

# 英語の辞書・百科事典の誤りについて (Ⅳ)

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Mistakes in English Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (4)

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## Preface

英語の辞書・百科事典は誤りなきものと考えられている。しかし英国人の 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。誤りのない英語の辞書・百科事典はない。

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遺憾である。約28年前英語辞書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) 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。編集部に訂正を求めて文通を開始してより約18年が経過した。

この小論には以下 8 社の編集部よりの回答を、訂正を求めた見出し語に附記してある。

The Concise Macquarie Dictionary (1982年版), Australia

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1966, 1971, 1981年版), Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1979年版), Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1983年版), Merriam-Webster Inc., Massachusetts, U. S. A.

The World Book Encyclopedia, (1981年版), U. S. A.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (1974年版), U. S. A.

Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition (1982年版) 及び Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary (1979年版), Simon & Schuster, Ohio, U. S. A.

The World Book Dictionary (1979年版), 及び The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English (1980年版), U. S. A.

Random House Dictionary (1970年版), Random House College Dictionary (1982年版), Random House Dictionary Classic Edition (1983年版), paperback の Random House Dictionary (1980年版), U. S. A.

The Universal Dictionary of the English Language (1961年版), England.

御教示御叱正を賜われれば幸いです。

## A

The Concise Macquarie Dictionary から15例を次に示す。

\* 英語英文学研究室 (昭和59年9月13日受理)

(1) **sundowner**, a swagman who arrives at a homestead at nightfall, too late for work, but obtains shelter for the night.

sundowner は現在浮浪者の意で使用されている。仕事をしなくてもすむよう、日没時に農牧場に着き、宿泊を乞う習慣は19世紀の末ごろまで存在したが今日では見られない。したがって who arrives at a homestead at nightfall, too late for work, but obtains shelter for the night は削除すべきである。

You are quite right in suggesting that there are not many sundowners these days in Australia. In our revised edition we shall find a way of indicating that sundowning was a 19th century practice.

(2) **harakiri**, suicide by ripping open the abdomen with a dagger or knife, the national form of honourable suicide in Japan, formerly practised among the higher classes when disgraced or sentenced to death. Also, **harakari**, **harikari**.

ritual を加えて ritual suicide とする。higher classes を warrior class とする。公郷は切腹を行わなかった。sentenced to death について、下級武士は打首、上級武士は体面を重んじて切腹の刑を賜わった、等。cf. C (1).

As to harakiri, your letter is very detailed but your amended definition catches the essential new points which ought to be considered when the revised form is being written.

(3) **ginseng**, either of two plants, *Panax ginseng* of China, Korea, etc., and *P. quinquefolium* of North America, yielding an aromatic root which is extensively used in medicine by the Chinese.

薬用人参は日本でも島根・長野・福島県などで栽培されている。又強壯剤として中国だけでなく朝鮮・日本・西洋諸国でも愛用されている。

(4) **koto**, a Japanese musical instrument having numerous strings, stretched over a vaulted, wooden sounding-board: plucked with the fingers.

numerous strings について、琴には普通13本の弦がある。plucked with the fingers について、右手の親指、人さし指、中指3本に琴爪をはめて奏するが、左手で柱の外側を押ししたり、ゆるめたり、ゆるすったりして装飾音をつける。harp については plucked with the fingers でよい。harp は horizontal, しかし koto は vertical である。

ginseng と koto につき、Thank you for your informative letter on ginseng and koto. We are now at work on the revisions of the first Macquarie Dictionary and will be depending on your letter to help us get our entries for these two words into a better shape.

(5) **washboard**, a board or frame with a corrugated metallic or other surface, on which clothes are scrubbed in the process of washing. 洗濯板。電気洗濯機・コインランドリーの普及した今日でもあり、on which clothes are scrubbed in the process of washing について、the use of a washboard for scrubbing clothes is obsolescent, at least in urbanized societies でないのか。

(6) **ginkgo**, a large, ornamental, gymnospermous tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, native to China, with fan-shaped leaves, fleshy fruit, and edible nuts. いちょう。native to China and Japan とする。中国の原産といわれている。古くからわが国に渡来して、神社・寺院・庭園・並木などに植えられている。

(7) **sugar loaf**, a large approximately conical loaf or mass of hard refined sugar.

