

The Oxford English Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

Volume XV

Ser—Soosy

CLARENDON PRESS · OXFORD

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

THE pronunciations given are those in use in the educated speech of southern England (the so-called 'Received Standard'), and the keywords given are to be understood as pronounced in such speech.

I. Consonants

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z have their usual English values

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| g as in <i>go</i> (gəʊ) | θ as in <i>thin</i> (θɪn), <i>bath</i> (bɑ:θ) | (FOREIGN AND NON-SOUTHERN) |
| h ... <i>hol</i> (həʊ) | ð ... <i>then</i> (ðen), <i>bathe</i> (beɪð) | ʎ as in It. <i>serraglio</i> (ser'raʎo) |
| r ... <i>run</i> (rʌn), <i>terrier</i> ('teriə(r)) | ʃ ... <i>shop</i> (ʃɒp), <i>dish</i> (dɪʃ) | p ... Fr. <i>cognac</i> (kɔ'nak) |
| (r) ... <i>her</i> (hɜ:(r)) | tʃ ... <i>chop</i> (tʃɒp), <i>ditch</i> (dɪtʃ) | x ... Ger. <i>ach</i> (ax), Sc. <i>loch</i> (lox), Sp. <i>frijoles</i> (fri'xoles) |
| s ... <i>see</i> (si:), <i>success</i> (sək'ses) | ʒ ... <i>vision</i> ('vɪʒən), <i>déjeuner</i> (de'ʒɔne) | ç ... Ger. <i>ich</i> (ɪç), Sc. <i>night</i> (nɪçt) |
| w ... <i>wear</i> (weə(r)) | dʒ ... <i>judge</i> (dʒʌdʒ) | y ... North Ger. <i>sagen</i> ('sazən) |
| hw ... <i>when</i> (hwen) | ŋ ... <i>singing</i> ('sɪŋŋ), <i>think</i> (θɪŋk) | c ... Afrikaans <i>beardman</i> be:rdmən'tʃi ('be:rdmən'esi) |
| j ... <i>yea</i> (jeə) | ŋg ... <i>finger</i> ('fɪŋgə(r)) | q ... Fr. <i>cuisine</i> (kɥzin) |

Symbols in parentheses are used to denote elements that may be omitted either by individual speakers or in particular phonetic contexts: e.g. *bottle* ('bɒt(ə)l), *Mercian* ('mɜ:ʃ(i)ən), *sust* (s(ʌ)ʊst), *impromptu* (ɪm'prɒm(p)tɪʊ), *father* ('fɑ:ðə(r)).

II. Vowels and Diphthongs

SHORT

| |
|--|
| i as in <i>pit</i> (pɪt), <i>-ness</i> , <i>(-nis)</i> |
| ɛ ... <i>pet</i> (pɛt), Fr. <i>sept</i> (sɛt) |
| æ ... <i>pæt</i> (pæ't) |
| ʌ ... <i>putt</i> (pʌt) |
| ɒ ... <i>pot</i> (pɒt) |
| ʊ ... <i>put</i> (pʊt) |
| ə ... <i>another</i> (ə'nʌðə(r)) |
| (ə) ... <i>beaten</i> ('bi:t(ə)n) |
| i ... Fr. <i>ai</i> (ai) |
| e ... Fr. <i>bébé</i> (bebe) |
| a ... Fr. <i>maré</i> (maré) |
| ɑ ... Fr. <i>bâtiment</i> (batimɑ̃) |
| ɔ ... Fr. <i>homme</i> (ɔm) |
| o ... Fr. <i>eau</i> (o) |
| ø ... Fr. <i>peu</i> (pø) |
| œ ... Fr. <i>boeuf</i> (bœf) <i>cœur</i> (kœr) |
| u ... Fr. <i>douce</i> (dus) |
| y ... Ger. <i>Müller</i> ('mʏlɔr) |
| y ... Fr. <i>du</i> (dy) |

LONG

| |
|------------------------------------|
| i: as in <i>bean</i> (bi:n) |
| ɑ: ... <i>barn</i> (bɑ:n) |
| ɔ: ... <i>born</i> (bɔ:n) |
| u: ... <i>boon</i> (bu:n) |
| ɪ: ... <i>burn</i> (bɜ:n) |
| e: ... Ger. <i>Schnee</i> (ʃne:) |
| ɛ: ... Ger. <i>Fähre</i> ('fɛ:ə) |
| a: ... Ger. <i>Tag</i> (ta:k) |
| ɔ: ... Ger. <i>Sohn</i> (zɔ:n) |
| æ: ... Ger. <i>Goethe</i> ('gø:te) |
| y: ... Ger. <i>grün</i> (gry:n) |

NASAL

| |
|--|
| ɛ̃, ɛ̃ as in Fr. <i>fin</i> (fɛ̃, fɛ̃) |
| ɑ̃ ... Fr. <i>franc</i> (frɑ̃) |
| ɔ̃ ... Fr. <i>bon</i> (bɔ̃) |
| œ̃ ... Fr. <i>un</i> (œ̃) |

DIPHTHONGS, etc.

| |
|---------------------------------|
| eɪ as in <i>bay</i> (beɪ) |
| aɪ ... <i>boy</i> (boɪ) |
| ɔɪ ... <i>boy</i> (boɪ) |
| əʊ ... <i>no</i> (noʊ) |
| aʊ ... <i>now</i> (naʊ) |
| ɪə ... <i>peer</i> (piə(r)) |
| ɛə ... <i>pair</i> (peə(r)) |
| ʊə ... <i>tour</i> (tuə(r)) |
| ɔə ... <i>beer</i> (biə(r)) |
| aiə as in <i>fiery</i> ('fiəri) |
| auə ... <i>sour</i> (sauə(r)) |

The incidence of main stress is shown by a superior stress mark (ˈ) preceding the stressed syllable, and a secondary stress by an inferior stress mark (ˌ), e.g. *pronunciation* (prəˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃ(ə)n).

For further explanation of the transcription used, see *General Explanations*, Volume I.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

Some abbreviations listed here in italics are also in certain cases printed in roman type, and vice versa.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|
| a (in Etym.) | adoption of, adopted from | Bull. | (in titles) <i>Bulletin</i> | Dict. | Dictionary, <i>spec.</i> , the |
| a (as a 1850) | <i>ante</i> , 'before', 'not later than' | c (as c 1700) | <i>circa</i> , 'about' | dim. | Oxford English Dictionary |
| a | adjective | c. (as 19th c.) | century | Dis. | diminutive |
| abbrev | abbreviation (of) | Cal. | (in titles) <i>Calendar</i> | Diss. | (in titles) <i>Disease</i> |
| abl | ablative | Cambr. | (in titles) <i>Cambridge</i> | D.O.S.T | (in titles) <i>Dissertation</i> |
| absol | absolute, -ly | Canad. | <i>Canadian</i> | | <i>Dictionary of the Older</i> |
| Abstr | (in titles) <i>Abstract</i> , -s | Cat. | Catalan | Du. | <i>Scottish Tongue</i> |
| acc | accusative | catachr. | catachrestically | | Dutch |
| Acct | (in titles) <i>Account</i> | Catal. | (in titles) <i>Catalogue</i> | E. | |
| AD | <i>Anno Domini</i> | Celt. | Celtic | Eccl. | East |
| ad (in Etym.) | adaptation of | Cent. | (in titles) <i>Century</i> , <i>Central</i> | | (as label) in Ecclesiastical |
| Add | Addenda | Cent. Dict | <i>Century Dictionary</i> | | usage, |
| adj | adjective | Cf., cf. | <i>confer</i> , 'compare' | Ecol. | (in titles) <i>Ecclesiastical</i> |
| Adv | (in titles) <i>Advance</i> , -d, -s | Ch. | Church | Econ. | in <i>Ecology</i> |
| adv | adverb | Chem. | (as label) in Chemistry | | (as label) in Economics, |
| advb | adverbial, -ly | Chr. | (in titles) <i>Chemistry</i> , -ical | ed. | (in titles) <i>Economy</i> , -ics |
| Advnt | advertisement | Chron. | (in titles) <i>Christian</i> | E.D.D | edition |
| Aeronaut | (as label) in Aeronautics; | Chronol. | (in titles) <i>Chronicle</i> | Edin. | <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> |
| | (in titles) <i>Aeronautic</i> , -al, -s | Cinemat., | (in titles) <i>Chronology</i> , -ical | Educ. | (in titles) <i>Edinburgh</i> |
| AF, AFr | Anglo-French | Cinematogr | in Cinematography | | (as label) in Education, |
| Afr | Africa, -n | Clin. | (in titles) <i>Clinical</i> | EE. | (in titles) <i>Education</i> , -al |
| Agric | (as label) in Agriculture; | cl. L. | classical Latin | e.g. | Early English |
| | (in titles) <i>Agriculture</i> , -al | cogn. w. | cognate with | Electr. | <i>exempli gratia</i> , 'for example' |
| Alb | Albanian | Col. | (in titles) <i>Colonel</i> , <i>Colony</i> | | (as label) in Electricity, |
| Amer | American | Coll. | (in titles) <i>Collection</i> | Electron | (in titles) <i>Electricity</i> , -ical |
| Amer Ind | American Indian | collect. | collective, -ly | Elem. | (in titles) <i>Electronic</i> , -s |
| Anat | (as label) in Anatomy, | colloq. | colloquial, -ly | ellipt. | (in titles) <i>Element</i> , -ary |
| | (in titles) <i>Anatomy</i> , -ical | comb. | combined, -ing | Embryol | elliptical, -ly |
| Anc. | (in titles) <i>Ancient</i> | Comb. | Combinations | e midl | in Embryology |
| Anglo-Ind. | Anglo-Indian | Comm. | in Commercial usage | Encycl | east midland (dialect) |
| Anglo-Ir. | Anglo-Irish | Communic | in Communications | Eng. | (in titles) <i>Encyclopædia</i> , -ic |
| Ann. | Annals | comp. | compound, composition | Engin. | England, English |
| Anthrop., | (as label) in Anthropology, | Compan. | (in titles) <i>Companion</i> | Ent. | in Engineering |
| Anthropol. | (in titles) <i>Anthropology</i> , -ical | compar. | comparative | Entomol | in Entomology |
| Antiq. | (as label) in Antiquities, | compl. | complement | | (in titles) <i>Entomology</i> , |
| | (in titles) <i>Antiquity</i> | Compl. | (in titles) <i>Complete</i> | erron. | -logical |
| aphet. | aphetic, aphetized | Conc. | (in titles) <i>Concise</i> | esp. | erroneous, -ly |
| app. | apparently | Conch. | in Conchology | Ess. | especially |
| Appl. | (in titles) <i>Applied</i> | concr. | concrete, -ly | et al. | (in titles) <i>Essay</i> , -s |
| Applic. | (in titles) <i>Application</i> , -s | Conf. | (in titles) <i>Conference</i> | etc. | <i>et alii</i> , 'and others' |
| appos. | appositive, -ly | Congr. | (in titles) <i>Congress</i> | Ethnol. | et cetera |
| Arab. | Arabic | conj. | conjunction | etym. | in Ethnology |
| Aram. | Aramaic | cons. | consonant | euphem. | etymology |
| Arch. | in Architecture | const. | construction, construed with | Exam. | euphemistically |
| arch. | archaic | contr. | contrast (with) | exc. | (in titles) <i>Examination</i> |
| Archæol. | in Archæology | Contrib. | (in titles) <i>Contribution</i> | Exerc. | except |
| Archit. | (as label) in Architecture, | Corr. | (in titles) <i>Correspondence</i> | Exper. | (in titles) <i>Exercise</i> , -s |
| | (in titles) <i>Architecture</i> , -al | corresp. | corresponding (to) | Explor. | (in titles) <i>Experiment</i> , -al |
| Arm. | Armenian | Cotgr. | R. Cotgrave, <i>Dictionnaire of the French and English Tongues</i> | | (in titles) <i>Exploration</i> , -s |
| assoc. | association | cpd. | compound | f. | feminine |
| Astr. | in Astronomy | Crit. | (in titles) <i>Criticism</i> , <i>Critical</i> | f. (in Etym.) | formed on |
| Astrol. | in Astrology | Cryst. | (in titles) <i>Crystallography</i> | f. (in subordinate | entries) |
| Astron. | (in titles) <i>Astronomy</i> , -ical | Cycl. | (in titles) <i>Cyclopædia</i> , -ic | F. | form of |
| Astronaut. | (in titles) <i>Astronautic</i> , -s | Cytol. | (in titles) <i>Cytology</i> , -ical | fem. (rarely f.) | French |
| attrib. | attributive, -ly | | | fig. | feminine |
| Austral. | Australian | | | Finn. | figurative, -ly |
| Autobiogr. | (in titles) <i>Autobiography</i> , -ical | | | fl. | Finnish |
| | | | | fl. | <i>floruit</i> , 'flourished' |
| A.V. | Authorized Version | | | Found. | (in titles) <i>Foundation</i> , -s |
| | | | | Fr. | French |
| B.C. | Before Christ | | | freq. | frequent, -ly |
| B.C. | (in titles) <i>British Columbia</i> | | | Fris. | Frisian |
| bef. | before | | | Fund. | (in titles) <i>Fundamental</i> , -s |
| Bibliogr. | (as label) in Bibliography; | | | Funk or | |
| | (in titles) <i>Bibliography</i> , -ical | | | Funk's Stand. | <i>Funk and Wagnalls</i> |
| Biochem. | (as label) in Biochemistry; | | | Dict. | <i>Standard Dictionary</i> |
| | (in titles) <i>Biochemistry</i> , -ical | | | | |
| Biol. | (as label) in Biology; | | | | |
| | (in titles) <i>Biology</i> , -ical | | | | |
| Bk. | <i>Book</i> | | | | |
| Bot. | (as label) in Botany; | | | | |
| | (in titles) <i>Botany</i> , -ical | | | | |
| Bp. | Bishop | | | | |
| Brit. | (in titles) <i>Britain</i> , <i>British</i> | | | | |
| Bulg. | Bulgarian | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Geol.</i> | (as label) in Geology; (in titles) <i>Geology</i> , -ical | masc. (rarely m.) | masculine | <i>Palæont.</i> | (as label) in Palæontology; (in titles) <i>Palæontology</i> , -ical |
| <i>Geom.</i> | in Geometry | <i>Math.</i> | (as label) in Mathematics; (in titles) <i>Mathematics</i> , -al | pa. pple. | passive participle, past |
| <i>Geomorphol.</i> | in Geomorphology | MDu. | Middle Dutch | (Partridge), | participle (quoted from) E. Partridge's <i>Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i> |
| <i>Ger.</i> | German | ME. | Middle English | | passive, -ly |
| <i>Gloss.</i> | Glossary | <i>Mech.</i> | (as label) in Mechanics; (in titles) <i>Mechanics</i> , -al | pa.t. | past tense |
| <i>Gmc.</i> | Germanic | <i>Med.</i> | (as label) in Medicine; (in titles) <i>Medicine</i> , -ical | <i>Path.</i> | (as label) in Pathology; (in titles) <i>Pathology</i> , -ical |
| <i>Godef.</i> | F. Godefroy, <i>Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française</i> | med.L. | medieval Latin | perh. | perhaps |
| <i>Goth.</i> | Gothic | <i>Mem.</i> | (in titles) <i>Memoir</i> , -s | Pers. | Persian |
| <i>Govt.</i> | (in titles) <i>Government</i> | <i>Metaph.</i> | in Metaphysics | pers. | person, -al |
| <i>Gr.</i> | Greek | <i>Meteorol.</i> | (as label) in Meteorology; (in titles) <i>Meteorology</i> , -ical | <i>Petrogr.</i> | in Petrography |
| <i>Gram.</i> | (as label) in Grammar; (in titles) <i>Grammar</i> , -tical | MHG. | Middle High German | <i>Petrol.</i> | (as label) in Petrology; (in titles) <i>Petrology</i> , -ical |
| <i>Gt.</i> | Great | midl. | midland (dialect) | (Pettman), | (quoted from) C. Pettman's <i>Africanerisms</i> |
| <i>Heb.</i> | Hebrew | <i>Mil.</i> | in military usage | pf. | perfect |
| <i>Her.</i> | in Heraldry | <i>Min.</i> | (as label) in Mineralogy; (in titles) <i>Ministry</i> | Pg. | Portuguese |
| <i>Herb.</i> | among herbalists | <i>Mineral.</i> | (in titles) <i>Mineralogy</i> , -ical | <i>Pharm.</i> | in Pharmacology |
| <i>Hind.</i> | Hindustani | MLG. | Middle Low German | <i>Philol.</i> | (as label) in Philology; (in titles) <i>Philology</i> , -ical |
| <i>Hist.</i> | (as label) in History; (in titles) <i>History</i> , -ical | <i>Misc.</i> | (in titles) <i>Miscellany</i> , -eous | <i>Philos.</i> | (as label) in Philosophy; (in titles) <i>Philosophy</i> , -ic |
| hist. | historical | mod. | modern | phonet. | phonetic, -ally |
| <i>Histol.</i> | (in titles) <i>Histology</i> , -ical | mod.L. | modern Latin | <i>Photogr.</i> | (as label) in Photography; (in titles) <i>Photography</i> , -ical |
| <i>Hort.</i> | in Horticulture | (Morris), | (quoted from) E. E. Morris's <i>Austral English</i> | phr. | phrase |
| <i>Househ.</i> | (in titles) <i>Household</i> | <i>Mus.</i> | (as label) in Music; (in titles) <i>Music</i> , -al; | <i>Phys.</i> | physical; (rarely) in Physiology |
| <i>Housek.</i> | (in titles) <i>Housekeeping</i> | | <i>Museum</i> | <i>Physiol.</i> | (as label) in Physiology; (in titles) <i>Physiology</i> , -ical |
| <i>Ibid.</i> | <i>Ibidem</i> , 'in the same book or passage' | <i>Myst.</i> | (in titles) <i>Mystery</i> | <i>Pict.</i> | (in titles) <i>Picture</i> , <i>Pictorial</i> |
| <i>Icel.</i> | Icelandic | <i>Mythol.</i> | in Mythology | pl., plur. | plural |
| <i>Ichthyol.</i> | in Ichthyology | N. | North | poet. | poetic, -al |
| <i>id.</i> | <i>idem</i> , 'the same' | n. | neuter | Pol. | Polish |
| i.e. | <i>id est</i> , 'that is' | <i>N. Amer.</i> | North America, -n | <i>Pol.</i> | (as label) in Politics; (in titles) <i>Politics</i> , -al |
| IE. | Indo-European | <i>N. & Q.</i> | <i>Notes and Queries</i> | <i>Pol. Econ.</i> | in Political Economy |
| <i>Illustr.</i> | (in titles) <i>Illustration</i> , -ted | <i>Narr.</i> | (in titles) <i>Narrative</i> | pop. | popular, -ly |
| imit. | imitative | <i>Nat.</i> | (in titles) <i>Natural</i> | <i>Porc.</i> | (in titles) <i>Porcelain</i> |
| <i>Immunol.</i> | in Immunology | <i>Nat. Hist.</i> | in Natural History | poss. | possessive |
| imp. | imperative | <i>Naut.</i> | in nautical language | <i>Pott.</i> | (in titles) <i>Pottery</i> |
| <i>impers.</i> | impersonal | N.E. | North East | <i>ppl. a., pple. adj.</i> | participial adjective |
| impf. | imperfect | N.E.D. | <i>New English Dictionary</i> , original title of the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> (first edition) | pple. | participle |
| ind. | indicative | <i>Neurol.</i> | in Neurology | Pr. | Provencal |
| indef. | indefinite | neut. (rarely n.) | neuter | pr. | present |
| <i>Industr.</i> | (in titles) <i>Industry</i> , -ial | NF., NFr. | Northern French | <i>Pract.</i> | (in titles) <i>Practice</i> , -al |
| inf. | infinitive | No. | Number | prec. | preceding (word or article) |
| infl. | influenced | nom. | nominative | <i>pred.</i> | predicative |
| <i>Inorg.</i> | (in titles) <i>Inorganic</i> | north. | northern (dialect) | <i>pref.</i> | prefix |
| <i>Ins.</i> | (in titles) <i>Insurance</i> | Norw. | Norwegian | pref., Pref. | preface |
| <i>Inst.</i> | (in titles) <i>Institute</i> , -tion | n.q. | no quotations | <i>prep.</i> | preposition |
| <i>int.</i> | interjection | N.T. | New Testament | <i>pres.</i> | present |
| <i>intr.</i> | intransitive | <i>Nucl.</i> | Nuclear | <i>Princ.</i> | (in titles) <i>Principle</i> , -s |
| <i>Introd.</i> | (in titles) <i>Introduction</i> | <i>Numism.</i> | in Numismatics | priv. | privative |
| Ir. | Irish | N.W. | North West | prob. | probably |
| irreg. | irregular, -ly | N.Z. | New Zealand | <i>Probl.</i> | (in titles) <i>Problem</i> |
| It. | Italian | obj. | object | <i>Proc.</i> | (in titles) <i>Proceedings</i> |
| J., (J.) | (quoted from) Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> | obl. | oblique | <i>pron.</i> | pronoun |
| (Jam.) | Jamieson, <i>Scottish Dict.</i> | <i>Obs., obs.</i> | obsolete | pronunc. | pronunciation |
| Jap. | Japanese | <i>Obstetr.</i> | (in titles) <i>Obstetrics</i> | prop. | properly |
| joc. | jocular, -ly | occas. | occasionally | <i>Pros.</i> | in Prosody |
| <i>Jrnl.</i> | (in titles) <i>Journal</i> | OE. | Old English (= Anglo-Saxon) | Prov. | Provencal |
| <i>Jun.</i> | (in titles) <i>Junior</i> | OF., OFr. | Old French | pr. pple. | present participle |
| <i>Knowl.</i> | (in titles) <i>Knowledge</i> | OFris. | Old Frisian | <i>Psych.</i> | in Psychology |
| l. | line | OHG. | Old High German | <i>Psychol.</i> | (as label) in Psychology; (in titles) <i>Psychology</i> , -ical |
| L. | Latin | OIr. | Old Irish | <i>Publ.</i> | (in titles) <i>Publications</i> |
| lang. | language | ON. | Old Norse | Q. | (in titles) <i>Quarterly</i> |
| <i>Lect.</i> | (in titles) <i>Lecture</i> , -s | ONF. | Old Northern French | quot(s). | quotation(s) |
| <i>Less.</i> | (in titles) <i>Lesson</i> , -s | <i>Ophthalm.</i> | in Ophthalmology | q.v. | <i>quod vide</i> , 'which see' |
| <i>Lett., Lett.</i> | letter, letters | opp. | opposed (to), the opposite (of) | R. | (in titles) <i>Royal</i> |
| L.G. | Low German | <i>Opt.</i> | in Optics | <i>Radiol.</i> | in Radiology |
| lit. | literal, -ly | <i>Org.</i> | (in titles) <i>Organic</i> | R.C.Ch. | Roman Catholic Church |
| <i>Lit.</i> | Literary | orig. | origin, -al, -ally | <i>Rec.</i> | (in titles) <i>Record</i> |
| Lith. | Lithuanian | <i>Ornith.</i> | (as label) in Ornithology; (in titles) <i>Ornithology</i> , -ical | redupl. | reduplicating |
| LXX | Septuagint | OS. | Old Saxon | <i>Ref.</i> | (in titles) <i>Reference</i> |
| m. | masculine | OSl. | Old (Church) Slavonic | refash. | refashioned, -ing |
| <i>Mag.</i> | (in titles) <i>Magazine</i> | O.T. | Old Testament | refl. | reflexive |
| <i>Magn.</i> | (in titles) <i>Magnetic</i> , -ism | <i>Outl.</i> | (in titles) <i>Outline</i> | <i>Reg.</i> | (in titles) <i>Register</i> |
| <i>Mal.</i> | Malay, Malayan | <i>Oxf.</i> | (in titles) <i>Oxford</i> | | |
| <i>Man.</i> | (in titles) <i>Manual</i> | p. | page | | |
| <i>Managem.</i> | (in titles) <i>Management</i> | <i>Palæogr.</i> | n Palæography | | |
| <i>Manch.</i> | (in titles) <i>Manchester</i> | | | | |
| <i>Manuf.</i> | in Manufacture, -ing | | | | |
| <i>Mar.</i> | (in titles) <i>Marine</i> | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| reg. | regular | str. | strong | Trop. | (in titles) <i>Tropical</i> |
| rel. | related to | Struct. | (in titles) <i>Structure</i> , -al | Turk. | Turkish |
| Reminisc. | (in titles) <i>Reminiscence</i> , -s | Stud. | (in titles) <i>Studies</i> | Typogr. | in Typography |
| Rep. | (in titles) <i>Report</i> , -s | subj. | subject | ult. | ultimately |
| repr. | representative, representing | subord. cl. | subordinate clause | Univ. | (in titles) <i>University</i> |
| Res. | (in titles) <i>Research</i> | subseq. | subsequent, -ly | unkn. | unknown |
| Rev. | (in titles) <i>Review</i> | subst. | substantively | U.S. | United States |
| rev. | revised | suff. | suffix | U.S.S.R. | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
| Rhet. | in Rhetoric | superl. | superlative | usu. | usually |
| Rom. | Roman, -ce, -ic | Suppl. | Supplement | v., vb. | verb |
| Rum. | Rumanian | Surg. | (as label) in Surgery; (in titles) <i>Surgery</i> , <i>Surgical</i> | var(r), vars. | variant(s) of |
| Russ. | Russian | s.v. | <i>sub voce</i> , 'under the word' | vbl. sb. | verbal substantive |
| S. | South | Sw. | Swedish | Vertebr. | (in titles) <i>Vertebrate</i> , -s |
| S.Afr. | South Africa, -n | s.w. | south-western (dialect) | Vet. | (as label) in Veterinary Science; |
| sb. | substantive | Syd. Soc. Lex. | Sydenham Society, <i>Lexicon of Medicine & Allied Sciences</i> | Vet. Sci. | (in titles) <i>Veterinary</i> |
| sc. | scilicet, 'understand' or 'supply' | syll. | syllable | viz. | in Veterinary Science |
| Sc., Scot. | Scottish | Syr. | Syrian | Voy. | <i>videlicet</i> , 'namely' |
| Scand. | (in titles) <i>Scandinavia</i> , -n | Syst. | (in titles) <i>System</i> , -atic | v.str. | (in titles) <i>Voyage</i> , -s |
| Sch. | (in titles) <i>School</i> | Taxon. | (in titles) <i>Taxonomy</i> , -ical | vulg. | strong verb |
| Sc. Nat. Dict. | <i>Scottish National Dictionary</i> | techn. | technical, -ly | v.w. | vulgar |
| Scotl. | (in titles) <i>Scotland</i> | Technol. | (in titles) <i>Technology</i> , -ical | | weak verb |
| Sel. | (in titles) <i>Selection</i> , -s | Telegr. | in Telegraphy | W. | Welsh; West |
| Ser. | Series | Teleph. | in Telephony | wd. | word |
| sing. | singular | (Th.), | (quoted from) Thornton's <i>American Glossary</i> | Webster | <i>Webster's (New International) Dictionary</i> |
| Sk. | (in titles) <i>Sketch</i> | Theatr. | in the Theatre, theatrical | Westm. | (in titles) <i>Westminster</i> |
| Skr. | Sanskrit | Theol. | (as label) in Theology; | WGmc. | West Germanic |
| Slav. | Slavonic | Theoret. | (in titles) <i>Theology</i> , -ical | Wks. | (in titles) <i>Works</i> |
| S.N.D. | <i>Scottish National Dictionary</i> | Tokh. | (in titles) <i>Theoretical</i> | w.midl. | west midland (dialect) |
| Soc. | (in titles) <i>Society</i> | tr., transl. | Tokharian | WS. | West Saxon |
| Sociol. | (as label) in Sociology; (in titles) <i>Sociology</i> , -ical | Trans. | translated, translation | (Y.), | (quoted from) Yule & Burnell's <i>Hobson-Jobson</i> |
| Sp. | Spanish | trans. | (in titles) <i>Transactions</i> | Yrs. | (in titles) <i>Years</i> |
| Sp. | (in titles) <i>Speech</i> , -es | transf. | transitive | Zoogeogr. | in Zoogeography |
| sp. | spelling | Trav. | transferred sense | Zool. | (as label) in Zoology; |
| spec. | specifically | Treas. | (in titles) <i>Travel(s)</i> | | (in titles) <i>Zoology</i> , -ica |
| Spec. | (in titles) <i>Specimen</i> | Treat. | (in titles) <i>Treasure</i> | | |
| St. | Saint | Treatm. | (in titles) <i>Treatise</i> | | |
| Stand. | (in titles) <i>Standard</i> | Trig. | (in titles) <i>Treatment</i> | | |
| Stanf. | (quoted from) <i>Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words & Phrases</i> | | in Trigonometry | | |

Signs and Other Conventions

Before a word or sense

† = obsolete

|| = not naturalized, alien

¶ = catachrestic and erroneous uses

In the listing of Forms

1 = before 1100

2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200)

3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300), etc.

