

## 英語の辞書の誤りについて (X)

(百科事典も含む)

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Mistakes in English Dictionaries (10)  
(Encyclopedias included)

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## Preface

英語の辞書は誤りなきものと考えられている。しかし英語人 Samuel Johnson (1709-84) の言う如く Dictionaries are like watches, the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true. 也と申し上げたい。誤りの無い英語の辞書はない。

ことに、日本の事物についての誤った説明は、日本及び日本人について誤解を生むことになるのが誠に遺憾である。約36年前、英々辞典にある誤りに関心を抱いた。例えば London の Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd. 発行の The Universal Dictionary of the English Language (1952年版) にある the Japan Seas の s である。この s は削除すべきものである。辞書編集者に訂正を求めて文通を開始してより26年が経過した。

この小論には以下の辞書・百科辞典の編集者よりの、回答が、見出し語に付記してある。

The Encyclopedia Americana (1986), U.S.A.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia (1985), U.S.A.

Collins English Dictionary (1986), U.K.

The Oxford English Dictionary (1961), The Oxford English Dictionary Supplements (1976 & 1986), The Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition (1989) & The New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary (1978), U.K.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology (1986), U.K.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Fourth Edition (1989), U.K.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1983) U.S.A.

御叱正を送る。

## I

The Encyclopedia Americana より2例を次に示す。回答者は Editor in Chief の David  
平成2年9月20日受理 \*本学非常勤講師 (英語英文学)

T.Holland氏

(1) AIKIDO The uniform worn for aikido practice is the *hakama*, consisting of a kimono-style jacket made of heavy cotton cloth, worn with a pleated, ankle-length garment that is either like a skirt or split like trousers.

合気道の uniform は a kimono-style jacket と、はかま、すなわち a pleated, ankle-length garment よりなる。

(2) FRANKINCENSE ... The trees grow in the southern Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of East Africa; for centuries frankincense was the principal item in the trade of those regions. Frankincense was used in offerings of pagan religious and in funeral rites. In ancient Israel it was used in the incense burned in the Temple. In the New Testament (Matthew 2:1) frankincense is mentioned as one of the gifts brought by the Magi to the Christ Child. 乳香。grow in the southern Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of East Africa (ソマリア、エチオピア、ジブチ3国)、について、現代では乳香は北東アフリカのソマリアあたりで産出されている。

Thank you for your very interesting letter, in which you comment on the articles on Aikido and Frankincense in *The Encyclopedia Americana*. We are most grateful to you for calling our attention to the fact that *hakama* applies only to the lower garment worn by men and women in aikido and not the upper garment as well. We will be sure to correct the article in the next edition.

## II

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia より17例を次に示す。回答者は Editorial Division, Lars Mahinske 氏。

(1) Mont Blanc, Italian Monte Bianco, mountain massif and highest peak (15,771ft [4,807m]) in the Alps and western Europe, lying along the French-Italian border. More than half the massif, including the summit, is in French territory. モンブラン。頂上はフランス領、大山塊はフランスとイタリアにまたがり、その北東部は少しスイス入りこんでいる。

(2) Asahikawa, also spelled Asahigawa, city. Hokkaido, Japan, on the Ishikari-gawa (Ishikari River), in the agriculturally important Kamikawa Basin. 旭川 (アサヒカワ) 市である。Asahigawa を削除する。従来「アサヒガワ」と呼んでいた次の官庁等が「アサヒカワ」に変更している。

1. JR旭川駅—昭和63年3月13日の時刻改正時に。

2. 旭川郵便局—昭和63年3月1日より。

3. NTT旭川電報電話局—昭和63年2月22日より電報発信局名を(局名は従来からアサヒカワ)。

又旭川(アサヒカワ)は岡山県中部を流れ、瀬戸内海にそそぐ川。全長150km(93mi)。cf. VII(1)

(3) Shogunate, Japanese BAKUFU, or SHOGUN-SHOKU, government of the shogun, or hereditary military dictator, of Japan from AD 1192 to 1868. 1867年11月9日徳川第15代将軍慶喜が征夷大将軍の職を辞し、政権を朝廷に返上した。to 1868は to 1867が正しい。