棒砂糖。これに *now rarely sold* をつけ加えてはどうか。

(5)(6)(7)について *As before your information has been recorded in our files. We are always pleased to hear from our Society members and are grateful for all their contributions.*

(8) **polytechnic**, *Brit., U. S.* an institute of higher education in which instruction is given chiefly in scientific and technical subjects. これを *Brit.* a place of higher education providing training and often university degrees in many arts and esp. trades connected with skills and machines. *U. S.* a school specializing in the teaching of industrial arts and applied sciences. としてはどうか。

(9) **white slave**, a white woman who is sold or forced to serve as a prostitute, esp. outside her native land. 主として, 国外に売られ, 国外で売春を強制されている女。white を削除し, a woman ... としてはどうか。

(10) **sukiyaki**, a Japanese dish containing fried meat, vegetables, onions. etc., usu. cooked with soya sauce, often at the table. すきやき. usu. cooked with soya sauce, ... を cooked for a short time with soya sauce, ... と改めてはどうか。

(11) **raccoon**, any of several small nocturnal carnivores, arboreal in habit, and having a sharp snout and a bushy ringed tail. アライグマ, 雑食性の小動物. carnivores でなく omnivores である。その食物は frogs, crayfish, turtles, and other fresh-water animals; all berries and other fruits; corn; birds' eggs and chickens. である。

(8)(9)(10)(11)について *Thank you for your further comments on Macquarie definitions. We are about to do a revised edition of the Concise, and will be glad to take your suggestions into our considerations. It is encouraging to us to have you show such a close interest in our work.*

(12) **hot line**, a direct telephone connection open to immediate communication in an emergency, as between the Soviet Union and the United States. 緊急直通電話。但し Soviet Union と United States の chief 間では direct-line teletype が使用されている。

(13) **soya sauce**, a salty dark brown sauce, made by fermenting soya beans in brine. 醤油, ... fermenting soya beans and wheat ... とする。

(14) **stetson**, a man's hat having a broad brim and a wide crown, formerly common in the western U. S. ステットソン帽. man's 及び formerly を削除する。

(12)(13)(14)につき, *We have received your further contribution to our dictionary database. We have noted your thoughtful comments and have recorded your suggestions in our files.*

(15) **billion**. a million times a million, or  $10^{12}$  2. *U. S.* a thousand times a million, or  $10^9$ . 1. 一兆 2. 十億。これに *Brit.* として以下のどれを採用するか尋ねて見た。  
cf. E (4), G (8)

**billion**. Since 1951 *U. S.* value, a thousand millions, has been used by some writers in Britain, but the older sense 'a million millions' still prevails. — *O. E. D. Supplement.*, (*U. K.* and Commonwealth) a million million; a thousand million — *C. O. D.*<sup>7</sup>, (chiefly Britain and Commonwealth) Million millions; thousand millions — *P. O. D.*<sup>6</sup>, a million millions; (econ, sci and US) a thousand millions — *Penguin Eng. Dict.*<sup>3</sup>, 1. (the number) 1,000,000,000;  $10^9$  2. *BrE* old use (the number) 1,000,000,000,000;  $10^{12}$  — *Longman*

*Dict. of Contemporary Eng.*, in Britain, France (since 1948), etc., a million millions (unit and twelve ciphers): in U. S., often now in Britain, one thousand millions (unit and nine ciphers) or milliard — *Chambers 20th Century Dict. (1983)*, 1, a million million 2. a thousand million The sense 'a thousand million' was originally used in the U S A but is now common in Britain and elsewhere. — Oxford Paperback Dict.<sup>2</sup>

返書は

The question of billion is a very tricky one which is being studied at the moment by the Editorial Committee, for possible amendment in future editions.

## B

Webster's Third New International Dictionary から7例を次に示す。

(1) **kwazoku** [Jap]: the class of nobility of both civil and feudal origin in the Japanese social scale — (1971年版). **shizoku** [Jap.]: Japanese social class consisting of the old samurai and their families and descendants as distinguished from the *heimin* and the *kwazoku* — (1971年版). **heimin** [Jap., fr. *hei* common + *min* people]: the class of commoners consisting of peasants and laborers and traders in the Japanese social scale — (1971年版).

華族・士族・平民の呼称は昭和22年(1947年)廃止。故にそれぞれ (formerly) を語義の最初につける。

Your suggestions for *kwazoku*, *shizoku*, and *heimin* are all valid. Obviously, these definitions need some historical reference if we are not to mislead the reader into thinking the divisions are still a part of Japanese society.

(2) **yawata** usu cap [fr. Yawata, Japan]: of or from the city of Yawata, Japan; of the kind or style prevalent in Yawata — (1971年版). **moji**, usu cap [fr. Moji, Japan]: of or from the city of Moji, Japan; of the kind or style prevalent in Moji — (1971年版). **kokura**, usu cap [fr. Kokura, city in northern Kyushu, Japan]: of or from the city of Kokura, Japan; of the kind or style prevalent in Kokura — (1971年版). 昭和38年(1963年)2月, 八幡・門司・小倉・戸畑・若松の五市が合併して, 北九州市が出来た。yawata, moji, kokura の見出し語を削除して, 新たに *kitakyushu* の見出し語を作るべきである。cf. G (1)

We also have made note of your suggestions at *yawata*, *moji*, and *kokura*. We have *Kitakyushu* listed in the geographical names section of our abridged *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, but the adjective form has not yet made it into the unabridged book.