5-7 = 15th to 17th century

20 = 20th century

In the etymologies

* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred

:— = normal development of

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

... indicates an omitted part of a quotation.

- (in a quotation) indicates a hyphen doubtfully present in the original; (in other text) indicates a hyphen inserted only for the sake of a line-break.

PROPRIETARY NAMES

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ser, obs. form of **SEAR** v.

1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 122 Lettre hym [a horse] ron in a purke tyll hallowyd and then take hym wpe and ser hym, and lette hym stand in the dede of whynter.

ser, obs. f. **SEAR** c., **SIR**; obs. Sc. f. **SORE** adj.; var. **SEER**².

ser., abbreviation of **SERIES**.

† **sera**. *Mil. Obs.* [? a. It. *serra* a tight place, vbl. sb. f. *serrare* to shut up, press.] at the sera and close quarters.

1591 *Gurrard's Art Warre* 7 Which at the sera and close is very necessary.

sera, obs. form of **SEER**², **SERAI**.

|| **serab** (sə'rab). Also **sirab**. [ad. Arab. *sarāb*.] A mirage.

1835 F. D. HEMANS *Wks.* (1844) III. 87 Suns of blasting light perforce illumine The glistering Serab which itudes his eye. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 261/2 This kind of mirage is not peculiar to Egypt; it is known in Persia also, where it is called *Serab* or *Sir-ab* (miraculous water). 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 50/2 When the soil is parched up the appearance of the mirage (*serab*) is very common.

Serabend, var. **SARABAND**².

Serabite, obs. form of **SARABATE**.

serac (sə'æk). Also || **sérac**. [a. Swiss-Fr. *sérac*, orig. the name of a kind of white cheese; the transferred application was doubtless suggested by similitude of form.] (See quot. 1898.)

1860 *Tyndall Glac.* I. vii. 51 These ridges are often cleft by fissures, thus forming detached towers of ice. Foot-note. To such towers the name *Sérac* is applied. 1881 G. F. WILCOX *Ice Age N. Amer.* 8 Fissures and seracs where the glacier moves down the steeper portion of its incline. 1888 *Encycl. Sports* II. 54/1 (Mountaineering) *Sérac*, a tower of ice on a glacier, formed by the intersection of crevasses. 1900 *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* XXIX. 265 Weathering occurs where variations of external temperature penetrate to the bed-rock, as is particularly the case between the séracs of glacial cascades. 1933 J. BUCHAN *Prince of Capricorn* I. iii. 92 They came on ice-fields, and taunting seracs which would have puzzled an Alpine climber. 1936 M. ROBERTS *Poems* 36 The snow falls, and the séracs; and the green glacier-ice moves down. 1963 G. CARR *Leuker in Norway* vi. 124 On the further side of the right-hand ridge he could just see the upper séracs of the Joymusbre. 1979 C. KILIAN *Icequake* vi. 86 Huge fields of séracs—the topographical nightmare caused by intersecting crevasses.

serace, **seraff**, variant forms of **SERAI**, **SARAF**.

seradeh, obs. var. **SERADDEH**, **SRADDEH**.

seraffin(c, var. ff. **SERAPHIN** *Obs.* (a coin).

serafic, obs. form of **SERAPHIC**.

serafile, variant of **SERREFILE**.

serafin, var. **SERAPHIN** *Obs.* (a coin); **SERAPHIM**.

seraglio (sə'raljəu). Also 6 **sarralia**, **seraiyo**, **serraglio**, 7 **seraglia**, **seraila**, **seraiio**, **serraglio**, **serralia**, **sarralia**, -ya, **zereglia**, **Pl. seragi**. [a. It. *seraglio*—popular L. **serrāculum* enclosure, place of confinement (cf. med.L. *serrāculum* fastening of a door), f. **serrāre* (whence It. *serrare*, F. *serrer*, Sp. *cerrar*) for *serāre* to lock up, close, f. *sera* lock or bolt. The It. word was, from similarity of sound, used to render the Turkish *serāi* lodging, palace (see **SERAI**¹). The applications of the word which have been adopted in Eng. all relate to Turkey and the East, but some of them represent merely the etymological sense of the It. word, while others owe their meaning wholly or partly to the Turkish word. Cf. **SERAI**¹, **SERAIL**.]

1. Enclosure, place of confinement.

1. The part of a Muslim dwelling-house (esp. of the palace of a sovereign or great noble) in which the women are secluded; the apartments reserved for wives and concubines; a harem.

1581 *Rich Furew.* Pj. The kyng of Tunis... caused her to be a puce in the Cube, which is a place where he keepeth his Concubines (as the Turke doeth his in his Seraglio) (sic) 1588 *Hickock tr. C. Frederick's Voy.* 30 One principal wife, which is kept in a Seraiyo. 1610 B. JONSON *Arch.* II. ii. Thou shalt be the master Of my seraglio. 1623 *Massinger Renegado* I. i. Caa I know my sister Mowce vp in his Seraglio... and not haste to send him to the Devil his tutor? 1625 *Purchas Pilgrims* I. 553 A kinswoman of his, living in the Zereglia. 1653 *Ramesey Asir.* Restored 145 In this our age we build more Serailias then Churches. 1783 *Gentl. Mag.* LVIII. i. 100/2 Shutting up women in seraglios, and degrading them into an inferior class of beings. 1879 *Farnar St. Paul* (1882) 233 The secrecy of Oriental seraglios.

b. The inmates of the harem; a polygamous household.

1634 *Sir T. Hearsey Trav.* 115 Each house top spread with Carpets, whereon slept a man and his peculiar Seraglio. 1847 C. BROME *Jane Eyre* xiv. I would not exchange this one little English girl for the grand Turk's whole seraglio.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1674 *Dryden Assuination* IV. i. This Key will admit me into the Seraglio of the Godly [i.e. the Nunery]. 1674

Comedy, Win Her & Take Her II. i. 15 He'll make the Drawing-Room his Seraglio. 1709 *Tatler* No. 50 P. 1 Woman was his mistress; and the whole Sex his Seraglio. 1711 *Ken Urania Poet. Wks.* 1721 IV. 498 There is whole Seraglio met of fasting Lusts, which me beset. 1773 *Wilkes Corr.* (1805) IV. 141 One grand-signior cock, with a seraglio of seven hens. 1850 *Scott's Monist.* I. The mighty bull moved at the head of his seraglio and their followers. 1850 *Mortley Netherl.* II. (1868) I. 48 A seraglio of maids of honour ministered to Henry's pleasure. 1881 H. W. ELLIOTT *Seal Isl. Alaska* (1884) 38 The same indifference is also exhibited by the male [far-seal] to all that may take place outside of the boundary of his seraglio.

† 2. *gen.* An enclosure; a place of confinement. 1663 *Lassels Voy. Italy* (1696) I. 136 Near to the Stables stands the Seraglio where the wild beasts are kept. 1700 *Swanston Voy.* 15 Jan. 1645. I went to the Gheto, where the Jews dwell as in a suburb by themselves. I passed by the Piazza Judea, where their Seraglio begins.

II. = **SERAI**¹.

3. A Turkish palace, esp. the palace of the Sultan at Constantinople. Now *hist.*

1599 *Hakluyt Voy.* II. i. 250 The... daily payments... by the Grand Signior... to the Officers of his Seraglio or Court. 1600 *Dallam in Early Voy. Lett.* (Hakluyt Soc. 1893) 57 The seraglio... which don joyne close to the Citie. *Ibid.* 61 The Grand Signior's Courts, Called the seraglio. 1620 *N. Johnson Kingd. & Comm.* 559 The pleasantest of any Palace on the face of the earth, termed by the Port, or Seraglio. 1682 *Wheler Journ. Greece* I. 80 All about these parts are the Seraglios, or Countrey-houses of the great Men among the Turks. 1728 *Eliza Heywood tr. Mme. de Somers's Belle A.* (1732) II. 251 He was immediately order'd to come to the Seraglio, where he was receiv'd by the Grand Visier with all imaginable tokens of Friendship and Esteem. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 50/2 The remains of the Seraglio, former palace of the Ottoman sultans.

† 4. A place of accommodation for travellers.

1627 *Purchas Pilgrimage* (ed. 3) 606 At every tenth course a Seraglio or Place of lodging for Man and Horse. 1630 *Evelyn Lett. to R. Boyle* 3 Sept. At the other back front a place walled in of a competent square for the common seraglio disposed into a garden.

† 5. A warehouse. *Obs.*

1628 in *Foster Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 230 Depositing those intended for Cambray and Annadabad in the 'seraglio'. 1676 *Covel in Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 168 On the snow towards the factory seraglio is a fair large fountain. 1682 *Wheler Journ. Greece* I. 82 The Caravans... put into Ware-houses they call Seraglio's. 1728 *tr. Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 160 They are thrown thorow a hole into the great Magazine, call'd the Seraglio.

† 6. ? A barrack for a particular corps of the Turkish army; hence, a corps or grade of Turkish soldiers. *Obs.*

1600 *Port Leo's Africa*, etc. 386 They are called home againe to the Seraglios of the Zemoglians (for so are they termed, till they be enrolled among the Janissaries). 1613 *Wotton Lett. to Sir S. Bacon* 11 Mar. The Turk... having made a leavy... of 5000 youths out of the Seraglio. 1626 *Earl Monm. tr. Boccaioni's Adott.* fr. *Parnass.* I. xxxii. 57 To give the command of Armies... to men of the first or second Seraglio.

III. 7. *attrib. and Comb.*: *seraglio-guard*, *lady*, *window*; *seraglio cake*, a name given to a kind of fancy bread.

1822 *Middle Dom. Dict.* 46 *Seraglio Cake. 1821 *Shelley Hellas* II. 141 Man the *Seraglio-guard! 1917 *Lady M. W. Montagu Lett.* (1893) I. 294 This is the chief guardian of the *seraglio ladies. *Ibid.* 325 The Grand Signior was at the *seraglio window.

|| **serai**¹ (sə'rai). Forms: 7 **sarray**, **sera**, **seraw**(e), **serai**, **saray**, **surroie**, 7, 9 **serai**, -ay, 8 **serauee**, 9 **seraee**, **seray**, -oy, 8- **serai**. [a. Turkish (orig. Persian) *serāi* lodging, residence, palace. Cf. **SERAGLIO**, **SERAIL**.]

1. In various Eastern countries, a building for the accommodation of travellers; a caravanserai. 1600 *W. Finch in Purchas Pilgrims* (1625) I. 434 By it the great Saray, besides which are diuers others, wherein diuers neate lodgings are to be let. c. 1636 *Ibid.* 520 Every five or six Course, there are Seras built for the entertainment of Travellers. 1782 G. FORSTER *Journ.* (1798) I. 74 The stationary tenants of the serauce... approach the traveller on his entrance. 1793 W. HODGES *Trav. India* 32 The lodgings of the traveller in India are the serais, or caravanserais, as they are called in Europe. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 281/1 A handsome seray built of stone. 1848 *Mil. Pol. Econ. Prel. Rem.* (1876) 8 The serases for travellers... owe their existence to the enlightened self-interest of the better order of princes. 1876 W. WAKEFIELD *Happy Valley* 35 These serais... generally consist of a large square stone building. 1895 *Owling* (U.S.) XXVI. 467/2 A 'Serai' covers a space about 150 feet square or larger, and is built around a quadrangular court with a continuous veranda.

† b. ? A warehouse. = **SERAGLIO** 5. *Obs.*

1619 in *Foster Eng. Factories India* (1909) 103 The goods have since been taken to Bershanpur, and placed in the common 'serai'.

2. A Turkish palace; esp. the palace of the Sultan at Constantinople.

1617 *Morison Ann.* III. 68 The Sultans or Emperours Palace (vulgarly called Saray, and by the Italians Seraglio). 1652 *Sir T. Hearsey Trav.* (1677) 117 Nothing more observable in the Town than the Serays and [etc.]. 1812 *Byron Ch. Har.* II. lxxvii. The Serai's impenetrable tower. 1896 *Totten Highl. Turkey* I. 230 Having sent... to the Pasha to ask for horses, we thought it right to pay him a visit in his serai.

† 3. Misused for **SERAGLIO** II: A harem.

1855 *Byron Glaciar* 444 Not this was Haslun wont to fly When Laila dwelt in his Serai.

|| **serai**² (sə'rai). Also 7 **sou**-, **sowray**, 9 **surahée**, -hi, **surai**, **suraaiee**. [Anglo-Indian, repr. Urdu (orig. Arab.) *surāhi*.] 'A long-necked earthenware (or metal) flagon for water' (Yule). 1672 *tr. Bernier's Hist. Res. Emp. Gt. Mogol* IV. 10 A Souray of the water of Ganges... Souray is that Tin-flagon full of water, which the Servant of the marcheth on foot before the Gentilman on horseback, carrieth in his hand. 1808 *ELPHINSTONE in Colebrooke Life* (1884) I. 199 We had... two surahes of water [etc.]. 1825-9 *Mrs. Sherwood Lady of Manor V.* xxix. 47 She broke a serai of water. 1859 *Lang Wand. India* 145 Fold hard, syce, and give me the suraice (water-bottle). 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 144 A *surai*, with a long neck and flat bulged base.

serail (sə'reil). Now *rare*. Forms: 6 **serail**, **serell**, 7 **serail**(le), **seraill**, **seraillle**, 7- **serail**. [a. F. *serail*, ad. It. *serraglio*; see **SERAGLIO**. Cf. Sp. *serrallo*.]

1. = **SERAGLIO** 1.

1585 T. WASHINGTON *tr. Nicholas's Voy.* II. xxii. 59b, [The women's] priuate bathes, which for the most part they haue... within their houses or Serails. 1587 *Marlowes 1st Pt. Tamburl.* III. iii. 1776 He shall be made a chaste and lustlesse Eunike. And in my Serail tend my Concubines. 1603 *Florio Monaigne* I. xlii. 143 What longing-lust would not be alaide, to seee three hundred women at his dispose and pleasure, as hath the Grand Turke in his Seraille? 1628 *LE GRYS tr. Barclay's Argens* III. 244 Thou wouldest haue said, that she was brought up in the warres; they bred in a Seraille of Women. 1766 *tr. Beckford's Vathek* (1833) 65 They consigned them with good commendations to the surgeons of the serail. 1808 E. S. BARRETT *Mis-lid General* 161 A numerous serail must be attended with vast expence. 1844 *KINGSLAY Eothen* III. 42 Venice... is the bowing slave of the Sultan... she watches the walls of his Serail. 1853 *KINGSLAY Hypatia* xxx. The purest monotheism, they discovered, was perfectly compatible with bigotry and ferocity, luxury and tyranny, serails and bowstrings.

† 2. = **SERAGLIO** 3, **SERAI**² 2. *Obs.*

1585 T. WASHINGTON *tr. Nicholas's Voy.* IV. xxv. 140b, Selim builded there for a dwelling place, a fayre and sumptuous Serail. 1603 *KNOLLES Hist. Turks* (1621) 1311 The ambassador went himself to the serail. 1687 *London Gaz.* No. 2307/3 The other report is, That the Grand Signior is only kept a close Prisoner in the Serail. 1782 J. SCOTT *Poet. Wks.* 231 And from his high serail the sultan hears The wide Propontia's beating waves resound.

† 3. A barrack for Turkish soldiers; = **SERAGLIO** 6.

1585 T. WASHINGTON *tr. Nicholas's Voy.* IV. xxv. 140b, There is besides another Serail, for the lodging of the Azemoglians or Janissaries.

serail(e, obs. forms of **SERENE** sb.¹, **SIREN**.

serai¹ ('sərai), a.¹ (and sb.) *Geol.* [f. L. *sēr*-us late + -AL; see quot. 2. *adj.* Used by H. D. Rogers to designate the Millstone Grit formation of the Pennsylvanian Coal-measures. *b. absol.* or *sb.* Used as a name for this formation.

1858 H. D. ROGERS *Geol. Pennsylv.* I. 109 *Serai series*, or *Coal strata*. *Serai Conglomerate* (or *Lowest Division of the Coal-Measures*). *Ibid.* II. ii. 1027 *Serai*... a synonym for the coal-formation expressing the period of the nightfall or late twilight of the Appalachian Paleozoic day.

serai¹ ('sərai), a.² *Ecol.* [f. *SERE* sb.² + -AL.] Of or pertaining to a sere; being a member of a sere other than its climax.

1916 F. E. CLEMENTS *Plant Succession* ix. 184 In lowland and montane regions examples of prisers are often more numerous than those of subsers, and such regions are of the first importance for sereal investigations. 1926 *TANSLEY & CHIPP Study of Vegetation* II. 18 We have a special technical term for the developmental series of communities... We apply the adjective *sereal*, as opposed to *climax*, to such communities. 1932 *Forestry* VI. 190 The principal sereal stages in natural succession from grassland or heath to beechwood are shortly described for certain soil types. 1955 P. A. BURNETT *Nat. Hist. Notes* ix. 298 It appears to be generally true that the grassland is sereal and that it is prevented from developing into bush or woodland by annual fires. 1975 P. A. COLINVAUX *Introd. Ecol.* vi. 77 The communities are... classified into a number of subordinate communities, the sereal stages, and the generic taxon, the *Beech-maple climax community*.

seralbumen, -in (sə'rel'bju:men, -in). *Chem.* Also **séro-albumen**. [f. *SER-UM* + *ALBUMEN*.] The albumen of the blood. Hence **seral**-**albuminous** (sə-ro'al'buninous) *a.*, composed of or containing seralbumen.

1635-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anal.* I. 62/1 An orange-yellow coloured séro-albuminous fluid. *Ibid.* 89/2 When coagulated seralbumen is digested in acetic acid, it becomes soft and transparent. 1857 [see **OVALBUMEN**]. 1873 *RALFE Phys. Chem.* 28 Ovo-albumin is distinguished from séro-albumin by the following characteristics. 1878 *KINGZETT Anim. Chem.* 124 Chyle contains potassium-albumin, casein, and seralbumin.

|| **serang** (sə'ræŋ). *Anglo-Indian*. Also **sarang**, **sy:rang**. [a. Pers. *sarhang* commander.] A native boatswain or captain of a Lascar crew.

1759 *Full Advert.* 21 Dec. 4/1 Seringapatam Prize-money... first dividend: Commandant Subadars, and Serangs of Gun Lascars. 1806 *Naval Chron.* XV. 466 The sarang, or principal native. 1817 in R. G. WALLACE *Fifteen Years India* (1822) 256 The syrangs... exerted their powerful influence over the seamen. 1891 *Kipling's Handicap* 297 Pambé, the Serang or head man of the Lascar sailors.

SERANINE

seranine ('serənaɪn). (See quot.)

1889 CUNDILL *Dict. Explosives* 61. Seranine is a mixture of nitro-glycerine and chlorate of potash. 1890 EISLER *Mod. Explosives* 38.

serapah, obs. form of SEERPAW.

serape (/'seɪpeɪ, sɛ'roʊpeɪ). Also **sarape**, 9 U.S. **zarape**. [Mexican Sp. *serape*, *sarape*.] A shawl or plaid worn by Spanish-Americans.

1834 A. PIKE *Prose Sk. & Poems* 138 The men with... the zarape or blanket of striped red and white. 1836 [see RANCHERO]. 1847 RUKTON *Adv. Mexico*, etc. xxiv. 240. [...] knew that I had seen the last... of civilized man under the garb of a Mexican sarape. 1850 MAYNE REID *Rifle Rangers* xi. The ranchero... is never seen without the 'serape'. a 1883 — *Lost Min.* xv. 147 Keeping the rain off with waterproof — 1888 MARY E. BLAKE in *Lit. World* (U.S.) 18 Aug. 262/1 The men, with wide-rimmed sombrero and gay zarape. 1892 *Dial. Notes* 1. 194 *Sarape*, a Mexican blanket, generally, woven by hand by Indian women, with stripes of variegated colors. The *serape* has no opening or slit for the head, like the poncho, but is worn by men only, thrown across the shoulders. 1916 B. M. BOWER *Phantom Herd* 68 He had finished with an old Mexican sarape draped around his person for warmth. 1950 *Chicago Tribune* 1 Mar. 20.3 The feminine counterpart of the *serape* is the *rebozo*. 1979 *United States* 1980/81 (Penguin Travel Guides) 45 Mexican, Indian, and 'Old West' items are especially good buys. *Serap* s... and wool *rebozos*... make nice gifts

Serapeum (sə'reɪpɪəm). **Egyptology and Anc. Hist.** Also **Serapeion** (-'aɪən), **Serapeum**; pl. **Serapeia**. [a. late L., ad. Gr. *Σεραπεῖον*, f. *Σεραπίς* *Serapis*.] A temple of Serapis; *spec.* the great precinct near Memphis, where the sacred Apis bulls were buried, and a temple in Alexandria.

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 260/2 He had temples (Serapeia) in several parts of Egypt. 1847 J. LEITCH in *Müller's Anc. Art* 243 The Serapeum was at the same time a sanatory institution. 1877 A. B. EDWARDS *Thousand Miles up Nile* v. 86 According to one of these precious Serapeum tablets, the wounded bull did not die till the fourth year of the reign of Darius. 1927 TARN & GRIFFITH *Hellenistic Civiliz.* x. 204 The Serapeum at Delos has revealed that the triad who were so to influence Hellenism were... Isis, Serapis, and Anubis. 1928 *Daily Tel.* 11 Dec. 13/4 It was suggested that the so-called Greek Serapeum was in truth nothing but the resting-place of the mother cows of Egyptian Apis. 1961 A. GARDINER *Egypt of Pharaohs* xii. 326 Not a single inscription of Dyn. XXI was found in the Serapeum [at Memphis]. 1972 P. M. FRASER *Ptolemaic Alexandria* I. v. 271 The Serapeum on Rhacotis Hill (in Alexandria) was within the Ptolemaic and Roman city-walls.

seraph ('serəf). [Back-formation from the plural SERAPHIM, SERAPHIN (on the analogy of cherubim, -in and cherub).] (Perh. first used by Milton.)

Cf. *G. seraph*, in mod. use perh. from Eng., though Luther had in one passage used *seraph* (as a plural). Certain medieval commentators on Pseudo-Dionysius, followed by many glossaries down to the *Oriens Vocabularium* (1518), give *seraph* (genitive *seraphis*) as the sing. corresponding to the pl. *seraphim*; but the form appears to have had no actual currency in med. Latin.]

1. **a. One of the SERAPHIM.**

1667 MILTON *P.L.* III. 667 Brightest Seraph tell In which of all these shining Orbes hath Man his fixed seat. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1716) II. 171 Who sees Darkness even in the Angels of Light, and charges the loftiest Seraph with Folly! a 1711 KEN *Hymns Evang. Poet.* Wks. 1721 I. 184 The Seraphs who of all love Godhead most Had near the Throne the honourable Post. 1786 COLERIDGE *Genevieve* 4 Sweet your voice, as Seraph's song. 1816 BYRON (*1st Stanza to Augusta* iv. Oh! blest be thine unbroken light, That watch'd me as a seraph's eye. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Simon Styl.* 166 That Pontius and Iscariot by my side Show'd like fair seraphs.

b. **fig. A seraphic person, an 'angel'.**

1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* xxi. I knew another of these seraphs... she was [etc.].

2. **Geol. A fossil shell. Cf. SERAPHIM 4.**

1822 PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 153 *Seraphs*, a convoluted, elongated, univalved shell. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* 1. 106.

3. **attrib. and Comb.** (sometimes quasi-adj. = seraphic), as *seraph-arrival*, -band, -bard, -cloud, fire, -man, note, -sense, song, way, -wing; *seraph-bright*, -haunted, -sent, -winged adjs. Also *seraph-tide* Anglo-Irish, Michaelmas.