(4) inro, in Japanese dress, small portable case worn on the girdle. 印籠。formerly worn on the girdle とする。現在、日本人は腰に印籠をさげていない。薬を入れていた。

The Micropaedia "Mont Blanc," as you pointed out, indicates that the massif lies along the French-Italian border. We agree with your suggestion that the entry should be amended to mention also that the massif extends into Switzerland. The entry "Asahikawa" includes the alternative spelling of "Asahigawa". Your comments about the recent changing of "Asahigawa" to "Asahikawa" in the names of some of that city's public institutions will also be referred to the editors, as will your remarks concerning the entries "shogunate" and "inro".

(5) chopsticks (from Chinese *kuai-tzu*, "quick ones" by way of Pigin *chop*, "quick"), eating utensils, consisting of 'a pair of slender sticks held between the thumb and fingers of one hand, that predominate in much of East Asia and are used in conjunction with Chinese-style cuisine worldwide... As a general rule, the chopsticks of China are longer and more blunt than those of Japan, which are usually tapered. 箸は are used in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam である。以上が箸の文化圏。

(6) cha-shitsu, small Japanese garden pavilion or room within a house, especially designed for the tea ceremony... The interior is large enough to accommodate five kneeling guests, which is the ideal number... The most famous of all tea masters, Sen Rikyu (1521-91), was the first to build a cha-shitsu that was a distinct physical entity instead of a special room within the house. 千の利久 Sen no Rikyu (1522-91) が正しい。

I've suggested that the entry "chopsticks," which mentions that these utensils are widely used for "Chinese-style cuisine," be revised to say that they are used for "East Asian-" or "Oriental-" style cuisine.

In Britannica, the use of "Sen Rikyu" instead of "Sen no Rikyu" is simply a matter of style. We generally drop the "no" from Japanese names. As you pointed out, however, the entry on cha-shitsu should state that Sen Rikyu was born in 1522 rather than 1521. The dates given in the Micropaedia entry "Sen Rikyu" (10:629:16) and Macropaedia article DECORATIVE ARTS AND FURNISHINGS (17:134:26) will also be scheduled for correction.

(7) biwa, short-necked Japanese lute related to the Chinese *p'i-p'a*, an instrument known for about 2,000 years...; the more modern ones are plucked with the bare fingers. 琵琶. are plucked with the bare fingers について。ばち、で弾奏する。

(8) koto, also called Kin, musical instrument, a Japanese 13-strings board zither with movable bridges. The paulownia-wood instrument is placed horizontally on the ground or on a low table and is played by plucking the strings with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand, either bare or with ivory attachments (tsume : plectrum). 琴. 普通13絃である。the ground 又は a low table の上に置かれない。舞台では板の上、個人の家では畳の上である。bare thumb and fingers で弾奏されぬ。必ず琴爪をする ivory attachments と複数であるから (tsume : "plectra") とする。

(9) makimono [or emakimono] in Japanese art, scroll painting designed to be held in the hand, i.e., a hand scroll. 巻物。膝の上で手に持ち、又は机の上に置き、右から左へ巻物をほどきながら、鑑賞していくもの。美術館では全部ひろげてある。

(10) *seppuku* (Japanese: "self-disembowelment"), also called HARA-KIRI ("belly-cutting"), the honourable method of taking one's own life practiced by men of the samurai (military) class in feudal Japan. The word *hara-kiri*, though widely known to foreigners, is rarely used by Japanese, who prefer the term *seppuku*. It was considered exemplary form to stab again below the chest and press downward across the first cut, and then to pierce one's throat. 切腹。腹切り、という語は現在使用されていない、切腹が使用されている。obligatoryの場合は本人が割腹して後、介錯人が首を打ち落す、voluntary では介錯人のおらぬ場合は、割腹後、かえす刀で頸動脈を切る。

The entries on the *biwa* and *koto*, as you pointed out, are incorrect in indicating that the strings of these instruments are plucked with the bare fingers. I have informed the editors that this information should be deleted from these discussions. Comments about the entries "*makimono*" and "*seppuku*" have also been referred to the appropriate editor for further consideration.

