英漢成語辭林 DICTIONARY OF IDIOMATIC ENGLISH PHRASES

JAMES MAIN DIXON, M.A.

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EXPLANATION OF SIGNS.

符號之解釋

- (P.) (文) Good Prose. The phrase can be used in serious compositions.
- (C.) (数) Conversational. The phrase is suited to polite conversation.
- (F.) (常) Familiar. The phrase must be used guardedly, as it is scarcely suitable for polite society.
- (S.) (俚) Slang. The phrase is to be avoided, if possible, by an educated person.

英漢成語辭林敍

夫質言抽思之謂筆斧藻彌縟之謂文筆之運 用在心文之炳蔚在辭英人Giles 著中國文學史 其立論以爲中國文學辭多筆尠雖官府告示猶 作韻語因有 Wall Literature 之 誚 吾 讀此 疑 英之 文 人知有筆而不知有辭所作篇章當盡如元明間 摹仿時代 (Imitation age) 之一派是固易治耳既而 博覽其詩書則又不然縱如至古之 Beowulf 之詩 歌已有 hurly-burly 之語 Alfred 之史記亦用 Bosomful之詞蓋國種進化以至於能用文字則其程度 已為極高人之情感亦愈纏綿往復而不易達其 聰明睿智高出於儕輩者有所欲云則託譬以成 章或 互 文 而 見 誼 用 能 達 思 表 之 纖 旨 傳 文 外 之 曲致此無東西一也且以英之文字形聲合一文 言口殼無所區畫也不獨文言用辭口殼亦用辭 辭也者大抵文自古出而或九家者流百技之人 取其所習成一駢言以相會意常人聞之往往奧 衍迁曲而不可以常解通彼之承學之士旣難之 矣而況於他國之人甄類析疑斷賴辭典昔南海

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勵其照初有成語字典之作一時學者珍爲鴻寶 顧其照所輯多本於美英美雖同文而先民所傳 謠俗所誦未必盡同也以甲國之人學乙國之語 道莫善於翻譯而其書之爲此而作者則莫善於 雙體並列其照著書自憙而已未嘗用意及此故 書中不列華釋以此言之是書之遺憾多矣近者 英人Dixon教授日本見東方人士頗有味乎彼國 文字而文學一科無辭典以爲之助也因著 Dictionary of Idiomatic Phrase 若干卷上自經典下至里 巷詼諧之詞凡世所習用者甄采靡遺復一一載 其全句註其出處誠辭典之大觀也南海陳君取 而譯之書成復就正於顏進士惠慶經始渝歲始 克成書博綜翔實悉如原本吾知此書一出講方 言者無慮撑黎不識貽譏方聞讀之既可引以析 疑亦可據爲辭料也或謂博洽當求識字識字當 知訓詁訓詁之學求諸字典而已足矣何必此則 應之日字典之所引主於轉註假借之用皆釋計 類也辭林之所引主於造情比景之義皆釋言類 也如客之言則我國韻府駢字諸書可以不作而 何爲匄膏挹馥至今不廢也哉他日治道日張從 事於盎格羅文以勤求其道術者將益盛則必有 踵 韻 府 駢 字 之 意 而 大 為 之 者 此 書 所 以 導 也

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DICTIONARY

OF

ENGLISH IDIOMS.

ABA

Α.

A

A.1—first-class, very good (F.), 上上; 頭等, 絕妙, 無上上品(常).

A.1 at Lloyd's is the term applied to a vessel of the best construction, and in the best condition for sailing. Lloyd's Coffee-house in London was the resort of sea-captains, and the name is still retained for the head-quarters of the shipping interest in London. Here people get the latest shipping intelligence and transact marine insurances.

建造至堅美, 行駛至利便之船, 作此稱謂, 英國倫敦, 有一咖啡館, 名曰來德咖啡館, 凡各船主俱集於是, 迄今倫敦航務公所倫仍此名, 船務消息此處最為靈通, 洋面保險交易, 亦多於此成事.

One of them takes his five pints of ale a day, and never leaves off smoking even at his meals.

其中有一人,每日飲淡色酒五斤,雖餐食時亦吸煙不輟. 'He must be a first-rater,' said Sam. 'A.1,' replied Mr. Roker. 阿三日,彼必係一酒豪,洛克先生日,無上上之酒豪也.

Dickens.

Aback

To take aback—to surprise or astonish (P.), 嚇 一跳; 器 地 一嚇 (文).