1876 G. M. HOPKINS *W. Deutschland* xliii. In *Poems* (1907) 50 With the great of the nails in thee... his Love-scope crucified And seal of his 'seraph-arrival'. 1886 BUCKS 'O Thou dread Power'. The beautiful, 'seraph Sister', handed. 1798 COLERIDGE *Am.* Mar. vi. xx. This seraph-band, each waved his hand. 1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* v. 379 Then, as yon 'Seraph-Bard' fram'd Hearts below. Each sees them here transcendent Knowledge show. 1949 BLUNDEN *After Bombing* 49 Marbles, mosaics, carvings, 'seraph-bright' Paintings of wall and window. 1928 — *Japanese Garland* 30 Their mysteries luring that young 'seraph-cloud' Swanlike between the mountain and the moon. 1803 HEBER *Palestine* 32 One faint spark of Milton's 'seraph fire'. 1958 G. BAKER *Two Plays* 52 Lie dreaming on that 'seraph'-haunted shore. 1798 COLERIDGE *Am.* Mar. vi. xix. A man all light, a 'seraph-man' On every corner there stood. 1814 BOWDLER *Hymn*, 'Sing to the Lord'. Israel's shepherds heard amazed The 'seraph notes of peace and love. 1928 BLUNDEN *Retreat* 65 Her touch is 'seraph sense. 1932 — *Face of England* 126 They sparkled free In 'seraph-sent' lucidity. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* xii. iv. Or liker the first sound of 'seraph song And Angel greeting. a 1849 MAR. EDGEWORTH *White Pigeon*. You promised to make me a compliment of it last 'Seraph-tide' was twelvemonth. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. lxxxv. For he would learn the rudiments of love, I mean the

*seraph way of those above. 1754 GRAY *Progr. Poesy* III. ii. He, that rode sublime Upon the 'seraph-wings of Extasy. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 448 A 'seraph-winged Victory.

'seraph'. **Obs.** [a. F. *seraph*, corruptly a. Turkish *şarîf*; see SHARIFE. Cf. It. *seraffo*.] A Turkish gold coin; a sequin.

1576 EDEN *Hist. Trav.* (1577) 364 Three thousande Seraphes of golde. 1653 UROUQUART *Rabelais* II. xiv. I will give thee my Godpiece: there are six hundred Seraphs in it, and some fine Diamonds. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* *Seraph*, a Turkish coyn of fine gold, worth about a French crown.

seraph, obs. variant of GIRAFFE.

1607 TOPSEL *Four-f. Beasts* 4. Their nourishment goeth more forward then backward, like the best horses, and the Arabian Seraph, which are higher before then behinde.

seraphic (sə'refɪk), **a.** and **sb.** Also 7 **seraphique**, 7-8 **seraphick**, 8 **serafic**. [a. eccl. L. *seraphicus*, f. *seraph-im*; see SERAPHIM. Cf. F. *seraphique*, Sp. *seráfico*, Pg. *seraphico*, It. *serafico*.]

1. **adj.**

a. Of or pertaining to the seraphim.

1632 MASSINGER *Maid of Hon.* v. i. Seraphique Angels Clap their celestial wings in heavenly plaudits. 1667 MILTON *P.L.* i. 794 The great Seraphic Lord and Cherubim In close recess and secret conclave sat. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* i. iii. (1840) 81 This supposition... places him [the Devil] beneath the dignity of his seraphic original. 1755 YOUNG *Centaur* vi. (1757) IV. 275 A being big with... hope... of adding melody to seraphic choirs, in ceaseless Hallelujahs to their Eternal King. 1850 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 238 Seven beautiful seraphic or allegorical figures.

2. **Of attributes:** Resembling what pertains to the seraphim; worthy of a seraph; ecstatically adoring.

1659 BOYLE *Some Motives Love of God* 9 This Love I have taken the freedom to style Seraphick Love, borrowing the name from those nobler Spirits of the Celestiall Hierarchy, whose Name... expresses them to be of a flaming Nature. 1683 NORRIS *Idea Happin.* 35 There is a more peculiar Acceptation of the Love of God proper to this place... And it is that which we call Seraphic. By which I understand... that Love of God which is the effect of an intense Contemplation of him. 1695 BLACKWELL *Pr. Arith.* 1. 44 Nor did his Arts in vain weak Man assail, His false Seraphick Tongue and Charms prevail. a 1711 KEN *Hymns Festiv.* Poet. Wks. 1821 II. 191 Seraphick Ardour dwelling in each Vein, The Majestyat Presence in the Brain. 1778 WARNER in *Jesse Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 336 Mr. Mudge... had a most seraphic finger for the harpsichord. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. viii. On the thick Hyperborean, cherubic reasoning, seraphic eloquence were lost. 1846 DE QUINCEY *Shelley in Tait's Mag.* Jan. 29 Many people remarked something seraphic in the expression of his features. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cix. Seraphic intellect and force To seize and throw the doubts of man. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* vi. Dinah's seraphic gentleness of expression. 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1884) 97 Her voice was sweet... Her singing quoth seraphic. 1884 W. S. LILLY in *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 263 That religious romanticism which paints for us a medieval period full of seraphic sweetness.

† b. † Concerned with sublime objects. **Obs.**

a 1667 ALBURY *Brief Lives*, *Dunstan* (1898) I. 243 Meredith Lloyd tells me that, three or 400 years ago, chymistry was in a greater perfection, much, then now; their proces was then more seraphique and universal: now they looke only after medicines.

3. **Resembling a seraph, either in beauty or in fervour of exalted devotion.**

1762-71 H. WALPOLE *Virtue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 121 That seraphic dame, Mrs. Rowe, also painted. 1807 CHAMBE *Sir Eustace Grey* 71 Her morals [show'd] the seraphic saint. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* iv. x. That seraphic being, whose lustre even now haunts my vision. 1870 — *Lothair* xiii. Seraphic saints, and gorgeous scenes by Tintoret.

b. **Of discourse, actions, appearance:** Showing ecstasy of devout contemplation.

a 1668 DAVENANT *Play-ho.* 1. (1673) 76 A spiritual Musician too With his seraphick Colloquies exprest In stilo recitativo. 1668 PEYFS *Diary* 24 May. A very good and seraphic kind of sermon, too good for an ordinary congregation. 1884 *Punch* 18 Oct. 191/1 The seraphic look of personal affection that mantled his brow.

4. **Special collocations:** **Seraphic Doctor**, a title given to St. Bonaventura (in Spain also popularly to St. Teresa); **Seraphic Father**, a title given to St. Francis; **seraphic friar**, a Franciscan, hence *seraphic habit*, *order*; **seraphic hymn**, the *Sanctus* (see Isa. vi. 3).

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. In the Schools, St. Bonaventura is call'd The 'Seraphic Doctor' from his abundant Zeal and Fervour. 1834 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* v. v. 153 The seraphic doctor observes that [etc.]. 1854 MRS. G. C. GRAHAM *S. Teresa* I. iv. 179 note, Teresa, by a definitive decree of the Tribunal of the Rota, is formally declared a Doctor of the Church. The 'seraphic doctor', the antonomasia by which she is as often as not referred to in Spain, relates to this, and not to the Doctor's degree bestowed upon her, after her death, by the University of Salamanca. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. St. Francis, the Founder of the Cordeliers and Franciscans, is called the 'Seraphic Father', in Memory of a Vision he saw on Mount Alverna... when he saw a Seraph glide rapidly from Heaven upon him; which impress'd on him certain Stigmata or Marks. 1884 *Tablet* 11 Oct. 592/1 The Feast of the Seraphic Father St. Francis was celebrated with great solemnity. 1826 SOUTHEY *Lett. to Butler* 514 The 'Seraphic and Cherubic friars. 1662 J. DAVIES *tr. Olearius Voy. Ambas.* 143 Those who take that habit, which they call 'Seraphick, are not to be numbered among Men, but are become Angels. 1796 SOUTHEY *Lett. Spain* (1799) 418 Of

the Mendicants the most numerous is the 'Seraphic, or Franciscan order.

B. sb.

† 1. **a.** [= eccl. L. *seraphicus*.] A Franciscan friar. **b.** Allusively applied in the sense of zealot. 1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* II. xxxii. 256 Many high Seraphicks and supercilious Separatists. 1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Collog.* (1725) 265 They are commanded to wear the Coat and Hood (for so say the Seraphicks).

2. **seraphic**: 'rapturous moods or discourses. 1709 SWIFT & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 32 ¶ 2 To hear her talk Seraphicks, and run over Norris, and Moor, and Milton. 1780 CHARL. SMITH *Ethelinde* (1814) I. 182 And the angel will descend from her seraphics.

Hence *seraphicness*. **rare.**

1727 BAILEY *vol. II*, *Seraphickness*, the being of the *seraph* nature. 1888 LIGHTHALL *Young Seigneurs* 71 No romantic seraphicness glowing upon her features.

seraphical (sə'refɪkəl), **a.** Now **rare**. [f. eccl. L. *seraphicus*-us *SERAPHIC* a. + -AL-] = **SERAPHIC** a.

1. **Pertaining to the seraphim;** = **SERAPHIC** 1. 1668 T. NEWTON in *Farr S.P. Eliz.* (1845) 553 The troupes seraphical. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp.* 2 *Pet.* II. 13 Some of the hairs that fell from the seraphical angel.

2. **Resembling what pertains to the seraphim;** rapturous, ecstatically devout.

1781 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Oor.* 304 Let us take a test of this your Seraphical obedience. 1593 G. HARVEY *New Letter Wks.* (Grosart) I. 274 In the profoundest trance of rapt Seraphical Zeale. 1596 NASHE *Saffron-Walden* G 4. My Seraphical visions in Queene Poetrie. 1648 J. GOODWIN *Yongling Elder* 2 A man of such Seraphical parts and learning. 1674 BP. CROFT *Lett. Pop. Idol.* (1679) 13 St. Francis... and many others, in their 'Seraphical Meditations, have been rapt up into the third Heaven. 1742-3 *Observ. Methodists* 17 Together with a mixture of Seemingly Seraphical Flights and extravagant Allusions.

† b. **Of ideas, etc.:** Lofty, sublime. **Cf.**

SERAPHIC a. 2 b. (In quot. *ironical*.) **Obs.**

1656 CROMWELL *Sp. in Burton's Diary* (1828) I. Introd. 161 Now we would be loth to tell you of notions more seraphical.

3. **Of persons:** Resembling the seraphim; characterized by ecstatic fervour of devotion. In the 17th c. often *ironical*, applied to fanatical religionists or to impassioned orators.

1596 NASHE *Saffron-Walden* G 4. Graue Heliconists, seraphical Omnisians. 1616 BULLOKER *Eng. Expos.* *Seraphical*, inflamed with diuine loue like a Seraphin. 1644 VICARS *God in Mount* (1844) 44 Such like rare seraphical rhetoricians. 1691 WOOD *Arth. Oxon.* II. 18 The most florid and seraphical Teacher in the University. 1692 SOUTH 12 *Sermons* (1697) V. 33 The most Seraphical Illuminati, and the highest Puritan Perfectionists. a 1714 ABP. J. SHARP *Serm. Wks.* 1754 III. 218 Thus some very seraphical men do talk.

† 4. **In seraphical doctor, order:** see **SERAPHIC** 4.

a 1540 BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 278 For these things bee given vnto them peculiar names, as subtle and seraphical, and irrefragable Doctors. 1561 DAUS *tr. Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 116 b. The Seraphical order of S. Frances. 1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Gr.* Ro These Seraphical Fathers doe so under value all other Orders, that [etc.]. 1674 HICKMAN *Hist. Quinquart.* (ed. 2) 69 Bonauenture... called generally the Seraphical Doctor. 1721 *Constitutions Blue Nuns* x. Let them keep the Octave of the Seraphical Father S. Francis.

Hence † **seraphicalist**, one who pretends to 'seraphic' excellence; † **seraphicalness**.

1659 *Clarke Papers* (Camden) IV. 301 It's strange to see these seraphicalists [sic] can act without law, against Parliaments and against morality. 1727 BAILEY *vol. II*, *Seraphicalness*, the being of the seraphic Nature.

seraphically (sə'refɪkəlɪ), **adv.** [f. **SERAPHICAL** a. + -LY-] In a seraphic manner.

1678 NORRIS *Misc.* (1699) 260 Till I ascend in Spirit to the Element of Love, where I shall know thee more clearly, and love thee more Seraphically. 1891 J. S. WINTER *Lumley* xiv. He is so seraphically happy. 1909 *Nation* 3 Apr. 14/1 He was smiling seraphically.

† **seraphicism**. **Obs.** [f. **SERAPHIC** a. + -ISM-] Pretence of 'seraphic' raptures.

1676 CUDWORTH *Serm.* (1 Cor. xv. 57) 87 Such are a self-chosen holiness... high-flown enthusiasm and Seraphicism.

seraphim ('serəfɪm), † **seraphin**. **Forms:** 1, 3-7, 9 *arch.* *seraphin*, 3 *serafin*, 4 *serafyn*, 5 *ceraphin*, *secheraphym*, -phyn, *seraphyn*, -en, *serophyn*, *syraphyn*, 6-7, *seraphine*, 1, 6-*seraphim*. [a. late L. *seraphim* (Vulg.), in MSS. often *seraphin* (= Gr. *σεραφίμ*, *σεραφίμ*, LXX.), a. Heb. *šərāphim* (only in Isa. vi), pl. of **šārāph*, which is not recorded in the Bible, unless it be identical with the formally coincident word denoting a kind of venomous serpent, which occurs as quasi-adj. or in apposition with *nāhāsh* serpent in Num. xxi. and Deut. viii. (Eng. Bible 'fiery serpents', after Vulg. *ignitos serpentes*, *serpens adurens*; LXX *ὄφις ἀνατρώγας*, *ὄφις δάκνων*), and in Isa. xiv. 29 and xxx. 6 with the epithet 'flying' (Eng. Bible 'fiery flying serpent').

Some scholars assume the identity of the word occurring in Isa. vi. with that found in the other passages. On this view the 'seraphim' seen by Isaiah flying above the throne of God represent a mythic or symbolic conception which must originally have had the form of a 'fiery flying serpent', though in the vision this appears considerably modified.

The word *seraph*, as the name of a kind of serpent, may belong to the root *seraph* to burn, in allusion to the effect of the bite (cf. Gr. *serpēs*). This etymology has given rise to a conjecture that the celestial 'seraphim' originally symbolized the lightning. Of those who reject the identity of *seraph* 'seraph' with *seraph* 'fiery serpent', some refer the former to the root of the Arabic *sharafa* to be lofty or illustrious. Phonologically this is unobjectionable, but on other grounds it is now generally abandoned. Various suggestions of non-Hebrew (Egyptian, Assyrian, etc.) etymology have been made, but have not found wide acceptance.

The L. form *seraphim*, which is found in many MSS. of the Vulgate, and is the source of all the forms used in Eng. down to the 16th c. (as well as of those in the Rom. langs.), coincides with the Aramaic *šrāphīm*, but it is very doubtful whether it is more than a scribal error or a euphonic alteration. Cf. F. *seraphin* (*serafin*, 2nd c.), Pr. *serafin*, Sp. *serafín*, Pg. *serafim*, It. *serafino* (masc. sing.).

In the Latin liturgical passages, in which the word first became widely known, it was probably originally apprehended correctly as a plural, and readers of the Latin Bible would be guided aright by the syntax of Isa. vi. 2; but there is evidence that 'Cherubim and Seraphim' were often supposed to be the names of two individual angels. From the 15th to the 18th c. the English plural ending was often appended, but *seraphim* as a sing. = 'one of the seraphim' does not appear in Eng. till late in the 16th c. (the form *seraphim* in this use not till the 17th c.). After the introduction (perh. by Milton) of the form *SERAPH*, the misuse of the plural forms in singular sense gradually became rare, and it is now obsolete.]

1. In Biblical use: The living creatures with six wings, hands and feet, and a (presumably) human voice, seen in Isaiah's vision as hovering above the throne of God.

1382 WYCLIF Isa. vi. 2 Seraphyn stoden up on it. [1535 (Coverdale), 1537, 1539, 1551 the Seraphims; 1540 Seraphins; 1560 (Geneva), 1611 the Seraphims; 1568, 1609 (Douay) Seraphims; 1884 (Revised) the seraphim.]

2. By Christian interpreters the seraphim were from an early period supposed to be a class of angels, and the name, associated with that of the cherubim, was introduced in the Eucharistic preface and subsequently in the *Te Deum*, and thus became extensively known. The presumed derivation of the word from a Heb. root meaning 'to burn' (see above) led to the view that the seraphim are specially distinguished by fervour of love (while the cherubim excel in knowledge), and to the symbolic use of red as the colour appropriate to the seraphim in artistic representations. In the system of the Pseudo-Dionysius, the chief source of later angelology, the seraphim are the highest, and the cherubim the second, of the nine orders of angels.

a. *seraphin* (obs. exc. poet. as *nonce-use*), *seraphim*, used as plural. (Some of the early examples are ambiguous, and may belong to b.)

a. 900 CYNEWULF *Elene* 754 Syndon tu . . . þe man Seraphin be naman hæteð. a 1240 *Yerusalem in Cott. Hom.* 191 Heið is þi kinstol onuppe cherubine. Biuoren ðine leoue sune wiðinnen seraphine. c 1250 *Meid. Margrete* lxxv. Cherubin ant serafin, a þousend þer were. 13. . . *Spots* 92 (Vernon MS.) in Horst. *Atengl. Leg.* (1881) 342 þe fursste orde is Cherubin And þat þer Seraphin. 1362 LANGL. P. Pl. A. i. 104 Cherubin and Seraphin an al þe foure [the B. and C. texts have nine] ordres. 1398 TREVIS *Barth. De P. R.* viii. (1495) 34 Seraphyn is a multytude of angelis that is to vnderstonde: brengnyng other setnyng a fyre . . . and the propre offyce of these angels is to brengne in themselves and to moue other to brengne in the loue of god. c 1400 *Prayer* (1891) 21 To thee cherubin and seraphyn cryeth with voys with owten ceessyng. c 1425 *St. Mary of Oignes* i. vii. in *Anglia* lvi. 140.3 She saue on of Seraphyn, þat is a brengnyng angel. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans*, Her. a. v. b. The iiii. Tronli [orders of angels] be theys Principatus Tron Cherubin and Seraphyn. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Te deum*, Cherubin, and Seraphin. 1642 R. WATSON *Serm. Schisme* 32 The first place or degree is given to the Angels of love, which are termed Seraphim. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 289 What is it that makes the Seraphim burn and flame above the rest of the Angelical Orders? 1807 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 74 You shall . . . ay, press in Where faint the fledge-foot seraphin.

ß. a 1000 *Andreas* 719 (Gr.) Cheruphim et Seraphim þa on swegeldreamum syndon nemned. a 1500 *Adrian & Epotys* 92 in *Brome Bk.* 28 The second ordyr is secheraphym. 16. . . MILTON *At a Solemn Music* 10 Where the bright Seraphim in burning row Their loud up-lifted Angel trumpets blow. a 1680 CHARNOCK *Attrib. God* (1834) II. 146 The angels . . . are here called Seraphim, from burning or fiery spirits. 1827 *Heber Hymn*, 'Thou art gone to the grave'. The sound which thou heard'st was the Seraphim's song! 1829 COLERIDGE *Monody (Hatterton letter version)* 24 Thou . . . The triumph of redeeming Love dost hymn . . . to harps of Seraphim. 1864 *Pliny Lect. Daniel* ix. (1876) 332 Like the Seraphim, they are seen in adoring love, about his throne. 1871 ROSS *Poems*, Ave 104 And from between the seraphim The glory issues for a hymn.

† b. Taken as the name of an angel.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22600 þan sal quak sant cherubin. And alsu sal do seraphin. a 1400 *Relig. Preces fr. Thornton MS.* 37 Michaell and Gabrielle and Raphaelle, cherubin and seraphyn, and all þe oþer angels and archangels.

c. Plural. *seraphins, seraphims* (now rare).

a. a 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 9415 þe silloure ful of Seraphens & other serc halows. c 1420 *Virgin's Compl.* 88 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 241. I sawe angels with greit lithe of seraphynys order adowne gan sende. 1490 CAXTON *How to die* 22 The cherubyns and the seraphyns come to thynne helpe. 1566 *Poquaine in saunce* 73 These were their names: Arch-angels, Powers, Cherubines, and Seraphines. 1596 SPENSER *Hymn Heav. Beauty* 94 Those eternal burning Seraphins, Which from their faces dart out fierie light. a 1610 PARSONS *Leicester's Ghost* (1641) 24 Know

that the Prince of Heavenly Seraphines. Was tumbled downe for his presumptuous sinne. 1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory*, Panegyric. c. 7. All the strings Of Seraphins tun'd high, lowd Hymnes did play. 1641 LOVELACE *Elegy on Princ. Katherine* 61 Clap wings with Seraphins before the Throne. 1659 H. L'ESTRANGE *Alliance Div. Off.* 76 The Seraphins resound it.

ß. [1560, 1568, 1609, 1611: see 1] a 1627 SIR J. BEAUMONT *Epiphany* 38 Who . . . trie our actions in that searching fire By which the seraphims our lips inspire. 1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Yr. ii.* 16 The joy is so great that it runs over and wets the fair brows and beauteous locks of Cherubims and Seraphims. 1675 ABP. J. SHARP *Serm.* ii. Wks. 1754 l. 58 To know and be known by angels, arch-angels, and seraphims. a 1711 KEN *Hymntheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 201 Seraphims, whose Mold is heav'nly Love, Who nearest to the Godhead wait above. 1756-9 A. BUTLER *Lives Saints, S. Ludger*, God, in whose presence the highest seraphims annihilate themselves. 1924 E. SITWELL *Sleeping Beauty* iv. 23 From flowers as white as seraphims' breath.

d. *seraphin, seraphim* as a sing. = one of the seraphim, a seraph.

a. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love Big.* The Seraphin with his fiery sword not being taken away. c 1610 MIDDLETON *Witch* iv. ii. 111 No, he that would soul's sacred comfort win Must burn in pure love, like a seraphin. c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 35 She would have every thing divine That would befit a Seraphin.

ß. a 1649 CRASHAW *Carmen Deo Nostro* 74 We will pledge this Seraphin [sic: St. Teresa] Bowles full of richer blood [etc.]. a 1674 TRAHERNE *Poet. Wks.* (1903) 104 While we see What every Seraphim above admires! 1700 ASKAY *Tr. Saavedra-Faxardo* l. 168 God gave not the flaming Sword, which guarded Paradise, to a Seraphim. 1802 MRS. WEST *Infidel Father* II. 85 Or had you . . . blended the service of the Deity with the idolatrous worship of a seraphim. 1920 'K. MANSFIELD' *Lett. Nov.* (1928) II. 80 A cherubim and a seraphim come winging their way towards me. 1974 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 29 Mar. 314/3 Lamartine is content to be a seraphim.

3. *Her.* † a. In Sir John Ferne's fanciful method of blazoning by 'spirits', the equivalent of Argent.

1586 FERNE *Blaz. Gentry* 144 A fosse way nee between the two starres artick and antiarticke seraphines.

b. The representation of a seraph.

Usually, a child's head with two wings above, two below, and one on each side.

1828-40 BERRY *Encycl. Her.* s.v. *Carruthers*, Crest, a seraphim, volant, ppr.

4. A Swedish order of knighthood. (See quot.)

1784 H. CLARK *Hist. Knighthood* II. 213 Sweden. The Order of the Seraphim, or of Jesus . . . first instituted by Magnus the Ild. in the year 1334. . . It lay dormant, until February 1748, when it was revived . . . by Frederick the First.

5. *Geol. sing. and collect.* A fossil crustacean of the genus *Pterygotus*.

1839 MITCHEISON *Silur. Syst.* 606 Fig. 4 and 5 belong undoubtedly to the same animal as the Seraphim of the Old Red Sandstone. 1863 H. WOODWARD in *Intell. Observ.* IV. 229 The 'Seraphim', a fossil found in the 'Arbroath paving-stone' of Forfarshire, which from the wing-like form of some parts of the shell, and the scale or feather-like markings upon its surface, has given rise to this angelic title among the natives. 1894 Q. *Rev.* July 191 The giant crustaceans or arachnids known to the Scotch quarrymen as 'Seraphim'.

6. A moth of the genus *Lobophora*. Also *seraphim-moth*.

1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 132 The Seraphim (*Lobophora hexapterata*, Curtis) appears in June. . . The small Seraphim (*Lobophora sexualis*, Curtis) appears in June and August. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 67 In *Lobophora* there is so large an additional lobe to the hind wing as to give them the appearance of having six wings, whence they are called 'Seraphims' by collectors. *Ibid.*, Index to Popular Names, Seraphim Moths.

'seraphin. Obs. Forms: 6 seraffine, serafyne, seraphine, xeraphin, 7 serafin, seraffin, xeraphin, 8 seraphyn, xeraphene, 9 xeraphim. [a. Pg. *xeraphim*, *xaraphim*, a. Arab. *sharifi*, orig. the name of a gold coin. Cf. SERAPH².] A silver coin formerly current in India; for its value, see quot. 1727.

1582 N. LICHFELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* 56b. He must give him 600 Serafynes. 1584 R. BARRET in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1599) II. i. 273 There is also stamped in Ormuz a seraphine of gold, which is little and round. 1588 HICKOCK tr. C. *Frederick's Voy.* 37. I lost my 800 Seraffines or duckets. a 1613 W. HAWKINS in *Purchas Pilgrims* (1625) I. 217 *Inprimis*, of Seraphins Eberi, which be ten Rupias a piece, there are sixtie Leckes. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India* & P. 207 The Cruzado of Gold, 12 Seraphins. 1704 *Churchill's Collect. Voy. & Trav.* III. 772. 2 A Candil of Rice was sold . . . for 2500 Seraphins, or Gilders. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. xxi. 249 Their Soldiers Pay [at Goa] is very small. . . They have but six Xeraphens per Month. . . a Xeraphen is worth about sixteen Pence half Penny Ster. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Zephirim*, a former money of account of Goa, of 240 Portuguese reis.

seraphine ('serafin). Also seraphina. [f. SERAPH + -INE.] A musical instrument of the reed kind, invented by John Green in 1833.

1839 *Chr. Engin. & Arch. Jnrl.* II. 318.2 Certain improvements in the construction of certain musical instruments . . . of the kind commonly called seraphines. 1845 GRESLEY *Frank's First Trip* 201 Six or eight women . . . were singing a plaintive hymn, accompanied by a seraphine. 1879 A. J. HURKINS in *Grave's Dict. Mus.* I. 167 In England keyboard harmonicas with bellows were known by the name of Seraphine, which was not an harmonium. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 June 8. In most Boer houses of the better class there is an American organ or 'seraphine'.

'seraphism. rare. [f. SERAPH¹ + -ISM.] Ecstatic devotion.

1846 C. MAITLAND *Ch. Catacombs* 212 That religion . . . presents . . . a joyful serenity, worth all . . . the proud seraphism of the Thebaid.

† seraphium. Obs. -1? = SERAPINE.

1583 *Rates Custom ho.* Eijb, Seraphium the pound.