(11) *sashimi*, speciality of Japanese cuisine, fresh fish served raw...The *sashimi* is accompanied by *wasabi* (green horseradish paste) and a dipping sauce of salty or pungent character さしみ。a dipping sauce of salty or pungent character とは醤油のことであるが、醤油は pungent (ぴりりとする) でない。

(12) *sumo*, style of Japanese wrestling in which weight, size, and strength are of the greatest importance, though speed and suddenness of attack are also useful. The object is to propel the opponent out of a ring about 15 feet (4.6 metres) in diameter or to force him to touch the ground with any part of his body other than his feet. 相撲。other than his feet は誤りで。other than the soles of his feet が正しい。

(13) *teriyaki*: (Japanese: a glossy broil'), in Japanese cuisine, foods grilled with a highly flavoured glaze of soy sauce, sake, and sugar. 照り焼き。sake でなく sweet sake (みりん) である。

Your comments about the *Micropaedia* entries "*sashimi*", "*sumo*", and "*teriyaki*" have prompted me to suggest to the editors that these entries be scheduled for various minor amendments.

(14) *Kutani ware*... *Kutani* production apparently ended in the early 18th century, probably, because of both the financial problems in the fief and the difficulty in obtaining the necessary pigments for enamels and coloured glazes. 九谷焼。これは (1655-1704) の古九谷である。現在の九谷焼は、石川県の寺井町、小松市、加賀市で生産されている。

(15) *soy sauce*, salty-tasting, dark-brown liquid seasoning, used extensively in the Orient and in the West, fermented from the soybean. 醤油。大豆と小麦をほぼ等量に混合して、こうじを作り塩水で仕込んで熟成発酵させて作ったもの。

The *Micropaedia* entry "*Kutani ware*," as you pointed out, should indicate that this is a generic term for Japanese porcelain from the 17th-century *Maeda kiln*, whereas much of what is known as "*Kutani ware*" in today's commercial market is not Old *Kutani*. I have suggested a similar amendment for the description of *Kutani ware* in the *Macropaedia* article DECORATIVE ARTS AND FURNISHINGS

(17:135:2a). Revision has also been suggested for the Micropaedia entry "soy sauce".

(16) yen, the monetary unit of Japan, divided into 100 sen and into 1,000 rin. Its symbol is ¥ or Y. First minted in 1869, after the Meiji Restoration, the yen was officially adopted as the basic unit in the monetary reform of 1871... The term yen derives from the yuan or yin, Chinese coins and notes that date to ancient times. 円。銭と厘の硬貨は1954年以来使用禁止。但し銭は外国為替のレート、ダウ平均株価、日歩に使用されている。円は唐音の〔hiuen〕に由来する（関西学院大学教授松田裕氏による）。江戸時代の硬貨は長方形、又は楕円形等であった。明治新政府は硬貨を円形にした。したがって〔Japanese en, literally round〕である。cf. III(9), V(11)

The entry mentions that this monetary unit is equal to 100 sen or 1,000 rin. While this is correct, I will suggest to the editors that they consider amending the discussion to note that, as you pointed out, sen and rin are no longer in circulation.

"Yen" also states that the term "derives from the yuan or yin, Chinese coins and notes that date to ancient times", and you mentioned that it does not derive from the Mandarin "yuan" but from a word dating to the T'ang era that may be romanized as "hiuen". A staff member relatively fluent in Chinese is unfamiliar with "hiuen", but he points out that the reference in the entry to "yin" is incorrect and agrees that the reference to the yuan may be misleading. It is his understanding that the Chinese character representing the ancient term for round money (which he believes might be romanized as "yüan") is not the same character now used for the Chinese modern currency known as the yuan. This matter will also be addressed upon future revision of the entry, and I thank you once again for having taken the time to write.