(3) **nandina** [NL., fr. Jap *nandin* nandina] 1. cap: a monotypic genus of Chinese and Japanese evergreen shrubs (family Berberidaceae) having decompound leaves and small white paniculate flowers with numerous sepals that are followed by bright red or purplish fruits and being grown in warm regions as an ornamental — (1971年版). 南天. [ML., fr. Jap *nandin* ...] を [... Jap *nanten*] に改める。Our etymology file has a note that you suggested the change in the etymology of *nandina* some 10 years ago, but we have not yet made changes on that page in the dictionary. We cannot explain the spelling *nandin* for the Japanese word, other than to say it probably came

from a citation or from an old romanization system. Certainly we will change the Japanese word to *nanten* when we can. That spelling is borne out by the Japanese dictionaries in our office.

(4) **fugu**: any of various globefishes that contain a heatstable toxic principle resembling curare and are sometimes eaten in Japan with suicidal intent — (1966年版). 河豚は日本では時に自殺するために食べられることがある、は全くの誤りである。「ふぐは食いたし、命は惜しし」はよく我々の言うところであるが、これはその美味と毒性を強調したにすぎない。その毒素はおもにテトロドトキシンで、とくに卵巣と肝臓に多く含まれているが、ふぐ調理師試験合格者が毒性のある部分を除去すれば絶対安全であり、さしみ・ちり鍋がもっともよく知られ美味である。との手紙を出した。編集部よりの返信は次の通りであった。

The comment on its use in suicide was intended to stress the unusually poisonous character of the fish and not as a reflection on the habits of the Japanese people. Apparently, *fugu* has been used both as an instrument of suicide and of murder, though obviously neither is a day-to-day practice. At the time this definition was written we unfortunately did not have the additional information, such as you include in your letter, about the special techniques of preparation that render the fish fit for food. Incidentally, we gather that there is still some uncertainty as to the distribution of the poison in the fish, some authorities specifying the roe, others the liver, etc.; apparently, the licensed cook plays it safe and removes ovaries, roe, liver, and skin as well as the normally discarded intestines to ensure a safe dish.

上記の *fugu* has been used both of an instrument of suicide and of murder はいかなる資料に基づくものであろうか。

1981年版の *fugu* の定義を見ると1966年版と同じである。そこで大体同一の内容の手紙を又送って見た、返信は次の通りである。

The definition of *fugu* in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* will certainly be revised at the earliest opportunity. We have already revised the definition of *fugu* for the Collegiate to reflect the fact that the fish is considered a gourmet treat, though a rather risky one.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dict. (1983年版) は新たに *fugu* (1909) の見出し語を入れて any of various globefishes that contain a heat-stable toxic principle resembling curare and that are used as food in Japan after toxin-contained organs are removed. しかし本体の Third New International Dict. の **fugu** には依然として are sometimes eaten in Japan with suicidal intent は残っている、いつ訂正がなされるのであろうか。

(5) **banzai attack** or **banzai charge**: a reckless desperate mass attack originated by Japanese soldiers and accompanied by yells of "banzai" and insulting taunts — (1981年版), and insulting taunts を削除すべきである。編集部の回答は

You have probably noticed that the *Webster's Third* definition of *banzai* is generally in keeping with the Japanese use of the term. *Banzai attack* and *banzai charge*, however, are English-language terms describing the attack by Japanese soldiers from the point of view of the English speakers, not the Japanese speakers. I personally cannot attest to what GIs experienced in the banzai raids. Perhaps the insults were part of some raids,

perhaps they were only a part of the legend that surrounded the recounting to this — to Westerners — most mysterious behavior. The insults notion may have been something familiar to the original definer, but except for this single citation, we do not find direct support for it in our files.

The *banzai*\* charge which the Yanks have met from Attu to Leyte follow a well-established routine. First, the Japanese soldiers assemble and listen to pep talks. Their artillery and mortars lay down a sharp barrage. Then, with their patriotic fervor worked up to a high pitch, the Japs burst out of concealment with fixed bayonets and race toward the Americans, in formation, screaming wild insults in English and Japanese. — *Newsweek*, November 27, 1944.

\*“*Banzai!*” shouted in battle means “May the Emperor live in a thousand years!”