'Serapias (sə'repiəs). [L. *serāpiās*, f. the name of the Egyptian god *Serāpis*.] Formerly, a book-name for various orchids, and for the dried roots of these as used in pharmacy. Now only mod. Latin (*Bot.*) as the name of an orchidaceous genus.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* i. civ. 173 We haue called these kindes Serapias stones, or Orchis Serapiades, . . . taking the name as it were from Serapias the god of the Citizens of Alexandria. . . It is also called . . . in English Satyrion, and finger Orchis. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 1354 The properties of these Serapias. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Serapias*, (Gr.) an Herb call'd Dog-stones, or Rag-wort. 1753 *Chambers's Cycl. Suppl.*, *Serapias*, in the materia medica, the official name of the dried root, called *salep*.

serapic (sə'repik), a. [f. *Serap-* + -IC.] Of or pertaining to the Egyptian god *Serapis*.

a 1888 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XXXII. 560 (Cent.) They include various types of the god Abraxas, Cnuphic and Serapic emblems, Egyptian types.

† serapine(e). Obs. Also in Latin form. [ad. med. L. *serapinum*; of obscure origin; perh. this and SAGAPENUM represent some Oriental word.]

1. = SAGAPENUM.

a. c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* (1894) 43 Azafetida is best medecyn if pou make of him emplastre, serapinum, & ye feces of a litil wex. 1543 TRAHERNE *Vigo's Chirurg.* Interpr., Sagapenum commonly called Serapinum droppeth out of the stalk of ferula. a 1618 *Rates Marchandizes* F 2 b. Gum Serapinum.

ß. 1526 *Grete Herball* cccclxxx. (1529) Nij. Serapyn is . . . the gomme of a tre that groweth beyonde the see and in Grece. c 1550 LLOYD *Treas. Health* Gij. Serapine stampet and put into the hollow tooth taketh away ye paines therof. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arab.) 269 Gumme Serapine. 1714 *Fr. Bk. Rates* 92 Gum Serapin per 100 Weight 06 05.

2. The tree that produces sagapenum.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholas's Voy.* II. x. 43 Al manner of trees, as pinetrees, Serapins, Cypres, Terebinths [etc.].

seraskier (sə'rə'skiə(r)). *Hist.* Also seraskur, seraskier. [repr. Turkish pronunciation of Pers. *serasker* head of the army, f. *ser* head + Arab. *askar* army.] The title of the Turkish Minister of War, who was also commander in chief of the army.

1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1952/2 The Turkish Officer, who is known by the Title of Seraskier. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett. to Pope* 12 Feb. A very numerous garrison of their bravest janissaries, commanded by a pasha seraskier (i.e. general). 1803 WITTMAN *Trav. Turkey* 237 The title of Seraskier corresponds with that of our commander in chief of the army. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* vi. 261 The Seraskier at Stamboul . . . had persisted in withdrawing the regulars stationed in the province.

† Seraskierate (sə'rə'skiə(r)ət). Also seraskarat, -kerat, -keriat(e), -kierat. [f. prec. + -ATE¹.] The War Office at Constantinople.

1876 *Illustr. Lond. News* 8 July 43.2 The execution . . . took place . . . in the open square of the Seraskierate or War Office. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 307 The great tower of Galata, like that of the Seraskierat (War Office) on the opposite height in Stamboul, is used as a fire-tower. 1891 *Athenaeum* 26 Dec. 888/3 They are instructed to send all local details as to situation to the Seraskierate.

† serate. Obs. -1 [a. F. †(*laict*) *serat* (Cotgr.).] (See quot.)

1600 *SURELET Country Farm* i. xiv. 90 The Normans do boile milke with garlike and onions, and keepe it in vessels for their vse, calling it sowre milke or Serate.

serauce, seraw(e, seray, obs. ff. SERAI¹).

Serax ('seræks). *Pharm.* A proprietary name in Canada and the U.S. for OXAZEPAM.

1957 *Official Gaz.* (U.S. Patent Office) 27 Aug. TM 148.2 American Home Products Corporation. . . Serax. For ataractic. First use Feb. 4, 1957. 1968 *Jrnl. Pharmacut. Sci.* LVII. 312/2 Oxazepam is a psychotropic agent. [Note] Marketed as Serax by Wyeth Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa. 1974 M. C. GERALD *Pharmacol.* xvi. 309 The benzodiazepine derivatives include: oxazepam (Serax). 1977 *Rolling Stone* 30 June 81, 3, I . . . reached into my shirt pocket, removed two 30 mg. Serax capsules, popped them into my mouth, and washed them down with the drink.

seraya (sə'raɪə). [Mal.] A forest tree of the genus *Shorea* or *Parashorea*, belonging to the family Dipterocarpaceae and native to south-east Asia; also, the hardwood timber produced by a tree of this kind. Cf. LAUAN, MERANTI.

1893 G. KING in *Jrnl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* LXII. ii. 112 Its vernacular name in Penang is Seraya. 1916 *Bull. Dept. Forestry Brit. N. Borneo* No. 1. 19 The better coloured and figured pieces of Serah make very acceptable substitutes for Mahogany, in panels, veneers, etc. 1920 A. L. HOWARD *Man. Timbers World* 256 The wood has been called by a variety of names such as East Indian mahogany and East Indian cedar, as well as by its proper name of serayah. 1940 E. J. H. CORNER *Wayside Trees Malaya* I. 213 *The Seraya* . . . is perhaps the only forest-tree that can be identified from

afar by its pale, outstanding crown. 1956 *Handbk. of Hardwoods* (Forest Prod. Res. Lab.) 153 Red seraya or light red seraya, may be described as the North Borneo equivalent of light red meranti. *Ibid.* 212 White seraya grows to an average height of 120 ft. 1962 J. C. S. BROUGH *Timbers for Woodwork* (rev. ed.) xv. 174 Seraya, ranges from straw to reddish-brown. 1965 R. McKIE *Company of Animals* i. 36 We stepped high on the ridge in light jungle topped by seraya trees. 1971 [see LUAN].

seraya(e). obs. forms of SIREN.

Serb (sə:b), *sb.* and *a.* Also 9 Syrbe. [a. Serbian *Srb*, *Serb*. Cf. F. *Serbe*.] *A. sb.* 1. †a. A Wend of Lusatia. (Cf. SORB.) *Obs.* b. A native of Serbia, a Serbian.

1813 Q. Rev. X. 283 The Serbs or Wend came about the same time into the countries between the Saal and the Oder. 1821 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 103/2 The Syrbes or Wend, who inhabit Lusatia. 1861 *MILL Repr. Govt.* xvi. 292 The population of Hungary is composed of Magyars, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, Roumans, and in some districts, Germans. 1864 *Chamb. Enceyl.* VIII. 629/2 (art. *Servia*) Every Serb carries arms. 1883 *MORFILL Slav. Lit.* ii. 33 The Serbs have, unlike the Russians and other Slavs, kept their old name.

2. The Serbian language.

1886 *Fortin. Rev.* Jan. 146 Serb became a proscribed tongue. 1905 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 40 Everyone, whether Christian or Moslem, speaks Serb only.

B. adj. Serbian.

1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 16 The barbarous Serb races who settled in the Danubian basin in the fifth and succeeding centuries.

Serbian (sə:'bi:ən), *a.* and *sb.* [f. SERB + -IAN.] *A. adj.* Of or belonging to Serbia, a constituent republic of Yugoslavia, occupied by a Slavonic people.

The Slavonic kingdom of Serbia was conquered by the Turks in 1389; the country remained a principality tributary to Turkey until 1878, when the kingdom was revived. It was absorbed into Yugoslavia after the end of the First World War.

1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 7 The headress of the Serbian women. 1883 *MORFILL Slav. Lit.* i. 8 The Serbian chieftain, Vouk Brankovich.

B. sb. a. A native or an inhabitant of Serbia. 1848 C. BUNSEN in *Rep. Brit. Assoc. Advancem. Sci.* 1847 267 The sixth family is that of the Slavonic nations in their two great branches: the western, the languages of the Tschechs (Bohemians), Slovaks, Poles, and Serbians. 1862 *DENTON Servia & Servians* i. 1 About the middle of the seventh century the Serbians, a Slavonic tribe, entered Mesia.

b. The Serbian language.

1867 *MISSISS MACKENZIE & IRAY Turks, Greeks & Slavons* 412 We asked, in Serbian, if they would kindly show us their books. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 26 Besides my native tongue... I know Serbian. 1887 *MORFILL (title)* Simplified grammar of Serbian.

'Serbo-, combining form of SERB, as *Serbo-Croat*, *-Croatian*; *Serbo-Bulgarian*, *-Greek*, *-Italian* adjs. Cf. SERVO-.

1923 G. BUCHANAN *My Mission to Russia* i. vi. 69 The so-called 'Serbo-Bulgarian' Customs Union Treaty, negotiated in 1905, was never ratified by the Skupstschina. 1905 *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 598 The 'Serbo-Croat language. 1931 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 29 Jan. 82/3 Translations... from the Russian... Judaeo-Spanish and Serbo-Croat. 1976 W. H. CANAWAY *Willow-Pattern War* vii. 78 Petar was bilingual in Serbo-Croat and Albanian. 1883 *MORFILL Slav. Lit.* i. 8 The... extent of the territory over which 'Serbo-Croatian and its dialects... are spoken. 1958 *Everyman's Enceyl.* XI. 234/1 Later there were attempts to replace the decaying Byzantine empire by a 'Serbo-Greek empire. 1972 D. DAKIN *Unification of Greece* ix. 126 The Serbo-Greek alliance of 1867. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* ix. 389 Her 'Serbo-Italian neighbours.

Serbonian (sə:'bɔ:niən), *a.* [f. Gr. Σερβωνίαν (Σέρβων) + -AN.] *Serbonian* bog: Milton's name for Lake Serbonis in Lower Egypt, a marshy tract (now dry) covered with shifting sand. Hence used allusively.

1667 *MILTON P.L.* ii. 592 A gulf profound as that Serbonian Bog Betwixt Damiatra and mount Casius old, Where Armies whole have sunk. 1790 *BURKE Fr. Rev. Sel.* Wks. II. 231 In the 'Serbonian bog' of this base oligarchy they are all absorbed, sunk, and lost for ever. 1903 *MORLEY Gladstone* viii. vii. 111. 121 The Serbonian bog of Egyptian finance

serc, obs. form of SARK.

serce, obs. Sc. form of SEARCH *v.*

serce, sercer, obs. ff. SEARCE, SEARCE.

serceil, var. SARCEL *Obs.* (hawk's feather).

sercett, obs. form of SARSENET.

†serch, *Obs. rare.* Also 5 seergh. [Of obscure origin.] ? Some kind of worked stone for building purposes.

1416-17 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 442 Pro livij pedibus de lapid' vocat' seerghis ij'. v. c. 1424 *Ibid.* II. 445 Pro... xxijj pedibus de serchis.

serch(e), obs. forms of SEARCH *sb.* and *v.*

sercial (sə:'si:əl). A kind of Madeira wine.

1818 *ACCUM Chem. Tests* 190. 1851 *REDDING Mod. Wines* (ed. 3) 265 The sercial is said to be the product of the hock grape, transplanted to the island. 1873 *St. Pauls Mag.* June 637 A glass of his favourite old Sercial. 1882 *ELLEN M.*

TAYLOR Madeira 75 The principal varieties of wine-making grapes are the following: Malvasia, Bual, Sercial [etc.].

sercil, var. SARCEL.

sercle, obs. form of CIRCLE.

serclet(t), obs. forms of CIRCLET.

1530 *PALSGR.* 269/2 Serclet for a brides heed, *cedre*.

sercote, obs. form of SURCOAT.

sercote, obs. form of CIRCUIT *sb.*

1906 *Kal. Sheph.* (Sommer) 125 The mone maketh one turning or one sercote... within xvii. dayes or there about.

serd, var. SARD *v.* and obs. pa. t. of SERVE.

||serdab (sə:'dɑ:b). Also serdaub, sirdab. [Pers. (hence Arab.) *serdāb* grotto, ice-house, cellar.] a. In Western Asia, a cellar or underground chamber. b. In Egypt, a secret passage or chamber in an ancient tomb.

a. 1842 W. F. AINSWORTH *Trav. Asia Minor*, etc. II. 331 The foundations, cellars, or serdabs... were generally all that remained. 1842 J. B. FRASER *Mesopot. & Assyria* i. 25 When the inhabitants of Bagdad are painting in their sirdabs, or cellars under ground, whither they retire to avoid the rays of the sun.

b. 1877 *MISS A. B. EDWARDS Up Nile* iv. 92 This tomb... also contains a secret passage of the kind that M. Mariette calls a serdab. These serdabs are constructed in the thickness of the walls and have no entrances. 1897 *Daily News* 5 July 8/3 In the serdab, or statue-chamber, of one of the principal tombs, a very fine statue... was found.

serdar, obs. form of SIRDAR.

serdge, obs. form of CIERGE, wax candle.

1538 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 84 The other xii serdges to be burned in like manner.

†**serdoner**. *Obs. rare* -1.

a. 1550 *Image Ipor.* ii. in *Shelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 429 Thou arte... The syre of serdoners, And prince of pardoners.

†**serc**, *sb.* 1. Obs. Also 7 seere, serre, sear(e). [a. OF. *serre*, vbl. n. f. *serre-r* to hold fast, shut:—pop. L. *serrare*, altered form of late L. *serare*, f. *sera* bolt, bar. Cf. SEAR *sb.*] A claw, talon.

1606 *SYLVESTER Du Bartas* ii. iv. 1. *Tropheis* 136 A paire of busie chattering Pies, Seeing some hardie Terrell from the skies To stoop with rav'nous sers, feel a chill fear. 1618 *CHAPMAN Hesiod's Georg.* i. 318 The Hauke once, hauing trust vp in his Seres, The sweet-tun'd Nightingale. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1799/4 Lost near Cadnam... a thorough mewed Falcon, the Feet and Ser very lively. 1864 *LOWELL McClellan's Rep.* Wks. 1890 V. 94 Every excuse was invented... except the true one, that our chicken was no eagle after all. He was hardening his sercs, he was waiting for his wings to grow [etc.].

serc (sɪr(r)), *sb.* 1. *Ecol.* [f. L. *serē-re* to join in a series.] A series of plant communities, each naturally succeeding the previous one.

1916 F. E. CLEMENTS *Plant Succession* i. 4 A serc is a unit succession. It comprises the development of a formation from the appearance of the first pioneers through the final or climax stage. 1940 *Geogr. J.* XCVI. 8 The sercs which follow the destruction of climax vegetation in the alpine region [of the Himalayas] vary. 1960 N. POLUNIN *Introd. Plant Geogr.* xi. 323 Such is succession, the developmental series of communities constituting a serc and leading up to a state of relative stability and permanence known as the climax.

serc, sear (sɪr(r)), *a.* 1. Forms: 1 séar, siere, 4-7 seare, seere, 4-8 seer, 5 seyr, 6 seyre, 7 seir(e, 7-9 (dial.) sare, 4- seere, 6- sear. [OE. *séar* corresponds to MLG. *sôr* (LG. *soor*). Du. *soor*:—OTeut. **sauro-*:—Indogermanic **saús-*, whence Lith. *saúsas*, OSI. *suxŭ*, Gr. *σάος* dry. Skr. *śōsha* drying up, withering.

OE. seems to have had also a synonymous derivative *siere* (—**sauro-*), which in later Eng. would be represented by the same form as *sear*.)

1. a. Dry, withered. Now poet. or rhetorical.

824 *Grant in Birch Cartul.* Sax. i. 515 Hit stent on pam sieran boc hagan. a. 1000 *Gloss. Prudent.* in *Germania* (1878) XI. 402 Steriles, seare. 13. K. Ali. 4425 (Bodl. MS.) be spere crakey also picke So on hegge seare stykke. 1425 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 28 Seyr and drye membyrs. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 47b, And that appereth in the tree of nature whiche... in wynter... semeth seyre, drye, & in manner as deed. 1590 *SHAKS. Com. Err.* iv. ii. 19 He is deformed, crooked, old, and sear. 1620 *QUARLES Feast for Wormes* C4, Will greene wood burne, when so vnapt's the seire? 1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Thatching*, When they [Withs] are grown Sear they will fly and break. 1805 *WORDSW. Prelude* i. 84 Now here, now there, an acorn, from its cup Dislodged, through sear leaves rustled. 1901 H. TRENCH *Deirdre Wed* 12 Agasth, the woman Fumbled at her sear breast, and wept.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*, and in *fig.* context.

1530 *TINDALE Gen.* xlvii. 21 *marg.* To sucke out y^e iuce of them with their poetrye, till all be seer bowes and no thinge greene save their awne comewelth. 1567 *TURBERV. Ovid's Ep.* 93b, Receyue me to thy carelesse couch in sear and silent night. 1605 *SHAKS. Macb.* v. iii. 25, I haue liu'd long enough, my way of life Is false into the Seare, the yellow Leaf. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Pet.* ii. 13 The house that grows sear, needs supporters. 1795 *COLERIDGE Sonnet to Southey*, Till sickly Passion's drooping Myrtles sear Blossom anew. 1837 *CARD. WISEMAN St. Eliz. of Hungary* in *Ess.* (1853) III. 226 The rude materialities of life in this sear

generation. 1880 O. W. HOLMES *Shadows* 18 Some locks had got silvered, some lives had grown sear.

c. *absol.* (Cf. quot. 1605 in b.)

1791 W. TAYLOR tr. *Lessing's Nathan* iv. (1886) 133 In my sear of life An Assad blossoms for me. 1890 J. WATSON *Conf. Poucher* (1893) 74 By the third week of October, the yellow and sear of the year has come.

†2. Of textile fabrics: Thin, worn. *Obs.*

1523 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1904) 35 An Olde Seer dyasur Towell. 1591 *PERCIVAL Sp. Dict.*, *Raga de panno*, the place where cloth is seere or thinne. a. 1631 *DONNE Elegies* i. Poems (1633) 44 Iy swolne with poyson, hee lay in his last bed, His body with a sear-barkie covered. 1736 *PROGGS Kenicisms* (E.D.S.) 45 My coat is very sear. 1798 *COLERIDGE Anc. Mar.* v. v, A roaring wind... shook the sails That were so thin and sear.

3. *Comb.* a. Forming parasynthetic adjectives, as *sear-coloured*, *sear-leaved*, †*sear-souled*. Also †*sear-dried* pa. *pple.*, dried to excess.

1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 May 2/1 The background of 'sear-coloured autumn foliage suggests the passing of a glorious summer day. 1657 G. STARKIE *Helmsdale's Wind*, 62 Hay, which if 'sear-dried in the Sun, is half in half dammed. 1870 D. LINDSAY in *Poets Ayrsh.* (1910) 254 'Sear leaved decay does o'er the woodland steal. 1899 H. M. PAIR *Spectacles for Nation* 4 Tell us you 'Sear-sould men, that will sweat pro and con, tell me what an oath is?

†b. in syntactical combinations formerly often hyphenated or written as single words: *sear tree*, *wood*; also *sear month*, a name for August. *Obs.* 1686-7 *AUBREY Rem. Gentilime* (1831) 123 Proverbs... Item, Good to cut Briars in the 'Sere month (3) August. †a. 1616 *BEAUM. & FL. Wit without Money* III. i, Old age like 'Seer-trees, is seldom seen affected. c. 1611 *CHAPMAN Iliad* i. 449 The Priest, with small 'sear wood Did sacrifice, 1700 *DRYDEN Flower & Leaf* 414 The Lawrel-Champions... Sere-wood from the rotten Hedges took. 1784 *CULLUM Hist. Hawsted* 173 The wood-stealers always tell you they never take any but sear wood.

c. *searward adv.*, towards decay (*rare* -1).

1902 T. HARDY *Poems of Past & Present* 142 The sun and shadows wheel, Season and season searward steal.

†**sear**, *adv.* and *a.* 1. *Obs.* (? exc. *dial.*). Forms: 3-5 ser, 3-6 seir, 3-6, 8 (dial.) seere, 4 seyre, schere, 4, 7-9 (dial.) seer, 5-6 seyr, 5, 7 seere, 6 seare. [a. ON. *sér*, orig. dative of the refl. pron. (accus. *sik*, gen. *sín*); the sense 'for oneself' gave rise in ON. to the advb. meaning 'separately, apart' (also in compounds, e.g. *serdeilis* partly, *serligr* particular); the further development into an adj. is peculiar to English. Cf. Da. *sær* singular, Da. *især*, Sw. *sår* particularly.]

A. adv. Separately, severally. *sear twice*, on two separate occasions.

a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 4231 His oper suns com ilkan sear For to mend pair fader chere. 13... *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1522, I haf seten by your-self here sear twice, 3et herde I neuer of your hed helde no wordes bat euer longed to luf. c. 1404 *York Myst.* ii. 20 be water I will be set to flowe both fare and nere, And pan pe firmament, in mydis to set pame sear.

b. ? 'All told', in all.

a. 1600 *Flodden F.* iii. (1664) 30 The number did but mount To six and twenty thousand seere.

B. adj.

1. Separate, distinct; each in particular, single.

c. 1200 *ORMIN* 18653 For seer iss Sune, & Fadert ser, & ser iss peyre bapre Allmahhtig Gast. a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 5461 His suns blessed he on rau, He gaue ilkan seir bemissun. 1340 *HAMPOLE Pr.* Com. 5894 Men sal alsua yhelde rekkenynge sear Of al gudes pat God has gefen pam here. a. 1400 *Rel. Pieces* fr. *Thornton MS.* v. 64 Jhesu, joyne pi lufe in my thoughte, Swa bat pay neuer be sear. 1545 *ASCHAM Tosph.* ii. (Arb.) 107 Instruments for euey sear archer to bryng with him, proper for his own vse. 1565 *CALPHILL Answ. Marthall* v. 130b Traditions in euey age with euey sear byshop [haue] varied.

2. Divers, various, sundry.

a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 2 And romans red on maneres sear. *Ibid.* 6840 Your land ye sear sal sau seuen year, And sear par-of your corns sear. a. 1340 *HAMPOLE Pr.* cl. 4 Oryns patia made as a toure of sear whistill. c. 1375 *Lay Folks Mass-bk.* (MS.B.) 70, I haue synned largely, In many synnes sear. c. 1450 *Bk. Curtesy* 262 in *Babes Bk.* be boke hym calles a chorde of chere, That wylany spekes be wemen sear. 1585 *Jas. I. Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 18 That your vertewis singular and seir May wholly all in them be also found. 1691 *KAY N.C. Words* (E.D.S.). 1703 *THORNEY Let. to Ray* s.v. 1829 BROCKETT *N.C. Gloss.* (ed. 2) 261.

3. *Comb.*, as *sear-coloured*, *parti-coloured*; (on) *sear-wise adv.*, in divers ways.

c. 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* ii. 1, in *Anglia* VIII. 151/5 A cote 'sear-colored comynge to be helys. 1340 *HAMPOLE Pr. Com.* 3261 su sal pai on 'sear-wyse pyned be, Sum many wynter for pair syn. c. 1375 *St. Leg. Saints xxviii.* (Margaret) 515, & hyre prayere quhen schaw he sear-wyse to god deuotely mad, a licht of hewine rathly schane.

serc, var. CERE *sb.* and *v.*, SEAR *v.*; obs. f. SIR *sb.*

serea, obs. form of SIRRAH.

†**'Serean**, *a.* and *sb.* *Obs.* [f. L. *Sēr-es* (see SERES) + -EAN. Cf. SERIAN, SERIC.] *a. adj.* Of or pertaining to the Seres; silken. *b. sb. pl.* = SERES. 1606 *SYLVESTER Du Bartas* ii. iv. ii. *Magnif.* 316 That hath soft Sereans yellow Spoyls. 1633 *DUMM. OF HAWTH. Poems* (1656) 160 Here are no Serean Fleeces.

1704 POPE *Winter* 6 The moon, serene in glory, mount
the sky. 1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* 1. 61 Ere the radiant su

Spring from the east, or 'mid the vault of night The moon suspended her serene lamp. 1817 SHELLEY *Pr. Athanasie* i. 61 Through which his soul, like Vesper's serene beam... Shone, softly burning.

c. Hence as a poetic epithet of colour: Pure, clear, bright. Also (cf. 2 b), Quiet, sober.

1750 GRAY *Elegy* 53 Full many a gem of purest ray serene.

1843 LONDON *Pentameron* Wks. II. 343 Serene colours are pleasanter to our eyes and more becoming to our character.

2. Of other natural phenomena (e.g. the sea):

Calm, tranquil.

1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* III. 397 And gazed where inland waters lay Serene as night. 1816 SHELLEY *Mont Blanc* 61 Mont Blanc appears—still, snowy, and serene. 1821—*Hellas* 1067 A brighter Helias rears its mountains From waves serene far. 1870 O'SHAUGHNESSY *Epic of Women* 76 Through each shock of sound that shivers The serene pangs to their height.

b. Transf. Restful to the eye, expressive or suggestive of repose.

1840 RUSKIN *Ser. Lamps* i. 68. 36 The magnificent and serene constructions of the early Gothic. *Ibid.* III. 321. 88 Laws as inviolable and serene as those of nature herself.

3. Of a person; his mind, circumstances, etc.: Calm, tranquil, untroubled, unperturbed. Of the countenance: Expressive of inward calm, unruffled.

1843 (see SERENITY 2). 1640 FULLER *Just Rediv. Huss* (1867) i. 19 Stokes, an Englishman, then present at the council, his serene antagonist. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* i. 667 The duke heard him without the least commotion, and with a countenance serene enough. 1687 PERRY *Palatinate* vii. (1691) 103 The ordinary charge of the Government, in times of deep and serene Peace. 1712 STEELE *Spec.* No. 282 P. He who resigns the World, is in constant Possession of a serene Mind. 1718 BYRON *Juan* i. lxxxix. A quiet countenance makes one serene. 1849 MACGILL *Hist. Eng.* IV. 1. 460 His serene intrepidity distinguished him among thousands of brave soldiers. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Rail Shirl.* III. 144 A great event in her serene life. 1918 *Athenaeum* 8 July 351 Mr. Austin surveys his mental development with serene satisfaction.

b. all serene, a slang phr. for 'all's well', 'all right'. Also jocularly all serene.

1856 K. H. DIGNY *Lover's Seat* i. vi. 161 Well I never, all serene, stunnin', and such like phrases. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.*, Serene, all right; 'its all serene', a street phrase of very modern adoption, the burden of a song. 1873 *Routledge's Et. Boy's Ann.* 3781 'All serene, Ben', was the general reply. 1901 F. HUME *Golden Wang-ho*, 'All serene!' sung out Teddy.