(17) suicide... The Japanese custom of seppuku (hara-kiri), or self-disembowelment, was long practiced as a ceremonial rite; noblemen were granted the privilege of punishing themselves in this way for wrong doing, and it was also used to escape the humiliation of failure, to shame one's enemies, or demonstrate loyalty to a dead master or emperor. Compulsory hara-kiri was outlawed in 1868. 切腹。noblemenでなく members of the samurai class である。新律綱領で武士としての対面を重じて上級武士に切腹の刑を認めた（1870年）が、改定律例で（1873年）廃止した。

The entry indicates that seppuku was long practiced by noblemen and that compulsory hara-kiri was outlawed in 1868. This information, as you pointed out, is misleading. (The entry on seppuku is more accurate in this regard.) "Suicide" should rather say that seppuku was long practiced by samurai and that the compulsory form was outlawed in 1873. This matter will be brought to the attention of the editors, and I thank you again for your assistance in the difficult task of keeping Britannica as accurate as possible.

### III

Collins Eng. Dict., Major New Edition より17例を次に示す。回答者は Managing Editor の Mrs Marian Makins

(1) *kakemono* a Japanese paper or silk wall hanging, usually long and narrow, with a picture or inscription on it and a roller at the bottom. 掛物。with a picture, a captioned picture (贅を入れた絵) or inscription であり a roller at the bottom は軸木である。これに a roller at the top (表木) を加える。

(2) *shogun* Japanese history, 1. (from 794 A.D.) a chief military commander 2. (from about 1192 to 1867) any of a line of hereditary military dictators who relegated the emperor to a position of purely theoretical supremacy. [(17: from Japanese, from Chinese *chiang chün* general, from *chiang* to lead + *chün* army] 將軍。征夷大將軍の略。坂上田村麿呂 (758-811) 797年征夷大將軍に任ぜられる。811年以後廃絶。その後1184年木曾義仲、1192年には源頼朝、征夷大將軍。1867年11月9日徳川第15代將軍慶喜が征夷大將軍の職を辞した。語原につき [Japanese *shogun*, short for *sei-i tai shogun* barbarian-subduing generalissimo] とし from Chinese 以下を削除する。

It was kind of you to give me the details about the 'kakemono'. Thank you also for the further detail which you gave about the origin of the word 'shogun'. We will consider your suggestions carefully when an opportunity arises to prepare a new enlarged edition of the dictionary.

(3) *daimyo* or *daimio* (in Japan) one of the territorial magnates who dominated much of the country from about the 10th to the 19th century. [from Japanese, from Ancient Chinese *d'ai miang* great name] 大名。平安・鎌倉時代の名田など多く持つ者。由来する。名田 (みょうでん) は名 (みょう) ともいうが、私的土地所有の一種である。[from Japanese, *dai* large, *myo(den)* literally, name land, private land] である。(person of) great name とは有名 (人) となる。

(4) *confessor* 2. History, a person who bears witness to his Christian religious faith by the holiness of his life, esp. in resisting threats or danger, but does not suffer martyrdom. 証聖者 (殉教者 以外の聖人)。これに later sense として a person whose life exemplifies sanctity and Christian ideals: Edward the Confessor (1002?-66). Norman Conquest 前 Anglo-Saxon 系最後の England 王 (1042-66) ; きわめて信仰深かったので「証聖者」と呼ばれた; Westminstor Abbey を再建し、後に聖徒に列せられた (1161)。を加えてはどうか。

I was interested to read the most helpful information which you gave about the background and meaning of the word *daimyo*. When we next have an opportunity to revise the dictionary we will consider rewording the entry to make it more precise.

Thank you also for drawing our attention to definition 2. of the *confessor*. I think that the definition attempts to cover the word in both its earlier and its later senses, but in so doing has become capable of misinterpretation. I would agree with you that it was only during the history of early church that the term *confessor* was applied to someone who had suffered; later, as with Edward The Confessor, it was applied more loosely to people of markedly holy life. The definition should I think be reworded to make this absolutely clear.