In the absence of more support, we are inclined to agree with you that the phrase is expendable.

(6) **groundhog day** usu cap G & D [so called fr. the belief that on that day the groundhog comes out of his burrow and if he casts a shadow returns for an additional period of winter weather] : February 2 in most parts of the U. S. or February 14 in some parts of (as Missouri) which is popularly considered to indicate if sunny the continuance of wintry weather or if cloudy the early coming of spring — (1971年版). この1971年版が February 2 in most parts of the U. S. or February 14 in some parts of (as Missouri) であるのに対し Webster’s New Collegiate Dict. (1979年版) は February 2 のみである。聖燭節。いずれが正しいのか尋ねてみた。Our current evidence shows that in all states, Groundhog Day is officially recognized as February 2. Our files contain some reference to the fact that Missouri farmers cling to the tradition of February 14, but the information also shows that the Missouri legislature, before the early 1940s, officially designated February 2 as Groundhog Day.

(7) **makimono**: a picture, pictured story, or writing mounted on paper and usu. rolled in a scroll — (1971年版), **makimono**: a horizontal Japanese ornamental pictorial or calligraphic scroll — Webster’s New Collegiate Dict. (1979年版). 巻き物、書画などを横に長く表装して軸に巻いたもので、手に持ち繰り抜けてゆくことにより鑑賞させるようにしたもの。つるして見るものでない。編集部より

The fact that the **makimono** is appreciated in reading rather than in viewing at a distance on a wall is a significant aspect of the definition, and we are happy to put your information in our files.

## C

World Book Encyclopedia から3例を次に示す。

(1) **HARA-KIRI** is a method of suicide used by members of the Japanese warrior class. The person who commits *hara-kiri* cuts a gash in his abdomen according to a prescribed manner. He may then cut an artery in his neck or have an assistant cut off his head. The Japanese term this ceremonial rite *seppuku*. During the feudal period in Japan, men considered it a privilege and duty for the *samurai* (warrior nobles) to kill themselves in this way, rather than to submit to public disgrace. Later, defeated

commanders sometimes asked the emperor for permission to commit hara-kiri.

敗軍の将が天皇に切腹の許可を請うことはなかった。しかし責任を感じ切腹したことはあった。cf. A (2).

(2) **Greenwich Village** ... Many actors, artists, and other people in the arts live in the area. 現在では様変わりし, SoHo ... Many actors, artists, musicians, and other people in the arts live in the area. にした方がよくなるか。New York 市にある芸術村 Greenwich Village に金持が移ってくるにつれ, 家賃も急騰し, 今では芸術家たちは Village よりさらに南の SoHo (South of Houston) 地区に移っていった。

As usual your comments and suggestions were very interesting, and very helpful to us. I will be happy to pass along to our editors for their consideration the recommendations you made about specifying the initiative taken by defeated commanders in the "Hara-Kiri" article, and including a reference to SoHo in the "New York City" article.

(3) **China** ... **The Sung Dynasty** brought two major changes that affected the Chinese empire throughout the rest of its existence. First, the Sung rulers firmly established a system of civil service examinations that had begun during the T'ang period. They thus completed the shift of social and political power from aristocratic families to officials selected on the basis of talent. civil service examinations (科挙制度) は T'ang period (唐の時代) に始まったのではなく, Sui period (隋の時代) に始まったのである。即ち隋の文帝が中央政府の試験・論文による制度をたてたのにはじまる。

You also raised a question about World Book's discussion of the Chinese civil service examination system. I'm sure you can understand how difficult it is for our editors to find space to take note of all the dynastic contributions to a system that was evolving for over 1,000 years. In its rudimentary form the examination system began during the Han dynasty, and the World Book "Han Dynasty" article mentions that development. The subsequent statement in the 'History' section of the "China" article which you inquired about is based on explanation such as the following:

Sui also laid the foundation for the full-fledged system of personal recruitment by examination that matured in early T'ang times, and for which T'ang is normally given full credit. The T'ang system of personnel administration was a major advance in bureaucratic professionalism from the Han level. T'ang opened the doors to officialdom much wider, and nominees for examinations came regularly to outnumber the successful candidates by as many as a hundred to one. [Charles O. Hucker, *China's Imperial Past: An Introduction to Chinese History and Culture*. Stanford, 1975, pp. 159-60.]