4. An honorific epithet given to a reigning prince (esp. of Germany), formerly also to a member of a royal house, etc.; sometimes jocularly applied to anything appertaining to a person so designated. Also most serene = med.L. *serenissimus*, It. *serenissimo*, F. *serénissime*. Cf. SERENITY 4.

1503 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxix. 11 Borne of a princes most serene. 1552 LYNDSEY *Monarchie* 3074 And send one Message to the Quene, Praynd her Maieste serene That scho wald [etc.]. 1629 MASSINGER *Picture* i. ii. You are like me a subject. Her more then serene Maiesty being present. 1660 *Trial Regic.* 17 A Warrant for the Execution of His late Sacred and Serene Majesty. 1673 OGILBY *Ana. Dea.* To His Most Serene, and Most Excellent Majesty, Charles II. 1711 *Art. 10 Ann. c. 4* The most serene Elector of Brunswick-Lunenburgh. 1740 GRAY *Let.* 20 May, Poems (1775) 83 His Highness the Duke of Modena, laid his most serene commands upon me to write to Mr. West. 1745 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 24 June, The Duke of Saxe Weissenfels, is not of so serene a house but that he might have known something of the motions of the Prussians. 1746 — *Let. to G. Montagu* 17 June, The Serene Hessian is gone. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* 1532 Genoa, Dec. 26 On the 22d instant, died... the serene John Baptist Cambiasso, Doge of this republic. 1860 THACKERAY *Four Georges* i. (1861) 26 There were 600 horses in the Serene stables. *Ibid.* 29 The lovely sisters, journeyed to Hanover, and became favourites of the serene house there reigning. 1879 BARING-GOULD *Germany* i. 29 Princes to whom the predicate of durchlaucht ('your serene highness') is accorded.

5. drop serene: Milton's rendering of mod.L. *gutta serena* amaurosis: see GUTTA 1 b. Hence allusively (quot. 1843).

1667 MILTON *P.L.* III. 25 So thick a drop serene hath quenched their Orbs. 1843 CARLYLE *Post & Pr.* i. ii, Thick serene opacity, thicker than amaurosis, veiled those smiling eyes of his to Truth.

6. quasi-adv.

1655 FANSHAWE *tr. Camoens' Lusid* III. IV. 57 Her pleasant Vale. Which Thou, sweet Tagus, waterst so serene. 1728 YOUNG *Late Fame* II. 43 Serene quoth Adam 'Lo! 'twas crush'd by me'. 1769 GRAY *Instill. Ode* 9 The Star of Brunswick smiles serene. 1847 EMERSON *Poems*, *Threnody* Wks. (Bohn) I. 488 Gentlest guardians marked serene His early hope, his liberal mind.

B. sb. (absol. use of the adj.). [Similarly L. *serenum* (neut.), It. *sereno*, OF. *seri*, *serain*.] Now rare or Obs. a. A condition of fine quiet weather.

1644 DERING *Prop. Sac.* Pref. b.2. It is indeed the present issue of thunder and tempest, but was begotten in a quiet serene. 1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1859) i. 220 No more than we can see the gloom of last winter in the smiling serene of a summer's evening.

b. The unruffled expanse of clear sky or calm sea.

1760 SIR W. JONES *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 28 And twinkling stars emblaz'd the blue serene. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 132 The bark that plows the deep serene. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxx. As winds come whispering lightly from the west, Kissing, not ruffling, the blue deep's serene. 1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* I. xiii. 279 Not a cloud

obscured the deep serene. 1870 O'SHAUGHNESSY *Epic of Women* 172 And some have... through the blue serene Gone up to heaven and been lost.

c. Calm brightness, quiet radiance.

1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 506 With moonlight patches... Or fragments of the day's intense serene. 1863 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistry* II. xxiii. (1874) 84 Upon the dark and ruin'd scene Throwing a beautiful serene.

d. Serenity, tranquillity (of mind, conditions, etc.).

1743 YOUNG *Ni. Th.* VII. 40 Deep in rich pasture will thy flocks complain? Not so; but to their master is deny'd To share th' sweet serene. 1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) V. 107 The serene of heart-felt happiness has little of adventure in it. 1762-9 FALCONER *Shipwr.* I. 127 The calm domestic scene Had o'er his temper breathed a gay serene. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Case Grudi Wind* II. 333 Behold, the people waits, Like God. As He, in His serene of might, So they, in their endurance of long straits.

serene (s'i:rin), v. Now rare or Obs. [ad. L. *serenare*, f. *seren-us* SERENE a. Cf. 16th c. F. *serener* (Ronsard).] trans. To make serene.

1. To make (the sky, air) clear, bright, and tranquil. Also, to clear from (clouds). Also fig.

1613 J. DAVIES *Muses Tunes* (Grosart) 151 Then let Fates Snuffles and Puffes as winds of Grace, Serene the Heaven of your Maiestic Face. 1639 SALTMASSURE *Pract. Policy* 4 If your business be perplexed and obscure, the best course here for clearing and serenizing is to divide the parts that are mingled and more obscure. 1655 FANSHAWE *tr. Camoens' Lusid* IX. xxiv. 178 She, where she passes, makes the Wind to live With gentle mu-mu, and serenizes the sky. 1711 REX *Edmund Port.* Wks. 1711 II. 322 Heaven which before in Ruffles ran down, Its face seren'd, clear from all cloudy Frown. 1747 MALLER *Amorist & Theod.* III. 42 As Reason thro' the mental storm serene'd. 1628 BLACKW. *Mag.* XXIII. 486 Homer, and the like, so far from being unfit for the gross atmosphere of human nature, soared through it like eagles... seren'd it like a calm.

2. To clarify, make clear and bright (a liquid).

1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* II. 68 The hoary Frosts and Northern Blasts take care Thy muddy Bevy rage to serene, and drive Precipitant the baser, ropy Lees.

3. To expose to the air (articles suspected of infection). Obs.

[Littre has F. *serénage* for the action of doing this.]

1750 M. MACKENZIE *Plague in Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 38 To what purpose... keep ships in Sandgate-Creek for weeks, and even months, without landing and serenizing the goods?

2. To make (a person, his mind, etc.) calm and tranquil. Also, to render free from (anything that perturbs).

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 226 This temper... Serenes the Soule from Passion. 1707 NORRIS *Treat. Humility* VII. 139 It calms and serenizes the regions of the breast. 1742 YOUNG *Ni. Th.* VII. 1465 Hope, like a cordial, Mail's serene'd once, inspirits, and serenizes. 1854 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 1854) That seren'd, speak on.

absol. 1830 BLACKW. *Mag.* XXVIII. 886 Something serene or troubles, soothes or jars.

b. To make (the countenance, brow, calm, unruffled, or cheerful).

1648-99 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XV. ccxvii. (1702) 237 When he seren'd his Father's gloomy Frown. 1718 POPE *Ilu.* I. xv. 178 While a Smile serenizes his awful Frown. 1813 T. b. 58v *Lucretius* III. 316 While Air, all calm and gentle, soothes the breast. Serenes the face, and lulls the soul to rest.

serene, obs. form of SIREN.

serenely (s'i:rinli), adv. [f. SERENE a. + -LY.] In a serene manner.

1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* I. iii. §13 It being impossible, that Men should, without Shame or Fear, confidently and serenely brook a Rule, which they could not but evidently know, that God had set up. 1704-9 POPE *Autumn* 13 Now setting Phoebus shone serenely bright. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. vii. xi. She, stands alone, her hands serenely crossed on her breast. 1880 OUIDA *Moths* I. 9 Lady Dolly smiled serenely on the person who glided to her elbow.

sereneness (s'i:rinns), rare. [-NESS.] The quality of being serene; serenity.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. v. 11 A man that labours to approve himself in the sereneness of a healthful Conscience. 1721 R. KEITH *tr. T. à Kempis, Solit. Soul* xvi. 233 But now in the Sereneness of my Mind, and in the Quiet of Solitude, I was in a Capacity to see and reflect. 1876 BLACKIE *Songs Relic.* 9 With a smile of cold sereneness, Came the Seducer.

2. b. as a title = SERENITY 4. Obs.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Serene*, The Emperor, in treating with them, uses *Electoral Sereneness* or *Serenity* to the Electors; and *Ducal Sereneness* to the other Princes.

3. serenest. Obs. In 4 ser(ce)nes. [f. SERE a. + -NESS.] Diversity, variety.

1300 *Cursor M.* 368 be world i call wit min entens be mater of be four elements, bat yeit was tan o forme mischapien, Quar of was serenes sipen scapen. 1300 E.E. *Præter* xlv. 11 Vmgiuen with sernes gode [Vulg. *circumdata* variatete]. 1340 HAMPOLE *Præter* xlv. 15 Vmciud in sernesis [Vulg. *circumamicta* variatetibus].

4. serenest. [f. SERE a. + -NESS.] The quality of being serene, or dry and withered.

1440 *Pomp. Parr.* 433/2 Serenest (f. *sernesse*), or up-dryng of treys or herbis, inditas, marcor. 1530 PALSGR. 269/2 Serenest driesse, iecher. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gi. Brit.* IX. xii. §14: Wherin he seemed to forget the serene of his body, and the greenesse of his Grandchild yong Richard. 1666 HEXHAM *II. Dorheydt ofte Dorrigheydt*, Driennesse, Serenestesse, or Witherednesse.

3. serenize, v. Obs. rare-1. [ad. med.L. *serenificare* to make serene: see SERENE a. and -FY.] intr. To become serene.

1612 tr. *Benevenuto's Passenger* i. 243 It's now the faire, virmillion, pleasant spring, When meadows laugh, and heaven serenizes.

4. serenissime, a. and sb. rare. [a. F. *serénissime* (15th c.), ad. It. *serenissimo* or L. *serénissimus*, superl. of It. *sereno*, L. *serenus* SERENE a.] 'Most serene'; an honorific epithet bestowed on certain princes. Also sb., one so entitled.

1624 *Brief Inform. Palatinate* 5 The Serenissime Prince and Lord Lewis King of Hungary. 1881 LAWWOOD *Lond. Parks* xvi. 328 He showed his prowess to... foreign princes and German serenissimes.

5. serenissimo, a. and sb. Obs. Pl. -i, also -o's. [It.: see prec.] = prec.

1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 140 The Tiers which was worn by Serenissimos. 1672 tr. *Nielsen's Temporal & Eternal* III. vi. 272 (Stanf.) How many are called Serenissimi, who have their understanding darkened.

6. serenissimous, Obs. rare-1. [f. L. *serénissimus* (see above) + -OUS] = SERENISSIME a.

1623 COCKHAM i. *Serenissimous*, most famous, a terme applied to Kings. 1629 B. JONSON *New Maske*, Maiestique Fru, and Serenissimous Pru.

7. serenitide, Obs. rare-1. [f. L. *seren-us* SERENE a. + -TUDE.] Serenity.

1672 WOLTON's *Relig. Educ.* 76 from which... I am wont to hope... will flow a future quietude and serenitide (1651) 325 and (1654) 294 Serenity] in the Affections.

serenit (s'i:reniti), Also 6-ylte, 6-y-itle. [a. F. *serénité*, ad. L. *serenitas*, f. *seren-us*: see SERENE a. and -ITY.]

1. Clear, fair and calm weather; clearness and stillness of air and sky.

1538 STARKEY *England* 64 he sone commynth hys perfectioun at al tymys to the interiour thyngys... as wel in cloudy as in serenite. 1594 SHLEY tr. *Lays Le Roy* 42 In Syria, and Egypt, where by the serenite of the summer season, almost all the states are clearly seen. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. v. 19 There is never no Rain, Dew, Hail, Snow, or Wind, but still a clear serenite. 1748 ANSON's *Voy.* I. 161, 168 The serenite of the sky was suddenly changed. 1820 WILKINSON *Sketch Bk.* I. 15 One of those sudden storms that will sometimes break in upon the serenite of a summer voyage. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. v. 40 No breath disturbed the perfect serenite of the night.

2. Tranquillity, peacefulness (of conditions, etc.). Sometimes with express reference to sense i.

1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 32 Unto the tenth of he reign her times were calm and serene, though sometimes a little over-cast... For the clouds of Spain, and vapours of the Holy Land, began then to disperse and threaten her serenite. 1687 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* i. §173 There being now so great a serenite in all his dominions. 1820 SCOTT *Monast. xxx*, 'The serenite of Heaven', he said, 'is above me; the sounds which are around are but those of earth and earthly passion'. 1867 H. MACM. *LAN Bible Teach.* IV. (1870) 65 The weary, careworn spirit bathes in the serenite of the silence.

b. transf. Appearance of reposefulness.

1849 RUSKIN *Ser. Lamps* III. §17. 83 The desirableness of serenite in plane surfaces.

3. Cheerful tranquillity (of mind, temper, countenance, etc.).

1599 *Life Sir T. More* in Wordsworth *Ecol. Biog.* (1853) II. 77 His serenite of mind was always alike. 1631 DONNE *Serm.* Ivi. (1640) 566 This... is that *Serenitas Conscientie*,... that calm and serenite, that acquiescence, and security of the Conscience. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. By degrees he lost that temper and serenite of mind he had been before master of. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* I. iii. §9. I cannot see how any Men, should ever transgress those Moral Rules, with Confidence, and Serenite, were they innate, and stamped upon their Minds. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* III. When he returned, his countenance... recovered its usual serenite. 1855 BREWSTER *Newton* I. xii. 310 Though ruffled for a moment, Newton's excellent temper soon recovered its serenite. 1899 DUYEL *Duet* (1909) 123/14 She faced the future with a sweet serenite.

4. A title of honour given to reigning princes and other dignitaries. (So L. *Serenitas*, applied to the Roman emperor, the Pope, bishops, etc., F. *Serénité*.)

1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 370 Next the soueraine signe was sekirly sene, That seruit his serenite cure seruabile. 1596 DALRYMPLE *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 296 Quiklik gif your Serenite pleaseidlie accepte. 1613 B. CARTER in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 142 Do such good offices with her Serenite as the Catholics may continue that good hope of her. 1693 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2878/2 His Serenite [the Duke of Venice] continues still at the Lido. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 452 They could... acquaint his Serenite [the Duke of Genoa]. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxiii. The army was exhausted in providing guards of honour for the Highnesses, Serenities, and Excellencies who arrived from all quarters. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 7 Nov. 6/4 The discreet policy adopted by their Serenities the Dukes of Venice. 1880 DISRAELI *Endym.* I. v. 50 A German Serenite was her delight.

5. serenize, v. rare. [f. SERENE a. + -IZE. Stressed 'serenize' or 'serénize'.] trans. To make serene. Hence serenizing ppl. a.

1598 TORTE *Alba* (1880) 66 This my Icarian soaring (boue my reach) [Through Beattie, serenising fals my Hart]. 1612 J. DAVIES *Muse's Sacrif.* (Grosart) 33/1 And being Grace and Goodnesse most abstract, How can I, wanting both,

serenize thee? 1865 *Reader* 11 Feb. 157 3 The sweet, serenizing scenery of the Thames.

[**sereno** (se'reno). (Sp.) A Spanish night-watchman.

1897 *Outing* (U.S.) XXIX. 593.1 The foot-falls of the faithful *sereno* still lingered, echoing down the solitary street. 1904 W. CHURCHILL *Crossing* III. vii. 493 A *sereno*... was crying the hour.

†**serenous**, *a. Obs. rare* -1. [f. L. *serēnus* SERENE *a.* + -OUS.] = SERENE *a.* 1.

1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 67 In lond plesaunt & serenous they cheue In euery kynde.

[**Seres** ('sɛrɪz), *pl.* [L. *Sērēs* (Gr. *Σῆρες*), whence *sericum* SILK.] The name of a people anciently inhabiting some part of Eastern Asia (prob. China), whose country was believed to be the original home of silk. Hence †the *Seres'* wool, s⁹k.

1400 56 *Wars Alex.* 396 A sertane folke was in pat soile pat *Serres* ere callid, And all pe lyndis in pat land with leues as wolles. 1380 *LYLY Euphues* (Arb.) 388 Yet often-times the softness of 'wool, which the *Seres* sende, sticketh so fast to the skynne, that... it fetcheth bloud. 1587 *GREENE Euphues' Censure* (1634) C 4 b. A worme that fretteth like the *Seres* woole. 1697 *DRYDEN Virg.* Georg. II. 169 How the *Seres* spin Their fleecy forests in a slender twine. 1842 *Smith's Dict. Grk. & Rom. Antiq.* s.v. *Sericum*. Many of those [silks] produced by the industry and taste of the *Seres*.

†**seresith**. [f. SERE *a.* + SITHE *sb.*] Several times.

1300 *Cursor M.* 7066 þar was slain o þam... Aght hundret sith sexti sexti and ten, O thousands seresith o þair men.

†**serety**. *Obs. rare* -1. In quot. *seer*-. [f. SERE *a.* + -TY.] Variety.

1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 4654 For many seerties we seet (? read he set) þat syved all þe werde.

sereu (ˈsɛrjuːl), *obs. forms of SORROWFUL.*

se-reverence, variant of SIR-REVERENCE.

†**serew**(c). *Farriery. Obs.* [a. F. *sueros*, †*surot* (13th c. *souros*), f. *sur* upon + *as bone*.] A bony excrescence on the leg of a horse.

1523 *FITZGER. Ilust.* 496 A serewe is an yll sorauce, and is lyke a splent, but it is a lyttel longer and more, and lyeth vpe to the knee on the inner syde. And some horses haue a thorough serewe on bothe sydes of the legge. 1610 *MARKHAM Maister-Peece* II. lxiv. 326 Of the Serew, or thorough Splent. Although diuers of our Farriers do distinguish... betwixt a serew and a splent, saying, that the serew is cuer of the out-side of the leg, as the splent is of the inside; yet... the disease... is all of one. [Echoed by later writers.]

serewe, sercyn, *obs. ff. SORROW, SIREN.*

serf (sɜːf). [a. OF. *serf*—L. *serv*-um slave; cf. *Sp. siervo*, Pg. *lt. servo*.]

Not in Johnson. Todd 1818 has '*Serf*, a slave. Not in use', with quot. from *Hume* 1761 (see 2b).

1. A slave, bondman. Also fig. *Obs.* 1483 *CANTON Godef.* 1012 Who so loueth the rycheys of this world he is... bonde and serf in keepyng the rycheys. *Ibid.* 243/2 There was a yong man which was serf and bonde to a yonge lady. 1484 *Chaucer* 15 If thou be wycked thou aughtest to be put under a serf or bonde man.

2. A person in a condition of servitude or modified slavery, distinguished from what is properly called 'slavery' in that the services due to the master, and his power of disposal of his 'serf', are more or less limited by law or custom.

In part of the typical examples of serfdom, the serf was 'attached to the soil' (*adscriptus gleba*), i.e. he could not be removed (except by manumission) from the lord's land, and was transferred with it when it passed to another owner. This feature is often assigned as the distinctive mark of 'serfdom' as opposed to 'slavery', and is popularly apprehended as an essential part of the notion.

a. In the 17-18th c. used (after Fr. example) with reference to the contemporary condition of the lower class of cultivators of the soil in various countries of Europe, esp. in parts of Germany, in Denmark, Poland, and Russia. Now used *Hist.* with the same application; chiefly with reference to Russia, where the serfs were not emancipated until 1861, while elsewhere in Europe serfdom ceased to exist early in the 19th century.

1611 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commu.* 75 [France]. As for Serfes, Slaues or Villaines, they are Domesticke, and serue vpon base condition, for Wages and Viduals. *Ibid.* 76 Neither the Subject nor the Serf are bound to go to the warres, but only the vassall. 1761 *HUME Hist. Eng.* (1762) I. App. i. 151 There were two kinds of slaves among the Anglo-Saxons; household slaves... and praelial or rustic... These latter resembled the serfs, which are at present met with in Poland, Denmark and some places in Germany. 1784 W. COX *Trat.* I. viii. 1. 129 The peasants in Poland, as in all feudal governments, are serfs or slaves. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVI. 571 The subordination of ranks was more complete [among the Russians] than in any other European nation; but with this simplicity peculiar to them and the Poles, that they had but three ranks, the sovereign, the noblesse or gentry, and the serfs. 1845 *DIMBLEBY* *Sibyl* IV. v. Lower than the Portuguese or the Poles, the serfs of Russia, or the lazzaroni of Naples. 1861 *BRIGHT Sp., Amer.* 4 Dec.

(1876) 90 [In Russia] twenty-three millions of human beings, lately serfs, little better than real slaves, have been raised to the ranks of freedom. 1880 'OLIDA' *Moths* II. 381 You have no serfs now, even in Russia.

b. Used by modern writers with reference to mediæval Europe.

In English Law Latin the terms corresponding to the modern use of *serf* were *nativus* (NATIVE *sb.* 1, NEIF), *villanus* (VILLEIN), and occasionally *seruus*. The OE. *THEOW*, and the *seruus* of Domesday Book, are usually rendered 'slave'.

1761 *HUME Hist. Eng.* (1762) I. App. ii. 404 A great part of them were serfs, and lived in a state of absolute slavery or villainage. 1805 *SCOTT Last Minstr.* IV. v. A half-clothed serf, was all their train. 1874 *GREEN Short Hist.* v. §4. 240 By this entire detachment of the serf from actual dependence on the land, the manorial system was even more radically changed than by the rise of the serf into a copyholder. 1895 W. J. CORBETT in *Soc. Eng. v.* (1902) II. 140 As the tone of society became gentler, the lords naturally had a tendency to free their serfs; in the eyes of the law the villeins remained serfs.

c. *gen.*

1908 G. A. SMITH in *Expositor* Sept. 268 The people they [the Israelites] conquered became their serfs.

d. *transf. and fig.*

1847 *HELPS Friends in C.* II. 22 The serf to custom points his finger at the slave to fashion. 1854 *LOWELL Words* Wks. 1890 I. 245 As soon as we have discovered the keat for our joy or sorrow we are no longer its serfs, but its lords.

3. *attrib. and Comb.*, simple attrib. and appositive, as *serf-class*, *girl*, *-population*, *-system*, *-tenant*; objective, as *serf-emancipation*, *-owner*.

1860 *FORSTER Gr. Remonstr.* 43 The rebellion of the 'serf-class'. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 143 The chief committee for peasant affairs to study the subject of 'serf-emancipation'. 1898 M. A. BROWN tr. *Runeberg's Nadeschda* 1. Then... would I brightly hide the 'serf-girl's sombre garb. 1860 *GEN. P. THOMPSON Audi Alit.* III. clxxvii. 213 The mortifications and sufferings which might have been brought on aristocratic 'serf-owners'. 1852 *NOTES Greece* II. lxxix. IX. 423 The 'serf-population which filled the fields. 1885 *MABEL COLLINS Prettiest Woman* v. There are still the remains of the 'serf system. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 136/2 Under the developed regime of feudalism, the 'serf-tenant has become simply a tributary under various appellations.

serf, *obs. form of SERVE v.*

serfage ('sɜːfɪdʒ). [f. SERF + -AGE; cf. *SERVAGE*.]

1. = SERFDOM.

1775 *DE LOULME Eng. Const.* I. ii. (1784) 27 When the English villeins were freed from serfage. 1816 *SOUTHEY in Life* (1840) IV. 204, I am now in a manner attached to the soil by a sort of moral and intellectual serfage. 1868 *ROGERS Pol. Econ.* ix. (1876) 87 Serfage was extinguished, and an influential class of yeomanry... arose. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 14 July 6/1 The political serfage of long generations. 1903 *COLLINS in Camb. Mod. Hist.* II. xvii. 601 In Denmark they [the peasants] were obliged to have recourse to the practice of commendation, which ended... in a widespread system of serfage.

2. The body of serfs collectively, the serf-class. 1864 *BURTON Scot. Abr.* I. i. 34 The wretched serfage who were driven into the field.

serfdom ('sɜːfdɒm). [f. SERF + -DOM.] The state or condition of a serf, bondage.

1850 *MRS. BROWNING H. Powers's Grk. Slave* 10 Break up ere long The serfdom of this world! 1856 *FOURDE Hist. Eng.* I. 13 Thus serfdom had merged into free servitude. 1861 *BRIGHT Sp., Amer.* 4 Dec. (1876) 90 The present Emperor of Russia... has insisted upon the abolition of serfdom in that empire. 1866 *GEO. ELIOT F. Holt* iii. The Tories were far from being all oppressors, disposed to grind down the working classes into serfdom. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 June 8/1 Exactly one hundred years ago (June 13, 1799) the last survival of serfdom in the United Kingdom was swept away by the Act which declared the colliers 'in that part of Great Britain called Scotland' free from the servile yoke under which for several centuries they had groaned.

b. *fig.*

1875 *JOWETT Plato* (ed. 2) III. 470 His soul is full of meanness and serfdom—the best elements in him are enslaved. 1876 *MELLOR Priesthood* ii. At length the laity sank into the most abject spiritual serfdom.

serfe, serff, *obs. forms of SERVE v.*

serfhood ('sɜːfhʊd). [f. SERF + -HOOD.] The collective body of serfs.

1841 *Blackw. Mag.* L. 550 The Serfhood of Russia is a remarkable feature in her constitution. 1848 *MRS. JAMESON Sac. & Leg. Art.* (1850) 266 While knighthood had its St. George, serfhood had its St. Nicholas.

serfice, *obs. form of SERVICE.*

serfish ('sɜːfɪʃ), *a.* [f. SERF + -ISH.] Having the (debasing) qualities of one in a servile condition; characteristic of a serf. Hence 'serfishness'.

1879 *Echo* 18 Apr. 1/4 The negroes, either through serfish instincts, from intimidation, or from a not unfounded belief that their interests are identical, are voting with their old masters. 1906 *MACKINNON Hist. Mod. Liberty* I. 145 There is no spirit of self-assertion in these serfish centuries to aspire to self-government. 1906 *Athenæum* 5 May 539/1 The absence of allusion to 'serfishness' in the second volume [of Mackinnon].

'serfism'. *rare.* [f. SERF + -ISM.] The state of things characterized by the existence of serfs.

1849 *Blackw. Mag.* LXVI. 502 No man... can possibly sympathize with despotism, serfship, and that enormous stretch of feudal power which is given to a privileged class.

serfship ('sɜːfʃɪp). [f. SERF + -SHIP.] Serfdom.