(5) *once upon a time*, used to begin fairy tales and children's stories. これに(2)として formerly をつけ加えられないか。例(1) Once upon a time most women faced with a

blocked sink or jammed door would rush to the nearest male for help. Nowadays a girl is more likely to turn to her tool kit and the relevant pages of her do-it-yourself manual. The imagination of publishers, tool manufacturers has been caught by the fact that women are perfectly capable of, and interested in, doing jobs around the house. (2) Once upon a time Mr Nixon considered the People's Republic of China as one of the US's most dangerous enemies. (3) Once upon a time May Day in Paris was an occasion for workers' parades, fiery speeches at mass meetings and the sale of the traditional good-luck emblem, the lily of the valley. (4) Once upon a time, a year or so before marrying this man, she had been voted the prettiest girl in the district in which she had grown up. 例(1)~(4)は教育出版高校通信 '77第11巻・第14号金子稔氏より。cf. VI (2)

(6) **Pennsylvania Dutch** Also called: Pennsylvania German. a dialect of German spoken in E Pennsylvania. これは a dialect of High German with an admixture of English spoken mainly in eastern Pennsylvania ではないか。Dutch はどいつ語の意。

*once upon a time* - Yes, I think your comment a very fair one. While a little perhaps old fashioned or babyish, it does occur in the language and we should record it since we give an entry to this phrase.

*Pennsylvania Dutch* - I will pass on your comments to our specialist editor for consideration next time we revise the dictionary.

(7) **panda** Also called: **giant panda**, a large black-and-white herbivorous bearlike mammal *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*, related to the raccoons and inhabiting the bamboo forests of China: family *Procyonidae* ジャイアントパンダ。herbivorous (草食の) か? 食物はたけのこや若いたけ、たけの根が主で、他にリンドウ、アイリス、クロッカスなどや、ときに魚、ナキウサギ、ネズミなども食べる。ふつう標高2700-3900mにおける竹林に住む。甘肅、陝西、四川の各省に分布する。それで south-western China がよい。cf. VI(1)

(8) **calefactory** a heated public room in a monastery (修道院で休憩室に当てられている暖房べや)。これに monastery common room (修道院休憩室) を付け加えられないか。

*Panda* - we will note your comments, although perhaps the entry which you suggest is a little too long for the scope of our one volume dictionary.

*Calefactory* - thank you for drawing attention to this. I think that in fact the calefactory was not as we say a public room in a monastery, but was rather the room in which the monks themselves were allowed to rest and warm themselves at certain periods of their day. We will look into this further when we come to revise the dictionary.

(9) **yen** the standard monetary unit of Japan, (formerly) divided into 100 sen. [C19: from Japanese en, form Chinese yuan circular object, dollar] 円。銭の硬貨は1954年以來使用禁止。但し外国為替のレート、ダウ平均株価、日歩に使用されている。

江戸時代の硬貨は長方形、又は楕円形等であった。明治新政府は硬貨を円形にし円と名づけた。したがって [Japanese en, literally round] である。cf. II(16)、V(1)

(10) **Oireachtas** the parliament of the Republic of Ireland. See also Dail Eireann Dail Eireann (in the Republic of Ireland) the lower chamber of Parliament. See also Oireachtas.

**Seanad Eireann** (in the Republic of Ireland) the upper chamber of parliament; the Senate.

アイルランドの共和国の国会は President、下院(Dail Eireann)及び上院(Seanad Eireann)とから成る。

After reading your interesting comments about the word *yen*, I am bound to say that although our entry is necessarily short. I think we probably cover the situation adequately in the space available within the dictionary.

Thank you also for your comments about *Oireachtas*. I think that you are right in pointing out that we could be more helpful here. Since we have an entry for *Seanad Eireann* it would be helpful to make reference to it and I will note this for the future.

(11) **sundowner** Austral and obsolete N.Z. slang. a tramp ,esp, one who seeks food and lodging at sundown when it is too late to work. 浮浪者。 one who seeks food and lodging at sundown when it is too late to work はオーストラリアにおいても、19世紀の習俗である。それで obsolete Austral, and obsolete N.Z. とする。cf. **sundowner** This term was applied to any tramp or swagman in the outback who arrived at a homestead not long before sundown, too late to do any work but in time for a meal. - The Collins Australian Encyclopedia(1984)

(12) **in chancery** Wrestling, boxing, (of a competitor's head) locked under an opponent's arm 但し boxing に於いては (of a competitor's head) locked, contrary to the rules, under an opponent's arm and unable to avoid severe punishment が正しい。 cf. IV(4)

(13) **bonsai** 1. the art of growing dwarfed ornamental varieties of trees or shrubs in small shallow pots by selective pruning, etc. 2... 盆栽。 small shallow pots でなく special trays or containers with drainage holes and often with small feet that elevate them slightly である。

*sundowner* ; I suspect that you are right in your comments here. I will pass your inquiry on to our specialist Australian consultant editor.