Originally a sea-phrase; used when the sails were suddenly shifted in order to stop the vessel or give it a backward motion.

此語 初為 航海人通用,忽然轉帆,使船停駛,或使船退後,皆用此語.

When news came that his wife had not been there, he was quite taken aback (surprised).

忽聞其妻未曾至是處,乃喫一大監.

Abide

To abide by—to fulfil. to refuse to depart from, to carry out (P.), 遵守; 不可須臾離,奉行,服從(文.

Above

Above-board—openly, without trickery (C.). 坦白; 開心見誠, 爾無我詐我無爾處/談).

The man who cheats at cards keeps his hands under the table or board.

凡 闞 牌 欺 人者, 其 手 常 在 檯 下.

It is the part also of an honest man to deal above-board (openly) and without tricks.

公道人分派紙牌必坦白無私.

L'Estrange.

Also used in the sense of 'without concealment or shame.' 此語亦作公然.當衆,或不愧不作之即.

Now-a-days villanies are owned above-board.

晚近作歹事,竟當衆直陳,不以爲愧.

South.

 ${\it Exp}$. At present villanies are owned without shame.

註. 今世作歹事者,明認而不以爲恥.

Abraham

To sham Abraham—to feign sickness or distress (S.), 冒為乞丐; 詐病裝窮(俚).

An Abraham-man in England was a licensed beggar, who on account of mental weakness had been placed in the Abraham Ward of Bethlehem Hospital, and was allowed on certain days to go begging. Numerous impostors took advantage of this privilege.

英國伯利恆醫院內,有一亞伯拉罕館,凡贏弱者卻簽於此,有定期准其人出而行乞,乃作僞之徒往往享冒此項權利

I have heard people say That sham Abraham you may, But you mustn't sham Abraham Newland.

我聞人書凡人可以能病器寫,惟是切不可假冒亞伯拉罕紐閣· Pron an old Song.

Exp. I have heard people say that you may impose on prople by a tale of distress, but you must not impose on Abraham Newland (who was cashier to the Bank of England and signed its notes. This of course would be a penal offence).

註. 據我所開, 詐病裝窮, 未警不可, 惟切勿冒簽亞伯拉罕紐 聞名字(亞伯拉罕紐閣者英國國家銀行之司庫員, 所有該行鈔票, 歸伊簽發, 若冒其名字, 則罪大矣.

Abroad

All abroad—in a state of perplexity (F.), 瞀亂; 茫無所知(常).

The female boarder in black attire looked so puzzled, and, in fact, "all abroad" (perplexed after the delivery of this "counter" of mine, that I left her to recover her wits, and went on with the conversation.

衣 黑衣 之旅居 女士, 頗覺其不知所措, 蓋彼收到我之帳單, 竟至瞀亂,於是我願左右而言他, 俾彼得以定其心神.

Holmes.

Abroad

The school-master is abroad—good education is spreading everywhere (P.), 大行其道; 正學昌明, 教育普及(文).

Let the soldier be abroad if he will, he can do nothing in this age. There is another personage, a personage less imposing in the eyes of some, perhaps insignificant. The school-master is abroad, and I trust to him, armed with his primer, against the soldier in full military array.

當今之世, 英雄無用武之地, 設欲大行其道, 不妨好自為之, 乃有人為 藐爾不甚動人, 而教育普及, 所持者, 蒙學書與身被改 裝者爭衡於世, 然而我所仰賴者彼耳. Lord Brougham.

Act

To act a part—to behave hypocritically, to carry out designs under a false cloak (P.), 別有用意;虛與委蛇,優孟衣冠(文)

Your friend is either a fool, or he is acting a part. 貴友尚非意物,即係別有用意.

Exp. Your friend is either a fool, or he is behaving insincerely and carrying out some design of his own.

註 貴友或係惹物,否則祇是,虛與委蛇, 別有深謀,隱而不露.

Act of God—an event which cannot be prevented by any human foresight, but is the result of uncontrollable natural forces, e.g. when a ship is struck by lightning and destroyed (P.), 天意; 人所不能預防之事, 乃天然势力所致,初非人力可以挽救,即如船隻被雷火焚燬及颶風毀傷之類(文).

The act of God, fire, and all the dangers and accidents of the sea are not accepted as ordinary risks.

所有天降火災,及海面一切意外險事,不能按常價承受保險.