## D

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica から 9 例を次に示す。

(1) 珍妙なローマ字表記として。

(a) Mizoguchi Kenji **Kami-Nengyo** haru no sasayaki, を kami-ningyō (紙人形) ... に, **Mizochi's** outstanding films of the 1920's and 30's were Tōkyō **koshinkyō ko**. Mizochi's を Mizoguchi's (溝口) に, **kōshinkyō ko** を **kōshin-kyoku** (行進曲) に。

(b) Kinoshita Keisuke, Narayamabushi-kō (The Song of Naryama). Naryama は Narayama (楯山) に, Nogikuno **botoko** kimi nariki. botoko は gotoki (如き) に,

(c) Chūgoku-sammyaku, **Chugoky** Mountains. Chūgoky は Chugoku (中国) に,

(d) Masamune **Hakucho**, Bundanteki **Jishoden** (A Literary Autobiography). Jishōden は Jijoden (自叙伝) に, Hakucho は Hakuchō に,

(e) Ichikawa Kon, Kuroi jūnin no **onnai** (Ten Dark Women). onnai は onna (女) に,

(f) Izumi Kyōka, Yakō **juhsa** (Police Night Patrol). juhsa は junsu (巡査) に,

(g) Kato Kiyomasa, **Hito**. Hito は Higo (肥後) に, Kato は Katō に,

(h) Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, **Kinkakuju**. Kinkakuju は Kinkakuji (金閣寺) に,

(i) Kodaira, **Kunihoku**, Japanese-born U. S. mathematician. 小平邦彦, Kunihoku は Kunihiko に,

(j) **hiyaka-me**. hyakkan-me (百貫目) に,

(k) Buddhism, Daisaku **Ikoda** 池田大作. Ikoda は Ikeda に,

日本人の氏名表記について(a)より(j)を考えると, Ikeda Daisaku とせねばならぬ, 不統一である。

(l) Japanese language, **iduku** いづく, iduku は idzuku に,

(2) 日本語にないV字の使用について,

(a) Ozu Yasujiro, **shochiku**, Umarete wa mita **kevdo** (I Was Born. But). Toda-keno-**kyodai**, **Soshun** (Early Spring). kevdo は keredo に, Shochiku は Shōchiku (松竹) に, kyodai は kyōdai (兄弟) に, Soshun は Sōshun (早春) に,

(b) History of Japan, **Navetsu** of the Uesugi family. Navetsu は Naoetsu (直江津) に,

(c) Tokyo-Yokohama Metropolitan Area, **Veno**. Veno は Ueno (上野) に,

(3) Q字の使用について,

(a) Keio University, Japanese Keio **Daiqaku**. Daiqaku は Daigaku (大学) に,

(b) Miki Kiyoshi, Proletarian **kaqaku** kenkyusho. kaqaku は kagaku (科学) に, kenkyusho は kenkyūsho (研究所) に,

(4) l字の使用について, Abe Isoo, Shakai **Talshūtō**. Talshūtō は Taishūtō (大衆党) に,

(5) üの使用について,

(a) Japan, **Kü-hanto** (Kü Peninsula). Kü は Kii (紀伊) に,

(b) **Kü-hanto**, Koyasa. Kü は Kii に, Koyasa は Kōyasan (高野山) に,

(6) 漢字の知識なきために,

(a) Bizen ware, ... From the late **Muroma, chi**, period. Muro-machi (室町) period に,

(b) Kabuki Theatre, ... **Kezairoku** (Valuable Hints on Plaything) Gezairoku (戯(ゲ)財録) に,

(c) Ishida Baigan, Ishida sensei **goro ku** (Record of the Words of Ishida) goro ku を go-roku (語録) に,

(d) History of Japan, an order for the driving away of foreign ships (**ikokusenuchiharai-rei**). (ikokusen-uchiharai-rei) (異国船打払い令) に,

(e) Japanese philosophy, Shinto **go busho** (the Shinto Five Books). go busho を gobu-sho (五部書) に,



(f) East Asian Visual Arts ... **Heike-no-kyo**, a set of sutra scrolls donated in 1164 by **Taira Kiyomori**. Heike-no-kyō を Heike-nōkyō (平家納経) に, Taira Kiyomori を Taira-no Kiyomari に.

(7) 「の」の無い例.

(a) **Ono Imoko**. Ono-no Imoko (小野妹子) に.

(b) **Ono Tōfū**. Ono-no Tōfū (小野道風) に.

(8) 母音を短音にすべきもの.

(c) **Mori Terumoto** (Japanese warrior). Mōri (毛利) に.

(b) **Kōmagaku**, early Japanese court music created during the Heian Period. Komagaku (高麗楽) に.

(c) **Jikaku Daishi**, Japanese Buddhist teacher. Jikaku (慈覚) に.

(d) Dance and Theatre, Eastern Asian, the ritual play **Ōkina**. Okina (翁) に.