Thank you for your note about *in chancery*. Again, I will pass on your suggestion to the specialist editor who deals with sporting entries in the dictionary.

*bonsai* : Your comments are indeed most accurate but in our one-volume dictionary I fear that we have not the space for very detailed information. We might however avoid the word *pots* as I agree that even in this country bonsai is very popular they are more often grown in trees.

(14) **bunraku** a Japanese form of puppet theatre in which the puppets are usually about four feet high, with moving features as well as limbs and each puppet is manipulated by up to three puppeteers who remain onstage. [C20:Japanese] 文楽。limbs について、legs が動くのは男性人形の場合である。女性人形は legs がない。

(15) **autobahn** a German motorway. motorway (高速道路)。 a German, Austrian, or Swiss motorway が正しい。

I have looked at our entry for *bunraku* and studied the information which you provide—and which is extremely enlightening. I think however that within the space



of a dictionary entry we cannot do very much more than we do at present. I think the fact that we say that the puppets are usually about four feet high dispels any idea that they are being manipulated by strings.

Your comment about *autobahn* I will try to implement the next time we are revising the dictionary.

(16) *ginkgo* or *gingko* a widely planted ornamental Chinese gymnosperm tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, with fan-shaped deciduous leaves and fleshy yellow fruit. Also called maidenhair tree. [C 18:from Japanese *ginkyo*, from Ancient Chinese *ngien* silver + *hang* apricot] いちょう。Chinese について、grow abundantly in Japan, China, Korea である。fleshy, yellow, foul-smelling fruit であって、その中に edible kernel (食用になる、ぎんなん) がある。ginkyo (銀杏) の y を g とうつしまちがえた為 ginkgo となった。

(17) *ginseng* 1.either of two araliaceous plants *Panax shinseng* of China or *P.quinquefolius* of North America, whose forked aromatic roots are used medicinally in China. 薬用人参は China だけでなく Japan, Korea でも栽培され又薬用として用いられている。英国でも薬用として用いられていないか。North America 産のものは廣東 (カントン) 人参と称せられていた。

*GINKGO* : the information which you provide is indeed interesting, but I am afraid that we just haven't got the space in the dictionary to include more than the entry which we give at present, which is styled in dictionary style as for many other trees and plants. We will however keep your letter on file should we ever have the opportunity to produce a more detailed book.

*GINSENG* : yes indeed, ginseng is used very widely here as well as in the countries you mention. We might therefore consider adding the fact that it is used medicinally in Britain also.

#### IV

The Oxford Eng. Dict. より1例、The Oxford Eng. Dict. Supplements より2例、The Oxford Eng. Dict, Second Edition より2例。The New Oxford Illustrated Dict. より1例を次に示す。

(1) *sumi-e* [Jap] Japanese ink painting; also collect., *sumi pictures*—OED Supplements. 墨絵。語原につき [*sumi* Japanese ink + *e* picture] とする。

回答者 Mrs S.K.Tulloch, Assistant Editor (New Words)はThank you for your letter about *sumi-e*. Your comment will be kept in our correction files for future corrections to the Supplement to the OED.

(2) *Mikado* [Japanese *mi* august + *kado* door; for the sense of 'Sublime Porte'] The title of the emperor of Japan—OED. *kado* door は gate に、The title of the emperor of Japan はan emperor of Japan に改め formerly used outside and inside Japan を加える。

回答者 Bernadette Paton, Assistant Editor (New Words) はThank you for your recent letter concerning the Oxford English Dictionary's entry for *mikado*. We will file your suggestion for our reference in the future.

