophylacium* in the order mentioned, a surprising fact is immediately revealed. This is what I mentioned in the list in the

previous section, that J.K. included 841 words within the range of the L's in his NED. Out of these 841 words, 212 are also found in the *Gazophylacium*. On the side of J.K.'s NED, these 212 words, which account for 25% of all words in the L's in NED, may seem small in number. However, on the side of the *Gazophylacium*, it contains 296 words within the range of the L's. This means that the 212 words account for as many as 71.6% of all words in the L's in the *Gazophylacium*. This fact seems to strongly indicate that J.K. quite frequently referred to words in the *Gazophylacium*. Furthermore, it is also notable that most of the 212 words contained in both J.K.'s NED and the *Gazophylacium*, are everyday English words such as *label*, *lack*, *lad*, *lavender*, *law*, *lazy*, *lentil*, *lest*, *liable*, *log* and *lot*. As I have already pointed out, these are the type of words that have been regarded by experts as characteristic of J.K.'s NED.

Here a question may arise about the possibility that general English dictionaries before J.K.'s NED contain several of the 212 words. In fact, 74 of the words are also contained in one or both of Bullokar's *Expositor* and Cockeram's *Dictionarie*. However, as to the remaining 138 words of the 212, they only appear in the *Gazophylacium* and NED.

In this way, when we compare words in J.K.'s NED and the *Gazophylacium*, we can acknowledge the possibility that the former was strongly influenced by the latter.

Verifying the hypothesis: definitions

While J.K.'s selection of words contained in NED has generally been highly praised, his way of defining them has sometimes been criticized as being cursory. Concerning this point, Landau (1982: 44) remarked that NED "is allied to spelling books, which had included common words but without definitions," and Bolton (1982: 241) stated that it "is only a rudimentary speller." We should not take these remarks literally. However simple and cursory they may actually be, J.K. almost always provided definitions to entry-words in his NED. And, for this reason, we can recognize an aspect of the indebtedness of NED to the *Gazophylacium*.

Specifically, J.K. provided the same definitions in NED as the author of the *Gazophylacium* did with his etymological notes. Examples are:

- **lesses**
the *Gazophylacium*: from the Fr. G. [Modern French] *Laisses*, the dung of wild beasts
J.K.'s NED: the dung of wild beasts
- **leveret**
the *Gazophylacium*: from the Fr. G.

[Modern French] *Leverant*, *Levreteau*, young Hare

J.K.'s NED: a young hare

liable

the *Gazophylacium*: from the Fr. G. [Modern French] *Liable*, obnoxious, exposed to

J.K.'s NED: expos'd to

We can find such definitions in 52 entries within the respective ranges of the L's in J.K.'s NED and the *Gazophylacium*. There will be almost no problem to regard these definitions as traces of J.K.'s reliance on the *Gazophylacium*.

Verifying the hypothesis: grammatical information

In indicating entry-words in NED, J.K. usually put the preposition *to* before the verb and the indefinite article before the countable noun. Specifically, he provided such entry-words as *To Last*, *To Leather*, *A Latch*, and *A Lemmon*. It may be interesting, in passing, to note that this practice brought about independent entries such as the following:

Level, even or plain

To Level, or make level

Love, amity, affection, or kindness

To Love, have love, or inclination for

Within the range of the L's in NED, J.K. put the preposition *to* before 78 verb entry-words, and the indefinite article before 338 countable noun entry-words.

Before J.K.'s NED, such a way of providing grammatical information on entry-words had not been adopted by the lexicographers of the general English dictionary, with rare exceptions; as to such cases, Cockeram applied it in a supplementary part to the main section in his *Dictionary*, which is comprised of what he termed "vulgar words", and Phillips put the indefinite article before 4 countable noun entry-words within the range of the L's in his *New World*.

What, then, has motivated J.K. to apply the practice so frequently? The only answer to this question will be the influence of the *Gazophylacium* on him. Within the L's in the *Gazophylacium*, its author put the preposition *to* before 52 verb entry-words and the indefinite article before the same number of countable noun entry-words.

If I refer to the case of the English-Latin bilingual dictionary here, it seems that in this field the practice that J.K. and the author of the *Gazophylacium* applied can be traced back to the 15th century. Concerning this point, Gabriele Stein (1985: 112) pointed out that in an anonymously compiled English-Latin dictionary entitled the *Catholicon Anglicum*, which was published in 1483, "countable nouns are preceded by the indefinite article, uncountable

nouns by a zero determiner" regarding the entry-words. This practice apparently became a tradition in the compilation of the English-Latin bilingual dictionary, being handed down to Skinner when he compiled the *Etymologicon*, essential background material for the author of the *Gazophylacium*. Skinner actually wrote his entry-words like *to Lace*, *to Lam*, *A Lantern*, and *A Larder*. And it is remarkable that these examples are, at the same time, the examples of entry-words that we can also see in the *Gazophylacium*. It will not be unreasonable now to conclude that this practice, which was originally adopted by the lexicographers of the English-Latin dictionary, was transmitted to J.K. via the author of the *Gazophylacium*.