1830 *GALT in Fraser's Mag.* II. 446 In those countries where serfship exists—in Russia, for instance. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* xiv. 305 note, [Scottish colliers.] Their slavery seems not to have been derived from the ancient times of general serfship, but to have originated in comparatively modern acts of the Scottish Parliament.

serg, *var. SARGE*².

sergancie, **-gant(e)** : see SERGEANCY, SERGEANT.

sergans, **-gantz**, **-ganz**, *obs. pl. ff. SERGEANT.*

serge (sɜːdʒ). *Forms:* 4-6, 8 sarge, 6 surge, 7 searge, sieerge, serg, sharge, 6- serge. [a. OF. *serge*, *sarge* (mod.F. *serge*) = Pr. *serga*, *sargua*, Pg. *Catal. sarja*, Sp. *sarga*, Rumanian *sărică*:—popular L. **sārica* = class.L. *sērica* (*lōna*): see SERIC *a.* and SILK. From Fr. the word has passed into all the Teut. langs.: G. *sarsche*, *serge*, Du. *sargie*, Da. *sars*, *sarge*, Sw. *sars*.]

The material originally designated by the name must have been silk, though there is no evidence of this in the early English (and app. not in the Rumanian) uses of the word. But names of textile fabrics often come to be applied to materials cheaper and coarser than those which they originally designated.]

1. A woollen fabric, the nature of which has probably differed considerably at different periods. Before the 16th c. it is mentioned chiefly as material for hangings, bed-covers, and the like; afterwards it is often referred to as worn by the poorer classes (both men and women), perh. rather on account of its durability than of its price, which seems not to have been extremely low. The name now denotes a very durable, twilled cloth of worsted, or with the warp of worsted and the woof of wool, extensively used for clothing and for other purposes.

Certain imported varieties were formerly known by French designations indicating the place of manufacture, as *serge de Ghent*, s. de *Nismes*, s. de *Rochfort*, s. de *Sialoon*. 1386 *CHAUCER Kat.'s T.* 1710 The Citee lai... Hanged with clooth of gold, and nat with sarge. 1491 *Acta Domin. Concil.* (1839) 228/2, xxij coverings of beddis of sarge, price xli. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholas's Voy.* I. viii. 8 Som pece of a white sarge or blanket. 1620 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* XII. 339 Sergeis Double and Single. 1631 T. POWELL *Tom of All Trades* 14 Where one is ready to take his rise out of Serge into Sattin, out of Parsonage... into a Deanarie. 1648 in *Magrath Flemings Oxf.* (O.H.S.) I. 391 For 8 ya. & halfe of serge de roan for sute... 1649 J. MASTER in *Archaeol. Cant.* XV. 182 For 3 ya. 3 quar. of serge de shaloon at 6y yard. 1683 *Repr. Advantages Manuf. Woollen-cloth* 4 That sort of Serges called Stirling Serges. *Ibid.* 5 Mixt Serges, Cloath-Serges, and these called in France Serge de Nismes. 1695 *MOTTEUX tr. St. Olon's Morocco* 138 Serges de Nismes, Fustians and Dimities of Montpellier. 1728 *CHAMBERS Cycl.*, *Serge*,... A Woollen cross'd Stuff, manufactured on a Loom with four Treadles, after the Manner of Rateens, and other cross'd Stuffs. 1757 *DYER Fleece* III. 576 The Dune and Rother, who have won The serge and kersie to their blanching streams. 1835 *LYTTON Rienzi* I. 1. The long loose gown and the plain tunic, both of dark-grey serge. 1864 *Our Engl. Home* 174 The walls [of a bedroom, temp. Q. Eliz.] were hung with say, or the scarlet serge of Ghent. 1882 *MISS BRADDOCK Mt. Royal* II. x. 221 Mopsy and Dopsy were dressed in home-made gowns of dark brown serge. 1882 *Caulfield & SAWARD Dict. Needlework* 443 There are a great many varieties of cloth known as Serge, viz. French Flannel Serge... the Serge de Berri... Witney Serges... and Pompadour Flannel Serges. 1888 [see *navy blue* NAVY 6].

b. A garment made of serge.

1583 *STOCKER Cir. Warren Lowe* C. III. 93 They slew two of the watch, having gotten for their paines, three cloaks, one Cushin and a Sarge. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Way Navy* 43 Many of them tore off their serges and cast themselves recklessly overside. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 17 Oct. 6/6 'Serge'—as the loose-fitting jacket is termed in the [police] force.

c. *transf. and fig.*

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rec.* III. ii. I wonder at nothing more then our gentlemen—ushers that will suffer a piece of serge, or *perpetuana*, to come into the presence. 1654 *WHITLOCK Zootomia* 320 Let your black Serge pore on Books, it is not for Scarlet Boyes, to task themselves to such serious spendings of their time.

2. Used to translate L. *sagum*, in Vulg. with the sense of curtain. Cf. SAY *sb.* 1 2.

1382 *WYCLIF Exod.* xxvi. 8 The lengthe of the two sarge shal haue threiti cubits, and the brede foure; euen mesure shal be of alle the sarges [MS. E. pr. m. say... says].

3. *silk serge*: a silk fabric twilled in the manner of serge, used for linings of coats, and formerly for mantles. Also † *serge du soy* (= Fr. *serge de soie*).

1844 *Ladies' Hand-bk. Haberdashery* 15 Serge... is of various colors and qualities; it is known by its being a stout silk with a very fine twill. 1853 *PERKINS Haberdashery* (ed. 8) 112 Serge is a stout twilled silk... usually sold for lining the skirts, cuffs, and padded parts of coats. 1876 *PLANCHÉ Cycl. Costume* I. 450 A silken stuff called 'sergedu-soy' was used in the last century for coats by the commonalty.

4. *attrib. passing into adj.* Made of serge.

1608 *MIDDLETON Trick to catch Old One* I. iv. He in the uneven beard and serge cloak. 1685 *Rec. Scott. Cloth Manuf. New Mills* (S.H.S.) 105 Ane serge justico. 1690 *CHILD Disc.* (1698) 10 Let us ask, whether gentlewomen in those days would not esteem themselves well clothed in a Serge gown, which a chamber maid now will be ashamed to be seen in. 1863 *GEO. ELIOT Romola* xiv. A serge covering... concealed the contents of the basket. 1880 'OLIDA' *Moths* I. 60 A white serge frock.

humorous. 1293 SHAKS. 2 Hen VI, iv. vii. 27 Ah thou Say, thou Surge, nay thou Buckram Lord.

5. Comb., as *serge-cloth*, *clothier*, *-maker*, *manufactory*, *marhet*, *-weaver*. Also † *sergewale*, † a striped serge (see WALE sb.).

† 1330 LIND. *Mm. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 201 Lych a "serge-cloth hire nekke is cleve. 1289 *Laws Lett. to Gillman* 30 Nov. A fall in serge cloth was expected. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4377/4 William Crooke. "Serge-Clothier. 1689 *Ibid.* No. 2420/4 Richard Richardson. had a Box of "Serge Makers Paper sent by his Wagoner. 1822 *Lysons Magna Brit.* VI. Devonsh. p. ccvii. At Honiton there is only one serge-maker. 1742 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 310 Here we see the first of the "Serge-manufacture of Devonshire. *Ibid.* 324 The "Serge-market held here every Week. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1762/4 Stolen several Pieces of Rich Silk Druggets, "Serge-Law, Thred Druggets. 1703 *Ibid.* No. 3920/4 Tho. Noble. "a "Serge-Weaver by Trade.

serge: see CIERGE, SEARCE v., SEARCH sb. and v.

sergeancy, serjeancy. (sə'dʒənsi). *Hist.* Forms: 4 *sargeancie*, *serjancy*, *sergancie*, 7 *sergeancy*, *serjeancy*, (9 less correctly *sergeantcy*). [a. AF. *sergeancie*, graphic variant of *sergeantie* SERGEANTY. In later use a new formation on SERGEANT + -CY.]

† 1. The body of sergeants in a country, the *sergeant-class*. Obs.

† 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13391 *note*, *pe* seriantz [i.e. *sergeancies*] & *pe* archers, & *opere* noble arbalastars. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 83 Knight & *sergeance* als how mykelle *pei* helde.

† 2. The district or province held by or under the government of a *sergeant*. Obs.

1371 *Rolls of Parlt.* II. 306/1 Touz les Hundrez... *Serjancies*, & *Franchises*. 1464 *Ibid.* V. 547/2 Eny Graunte... to be had... of the *Serגיע* withynne our Counties of Not & Berk.

† 3. = SERGEANTY 1. Obs.

1602 FULBECKE *1st Pt. Paroll.* 21 *Grand sergeancy*, is where a man holdeth his lands or tenements... by doing some speciall service to the king in person. *Ibid.*, *Petite Sergeancy*, is where a man holdeth his land of the king, paying yearly unto him a bow, or a spear, or a dagger, or a lance, or a spurre of gold &c. c. 1630 *Respon Surv. Devon* §296 (1810) 306 Lord Martin held this land... by *serjeancy*.

4. The office of a *sergeant* or a *serjeant* in various senses; e.g. an appointment by writ or patent of the crown as *serjeant-at-law*; also the commission of *sergeant* in the army.

a. 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* i. (1693) 110 Lord Keeper congratulated their Adoption unto that Title of *Serjeancy*. 1814 *Scott Wav.* vii. Some say petitions for *sergeancies* and *corporalities*. 1865 *CHARLIE Fredk. Gt.* xii. ix. (1872) IV. 205 He did reward them by present, by promotion to *sergeancy*.

sergeant, serjeant (sə'dʒənt), sb. Forms: a. 3-5 *sergeante*, 3-6 *sergeant(e)*, 4 *sergiaunt*, -gond, -gont(e), 4-5 *sergaunte*(e), *sergeaun*, 4-6 *sarg(e)ante*, -iant, *sergeaunt*, 5 *sargeande*, *sergend*, -gyaunte, 5-6 *sargant*, -caunte(e), -ent, *sergeand*, 6 *schargant*, *sergeante*, -ent, -iant, -iaunte, 6-7 *s(e)argeant*, *sergiant*, 4- *sergeant*. β. 3-6 *seriaunt*, 3-7 *seriant*, 4 *seriant*, 4-5 *seriaunte*, 4-6 *sariant*, *seriaunt*, 5 *ceriaunt*, *sariand*, -aunt, *seriauntte*, *seriaunt(e)*, *serja(u)nte*, 5-6 *seriand*, -ante, 6 *serciaunt*, *serjeaunt(e)*, 6-7 *seriant*, *serjand*, -ant, 7 *sariant*, *sariant*, *sariant*, 5- *serjeant*. (Down to the 15th c. the *t* was often omitted in the plural, which therefore ended in -ns, -nz, -nce.) [a. OF. *sergent*, *serjant* (mod. F. *sergent*) = *Pr. serven-s*, *Sp. sirviente*, Pg. *It. servente* servant: — L. *servientem*, *pr. pple.* of *servire* SERVE v.] The Fr. word has been adopted into other Rom. langs.: It. *sergente*, Sp., Pg. *sargento* *sergente*, *Sp. sergente*, Pg. *sargente* *carchpoll*.

Down to the 19th c. the *a* and *β* forms were used indiscriminately. In recent times, however, the spelling *serjeant* has come to be generally adopted as the correct form when the word is the designation of a member of the legal profession, while *sergeant* is the prevailing form in the other surviving senses, and in most of them the only form in use.]

† 1. a. A serving-man, attendant, servant. Obs. c. 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 177 *pe* senden here *sergantes* to bringen iuele thinges. c. 1250 *Kent. Serim.* in O.E. Misc. 29 Hae hyc spae to *pe* serganz *bet* seruede of *pe* wyne. c. 1290 *Behet* 687 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 126 On of is *seriaunt* *zant* a nigt *pe* 3wile *pat* men wike. c. 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* 665 *pe* ben *seriauns* in *pe* stage, *bat* *serue* *pe* maidens of *parage*. a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 2516 He [sc. Abram] did to-geder *samen* his men, Thre hundred *aght* *sariants* and ten [Vulg. *vernaculos*, Gen. xiv. 14]. *Ibid.* 3221 A *sargiant* *call* *pe* *comand* *he* *pat* *me* *with* *his* *pruete*. c. 1300 *Havelok* 2066 Cum *now* *forth* *with* *me*. And *pine* *seriaunt* *al* *pr.* 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl.* *Synne* 2301 *βy* *pou* *be* a *seriaunt* And *take* *me* *pan* *βy* *comant*. Y *rede* *pat* *pou* *per* *of* *lete*. c. 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 2522 (Kölbing) On *pe* *gate* *loude* *pai* *bete*, *Seriaunce* *com* & *hem* *in* *lete*. 1340 *Ayrenb.* 33 And *pis* *is* *be* *sixte* *vice* of *pe* *kecade* *sergonte*, *bet* *he* *faile* *er* *βan* *he* *come*, to *his* *terme*.

1377 *Langl. P. Pl. B.* iii. 216 *Seruaunt* [i.e. *Sergeant*] for her *seruise*. Taken *mede* *in* *here* *maistre*. c. 1450 *LOVELICH Graill* xii. 323 An Old *Serjaunt* *he* *gan* *to* *call*, And *there* *him* *Comaunded*. The *Cristine* *to* *kepen* *with* *ful* *gret* *honour*. c. 1450 *Mirour Saluacion* (Roxb.) 133 Sho *qwite* *hym* of *awayt* of *hire* *fladers* *sergantz* and *lete* *him* *out* at a *wynde*.

† b. *transf.* A servant (of God, of Satan). Obs.

c. 1290 *Mathew* 64 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 79 'Nai *certes*, *quath* *his* *holie* *man*; *god* *nam* *ich* *noust* *Al* *godes* *seriaunt*. 14.. *Alexis* *hvs* *sone*... said, *Serjeante* of *god* *habe* *pyte* of *me* *that* *am* *a* *poure* *pilgryme*. 1283 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* hij, Which [Raab] *god* *wold* *haye* *seued* *by* *cause* *he* *had* *seued* *his* *mynstres* and *sergans*. 1573 BRADSHAW *St. Werburg* 1. 1024 The minister of myschef & sergaunt of sathanes. 1570 *Satir. Poem. Reform.* xix. 78 That Apostat, that Feynis awin *Seriant*.

† 2. a. A common soldier. Obs. [Cf. Cotgr. 'Sergent... in old French, a footman, or soldier that serves on foot.']

c. 1300 *Havelok* 2361 With *hem* *five* *thousand* *gode* *Sergauntz*, *pat* *weren* *to* *fyht* *wode*. c. 1320 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 895 Seuen *thousand* *now* *we* *are* *O* *knights* *to* *bataille* *yare*, *Wypoute* *seriauntz* & *oper* *pyaille*. c. 1352 *Minor Poem* (ed. Hall) v. 22 He *hasted* *him* *to* *pe* *Swin* *with* *sergantes* *snell*. c. 1450 *Merlin* 113 And the barons... were well vijii knights, with-outen *seriauntz* and *arblastis*. 1466 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armes* (S.T.S.) 47 a thousand knyghtis *four* *score* of *thousandis* of *sergendis*. 1490 CAXTON *Sommes of Aymon* xxii. 478 He *withdrew* *his* *arme*, & *gaff* *to* *one* of the *sergautes* *suche* *a* *stroke* *wyth* *it* *in* *to* *y* *forhede* *that* [etc.].

† b. In alliterative verse used for: A man. Obs. *Perh.* with a pun on *geant*, *giant*.

† 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1173 Be *seker* of the *sergaunt* [sc. the giant], he has me sore greued! 15.. *Droichin Play in Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 314 Se *pe* *not* *quha* *is* *cum* *now*? A *sergaunt* *out* of *Sowdoun* *land* A *gyane* *strang* *to* *stand*.

† 3. A tenant by military service under the rank of a knight; esp. one of this class attending on a knight in the field. Obs.

App. nearly equivalent to *esquire*, though 'squires' and 'sergents' are often mentioned together in a way that suggests that there was some difference of meaning in the terms. Cf. F. *sergent noble*.

c. 1290 *Behet* 2427 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 176 For to honouri *pis* *holi* *man* *per* *cam* *folk* *i* *novy*... Of *Esquires* and of *barones* and *manie* *knights* *heom* *to*; Of *seriauntz* and of *squires*. 13.. *Coer* *de* *L.* 1250 To London, to *hys* *somouns*, *Come* *erl*, *byschop*, and *barouns*,... and *many* *bachelers*, *Serjantes*, and *every* *freholdende*. 13.. *Seyn Sag.* 253 Som *squier* or *ser* *seriant* *nice*, Had *i* *told* *th* *emperice* *Al* of *th* *emperours* *sone*. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3464 *Many* *baron*, *mony* *sergant*, *Many* *strong* *knicht* and *geant*. c. 1314 *Guy Warr.* 7000 On *ich* *side* *he* *seye* *come* *knights*, *Buriens*, and *seriaunce* *redi* *to* *fyhtes*. c. 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7210 Of *hym* [sc. the king] *haui* *no* *lond* *ne* *rent* *So* *pat* *y* *may* *not* *holde* *to* *me* *Fourty* *sergantes* [*Petyt* *MS.* *sergantz*; *Wace* *sergans*] on *al* *my* *fe*. c. 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 1872 *Knights*, *serjantes*, and *swiers*. c. 1425 WYNTOUN *Chron.* viii. xxix. 431 Off *sergantis* *par* and *kynchis* *keyn* *He* *gat* *a* *gret* *company*.

† 4. a. An officer whose duty is to enforce the judgements of a tribunal or the commands of a person in authority; one who is charged with the arrest of offenders or the summoning of persons to appear before the court. Obs.

a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 17203 *bai* *send* *sergantz* *for* *to* *nym* *Both* *sir* *nichodem* & *him*. a. 1330 *Roland & V.* 413 *Seriaunce* *pe* *bodi* *souyt*. c. 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's P.* 519 A *maner* *sergant* [*Petrarch* *satelles*] was *this* *prince* *man*. — *See* *Nun's T.* 361 The *sergantz* of the *toun* of *Rome* *hem* *soghte* *And* *hem* *bifrom* *Almache* the *Prefect* *broughte*. 1388 WYCLIF 1 Sam. xix. 14 Saul *seute* *sergauntis* [Vulg. *appar. ores*], that *schulden* *rausche* *Dauid*. 14.. *Nun.* in W.-Wücker 684/5 *Hic* *licet*, a *sergant*. 1433 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 477/1 That the *Bailiffs*... make 11 *Sergautes* of the *seid* *Town*. c. 1440 *Prolog. Canto.* 671 *Cerwaunt*, *indagator*. *Ibid.* 453/2 *Seriaunt*, *undy* *a* *domys* *mann*, *for* *to* *a* *rest* *men*, or a *catche* *pol*. c. 1450 *Brut* ii. 570 He *after* *sent* *forth* *sergautes*, and *arestit* *duyers* *Constables* and *viñters*. 1455-6 *Col. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1880) 290 He *schold* *assigne* *one* of *hys* *seriauntys* *to* *arest* *the* *Mayre*. 1479-81 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1904) 111 Item, *payd* *to* *a* *sergaunte* *for* *the* *arest* of *our* *tenaunt* *bat* *dyd* *vs* *wronge*, *vij* *d.* 1490 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 174 To the *sergaunds* of the *towne* *ix* s. 1496 *Ibid.* 302 To the *seriant* of *Leith*, to *rest* *the* *avaris* of the *Cukow* *to* *the* *court* *ix* s. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* i. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 66 And *quhen* *be* *seriandis* [*orig. praecones*] *had* *with* *pare* *noys* and *hohas* *warnit* *in* *special* *be* *albanis* *to* *here* *be* *kingis* *concioun* [etc.]. *Ibid.* iii. xv. (I. 5) *Assembil* *barefore* *now* *all* *be* *seriandis* and *burrois* of *th* *collegis* [*orig. omnes collegiarum lictores*], *armit*, *as* *pare* *custome* *is*, *with* *wandis* and *axis*. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Ezrom*. Par. 2 Cor. xi. 21-30 *Thyryse* *was* *I* *beaten* *with* *sargeantes* *rodde*s. 1557 N. T. (Genev.) *Matt.* v. 25 *Agre* *with* *thin* *aduersarie* *quickly*... *least*... *th* *tydge* *deliuer* *the* *to* *the* *sergeant*. 1560 SHAKS. *Com. Br.* iv. ii. 56 Oh *yes*, *if* *any* *hoire* *reete* *a* *Seriant*, *a* *turnes* *back* *for* *verie* *fear*. 1606 *Bn. Hall* *Heaven* *upon* *Earth* 56 When... *thy* *conscience*, *like* *a* *stern* *Seriant*, *shall* *catch* *thee* *by* *the* *throat*, and *arest* *thee* *with* *Gods* *bed*. 1611 *BIBLE* *Acts* xvi. 35. 1617 *MOWSON* *Jin.* iii. 244 *Four* *Serjants* *attired* *in* *red* *gownes* *attend* *the* *Senate* and *summon* *men* *to* *appeare*. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water-P.) *Praise* *Deggery* 32. He's *free* *from* *shoulder-clapping* *Serjants* *clawes*. 1633 *MARMION* *Fine* *Comp.* ii. vi. D 4 b. He *may*... *consort* *with* *wits* and *sword-men*, *bee* *afraid* of *Serjants*, and *spend* *more* *with* *his* *Protection* *then* *would* *pay* *the* *debt*. 1648 *HEXHAM* ii. *En* *Schade*-*beletter*, A *Serjant* *to* *save* *one* *from* *Harme*. 1673 *ABERDEEN* *Reg.* (1872) IV. 286 The *toun* *serjants* of *this* *burgh*. 1680 C. NESSE *Ct. Hist.* 378 They *were* *put* *into* *the* *serjants* *ward*.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1293 *Pilgr. Sordie* (Caxton) i. xxii. (1839) 24 *Thylike* *dethes* *sergeant*, *maladye*, *She* *hath* *arest*, and *haldyth* *the* *now* *in* *hande*. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierces Super.* 153 He *shall* *finde* *it* *one* of *their* *speciall* *Priviledges*, *to* *be* *exempted* *from* *the* *arest* of *the* *sixfooted* *Serjant*, *a* *continual* *haunter* of *other* *nary* *ceastes*, and *only* *favorable* *to* *the* *good* *Asse*, and *the* *gentle* *Sheepe*. 1650 *TOURNEBOUT* *Transf. Metem.* xii. One *day*? *Nay* *sure* *a* *twelve-months* *time* *'twill* *be*, *Ere* *seriant* *death* *will* *call* *me* *at* *my* *doore*. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 347 Had *I* *but* *time* (as *this* *feil* *Serjant* *death* *is* *stick'd* *in* *his* *arest*) *oh* *I* *could* *tell* *you*. 1616 *Bp. Hall* *Contempl. N.* *Widow's Son*, *Our* *decrepit* *age* *both* *expects* *death* *and* *solicities* *it*; *but* *vigorous* *youth*, *lookes* *strangely* *upon* *that*

grim *sergeant* of *God*. 1646 JENKYN *Remora* 12 *You* *shall* *not* *be* *able* *to* *intoxicate* *this* *Serjeant* of *God* [*conscience*]. 1682 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xxxv. c. 4 *If* *ever* *God* *send* *forth* *those* *two* *grim* *sergents*, *his* *Law*, and *thine* *own* *conscience*, *to* *arest* *thee* *for* *thy* *sins*.

† c. More fully *sergeant of (the) peace*. Obs. 1257 in *Blount Low Dict.* (1691) s.v. Et *etiam* *habere* *ibidem* *ser* *Servientes* *qui* *vocantur* *Serjantes* of *peace*, *qui* *serviunt* *Cur.* *Manerii* *predicti*, & *facient* *Attach[imenta]* [etc.]. 1664 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 541/2 Th' *Office* of *Serjeant* *to* *the* *rees* of *alle* *oure* *Counties*, *in* *alle* *oure* *Lordship*. 1485 *Ibid.* VI. 380/2 Th' *Offices* of *Serjeant* of *Peas*... *in* *the* *Lordship* of *Denbygh*.

c. *King's serjeant* (Guernsey): see quot.

1682 WARRINGTON *Hist. Guernsey* (1822) 58 The *King's* *Serjeant*... To *his* *office* *it* *belongs* *to* *proclaim* and *publish* *all* *orders* of *the* *governor* or of *the* *Court*.

5. *sergeant (or serjeant) at arms*. (Also † *sergeant of arms*.) † a. In early use *gen.*, an armed officer in the service of a lord (cf. sense 1); *spec.* one of a body of men of knightly rank, originally 24 in number, who were required to be in immediate attendance on the king's person, to arrest traitors and other offenders. b. An officer of each of the two Houses of Parliament, who is charged with the duty of enforcing the commands of the House, the arrest of offenders, etc. Hence, an officer having corresponding duties under certain other legislative assemblies, as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

1377 *Langl. P. Pl. B.* xix. 335 *Now* *is* *Pierres* *to* *be* *plow* & *pruide* *it* *aspyde*, And *gadered* *him* *a* *grete* *oest*. And *seute* *forth* *surquydous* *his* *seriaunt* of *armes*. ? a. 1400 *Morte Arth.* 632 He *sendez* *further* *sodainly* *sergantes* of *armes*. 1449 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 159/1 One of the *Serjantes* of *Armes* of *our* *Soveraignty* *Lord* *the* *Kyng*. c. 1466 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture in Babes* Bk. (1868) 71 A *yerman* of *pe* *crowne* *Serjante* of *armes* *with* *mace*. 1462 *Paston Lett.* II. 87 *The* *bode* *not* *with* *hym* [*a* *bishop*] *over* *xij* *persones* *atte* *the* *most*, *with* *his* *serjaunt* of *armes*; *whiche* *serjaunt* *was* *fayn* *to* *lay* *down* *his* *mase*. 1470-85 *MALORY* *Arthur* x. lxxxviii. 569 *Thre* *sergautes* of *armes*. 1473 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 84/1 *His* *Office* of *cone* of *oure* *S*

(or 'Mr. B'), retainer for the plaintiff (or for the defendant). 1846 McCulloch Acc. Brit. Empire (1854) 11. 155 Sergeants are sworn to do their duty to their clients. 1873 Act 36 & 37 Vict. c. 66 § 8 Provided, that no person appointed a Judge of either of the said Courts shall henceforth be required to take, or have taken, the degree of Sergeant-at-Law.

transf. (jocular) 1663 BUTLER Hud. i. jii. 1164 By black caps underlain with white. Give certain guests at inward light; Which Sergeants at the Gospel wear, To make the Spiritual Calling clear.

b. the King's (or Queen's) Sergeant: a title given to a limited number of the sergeants-at-law, appointed by patent.

The king's sergeants were supposed to be charged with the duty of pleading in the courts on behalf of the crown; but from an early period it had ceased to be more than an honorary distinction. The senior in rank of the king's sergeants was designated 'the King's Sergeant', and the second 'The King's Ancient Sergeant'.