(3) *mebos* S. Afr. Also *meebos*. [Afrikaans, prob. ad. Jap. *umeboshi*, a dried, preserved plum.] A confection made from apricots dried, flattened or pulped, and preserved in salt and sugar. - The OED Supplements. 語原の *plum* を Japanese *apricot* に改める。*plum* は西洋スモモで、ヨーロッパの原産である。その果実は李(スモモ)に似ているが、葉は倒卵形であり、李では葉が倒披針形であるので、ちがう。李は中国の原産である。梅は中国中部の原産で古く日本に伝来し、花を鑑賞し、特に香りがたつとばれ、果実は梅ぼしとして日常生活にしたまれているが、欧米ではほとんど栽培しない。英名は Japanese *apricot*. 梅の果実は *plum* の果実より小さく又甘味が少ない。cf. IV(6)

(4) *chancery*, (boxing) with head held under opponem<sup>t</sup>'s arm to be pummelled (from the tenacity with the old Court of chancery held anything and certainty of cost and loss). - The New Oxford Illustrated Dict. (1978). *boxing* では、わきの下に相手の頭をはさんで連打するのは、*contrary to the rules* である Cf. III(12)

回答者 Bernadette Paton, Assistant Editor (New Words) は We have filed your suggestions for corrections to entries in the *Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary* for our reference in the future.

(5) *base-line* (a) the line, three feet wide, marked on the turf from base to base of a baseball field - OED<sup>2</sup> これは the unmarked lane, six feet (1.8m), wide, between any two consecutive bases: a base runner must normally stay within this lane - Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition が正しい。

(6) *bai-u* [Jap, f, *bai plum + u rain.*] (A season of ) rainfall in Japan in early or midsummer - OED<sup>2</sup> 梅雨。語原の *plum* を Japanese *apricot* とする。梅の果実は *plum* の果実よりも小さく又甘味が少ない。cf. IV(3)

Dr B.T. Paton, Assistant Editor (New Words) は Thank you very much for your letter concerning the *Oxford English Dictionary*'s entries for *base-line* and *baiu*. We are, as usual, pleased to receive your comments, and will file them for our reference in the future.

## V

The Concise Oxford Dict. of Eng. Etymology より2例を次に示す。回答者は Editor の T.F. Hoad氏。

(1) *yen* Jap. monetary. xix. - Jap. - Chin yuan round, round thing, dollar. 円。語原につき、江戸時代の硬貨は長方形、又は楕円形等であった。明治新政府は硬貨を円形にした。したがって [Japanese en literally round] である。cf. II(10), III(9)

I am not competent to judge questions of Japanese and Chinese linguistics, and depend in such cases entirely on the help of others. I shall gratefully put your comments on file, and they will be valuable when I come to revise the relevant entry in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (or, as is likely to happen first, in a new edition of the larger *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*).

(2) *hara-kiri* suicide by disembowelment. xix - Jap., f. *hara* belly + *kiri* cutting. 腹切り。ritual suicide とする。切腹は武士が勇気と意志の強固なることを示す日本独特の習俗。単独の場合は、腹を切り、かえす刀で頸動脈を切る、これが致命傷。刑としての切腹は上級武士が対象。切腹場は三方白の幔幕を張り、中央に畳二枚を敷き白布でおおう。切腹人は水

浅葱の死に装束、西面する。切腹人が三方を手もとに引きよせた時、又は三方の上の小刀を左腹に突きたてた時介錯人は首を打ち落す。検使は終了を確認する。ritual である。

Please forgive me for not writing much sooner than this to thank you for your letter some months ago, with information about hara-kiri. I was glad to have it, and will add it to the file for this word.

## VI

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dict. of Current Eng., Fourth Edition より3例を次に示す。回答者は Chief Editor の A.P.Cowie氏。

(1) *panda* (also giant panda) large rare bear-like black and white animal living in the mountains of SW China. おおぱんだ。食物は、たけのこや若いたけ、たけの根が主で、他にリンドウ、アイリス、クロッカスなどや、ときに魚、ナキウサギ、ネズミなども食べる chiefly herbivorous である。ふつう標高2700-3900mにある竹林に住む。cf. III(7)