To act up to a promise or profession—to behave in a suitable way, considering what promises or profession one has made; to fulfil them (P.), 守信;言願行,行

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Religious people must be very careful to act up to (not to fall below) the high standard of conduct which they proclaim to others.

傳教之士以善導人,務須践行所言以符名實.

Ad avizandum—into further consultation and consideration (C.) A Scottish legal phrase. [Latin], 再商量; 從長計議(談) 蘇格蘭法律之通用名詞[拉丁].

Meanwhile I shall take your proposal ad avizandum (consider your proposal more carefully).

我暫時且將尊擬從長計講.

Ad libitum—as much as you please, to any extent. [Latin], 予取予攜; 取之無禁,無限[拉丁].

You are allowed bread ad libitum at a French hotel. 在法國旅館,隨量食麵包漫無限制.

Ad valorem—according to the value (P.) [Latin], 估價; 按照價值(文·) [拉丁].

An ad valorem duty of 5 p. c. is imposed on all goods coming into Japan.

一切輸入日本之貨物,按照價值每百抽五.

A dam's ale or Adam's wine—pure water (C.), 清水(談).

Some take a glass of porter to their dinner, but I slake my mouth with Adam's wine.

用膳時有飲酒者,我祇以清水潤喉.

Exp. Some take a glass of porter to their dinner, but I drink only pure water.

註. 用膳時有飲酒者,我則紙飲清水而已.

Son of Adam—a man (C.), 盤 古 苗 裔; 圓 顯方趾(談)

But as all sons of Adam must have something or other to say to the rest, and especially to his daughters, this little village carried on some commerce with the outer world.

譬之圓顱方趾者,不能不與同類交接,而婦女爲尤甚、雖此 裏爾鄉村,於大干世界亦有商務往來. Blackmore.

Exp. But as all men need to have friendly intercourse with other men and especially with other women, this little village, though very retired, carried on some dealings with the outer world.

註. 譬之天下大勢,必與同類作交際往來,至於與婦女晉接,更不可少,所以此村雖僻處一隅,而於斯世亦有若干往來酬酢也.

Affaire du cœur—a love affair. A French phrase, 情事; 男女相悅之事(法成).

Ad

Adam

Affaire

Afternoon

An afternoon farmer—one who loses the best time for work, a lazy dilatory man (F.), 惰農;失晨鷄,一事無成,虛度韶光之人(常).

John was too much of an afternoon farmer to carry on the business successfully.

約翰太覺虛度韶光,所以不能成事.

Exp. John's habits were too dilatory for him to succeed in the business

註. 約翰賦性太懶,所以不能有成

Agog

All agog—in a state of activity or restless expectation (F.), 與不可遏; 舉國若狂(常).

So three doors off the chaise was stayed,
Where they did all get in;
Six precious souls, and all agog
To dash through thick and thin,

於是班三月之遠,即便停車,伊等乃超乘而上,一家六口,如醉如狂,任意鵙鶥.

Exp. Six precious souls and very eager to dash through every obstacle.

註. 一家六口,與不可遏,不顧睛兩夷險.

Airs

To give one's self airs—to be conceited or arrogant in behaviour (C.), 使氣;盛氣陵人(談).

'And there girls used to hold their heads above mine, and their mother used to give herself such airs,' said Mrs. Baynes.

此輩女子妄自尊大,其母亦盛氣陵人. Thackeray.

Exp. And these girls used to think themselves superior to me, and their mother used to be so haughty in her behaviour.

註. 此輩女子自以為遠出我上,其母性亦驕傲.

All

On all fours—using both nands and feet in progression (P.), 匍匐; 手足並行(文).

He looked up and beheld what he judged, by the voice, to be Mrs. Armytage; her face was averted from him, and kept close to the cliff, down which she had been proceeding backward, and on all fours (using hands as well as feet), until fear and giddiness had checked her progress.

彼仰 視而 見其身, 聆其音, 酷肖阿媚娣子夫人, 以而向廢, 不能睹其顏色, 匍匐退後, 迨昏怯交集而後止焉. J. Paym.

All in all—(a) cempletely, wholly. (b) the dearest object of affection (P.), 十足; 全, 最得意, 情好甚篤(文).

Trust me not at all or all in all (entirely.)
不可全倚賴我.

Tennyson.

Desdemona, a happy young wife, till a wicked enchanter's breath suddenly wraps her in a dark cloud, is all in all to (intensely loved and admired by) her husband.