1423 Rolls of Parli. IV. 201/2 The King's Sergeant to be sworn: to yeve the poor Man. Counsaill. 1454 Ibid. v. 240/1 Oon of the Pynges Sergeantz atte lawe. 1482 Ibid. VI. 207/1 Richard Pygot, and Roger Townessend, the King's Sergeants of the Lawe. 1512 Act 4 Hen. VIII. c. 11 Lews Pollard the Kynges serjeant at the Lawe. 1602 Coke Rep. iii. To Rdr. Div b. Out of these the King electeth one, two, or three as please him to be his Serjeants, which are called the Kings Serjeants. 1720 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. ii. iii. xix. (ed. 23) 376 The Queens Serjeants at Law. 1825 Encycl. Metrop. (1845) XVII. 384/2 The King's Serjeant, so constituted by special patent; the King's Ancient Serjeant. 1882 SERJ. BALLANTINE Exper. I. 209 A post filled at that time by Mr. Serjeant Manning, Queen's ancient serjeant. 1886 Encycl. Brit. XXI. 682/2 Until 1814 the two senior King's sergeants had precedence of even the attorney-general and solicitor-general.

c. prime serjeant: the title given until 1805 to the first in rank of the three (earlier two) sergeants-at-law in Ireland. (Afterwards called first serjeant.)

1666 in Cal. St. Papers Irel. 1666-9 (1908) 73 Sir Audley Mervin, Prime Serjeant at Law. 1733 BERKELEY Let. Wks. 1871 IV. 205 The prime serjeant, Singleton, may probably be a means of assisting you to get light in these particulars. 1797 H. HOWARD in 3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. 434/1 John Hely Hutchinson, Prime Serj' at law, y^e vaient man alive, set his heart upon y^e place. 1799 Sir L. PARSONS in Charleston MSS. (Hist. MSS. Comm. 1804) II. 404 There is no end of the turnings-out talked of.—Lord Carhampton, the prime serjeant, and even Toler. The prime serjeant is, I believe, certain. 1806 DUNCAN Nelson's Funeral 31 Prime Serjeant.

d. Common Serjeant (at Law). A judicial officer appointed by the Corporation of London as an assistant to the Recorder.

1419 Liber Albus (Rolls) I. 47 Le. Commune Sergeant de ley, qui autrem est dit 'Commune Countour.' 1556 Chron. Grey Friars (Camden) 64 It was proclaimed openly with the kynges shreffe & two harraldes & two purveanttes & a trumpet, with the comyne sargant of the cite of London. 1680 Lex London. 55 The Common Serjeant of the City is the only person intrusted by the Court of Aldermen to take all Inventories and Accompts of freemens' estates. 1797 Encycl. Brit. (ed. 3) XVII. 202/2 Common Serjeant, an officer... who attends the lord mayor... on court days. 1844 L. BROUGHAM Brit. Const. xvi. (1862) 366 So high judicial functionaries as the Recorder of London and the Common Serjeant are elected. 1861 [see COUNTEUR 2]. 1887 Times 27 Aug. 15/4 The three City Judges (the Recorder, the Common Serjeant, and Mr. Commissioner Kerr). 1890 Ibid. 28 Apr. 11/6 The Common Serjeant sentenced the prisoner to two years' hard labour.

7. (Now commonly written sergeant; in some uses sergeant appears to be officially adopted.) In the titles of certain officers of the Royal Household. a. The head of a specified department, as *sergeant of the cellar*, of the *saucery*, of the *vestry*. †Also s. of the *bears*, a bearward; s. of the *minstrels*; s. of the *surgeons*, of the *trumpets* = sergeant-surgeon, sergeant-trumpeter.

1450 Rolls of Parli. V. 102/1 William Pecke Clerke of oure Spicerie, Ric Ludlowe Sergeant of oure Seler. Ibid., Robert Broune Sergeant of oure Saucerye. Ibid., Sergeant of oure Chauderleye. 1464 [see MASONRY A. 3]. 1526 in Househ. Ord. (1790) 140 The Serjeant of the bake-house. Ibid. 141 The Serjeant of the chaundry... The Serjeant of the wry. Ibid. 142 The Serjeant of the larder. Ibid. 143 The Serjeant of the squillery. Ibid. 169 Serjeant of the Mynstrills. 1539 CROMWELL Let. 24 Apr. in Strype Eccl. Mem. (1733) I. ii. 272 Jynnyngs, Sergeant to your Graces Pastory House. 1541 in Vicary's Anat. (1888) App. ii. 109 Thomas Sperin and his son sergientes of the beres. 1561 Vicary Will in Anat. (1888) App. vi. 187, i. Thomas Vicars, Seriente of the Suriantes vnto oue saide soueraigne ladie the quenes maiestie. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. i. ii. xiv. (ed. 23) 120-1 The Sergeant of the King's Wood-Yard... The Sergeant of the Ewry... The Sergeant of the Larder. Ibid. ii. iii. xvii. 534 H. Parker, Esq. Serj. of the Vestry. 1721 STRYPE Eccl. Mem. II. i. i. 2 The Sergeants of the Trumpets.

b. Prefixed appositively to certain designations of office, as *sergeant-cater*, *sergeant-farrier* (†*ferroar*), *sergeant-footman*, *sergeant-painter*, *sergeant-plumber*, *sergeant-porter*, *sergeant-squiller*, *sergeant-surgeon* (†*chirurgion*), *sergeant-tailor*, *sergeant-trumpeter*.

Many other similar designations, adopted from Anglo-French, and not proved to have been used in English, will be found in F. Tate, Household Ord. Edu. II, 1601 (new ed. 1876).

1614 GENTLEMAN Eng. Way to Wealth 25 His Maiesties Seriant Cater. 1539 SKELTON Dywys Baletys Wks. 1843 i. 24 Haue in 'sergeant ferrouer myne house beyhnde is are. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. ii. iii. xx. (ed. 23) 499 Serjeant Farrier, John Willis, Esq. 1901 Westm. Gaz. May 7/3 'Sergeant-footman Boswell. 1548 in Kempe

Losely MSS. (1836) 81 To Anthony Toto, 'sergeant payntor, in rewarde for his paynes taking... in drawing of patrons for the masks too. 1720 Lond. Gaz. No. 5848/3 His Majesty's Serjeant-Painter. 1887 PATER Hist. Portr. 146 The sergeant-painter and deputy sergeant-painter were conventional performers enough. 1533 in Hampton Crt. Acts., The Kynges 'sergeant plumber. 1663 GERBIER Counsel 58 The Serjeant Plumber calling his workmen to caste in his presence a Leadem Medal. 1450 Rolls of Parli. V. 192/2 John Stok 'Sergeant porter of oure Gate. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. ii. iii. xix. (ed. 23) 545 To the Serjeant Porter. 1825 SCOTT Kenilw. xv. One of the sergeant porters told them they could not at present enter. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 87 Sergeant State Porter. a 1483 Liber Niger in Househ. Ord. (1790) 81 He receivethe... all the plates of peautry by the pourveyance of the 'sergeant-squilloure. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. ii. iii. xix. (ed. 23) 545 'Sergeant skinner. 1565 J. HALLS Hist. Exposit. 19 Maister Vicary, late 'sergeant chyrurgion to the quenes highnes. 1749 FIELDING Tom Jones VIII. xiii. Serjeant-surgeon to the King. 1812 Lond. Gaz. No. 16663. 2189/1 Serjeant-Surgeon to His Majesty. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 88 Sergeant Surgeon, Lord Lister. 1480 Wardrobe Acc. Edw. IV in Pryce Purse Exp. Elis. York. etc. (1830) 155 George Lufkyn 'Sergeant tailour of the grete Warderober of the Kyng. 1588 DILWY in Rosb. Ball. (1887) VI. 391 The 'Sergeant trumpet with his mace, and nyne with trumpets after him, Bare headed went before her grace. 1708 Lond. Gaz. No. 4416/4 Her Majesty has appointed John Shore, Esq. Serjeant-Trumpet of Great Britain. 1802 Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll. III. 164 'Sergeant trumpeter. 1700 LUTTRELL Brief Rel. (1857) I. 413 Gervas Pice esq., 'sergeant trumpeter to his majesty, died lately. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 87 Sergeant Trumpeter.

8. a. In the titles of certain inferior officers employed by the Corporation of the City of London, and by other municipal bodies.

1423 Cov. Lett-Bk. 43 per schall no beestys be pynnyd at the comen pynfold by the comien seriant. 1672 Cave Prim. Chr. III. v. 359 Satan as the Common Serjeant and Jaylor seized upon them. 1720 J. CHAMBERLAYNE St. Gt. Brit. ii. iii. xiv. (ed. 23) 631 Serjeant-Carvers... Serjeants of the Chamber or Mace... Moses Griffith, Serjeant of the Channel. 1720 [see TAKER 2]. 1766 ENTICK Lond. III. 307 The officers belonging to the lord-mayor, ... are... the three serjeant carvers; three serjeants of the chamber; a serjeant of the channel [etc.]. 1835 App. Munic. Corpor. Rep. iv. 2345 [At Lincoln.] Four Serjeants of the Key or Bailiffs. Ibid. ii. 998 [Hastings] The Mayor's Serjeant... serves process; attends the corporation meetings with a mace; and is sworn in as a constable... The Common Serjeant, who is also a serjeant at mace... has the same salary and clothing as the mayor's serjeant.

b. serjeant at (the) mace, † of (the) mace: an inferior executive officer (cf. sense 4), carrying a mace as a badge of office.

1420 Anturs of Arth. 64 The king... followed fast one pe tras, Withe many Sergeant of mas. Ibid. 498 be lordes bylyue hom to list lides With many seriant of mace, as was pe manere. c. 1440 Promp. Parv. 671/1 Ceriawnt of mace, apparitor. 1474 Rolls of Parli. VI. 103/1 Henry Neuton, oon of the Serjeants at Mace of Robert Billesdon, oon of the Shirreffe of the Cite of London. 1510 Sel. Cases Str Chamb. (Seiden) II. 70 The meyer... sent oon John Yong sergeant at the mace within the seid Towne to the seid Priour. 1556 Chron. Grey Friars (Camden) 43 For arrest of Robert Taylor sergant of mayse. 1680 in 10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App. v. 506 If the Sergeants-at-Mace shall neglect their duty in not summoning every member of the Council [etc.]. 1713 Lond. Gaz. No. 3394/4 Cesar Grist, Serjeant at Mace to the Bailiffs of the Corporation of Welsh Poole. 1761 in Entick Lond. (1766) IV. 359 The serjeants at mace for the city to arrest for debt in the Borough. 1797 Encycl. Brit. (ed. 3) XVII. 294 Sergeants of the mace of an inferior kind. 1835 [see 8]. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 178 (Lord Mayor's Court.) Serjeant at Mace.

transf. 1745 P. THOMAS Jrd. Andon's Voy. 211 A hundred Soldiers... followed d'with a hundred Sergeants at Mace. 1790 BURKE Fr. Rev. Wks. 1808 V. 356 He appears to be nothing more than a chief of bombauliffs, serjeants at mace, catch-poles, jailers and hangmen.

† c. Sc. An officer of a guild. Obs. 1557 Baxter-bks. St. Andrewes (1903) 10, viii d to thomas demster, yair schargant.

9. Mil. a. (Now always written sergeant.) In modern use, a non-commissioned officer of the grade above that of corporal. In the 16th c. the title, more explicitly *sergeant of a band* [= F. *sergent de bande*], appears, like many other military titles, to have indicated a much higher rank than in later times. See also COLOUR-SERGEANT, DRILL-sergeant, RECRUITING-sergeant, SERGEANT-MAJOR.

1548 PATTEN Expd. Scot. H. v. i. j, Sargeantes of the band to the forward. 1579 DIOCES Stratiot. 86 This Serjeant ought perfitly by memorie to knowe the Serjeant's Souldiour within the Bande. 1590 Sir R. WILLIAMS Brief Disc. War 26 The least Serient of a Band, being a natural Spaniard, will seeme to command the greatest man of quality of anie other Nation. 1593 SUTCLIFFE Pract. & Law Arts 61 The officers of companies, namely lieutenants, ensignes, sergeants, corporals, are chosen by the captaines of companies. 1624 W. G. Count Mansfield's Direct. Warre 11 If all the three fore-named Officers [Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign] be out of the way by any accident, then the eldest Serjeant is to command the Company as next in place. 1690 MACKENZIE Siege Londoderry 47/2 Serjeants, Corporals, Drummers, and private Men 29 per diem each, besides Bread. 1709 STEELE Tatter No. 87 P. The Epistle is from one Serjeant Hall of the Foot-Guards. 1833 MAHARRY P. Simple xi, All disputed points were settled by the sergeant of marines with a party, who divided their antagonists from the Jews. 1898 STEVENS With Kitchener to Khartum 274 'Fall out, sergeant, you're wounded,' said the subaltern of his troop.

b. Prefixed appositively to various designations of offices in which sergeants are

employed, as *sergeant armourer*, *sergeant bugler*, *sergeant clerk*, *sergeant compounder*, *sergeant cook*, *sergeant drummer*, *sergeant farrier*, *sergeant instructor*, *sergeant master tailor*, *sergeant pilot*, *sergeant saddler*, *sergeant schoolmaster*, *sergeant tailor*, *sergeant trumpeter*.

1810 WELLINGTON in Gurw. Dep. (1838) VI. 308 'Sergeant armourers and sergeant saddlers' implements. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 220 'Sergt. Bugler. 1895 Outing (U.S.) XXVII. 252/1 It changes the title of the brigade sergeant-major to that of 'sergeant-clerk. 1901 Whitaker's Almanack 220 'Sergeant Cook. 1899 Westm. Gaz. 27 June 1/2 A 'sergeant-drummer in each battalion of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scots Guards. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON Milit. Dict., 'Sergeant instructor. 1865 Army Clothing Warrant 30 The 'Sergeant Master Tailor. 1919 J. T. B. MCCUDDEN Five Years in R.F.C. III. iii. 86 About the end of August, 1915, a 'Sergeant-Pilot named Watts arrived for duty. 1903 J. LUSBY in 'B. James Austral. Short Stories (1903) 221 The new boys comprised Australians, Englishmen, and Canadians... Most were sergeant-pilots, and in age ranged school-boys. 1897 King's Regal. Army 239 The 'Sergeant schoolmasters. 1900 Westm. Gaz. 12 Dec. 4/2 The Secretary of State... is causing inquiries to be made on the feasibility of having officers' uniforms made by the 'sergeant-tailors of their regiments.

10. (Now always written sergeant.) A police officer, of higher rank than a simple constable; in Great Britain ranking next below an inspector.

1839 Hood Lost Her 36 Oh serjeant McFarlane you have not come across my poor little boy, have you, in your best? 1866 A. WYNTER Curios. Civitas. 469 The force consists of three inspectors, nine sergeants, and a body of police termed 'plain-clothes men'.

11. Comb. Sergeant Baker Australian, a fish of New South Wales, *Aulopus purpurissatus*; † sergeant corn Sc., ? some feudal impost paid in corn; sergeant-fish, a name applied to various fishes having marks like the stripes on the sleeve of a sergeant's uniform, esp. *Rachycentron canadum*, the cobia, a large game fish found in tropical and subtropical seas; † sergeant-loaf, some kind of bread; † sergeant's ring, one of the rings which a newly appointed sergeant-at-law was required by custom to present to various persons of high rank or official position.

1882 TENISON-WOODS Fish N.S. Wales 82 The 'Sergeant Baker in all probability... was called after a sergeant of that name. 1582 Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot. 107/2 Lie 'sergiand-corn. 1873 Forest & Stream I. 258/1 'Sergeant Fish... derives its trivial name from a black stripe running along its silvery sides... like that on the trousers of a sergeant. 1884 GOODE, etc. Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim. 444 The name 'Sergeant-fish' refers to its peculiar coloration, several stripes of brown and gray being visible on the sides of the body. 1947 K. H. BARNARD Dict. Guide S. Afr. Fishes 112 Sergeant-fish... A somewhat rare fish, of elongate shape... occasionally caught at Port Elizabeth and Natal. 1908 Washington Post 24 Sept. 1/2 An unusually fine run of cobia (the 'sergeant fish')... has caused big game fishermen to toss caution to the gods of Izak Walton. 1341 Secretum Abb. Glastonie (MS. Wood empt. 1) If 146b, Unum panem uocatum Priketlof, et alterum panem uocatum Bastardlof et tercium panem uocatum 'seriauntlof de Panetria predicti abbatis. 1690 Lond. Gaz. No. 2613/4 They offered to sell or pawn... one Gold 'Sergeants Ring, and one pair of Gold Lockets.

† sergeant, a. Obs. rare-1. [Back-formation from SERGEANTY.] In grand, petit sergeant, said of a tenure by grand or petit serjeanty respectively.

1513 BRADSHAW St. Werburga II. 1771 Many helde their landes... By tenure grand-seriaunte... Some by petit-seriant.

† sergeant, v. Obs.-1 [a. OF. *sergentier*, f. *sergent* SERGEANT sb.] intr. To act as a sergeant.

c. 1430 Pilgr. Lysf Marhode iv. xxi. (1869) 187 After par pat pe matere is... ordeyned, per after j shal sergaunte [orig. use de ma commission] and werche diuerseliche.

† sergeantess. Obs.-1 [f. SERGEANT sb. + -ESS.] A female sergeant.

c. 1430 Pilgr. Lysf Marhode iv. xix. (1869) 185 And for oure moother pou art and oure sergeantesse we senden þee and comitte þee par pou gou bi alle houses, and [etc.].

† sergeant-general. Obs. [f. SERGEANT sb. + GENERAL a.] = SERGEANT-MAJOR 1 b. (In the later examples *sergeant-general of battle*, as a title of high rank in certain foreign armies.)

1579 DIOCES Stratiot. 93 To sende his serjeant to the Serjeant general. 1685 Lond. Gaz. No. 2028/3 Being a Sergeant-General of Batalis in the Service of his Catholick Majesty. 1693 Mem. Count Tschely IV. 55 The Prince of Auguste of Hanover, Serjeant General of Battle.

'sergeant-major. [f. SERGEANT sb. + MAJOR a.; in Fr. *sergent-major*.]

† 1. In the 16-17th c., a military title variously applied to officers widely differing in rank and function. a. A field officer, one in each regiment, next in rank to the lieutenant-colonel, and corresponding partly to the 'major', partly to the 'adjutant', of the modern army.

Ordinarily referred to as superior to the captains, but in many instances a 'captain' is said to be also 'sergeant-major'.

1573 WHITHORNE Briefe Tables Hjb, Maister of the Campe, or Sergeant Maier, or Capitaine. 1591 Sir J. SMYTHE Instr. Milit. (1595) 36 The Sergeant Major must command all the Captaines or their Lieutenants. 1598 BARRET Thor. Warres II. i. 15 Every Regiment hath this Sergeant Major. 1598 B. JONSON Ed. Man in Hum. III. v. He might haue bene Sergeant-Maioir, if not Lieutenant-

Coronell to the regiment. 1604 E. GRIMSTON *Siege Ostend* 20 An English Captain who was also Sergeant Major. 1624 W. G. Count Mansfield's *Direct. Warre* 13 The eldest Sergeant... is also to teach the Word from the Sergeant Major of the Regiment. 1633 *Swed. Intelligencer* IV. 127 The Sergeant-Major over these 5 companies, was Captain Thomas Grove, who now commanded them. 1642 (title) A List of the Names of the several Colonells... with the Lieutenant Colonells, Sergeant Majors, and Captains and Lieutenants appointed by the Committee, for the ordering of the Militia of this Honourable City of London. 1642 *Declor. Lords & Comm. for Rais. Forces* 22 Dec. 7 Sergeant-Major of the said Regiment. 1683 TURNER *Pallas Armata* xi. 225 The Swedes of a long time allowed him [sc. the Major] no company, yet allow'd him the command over Captains, but it is now many years ago since they were permitted to have companies; hence perhaps it is that when they have no companies, they may be called Sergeant-Majors, as when they have companies, the Germans call them Captain-Majors, but the English use frequently the words of Sergeant Major and Sergeant-Major General, none of them are used either by German, Swede, or Dane. 1704 *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 2).

†b. A general officer, corresponding to the modern major-general. Also sergeant-major major, sergeant-major general. Obs.

1591 SIR J. SMYTH *Instr. Milit.* (1595) 60 If a Lord Marshall or a Sergeant Major Major, have... 10000 or mo 2 or fewer piquers to reduce into one bodie of squadron, he may [etc.]. 1595 MAYNARD *Drake's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 14 We buried Captaine Arnolde Baskerville, our serjeant-major general. 1599 J. CHAMBERLAIN *Lett.* (Camden) 38 Sir Ferdinando Gorge is named to be Sergeant Major [of the army in Ireland]. 1625 G. M. Souldier's *Arctid.* 62 The Sergeant-Major of the Horse, which in some discipline is called the Commissary-general. 1533 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hiv.* II. xvii. 222 The Sergeant Major, being the second Commander to Don Iohn. 1642 *List Army Earl Essex* 1 His Excellency Robert Earle of Essex, Capt. Generall. Sir Iohn Merrick, Sergeant Major General, and resident of the Council of Warre. 1644 *Simonds Drury* (Camden) 50 Lord Wentworth was Sergeant Major of the Horse. 1646 EARL MONM. tr. *Biondi's Civil Warres* VIII. 147 [Richard III] Went himself in Person in the head of his Army executing himselfe the duty of a Sergeant Major. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* VII. 526 Philip Skippon... was now made sergeant-major-general of the army by the absolute power of the two houses.

2. A non-commissioned officer of the highest grade.

The regimental sergeant-major (who is, strictly speaking, not a non-commissioned officer, but a 'warrant officer'), is an assistant to the adjutant. There is also a sergeant-major belonging to each squadron of cavalry and each battery of artillery.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. In most regiments the sergeant-major, under the direction of the adjutant, is directed to drill every young officer who comes into the regiment. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxiv. Claverhouse... called for his sergeant-major. 1837 *King's Regul. Army* 170 The Troop Sergeant-Majors... The Regimental Sergeant-Major.

transf. 1897 *Daily News* 15 June 3/4 They were members of the Salvation Army, one of them, a woman, describing herself as the sergeant-major.

3. An American fish, the cow-pilot, *Pomacentrus saxatilis*.

1876 GOODE *Fishes of Bermudas* 38 *Glyphidodon saxatilis*. Cow-pilot: Sergeant-major. 1885 LADY BRASSETT *The Trades* 407 Fine little black and white 'serjeant-majors' as they are called, because of their many stripes.

4. *Mil. slang.* Used attrib. to designate (a) coffee with cream or milk and sugar (U.S.); (b) strong sweet tea; tea with rum; also in the possessive and elliptic.

1923 T. BOYD *Through Wheat* viii. 131 'Bring your canteen cu's. Sergeant-major coffee...' 'Coffee, hot! And milk and sugar in it!' 1925 FRASER & GIBBONS *Soldier & Sailor Words* 254 *Sergeant Major's Tea*, tea with sugar and milk, or a dash of rum, in it. 1929 J. L. HODSON *Grey Dawn* Red Night II. v. 210 Two of them got up before the rest and made a fire and produced 'sergeant-major's tea' and bacon done to a turn. 1929 J. B. PRIESTLEY *Good Compan.* I. iv. 115 'I'd like a drop of tea with some rum in it, good old sergeant-major's.' 1939 JOYCE *Finnegans Wake* 331 Pointing up to skyless heaven like the spoon out of sergeant-major's tray. 1948 PARTRIDGE *Dict. Forces' Slang* 1939-1945 164 *Sergeant-major's*, a Samson-strong, love-sweet brew of tea, popularly supposed to be the perc. love of holders of that rank. 1981 J. WAINWRIGHT *Urge for Justice* I. v. 30 This tea... it damn near dissolved the spoon. A real 'sergeant major' brew. The way tea should be made.

Hence as *v. trans.*, to order or shout in a brusque and stentorian manner; sergeant-majorish, -majorly, *adjs.*, characteristic of or resembling a sergeant-major; sergeant-majorship.

1892 *Athenaeum* 1 Oct. 448/2 [c. 1630] The king gave him [Fabert] another company vacant by death, again permitting his retention of the sergeant-majorship. 1925 G. W. DEEPING *Sorrell & Son* vii. 77 Moreover, he might pocket a sergeant-majorly share of the tips. 1926 A. BENNETT *Lord Raingo* xxvii. 168 'Bow,' said the sergeant-majorish official behind him, in a no-nonsense voice. 1931 E. A. ROBERTSON *Four Frightened People* ii. 77 Then we heard the voice of Mrs. Mardick sergeant-majoring the truant few. 1935 T. E. LAWRENCE *Mint* (1935) II. iii. 108 Cursing fellows forbidden to look resentful... is a sergeant-majorish trick which good corporals would not allow themselves. 1962 M. DUFFY *That's how It Was* iv. 43 'She'll soon learn,' the voice sergeant-majored high above me.

†sergeantry, serjeantry. Obs. Also *s* sergawntry, seriauntrie, -rye, seryauntrie, 7 *S* serjandrie. [a. OF. *sergenterie* (cf. Anglo-L. *sergentaria*, c. 1200 in *Rot. Chart.*, ed. 1837, p. 46/2), *f* *sergent*: see SERGEANT and -ERY.]

1. = SERGEANTY 1.

c.1400 *Brut* I. 242. Y jelde vp, Sir, now vnto 3ow my homage... for ham alle bat holden by serianturie [1480 CAXTON *Serianturie*]. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Serielshy*. This manor is held by grand serientry. *Ibid.* s.v. *Pitchley, Northamp.* The ancient lords of this manor held it of the King by petit serientry, i.e. to furnish dogs, at their own cost, to destroy the wolves, foxes, polecats, and other vermin, in the counties of Northampton, Rutland, Oxford, Essex, and Bucks. 1795 BURKE *Abridg.* *Eng. Hist. Wks.* 1842 II. 550 If the tenant was in an office about the king's person, this gave rise to sergentry. 1830 SCOTT *Arsh. Trag.* I. i. We'll not suffer A word of sergentry, or halberd-staff. 1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg. Ser. 1. Spect. Tappington*. These lands were held in grand serientry by the presentation of three white owls. 1830 JAMES Darnley vii. To hold his land by sergentry, as it had been held by Lord Fitzbernard.

2. The office of sergeant or serjeant.

1426 LYOG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 16. 21 [Tribulation log.] And thus vsynge myr. Sergawntury. I kan werke dyuersly. Wherefore I rede be war off me, For I anon shal smyte the. 1669 *Sc. Acts Chas. II* (1820) VII. 588/2 All and hail the office of Serjandrie of the lands & Lordship of Methven.