(9) 母音を長音にすべきもの.

(a) **Oyomei** (philosopher). Ōyōmei (王陽明) に.

(b) **Osumi**, Japanese satellite put into orbit on Feb. 11, 1970. Ōsumi (大隅) に.

(c) Maeda Seison, **Tojiba** (Hot Springs). Tōjiba (湯治場) に. **Dokutsu no yoritomo**. Dōkutsu (洞窟) no Yoritomo (頼朝) に.

(d) Kaibara Ekiken, **Doji-kun** (Instructions for children). Dōji-kun (童児訓) に.

(e) Moto-ori Norinaga, Amaterasu **Omikami**. Ōmikami (大御神) に.

Most of your suggestions have been verified and the items will be scheduled for correction at the earliest opportunity.

## E

Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition (1982年版) 及び Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary (1979年版) から7例を次に示す.

(1) **bunraku** [Jap., after V. Bunrakuken, 18th-c. creator of puppets] a form of puppet show in Japan with nearly life-size puppets, each operated by two or three onstage puppeteers, while dialog and narration are spoken by performers just offstage. — Webster's New World Dict. V. Bunrakuken について日本語にはV音は無い。淡路の興行主二代目植村文楽軒が明治5年(1872)つまり19世紀に、大阪松島に文楽座の櫓を揚げた。後世人形浄瑠璃が文楽と呼ばれるようになるほど盛り返した。creator of puppetsでない。18th-c. でなく、19th-c. である。VをUにする。

The amendments or corrections to the dictionary entries having to do with Japan are especially valuable to us. The V. in the etymology for **bunraku** certainly should be taken care of, and we have taken note that the letter should be U. I easily found Uemura Bunrakuken in books having to do with puppetry at the library. I came upon one having to do exclusively with bunraku and was enchanted by the pictures. Bunraku must be quite beautiful to view in a theater. It seemed to me, however, that the date given should be (early) 19th century rather than the 18th century. While the father was born and started his work in the 18th century, he did not open the first theater until the early 19th century, and then his son's continuance of the work contributed to its great popularity. I am suggesting that we change the date.

(2) **raku ware**, a variety of pottery formerly made in Japan, with a dark glaze. — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dict. 一楽二萩三唐津, 茶道のための陶磁の best 3 を選べば, 楽焼と萩焼と唐津焼である. 現在もつくられている. formerly を削除する.

It is worthwhile for us to know that *raku ware* is still made and used in your country.

(3) **grogshop** [Chiefly Brit.] a saloon — Webster's New World Dict. **grogshop**, a place where alcoholic drink are sold; a saloon — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dict. 酒場. Webster's New World には [Chiefly Brit.] の表示があるが New Twentieth Century には表示がない. いづれが正しいか.

It would surely seem that our New World and also Twentieth Century Dictionaries should be consistent in labeling (or not labeling) **grogshop** as Chiefly Brit., even though at this stage it is probably found chiefly in older literature on either side of the Atlantic.

(4) **billion** 1. in the United States and France, a thousand millions (1,000,000,000), 2. in Great Britain and Germany, a million millions (1,000,000,000,000) — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dict. 1. 十億. 2. 一兆. 2. につき formerly, in Great Britain a million millions. としてはどうか. cf. A. (15), G. (8).

**Billion** should be brought up to date. I asked the editor who supervises updatings of Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, and he is aware of this necessity.

(5) **blurb** [arbitrary coinage (c. 1907) by Gelett Burgess, "to sound like a publisher"] [Colloq], an advertisement or announcement, as on a book jacket, esp. one that is highly laudatory. — Webster's New World Dict. **blurb** [arbitrary coinage (c. 1914) by Gelett Burgess, "to sound like a publisher".] an exaggerated or fulsome advertisement or announcement, as on a book jacket. [Colloq.] — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dict. 本のカバーなどに刷り込んでその宣伝またはちょうちん持ちをする推せん広告文. New World の1907か New Twentieth Century の1914のいづれが正しいか.

The date of the first usage of *blurb* remains a puzzle. H. L. Mencken claimed it was first used in 1907 to describe a picture on the back cover of one of Gelett Burgess' books. If that particular reference is extant, the lexicographers of America don't know where it is. They do have access to the book *Burgess Unabridged*, published in 1914, in which *blurb* is listed as one of about 100 neologisms Burgess coined. Mitford Matthews, editor of the *Dictionary of Americanisms*, rather doubted Mencken's assertion of the 1907 date, but the exact truth of the matter will probably remain forever unknown. So I can't see that it matters much if the two books we have differ as to date.