帝士地滿娜之爲妻也,妙齡多樂,夫婿遇之,情好甚篇,後爲某衡士所弄,如隨入五里霧中. Blackwood's Magazine.

All in my eye and Betty Martin—nonsense, not to be believed (S.) Found in the contracted form, all in my eye. A corruption of the commencement of a Latin prayer, 'O mihi, beate Martine,' 荒 謬; 胡 說, 無 稽 (俚). (拉丁文之轉音).

'Your neighbour is about to sell his property and leave the country.' 'That's all in my eye and Betty Martin (I don't believe it).' 爾鄰將盡變其產,離開此地,但我不之信.

Says he, 'It fairly draws tears from me,' and his weak eye took to lettin' off its water; so as soon as the chap went, he winks to me with t'other one, quite knowin', as much as to say, 'You see it's all in my eye, Slick, but don't let on to any one about it, that I said so.'

其病眼有水流出。乃言曰,實足以使我流淚矣,然一俟其人 行後,則以其餘一目遞我以眼色,其意若曰,士烈此不過無稽 之言,爾應知之,但不可爲外人道,謂我如是云云.

Haliburton.

Exp. He said 'It really draws tears from me,' and his weak eye began to let off its water; so as soon as the' man went, he winked to me with the other one, quite slyly, as if to say, 'You see its all humbug, Slick, but do not tell any one about it, that I said so.'

註. 其病眼有水流出,乃言曰. 此真足以令我流淚矣,然一俟其人行後. 則以其餘一目鬼鬼崇崇憑我以眼色,其意若曰,士烈此不過無稽之談,爾應知之;但不可爲外人道我云然.

All serene—very good, all right, I agree to it. At one time a popular street cry in London (S.), 的的確確; 好極,甚是,我亦謂然 (俚)· (此乃倫敦之街談費語,曩昔頗多稱之者)·

'You will meet me to-night at the railway station, and bring me the money.' 'All serene (Yes, I shall meet you and bring the money).'

爾今晚期我於車站,並將該數攜來與我,答曰好極(蓋即謂我將期汝於彼處,並攜該歎與汝)

All there—clever, able, possessing quick faculties (C.), 腹明,能幹, 麻利,有急才(談).

Our friend the judge is all there, I can tell you, and knows what he is about.

我敢語汝,吾友訊官聰明人也,能自知其所為.

Exp. Our friend the judge is a clever man, I assure you, and fully understands how best to act.

註. 我實告爾, 吾友訊官, 乃聰明之人, 應如何做法, 方為盡善, 彼悉能知之.

Alma

Alma mater—nourishing mother; a name often applied to a university by its graduates (P.) [Latin], 血地; 保奶, 出身之所(文). [拉丁](大學堂學生卒業後, 稱所從出學堂之詞).

Alter

Alter ego—one who is very near and dear to a person, an inseparable friend (P.) [Latin], 形影不離; 莫逆, 一人之交(文). [拉丁].

I am his alter ego—nay, he only sees what I choose to show him, and through the spectacles, as it were, that I place on the bridge of his nose.

我 乃伊之莫逆友也, 伊目不他 視, 必 我 所 擇而 示之 者, 始一注目, 此 時必 用 眼鏡, 而 是鏡 又 卽 我 親 架 於 伊 鼻 上 者也.

J. Payn.

 Λ mour

Amour propre—self esteem (P.) A French phrase, 自尊: 自重(文)(法成).

You should not call her 'child;' it wounds her amour propre (sense of personal dignity).

彼女子性好自尊,爾不應以孩子呼之,致傷其志.

Ange!

To entertain an angel unawares—to be hospitable to a guest whose good qualities are unknown. See the Bible, Genesis, XVIIIth chapter, for the origin of the phrase (P.), 肉眼不識賢人:有眼不識泰山, 欺嘉賓而不知其令德(文). (此典本於聖經).

He had always esteemed his sister; but as he now confessed to himself, for these many years he had been entertaining an angel unawares (not known how very good a woman she was).

彼平日愛重其姊妹,惟據其自陳,則數年以來竟不知其賢淑,一至於此,眞所謂有眼不識泰山矣. J. Payn.

Angels' visits—pleasant visits, occurring very rarely (P.) 神仙下降; 惠然肯來,難得之良觀, 翩然而來夕

How fading are the joys we dote upon, Like apparitions seen and gone; But those which soonest take their flight Are the most exquisite and strong; Like angels' visits, short and bright, Mortality's too weak to bear them long.