(2) Once upon a time (used as the beginning of a fairy tale) at some indefinite time in the past: Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess....これに(2)として formerly をつけ加えられないか。例(1) Once upon a time most women faced with a blocked sink or jammed door would rush to the nearest male for help. Nowadays a girl is more likely to turn to her tool kit and the relevant pages of her do-it-yourself manual. The imagination of publishers, tool manufacturers has been caught by the fact that women are perfectly capable of, and interested in, doing jobs around the house. (2) Once upon a time Mr Nixon considered the People's Republic of China as one of the US's most dangerous enemies. (3) Once upon a time May Day in Paris was an occasion for workers' parades, fiery speeches at mass meetings and the sale of the traditional good-luck emblem, the lily of the valley. (4) Once upon a time, a year or so before marrying this man, she had been voted the prettiest girl in the district in which she had grown up. 例(1)~(4)は教育出版高校通信 '77第11巻・第14号金子稔氏より。cf. III(5)

(3) *recent* (that existed, happened, began, was/were made, etc) not long ago or before: a recent event, development. occurrence, etc.

In recent years there have been many changes. Ours is a recent acquaintance, ie We only met a short time ago. これに done, made, etc. just before the present time が加えられないか。ex. Her eyes were red with recent weeping.

1. Your definition of *panda* would be more precise, and perhaps more welcome to readers with a special interest in wild life. The difficulty is that in a general EFL dictionary we cannot include all the detail we would like to about words in particular areas of the vocabulary. There simply isn't enough space! What we try to do in the case of specialized items like *panda* is to include enough detail to satisfy the average educated non-specialist (a very difficult category to define, to be sure).

2. The issues raised by your mention *once upon a time* are especially interesting. What has happened in the uses you report is not so much a change of meaning, as you suggest, as a change in the discourse function of this adverbial. In its standard

use, *once upon a time* signals not simply the sense 'some time, or a long time ago' (see *Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English*, vol.11) but also that what follows is a fairy story, especially for young children. But, of course, it can be as introduction to narratives which, while not actually fairy tales themselves, are represented as such. There are often elements in the story itself which support this analysis (as in your first example and the first example in *ODCIE*, vol.11). The effect is to gently mock the events or persons being portrayed. I'd sum up by saying that the use of the adverbial in these examples is a matter of pragmatics and not simply of a shift of meaning. Of course, now that I've said that, you can see what problems are created for the editor of a general dictionary. (There is more information about this and similar expressions in *ODCIE*.)

3. Your final definition (of recent) again adds relevant detail but is again too full to be included in a general dictionary for the foreign learner.

## VII

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dict. より1例を次に示す。回答者は編集部の Robert Copeland氏。

(1) Asahikawa or Asahigawa city Japan in cen Hokkaido pop 297,000アサヒ川市である。Asahigawaを削除する。人口は平成元年6月末日現在で63,673人である。旭川(アサヒカワ)は明治23年9月23日より上川郡アサヒカワ(旭川)村と呼称されていた。又、旭川(アサヒガワ)は岡山県中部を流れ、瀬戸内海にそそぐ川。全長150km(93mi)。cf. II(2)

I have sent your comment about Asahikawa City to our geography files.

## Summary

English Dictionaries are thought to be accurate. But I should say there are no English dictionaries free from error. Samuel Johnson(1709-84), an Englishman said, "Dictionaries are like watches, the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true.

It is really regrettable that the misrepresentations of things Japanese result in the misunderstanding of Japan and her people. About thirty-six years ago I became interested in mistakes in English dictionaries, for example, the Japan Seas in the *Universal Dictionary of the English Language*(1952), published by Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd., in London. The plural *s* in the *Japan Seas* should be deleted. Twenty-six years have passed since I began to correspond, for correction, with dictionary editors. This paper contains remarks from the editors of the following dictionaries and encyclopedias, concerning questionable entries.

The *Encyclopedia Americana*(1986), U.S.A.

The *New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia*(1985), U.S.A.

*Collins English Dictionary*(1986), U.K.

The *Oxford English Dictionary*(1961), The *Oxford English Dictionary Supplements*(1972 & 1986), The *Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition*(1989) & The *New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary*(1978), U.K.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology(1986), U.K.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Fourth Edition(1989), U.K.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary(1983), U.S.A.

Your emendations and suggestions will be gladly received.

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