(6) **sumo (wrestling)** [Jap. *sumō*] [sometimes S-] a highly stylized Japanese form of wrestling engaged in by a hereditary class of large, extremely heavy men. — Webster's New World Dict. circus performers は hereditary と聞いているが, 力士は hereditary でない.

You and I correspond about *sumo* in 1977. I rather expect the word "hereditary" will be deleted when we prepare a new edition. I studied the matter out in several books at the library and found no reference to any families of sumo wrestlers. As you have pointed out, members of circus families here often marry other circus people and then bring their children up to be circus performers also. The literature I studied does not suggest that this happens in sumo wrestling.

(7) **rendexvous**, a place designed for a meeting or assembling, as of troops, ships, airplanes, space vehicles, etc. — Webster's New World Dict. **rendexvous**, a meeting held by or as by appointment — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dict. 以上に the process of bringing two spacecraft together 宇宙船のドッキング。を加えてはどうか。

Your suggestion for an addition at the entry for *rendexvous* will be researched.

## F

The World Book Dict. 及び The Second Barnhart Dict of New English からそれぞれ1例を次に示す。

(1) **bobbysocks** or **bobbysox** U. S. socks reaching just above the ankle, worn especially by young girls. [*<bob<sup>a</sup>+socks (from their being cut short)*]. — World Book Dict. U. S. の label を削除してはどうか。

You are quite right about the use of *bobbysocks* in Britain. The term is now dated and historical, but no longer restricted to the U. S. The label should be deleted from this entry as well as from *bobbysoxer*.

(2) **Okazaki fragment, piece, or segment**, a fragmentary form of bacterial DNA, occurring during replication and later linked with other fragments to form the long double-helical strand of the typical DNA molecule. [1968, named after Reiji Okazaki, a Japanese geneticist who first identified the fragments] — The Second Barnhart Dict. of New Eng. 岡崎令治 (1930—1975) 分子生物学者である。したがって [... Reiji Okazaki, a Japanese molecular biologist ...] とする。

Under *Okazaki fragment* the misspelled name was a typographical error which we are glad to correct, and we might add to the WBD entry (1982 edition) Okazaki's birth and death dates, which appear in the new Supplement to the OED.

## G

Random House Dict., Random House College Dict., 及び Random House Dict. Classic Edition, paperback の Random House Dict. から9例を次に示す。

(1) **Yawata**, a city on N Kyushu in SW Japan: steel industry. Also Yahata — Random House Dict., Random House College Dict.

**Kokura**, a seaport on N Kyushu, in SW Japan. — Random House Dict., Random House College Dict.

**Moji**, a seaport on N Kyushu, in SW Japan. — Random House Dict., Random House College Dict.

北九州市、福岡県の市、昭和38年(1963年)2月、門司・小倉・八幡・戸畑・若松の5市が合併して北九州市が出来た。cf. B. (2).

*Yawata*: All I can do now is to turn your detailed comment to our geography editor, who I am sure will utilize it in his review of the entry.

(2) **Shikibu**, n. Murasaki — Random House Dict. 式部は紫でない。Murasaki Shikibu, Court lady 978?–1031?, Japanese poet and novelist とすること。Shikibu: "Murasaki", as given, is not the meaning but rather a cross-reference item, which unfortunately in this case is not fully done. I would let the item read as follows in future printing:

see *Murasaki Shikibu*.

(3) **bonze**, a Buddhist monk, esp. of Japan or China. [appar. back formation from bonzes < NL bonzī (pl. of bonzus) < Jap *bonzi*, *bonsi* < Chin fan seng devout person] — Random House Dict. 語原の Jap *bonzi*, *bonsi* を Jap *bonso* (梵僧) に。

*bonze*: You are right that *bonzi*, *bonsi* in the etymology should correctly read *bonso*, which will be done in our future edition. I've just found that this has been taken care of in the RHCD.

(4) **Ginza** the, a street in Tokyo, Japan, famous for its nightclubs, bars, and the like — Random House Dict., **Ginza** the, a street in Tokyo, Japan, famous for its nightclubs and bars. — Random House College Dict. 銀座は中央の銀座通りをはさんで、東・西銀座地区があり、銀座八丁とよばれるように各一丁目から八丁目まで分かれている。a street でなく an area である。

*Ginza*: You are also right that this is not just a street, since it is an area. The correction to that effect will be made in the future.

(5) **club sandwich** U. S. a sandwich having two layers of sliced meat, lettuce, tomato, etc., between three slices of bread; double-decker. — Random House College Dict. 三枚重ねサンドイッチ。U. S. の label を削除してはどうか。

*club sandwich*: The U. S. label in the RHCD should be changed to read *Chieftly U. S.*, a position moderately taken by *Collins English Dictionary*, because even though the S/OED says "(orig. U. S.)," the COD/7 still asterisks it.