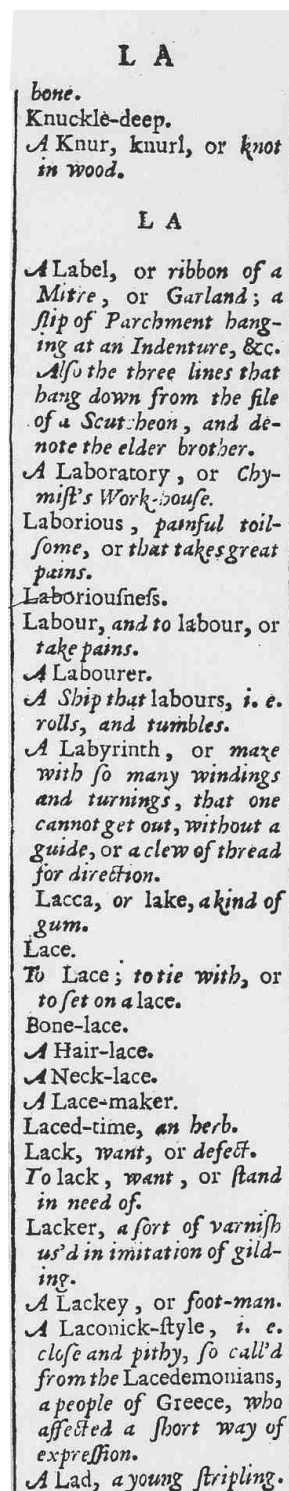
Incidentally, it may be worth noting that after J.K.'s NED the practice to put the infinitive *to* before verb entry-words gradually became adopted widely by the lexicographers of the general English dictionary until the latter half of the eighteenth century. In Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755), we can quite frequently see such entry-words as *To Cut*, *To Run*, *To Set*, and *To Take*. Whatever types of dictionaries such lexicographers may have referred to, it may safely be said that J.K. was the first lexicographer who substantially applied this practice in the field of the general English dictionary.

Conclusion

Having finished my analysis of the relations between J.K.'s NED and the *Gazophylacium*, I now recall the aphorism by Reinhard Hartmann (1986: vii): "Most dictionaries have forerunners, and all have imitators."

Until today, J.K.'s NED has been highly esteemed as a dictionary which created an epoch-making change in the history of English lexicography, divorcing from the tradition in the general English dictionary before it, and opening up a new dimension in the field. Certainly, J.K.'s NED is out of a historical context from Cawdrey's *Table to Coles' Dictionary* with regard to containing a high number of everyday words. At the same time, however, a drastic change can hardly happen in the history of lexicography. When this fact is taken into account, it will be natural to seek a dictionary that may have exerted a strong influence on J.K., and which has often been neglected by specialists. This is the anonymously compiled *Gazophylacium*, a dictionary that was based on Skinner's English-Latin bilingual etymological dictionary, *Etymologicon*, and published between Coles' and J.K.'s dictionaries.

From such a historical perspective, I have collated J.K.'s NED with the *Gazophylacium*



a column from J.K.'s
New English Dictionary

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in terms of word selection, definitions and grammatical information, thus gaining strong circumstantial evidence of J.K.'s close perusal of the *Gazophylacium*. It may safely be concluded now that the *Gazophylacium* was essential background material for J.K., and that his NED would have been quite different from what we now know without the *Gazophylacium*.

In case Skinner's practice in his *Etymologicon* was transmitted to J.K. via the author of the *Gazophylacium*, as it apparently was, it can safely be said that the *Gazophylacium* bears historical significance as a bridge between the tradition of the English-Latin bilingual dictionary and that of the general English dictionary.

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The feeling of *sakura* – Are you interested in such a Japan?

Hisamatsu Ken'ichi and Hayakawa Fumitoshi

Introduction: before hitting the road...

Whether you are contemplating studying the Japanese language, undertaking the task of finding out what makes Japan *tick*, or interested by the intellectual challenge

of gaining insights into Japanese culture, I would like to congratulate you on having the courage and curiosity to embark on this journey to conquer the enigma of this island nation and break the code, otherwise