顧暮年之樂,果何常兮,幻景小瞬而卽逝,慨所逝之尤速兮,多强壯而精細,若仙馭之偶降兮,不肯為凡夫而濡滯.

John Morris.

In visits

Like those of angels, short and far between. 其來也若神仙之下降,可暫而不可久,且不可多觀.

Blair.

The Angel of the schools or The Angelic Doctor—a name given to Thomas Aquinas, the great scholastic philosopher (P.), 哲學名儒;當代儒宗(文)(時人稱哲學大儒湯馬氏阿堅那士之號).

Apple of Sodom—a specious thing, which disappoints (P.), 杭州相; 金玉其外敗絮其中, 令人敗與之寶物(文).

The so-called 'apples of Sodom,' as described by Josephus, had a fair appearance externally, but when bitten dissolved in smoke and dust. 約瑟法士所述所多馬蘋果,其外觀甚美,入口化爲埃麈.

It will prove when attained, a very apple of Sodom dying between the hand and the mouth.

及其得也方知其爲所多馬蘋果,剛到口即泯沒矣.

Like to the apples on the Dead Sea shore All ashes to the taste.

即如死海渡之蘋果, 嚼之味若塵土.

Byron.

Apple of one's eye—a much-prized treasure (P.), 睛; 至寶,掌上珠(文).

I have kept her as the apple of my eye (my dearest treasure), and she runs away from me to you.

我待之如掌上明珠,竟聚我而奔汝.

Poor Richard was to me as an eldest son, the apple of my eye. 書李直之於我循如我之家子,洵為掌上之珠. Scott.

To make apple-pie beds—to fold one of the sheets of a bed (removing the other) so as to make it impossible for the intending occupant to stretch his legs—a common practical joke (P.), 雙摺被單(文)(此乃數見不鮮之惡作劇,其法乃雙摺他人之被單,使睡時不得直伸其足).

Apple

No boy in any school could have more liberty, even where all the noblemen's sons are allowed to make apple-pie beds for their masters (disarrange the beds of their teachers.)

雖則貴介子弟,得以摺亂數員牀上被單,而館中學童欲求自由,決不可多得.

Apple of discord—something which causes strife (P.), 漏水: 釁端, 厲階(文).

Eris, the goddess of hate, threw a golden apple among the goddesses, with this inscription attached 'to the most beautiful.' Three goddesses claimed the prize and quarrelled over its possession—Hera, Pallas and Aphrodite (Venus). Paris, son of Priam, was appointed arbiter, and decided in favour of the last.

令人交惡之神曰,伊利氏以金蘋果一枚,掷於惡仙之中,號於衆曰,其尤美者得之,於是有仙女三人,曰熙闕,曰百麗氏,曰雅敷羅娣者,爭得此果,以致交興,厥後公舉仙人蒲里恆之子巴禮爲公正人,判定此案,以蘋果屬雅氏器(按雅氏即風姨也).

Not Cytherea (Venus) from a fairer swain Received her apple on the Trojan plain.

在多羅仁平原得蘋果者,非復靚敖而妙齡之風姨也

Falconer.

This spoon of the dead sister was quite an apple of discord (the cause of many quarrels.)

此銀匙死物耳, 顧令人相爭者, 何其多也.

This great and wealthy church constantly formed an apple of discord (a subject of quarrel).

此廟嘗為豐裕之大禮拜堂,不時起人之爭競. Freeman.

Apple-pie order—extreme neatness (C.), 有條不紊; 層次井然,井井有條(談).

Dolly was anxious to have everything in apple-pie order (neatly arranged) before the squire should visit her.

某顯者未來之前,陶禮先行收拾各物,使之層次井然.

The children's garden is in apple-pie order.

小兒女之花園井井有條.

Lockhart.

Apropos des bottes—having no connection with the previous conversation (C.) A French phrase, 不 接 頭;不知頭絡,七搭八搭,牛頭不對馬嘴(談)(法成).

The secretary, however, was not the man to own himself vanquished, even in anecdote, but at once began to descant (very much apropos des bottes (without any connection or apparent cause), as it seemed) upon a curious Anglo-French marriage case that had that day appeared in the newspapers.

該書記員,以無所不能自負,即稱述故事,亦不願居於人下,有一次衆方說一舊事,伊不願題旨,即據本日報章所載, 法人結婚新聞,手舞足蹈,當場演說· J. Payn.