(6) **tofu** see bean curd. [<Jap]. bean curd, a creamy, white cake made from soybean flour, used in Oriental cooking. — Random House Dict. Classic Edition. 豆腐これを…, used originally in Oriental cooking but now in a wide variety of soups and main dishes. としてはどうか。

*tofu*: Your suggestion will be passed on to the cookery editor for consideration.

(7) **black belt** 2. *Judo*. a black waistband, worn with a judo costume, conferred by a judo association upon a player to indicate that he is of the highest rank. — Random House College Dict. 黒帯. ... to indicate that he or she is an expert. に改める。柔道衣の帯の色について、六段から八段までは赤白のまんだら、九段と十段は赤色であるが、ふつう六段以上も黒帯を用いる。初段から五段まで黒色。空手の有段者も黒帯を使用している。

*black belt*: You are quite right that this is also used in karate, it is not just of the highest rank, and we should not be sexist since many women take judo or karate nowadays. All these shortcomings will be rectified along your lines in our future editions.

(8) **billion** 1 U. S. a thousand millions 2. Brit. a million millions. — Random House Dict., Random House College Dict., and Random House Dict, Classic Edition. paperback の Random House Dict. これを 1. U. S. and Brit. a thousand millions 2. Brit. old use, a million millions としてはどうか。cf. A. (15), E. (4)

*billion*: This is a reminder item, but perhaps we should label def. 1 "and occasionally Brit." and def. 2 "(traditionally) after the existing "Brit."

(9) **truck farm**, a farm for the growing of vegetables for the market — Random House Dict. Classic Edition 及び paperback の Random House Dict. につき U. S. の

label をつけてはどうか。市場向け野菜農園。

*truck farm*: This is unmistakably a U. S. term. There is nothing mysterious about the lack of the U. S. label in both RHP and RHCL, since as a matter of space we cannot afford to put this label throughout these two small editions.

## H

The Universal Dictionary of the English Language から5例を次に示す。

(1) **book-maker**, person who makes a regular profession of betting at horse-races. 競馬に限らず、かけごとの仲介役として仕事をしている人、である。…betting, as at horse-races とする。

(2) **to make love to**, to court. これに to have sexual intercourse を加えてはどうか。(1)求愛する (2)性交する、である。

(3) **Seven Seas**, the Arctic and Antarctic, N. and S. Atlantic, N. and S. Pacific, and Indian Oceans. これに the navigable waters of the world (全世界の船の航行に適する海)を加えてはどうか。

(4) **out-Herod** To surpass Herod in cruelty &c., from 'Hamlet', ii. 2, 'it out-Herod Herod', referring to the overacted part of Herod in the old mystery plays. この Herod は洗礼者ヨハネを死刑にした Herod Antipas でなく、幼児のキリストを殺害するため Bethlehem の幼児全部の虐殺を命じた残虐な Herod the Great である。

(5) **the V (victory) sign** was made by the index and middle fingers upraised and spread to form a V. これを (1) the V. sign is made ... to form a V, palm outward, as symbol of victory (2) the V. sign is made ... to form a V, palm inward, as vulgar derisory gesture とする。(1)から(5)につき

Thank you very much for your letter and for the interesting comments you have made. With regard to V. (for Victory), you may like to know that this is also known as a HARVEY SMITH in England. You may have heard of Mr. Smith, who is a well-known showjumper, and who has been a member of the British Olympic Team.

### Summary

English dictionaries and encyclopedias are thought to be accurate, But I should say there are no English dictionaries and encyclopedias 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 regrettable that the misrepresentations of things Japanese result in the misunderstanding of Japan and her people. About twenty-eight 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. Eighteen years or so have passed since I began to correspond, for correction, with editorial staffs.

This paper contains remarks, from eight editors of the following dictionaries and encyclopedias, concerning questionable items.

The Concise Macquarie Dictionary (1982), Australia

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1966, 1971, 1981), Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1979), & Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1983), Merriam-Webster Inc., Massachusetts, U. S. A.

The World Book Encyclopedia (1981), U. S. A.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (1974), U. S. A.

Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition (1982) & Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary (1979), Simon & Schuster, Ohio, U. S. A.

The World Book Dictionary (1979), U. S. A., & The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English (1980), U. S. A.

Random House Dictionary (1970), Random House College Dictionary (1982), Random House Dictionary Classic Edition (1983), & Random House Dictionary (paperback) (1980), U. S. A.

The Universal Dictionary of the English Language (1961), England.

Your emendations and suggestions will be gladly received.