3. *nonce-use.* Skill as a serjeant-at-law.

1830 LAMB *Album Verses*. In *Autograph Bk. Mrs. Serjeant W—*. These should moot cures in your book, and vie To show their reading and their Serjantry.

sergeantship, serjeantship ('sə:dʒənt-ʃɪp). [f. SERGEANT, SERJEANT sb. + -SHIP.] The office of a sergeant or a serjeant, in various senses.

1450 *Rolls of Parli. V.* 107/2 Theyre Fees of Serjauntyship atte armes. 1495 *Act 11 Hen. VII.* c. 33 s. 1 The office of Serjauntyshippe of the Pece and [etc.]. 1584 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 436 The office of Serjauntyship. 1825 HON. *Every-day Bk.* I. 157 His serjantship being denoted by the *Coif*. 1909 *Essex Rec.* XVIII. 71 The persons they thought of appointing to serjauntyship or corporals.

sergeanty, serjeanty ('sə:dʒənti). *Hist. Forms:* a. 5-7 sergeantie (5 sergaunte), 6 sergaunte, sergentie, 7- sergaunte. β. 4-5 serjauntye, 5 serjantie, (pl. serjaunteez), 7 seriantie, seriantie, serjantie, 7- serjantie. [a. OF. *serjantie*, *sergentie*, *f*. *serjant*, *sergent*: see SERGEANT sb. and -Y.] (The usual spelling is now serjanty.)

1. A form of feudal tenure on condition of rendering some specified personal service to the king.

1467 *Rolls of Parli. V.* 595/2 The rent of the Sergeantie, and of the small parcell of Serjeuntez of oure Countee of Noynggh' and Derby. 1468 *Ibid.* 605/2 Other fermes to us of Serjanties or otherwise. 1477 *Ibid.* VI. 171/1 Smale parcells of Serjantie in diuers parcells... three Roodes of Serjantie. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 464 Baldwin Le Pettour... held certain lands, by Sergeanty. 1643 BAKER *Chron.*, Rich. II. 1 John Wiltshire Citizen of London, by reason of a Moyette of the Manour of Heydon, holden in Sergeantie, claimed to hold a towell for the King to wipe with when he went to meat. 1880 HARTING *Extinct Brit. Anim.* I. 82 Several grants of land... held by the serjeanty of keeping... boar hounds. 1906 *Athenaeum* 18 Sept. 269/1 A little criticism is perhaps invited by the interesting list of serjeanties with which the volume closes.

b. Distinguished as *grand* and *petit* (or *batty*) serjeanty.

In their AF. form, these terms occur in the 13th c. According to Britton (c. 1292), *grand serjeanty* obliges the tenant to a service 'touching the defence of the country', such as acting as marshal, putting an army in the field, or finding a horseman and his equipment for the army, while *petit serjeanty* binds him to a service 'amounting to half a mark or less', such as carrying to the king a bag, a brooch, an arrow, or a bow without string, etc. Later writers give more or less differing accounts: see quotes. The Latin of Magna Carta (1215) has 'occasione parvarum sergantisarum' (v.r. *parva sergantisarum*).

(a) 1449 *Rolls of Parli. V.* 167/2 His Ancestres... have holden... the Manor, by Graunte Sergeantie. 1523 [see (b) below]. a. 1625 SIR H. FINCH *Law* (1626) 124 Every *grand Serjeanty* is a tenure in chief, being of none but of the King, to doe vnto him a more speciall seruice whatsoeuer by the person of a man, as to beare his Banner or Lance, to lead his horse, to carry the sword before him at his coronation [etc.]. 1695 GIBSON *Camden's Brit.* 55 Brienston... was held in *Grand Sergeanty* by a pretty odd jocular tenure. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. v. 73 Such was the tenure by *grand serjeanty*, *per magnum seruitium*, whereby the tenant was bound, instead of serving the king generally in his wars, to do some special honorary service to the king in person; as to carry his banner, his sword, or the like; or to be his butler, champion, or other officer at his coronation. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 118 The office of High Steward was originally annexed to the manor of Hincley in Leicestershire, and held in *grand serjeanty*. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. xi. 344 These [offices] had become... hereditary *grand serjeanties*.

(b) 1523 FITZNESS *Surv.* 12 And all these tenauntes maye holde their landes by dyuers tenures... as by... graunt sergentie, petyte sergentie, franke almoine. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 37 b. Tenure by Petite Serjeanty, a tenure of lands, holden of the king, by yielding to him, a Buckler, Arrow, Bow, or such like seruice. 1875 DIBBY *Real Prop.* I. (1876) 49 When land was held of the king not by military service, but under the obligation to render some small thing 'belonging to war', as, for instance, to 'yield to him yearly a bow or a sword, or a dagger, or a knife, or a pair of gilt spurs, or an arrow or divers arrows', this was called tenure by petit serjeanty.

†2. 'Sergeants' or squires collectively. Obs.

c. 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11970 Alle armed men... Wyboute fotmen & serianturie (v.r. *sargeancie*).

†sergelim. Obs. Also 6 zerszelnie, 6-7 zerszelnie. 7 schirgelim, sergelin. [a. Pg. *gergelim*, *zirgelin*, a. Arab. *juljuli*, also *juljulan*.] = SESAMUM.

1588 HICKOCK tr. C. Frederick's *Voy.* 22 b. Mirabolany... long Pepper, Oyle of Zerszelnie. 1698 PETIVER in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 314 Mixt with the Oyl Sergelin it stops spinning of Blood. *Ibid.* 322 Oyl of Schirgelim. 1707 SLOANE *Jamaica* I. 126 The Root joied in Sergelim Oil... takes away freckles or spots.

sergend, -ent, obs. forms of SERGEANT.

sergette ('sɜ:dʒet). [a. F. *sergette*, dim. of *serge*.] See quot.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Sergette*, a thin and slight serge.

sergiand, -iant, -iaunt(e, sergond, -ont(e, obs. ff. SERGEANT.

sergre(i)ant: see SERGEANT *Her*.

seri, var. SIRIH.

seri, obs. form of SORRY.

serial ('sɪəriəl), a. and sb. [ad. mod. L. *seriālis*, f. *seri-ēs*: see SERIES and -AL'. Cf. F. *serial* (1861), *ériel* (1874).] A. *adj.* a. Belonging to, forming part of, or consisting of a series; taking place or occurring in a regular succession.

1840 A. BRISBANE tr. *Fourier's Social Destiny* xxiv. 344 Industry was developed sufficiently... to admit of the application of the Serial mechanism to it. 1854 *Fairholt's Dict. Term.* Art. s.v. Serial Pictures are of that order in which a story is carried on consecutively, such as the four seasons, the four ages, &c. 1855 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) II. 16 A thinking of the three in serial order—first, second, third, last. 1864 *Realm* 6 July 8 The last performances of all the great serial concerts.

b. *spec.* of the publication of a literary work, esp. a story, in successive instalments (as in a periodical magazine or newspaper). Also of a radio play: broadcast (in usu. weekly) episodes.

serial rights, rights attaching to the publication of a story in serial form.

1841 F. VESSEY *Decl. Eng. Lang.* 86 Serial publication. 1867 E. YATES *Black Sheep* xxxi. She... had set herself to read the serial story. 1874 *Athenaeum* 28 Feb. 293/1 After contributing to the newspapers and the magazines, [he] became a serial novelist. 1879 *17th Cent.* 997 Country journals... instead of using an inferior article, will often purchase the 'serial right', as it is called, of stories which have already appeared elsewhere. 1890 [see RIGHT sb. 1 qf]. 1903 J. LONDON *Lett.* 10 Mar. (1906) 150 The serial right has passed out of my hands. 1933 *B.B.C. Year-Bk.* 1934 213 Serial plays were a popular innovation; and their exciting episodes seemed to have appealed to... as many grown-ups as youngsters. 1944 *R.A.F. Jnl.* Aug. 290 The American market... still offers big money for serial rights. 1955 *Radio Times* 22 Apr. 42 In a new serial play in six parts written for broadcasting. 1960 *B.B.C. Handbk.* 68 An increased output of serial plays and characterized documentaries. 1970 [see film rights s.v. FILM sb. 7c].

c. In scientific use; esp. applied to the disposition of the parts of an organism in a straight line or longitudinal succession. *serial section*, each of a series of sections through tissue made in successive parallel planes; hence *serial section* vb. trans., *serial sectioning* vbl. sb. *serial* 1. *temperatures*, temperatures taken at different successive depths between the bottom and the surface of water. In Computing = SEQUENTIAL a. 2 b.

1855 T. WILLIAMS in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. II. XVI. 405 The serial history of any given structural element of any given complex organ. 1857 A. GRAY *Fish. Ser.* Bot. (1866) Gloss. *Serial*, or *Seriate*, in rows. 1868 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) I. 16 They preserve a serial arrangement; their aggregation is little more than that of close linear succession. 1872 HUMPHRY *Myology* 9 The transverse septa, a serial continuation of those in the tail, are directed from the median line above. 1872 *Myol. Elem.* Anat. 10 Serial symmetry may be much less and much more developed than we find it to be in man. 1877 THOMSON *Phys. Challenger* I. 11 Taking bottom and serial temperatures. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Barry's Phaner.* 109 The serial arrangement of the elements of the cork perpendicular to the surface is always very regularly preserved. 1885 A. B. LEE *Microtomist's Vade-Mecum* xxiv. 203 (heading) Serial section mounting. 1897 M. L. HUGHES *Mediterranean Fever* iii. 136 The qualitative alterations are both nodal and serial. 1908 *Q. Jnl. Exper. Physiol.* I. 129 Where the epithelium persists... serial sections show that the cleft is completely closed by it. 1948 Gloss. *Computer Terms* (U.S. Office of Naval Res. Special Devices Center: M.I.T. Servomechanisms Lab. Res. R-138) 10 *Serial programming*, execution of complete arithmetic operations one at a time. Coding is simpler and easier to organize where simultaneous arithmetic operations are avoided. Serial programming is possible with either parallel or serial digit transmission. 1960 GREGORY & VAN HORN *Automatic Data-Processing Systems* vii. 248 Latency time for instructions stored in serial-access memories can increase program running time enough to warrant using other arrangements for storing instructions. 1961 *Lancet* 2 Sept. 523/1 The hypothalamus... were embedded in celloidin and serial-sectioned. 1964 G. H. HAGGIS et al. *Introd. Molecular Biol.* v. 113 Consideration of the confusion which would result from the examination of fifty serial-section electron microscope pictures placed on top of each other. 1966 P. B. JORDAN *Condensed Computer Encl.* 449 In character-oriented memory computers, serial addition permits forming sums with inexpensive hardware... In faster, word-organized computers, parallel addition is used. 1977 *Sci. Amer.* Sept. 130/1 Serial-access and block-access memories have access times that depend on the storage location selected. 1979 *Nature* 22 Feb. 596/2 Here was a

man who had pioneered... the technique of serial sectioning, which enabled palaeontologists to examine the internal structures of fossils that would never have been accessible for study.

d. **Biol.** Involving or produced by the propagation of a micro-organism or tissue by means of a series of cultures, each grown from material derived from the previous one.

1904 *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.* XL. 277 In investigating the persistence of the (+) and (-) characters in the individual strains, the writer has begun a number of serial cultures. 1907 *Ann. Rev. Microbiol.* I. 26 During the early period of study the original culture on serial plating continued to produce colonies about 5 per cent of which contained only 2.30 and 95 per cent contained 2.30%.

T. MORTON *Med. Biogr.* (ed. 3) 609 Laveran and Mesnil discovered that trypanosomes could be maintained indefinitely in rats and mice by serial passage.

e. **Educ. and Psychol.** serial learning, the learning of words, numbers, etc., as a series so that each item acts as a stimulus for the next;

serial position, the position of items in a serial test studied for its effect on learning; hence

attrib. as serial-position curve, effect; serial test, a test of ability that makes use of items in serial arrangement; hence serial testing. Also serial reproduction.

1926 H. HEAD *Aphasia* II. i. 140 The order in which these serial tests are applied must be varied to suit the circumstances of the case. 1926 *Jrnl. Exper. Psychol.* IX. 195 (title) Specific serial learning; a study of backward association. 1926 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychol.* XXXVII. 538 It is apparent... that the effects of serial position upon memorization still constitute something of an issue. 1932 F. C. BARTLETT *Remembering* vii. 173 There is some suggestion that material treated by way of serial reproduction may gain a kind of group stamp or character. 1948 E. R. HILGARD *Theories of Learning* iv. 97 (caption) Serial position effect in the memorization of a list of 15 nonsense syllables. 1952 McGROCH & LITON *Psychol. Hum. Learning* iv. 115 (heading) Learning as a function of serial position. *Ibid.* x. 369 The results of one series of experiments by the method of serial reproduction... are important for their bearing upon the social diffusion of information. 1962 E. R. HILGARD *Introduct. Psychol.* (ed. 3) ix. 273/2 Serial learning is easier than paired-associates learning. 1971 *Jrnl. Gen. Psychol.* LXXXV. 100 RFT performance was not found to be stable... but rather changed in the direction of greater field dependence on serial testing. 1972 *Jrnl. Social Psychol.* LXXXVI. 106 For both liked and disliked names the typical serial position curve was noted with most errors occurring in the middle of the lists. 1979 A. C. CATANIA *Learning* x. 243 Another variety of intraverbal relation occurs in serial learning, the learning of a list of items in a particular order.

f. In grammatical terminology; spec. in certain West African languages, designating a construction consisting of a series of verbs.

1933 L. BLOOMFIELD *Language* xii. 195 Endocentric constructions are of two kinds, co-ordinative (or serial) and subordinate (or attributive). 1957 S. FORTNER *Mod. Linguistics* v. 114 It is the phrase *gɛn ɛn ɛn* is a subordinate or attributive construction as opposed to a phrase *ɛn ɛn ɛn* as *men and women*, which is said to be co-ordinative or serial. 1963 *Jrnl. Afr. Languages* II. i. 145 One... feature of the syntax of Twi and many other West African languages which seems to have escaped the notice of the grammarians is that the only possible position for an object pronoun is immediately after a verb... It is necessary to introduce an extra verb to take the extra object pronoun... This introduction of an extra verb in this way results in a serial verbal construction. 1971 G. ANSRE in J. SPENCER *Eng. Lang. W. Afr.* 157 Many of them [sc. the languages of West Africa] exhibit similarities in their grammatical patterning, such as the occurrence of a sequence of verbal forms within the same sentence which has come to be known as 'serial verbal construction'. 1977 E. A. GREGG *Lang. in Afr.* v. 49 A distinctive feature of many West African languages is a multiple verb construction, known in the literature as serial verbs.

g. **serial number**, a number assigned to a person, item, etc., indicating position in a series; spec. a number printed on a banknote or manufactured article by which it can be identified.

1935 F. W. CROFT *Crime at Guildford* xiv. 201 All these high-class cameras bore a serial number. 1938 L. M. HAMMOND *Librarians' Gloss.* 135 Serial Number, the number indicating the order of publication in a series. 1959 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 240 Serial Number... 2. One of the consecutive numbers appearing in front of an entry in a bibliography or catalogue. 1960 *Beside 'Guardian'* IX. 135 It shows a willingness to surrender but a refusal to reveal one's serial number. 1962 L. DEIGHTON *Impress* File i. 11 People posted to him... were given a new serial number from the batch... reserved for Civil Servants seconded to military duties. 1968 'R. SIMONS' *Death on Display* iv. 53 Crow... took himself off to check on the serial numbers of the five-pound notes. 1972 R. K. SMITH *Ransom* (1972) iii. 121 Very good field glasses for a kid... Probably stolen. He typed the serial number on the form. 1976 J. COONEY *Snake* (1977) xxiv. 129 She paid cash with bills that had been carefully laundered... Elf doubted whether the Feds had the serial numbers on her bills but she was taking no chances.

h. **Mus.** Applied to a type of composition which takes as its starting-point an arrangement of the twelve tones of the chromatic scale. Cf. DODECAPHONIC a., SERIES 20; twelve-note, -tone s.v. TWELVE numeral a. and sb. III. c.

1947 H. SEARLE in *Penguin Music Mag.* Dec. 22 Fartein Valen, whose *Sonetto di Michelangelo*... uses a serial technique derived from Berg. 1958 *Times* 6 June 4/4 Seri considers a number of alternatives to serial tonality, which is what dodecaphonists now practise in default of the milk of the word of Schönberg. 1963 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 3 May 320/4 Most of us reserve the term 'series' for an ordered succession

of notes, as in the works of Schoenberg, but do not apply it to a collection of pitches such as are found in the works of Scriabin or Debussy. Mr. Perle extends 'serial composition' to both classes of music. 1978 P. GRIFFITHS *Cont. Hist. Mod. Music* vii. 88 The plate opposite shows the opening of his [sc. Webern's] Symphony (1928), arranged to display the serial structure. 1982 *Sunday Times* 25 July 41/6 In his [sc. Eisler's] film music he made bold use of the technique of montage, juxtaposing elements from jazz, cabaret and serial polyphony.

B. sb. a. A serial or periodical publication, esp. a novel published in serial (as opposed to book) form.

1846 *Athenaeum* 5 Dec. 1237/1 A fresh serial from the prolific pen of Dickens. 1899 *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* 25 Feb. a13/2 How valuable would be some of our serials with all their advertisements... The *Gentleman's Magazine*, for instance. 1882 A. W. WARD *Dickens* ii. 20 When the popularity of the serial was once established, it grew with extraordinary rapidity.

attrib. 1872 LOWELL Milton Wks. 1890 IV. 59 A practised serial writer.

b. A film shown in a number of episodes; a radio or television play broadcast in (usu.) weekly episodes.

1924 R. GHAU *Theatre of Science* xi. 245 The latter arranged with the late Thomas W. Hanshaw... to prepare a serial. 1939 *BBC Handbk.* 20 An interesting aspect of the year's radio-dramatic work was the development of serial plays. The serial feature, which is the backbone of American radio, had made comparatively few appearances here before 1938... Publishers... found that the 'Monte Cristo' serial caused a great demand for the novel. 1950 G. WELLS *Inside Story of Dick Barton* i. 13 One certain way of arousing interest and gaining an audience was through the medium of the radio serial. 1958 *Radio Times* 22 Apr. 21/1 *Counterparty*, the six-part serial which begins... Children's Hour on Friday. 1964 K. C. LAURE *(title)* Continued next week: a history of the moving picture serial. 1974 *Broadcast* 23 July 14/1 There is abundant evidence that the serial, or its twin brother the series, is a popular form of TV programming. People seem to like stories in which the same characters appear and reappear.

Hence seriality (sə'ri:əli), serial arrangement.

1855 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* iv. i. 500 The advance of the correspondence of itself necessitates a growing seriality in the psychical changes.

serial, variant of SERIAL a. Obs.

serialism (sə'riəliz(ə)m). [f. SERIAL a. + -ISM: cf. next.] 1. The name given by J. W. Dunne (1875-1949) to a theory of the serial nature of time, which he evolved to account for the phenomenon of precognition, esp. in dreams (see *quots.*).

1927 J. W. DUNNE *Exper. with Time* xxi. 153 The serialism of the mind of presentation. *Ibid.* xxvi. 200 Serialism as a theory of the universe. 1934 *Discovery* Aug. 239/1 His theory that in dreams the dreamer appears sometimes to move out of one dimension of time into another. Serialism, as Mr. Dunne terms his main principle, is a fascinating idea. 1937 *Mind* XLVI. 165 The novelty of Serialism lies in this: in a Serial Universe it is permissible to rotate the geometrically mapped-out axis of a time-dimension (T2) until its divisions coincide with those of a time (T1) one dimension lower. 1974 *Country Life* 7 Feb. 233/1 J. W. Dunne's theory of Serialism... that we may discover the future in our dreams.

2. A belief or assumption that every process takes place in a regular succession.

1943 C. S. LEWIS *Abolition of Man* iii. 39 Such a reply springs from the fatal serialism of the modern imagination... the image of infinite unilinear progression which so haunts our minds... We tend to think of every process as if it must be like the numeral series.

3. **Mus.** The practice or principles of serial composition.

1958 [see ATONAL a.]. 1967 *Spectator* 18 Aug. 200/1 If we are to assume that atonality refers to the idiom characterising Schoenberg's works prior to his adoption of serialism... then Penderick's *Pavane*... does not come into this category. 1977 P. JOHNSON *Essays of Society* xvii. 228 Serialism does not provide a workable order, at least for most listeners, because the structure is mathematical rather than aural.

serialist (sə'riəlist). [f. SERIAL a. + -IST.]

1. A writer of serials.

1846 *Blackie Mag.* LX. 394 The characters depicted by some of our later serialists. 1902 A. BENNETT *Truth about Author* xii, in *Academy* 5 July 44/2, I found an outlet... more remunerative than the concoction of serials; and I am a serialist no longer.

2. One who holds views that accord with a serial theory; spec. one who learns by studying items arranged in a series.

1936 *Mind* XLV. 31 The controversy between subterfugists and serialists is one of long standing. 1975 G. PASK *Conversation, Cognition & Learning* 561 Serialists learn, remember and recapitulate a body of information in small, well-defined and sequentially-ordered segments.

3. **Mus.** A composer or advocate of serial music.

1959 *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 88/2, I do believe, however, that success will not wholly pass by the rhythmic experimenters and the 100 per cent serialists. 1962 *Times* 26 Feb. 14/7 The two pieces... illustrated the difference of outlook between the newest generation of English serialists and their predecessors. 1980 *Early Music* Apr. 253/3 Many of these works are characterized by a degree of formal organization which would delight serialists.

4. **attrib. or as adj.**

1936 *Mind* XLV. 31 The serialist hypothesis... seems to me beset with difficulties and obscurities. 1959 *Times* 13

Feb. 13/4 The Institute of Contemporary Arts is presenting a whole serialist programme. 1975 G. PASK *Conversation, Cognition & Learning* iv. 108 The respondent is free to learn in any way and is found to adopt a holist or serialist approach.

serialization. [-IZATION.] 1. Publication in serial form; also, the broadcasting on radio or television, in serial form, of a dramatized novel etc.

1892 *Author* July 49/1 It is desirable that authors should understand the difficulties with which serialisation is surrounded. 1965 *Radio Times* 18 Feb. 15/1 *The Mill on the Floss*, of which a four-part serialisation... begins tonight. 1972 *Daily Tel.* 31 Jan. 7/2 This serialisation may well prove such compulsive viewing as to create new interest in this neglected German liberal.

2. **gen.** The action or state of forming a series.

1897 H. CLAPP tr. *Pourier's Social Destiny* i. iv. 37 The Administrative unity of the Globe is nothing more nor less than the Serialization of the general interests, operations and relations of the Human Race. 1962 *Listener* 22 Mar. 519/1 The fate of man is now 'serialisation'. We lose our individuality and our capacity for action by being turned into merely one term in a series which could equally well be replaced by any other term. 1966 A. MANZES *Serrie* xii. 214 Serrie, in demanding the abolition of serialisation, seems to be asking for an impossible Utopia.

3. **Mus.** The composition of serial music.

1959 *Observer* 23 Aug. 7/3 This group [of composers] practices a technique of total serialisation, whereby not merely notes but all elements of music (pitch, instrumentation, rhythm, volume, etc.) are used in row formation, i.e., in regular patterns. 1966 F. HOVLIS *October First is too Late* 22. 126 The style of this Greek music was more akin to the key system than to the modern serialisation. 1976 P. STADLER in D. WILLIERS *Nest Year in Jerusalem* 328 Stravinsky... turned into a serial convert in his old age... In total serialisation, the individual note no longer functions as part of a musical thought.

serialize, v. [-IZE.] a. To publish in serial form. Also, to broadcast serially; to publish the work of (an author) in serial form.

1892 *Author* July 48/2 If a story is serialized in England and is not serialized simultaneously in the States, the American copyright is of course seriously jeopardized. 1893 *Athenaeum* 11 Nov. 663/3 The serializing of fiction. 1923 S. HOCKING *My Book of Memory* xiii. 186, I submitted it to other editors who had serialized my stories, but with the same result. 1968 A. CHRISTIE *Autobiogr.* (1977) viii. 414, I was beginning to be serialized in America... The money... (was) far larger than anything I ever made from serial rights in Britain. 1972 *Guardian* 2 Mar. 9/3 The paperback 'sales of Compton Mackenzie's 'Sinister Street' jumped from a steady annual 2,000 to 16,000 when BBC-2 serialized the book.

b. To arrange in a series.

1897 H. CLAPP tr. *Pourier's Social Destiny* i. i. 8 These three Faculties... Force to serialize the play and action of the other Motors of the Soul. 1907 W. JAMES *Pragmatism* v. 172 To frame some system of concepts mentally classified, serialized, or connected in some intellectual way.

c. **Mus.** To compose according to a serial technique.

1959 *Listener* 8 Oct. 564/1 The fashionable Webernites went on to serialize not only the notes themselves, but the silences, the durations, the dynamic indications... all by the number twelve. 1960 *Twentieth Century* Nov. 460 A note was said... to exist in a field determined by the possible error of the performer. This element was immediately serialized.

Hence 'serialized', 'serializing' ppl. *ads.*

1897 H. CLAPP tr. *Pourier's Social Destiny* i. iv. 32 The primary functions of the three Regulatory or Serializing Faculties. 1922 *Public Opinion* 26 Aug. 204/3 Take the average short story, or serialized novel, and test it for the real wisdom involved. 1976 A. SHERIDAN-SMITH tr. *Serrie's Critique of Dialectical Reason* i. iv. 312 This serialized antagonism... constitutes an initial structure of alterity. 1976 M. SPARK *Takeover* xi. 154 The theme of Hubert had become one of Mary's favourite serialized entertainments.

serially (sə'riəli), adv. [f. SERIAL a. + -LY.]

a. In a series, in series, in serial arrangement; b. in serial form, as a serial.

1844 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci. Org. Nat.* i. 203 A supplementary coral piece, serially homologous with the appendage to the proper pleuropophysis. 1879 *Daily Tel.* 22 Sept. Small parties of the sparse artilleists hurrying along behind the wall from gun to gun, firing progressively and serially. 1872 *Athenaeum* 1 June 681/1 However 'Middlemarch' may appear, it is clear that it has not been written, although published, serially. 1884 BOWEN & SCOTT *De Bary's Phenom.* 163 Round bordered pits, arranged in left-handed oblique series, with the inner apertures serially coalescent into long alits.

†**Serial**, a. Obs. rare. [f. SER-ES + -IAN.] *Serian* worm, silkworm. (Cf. SEREAN, SERIC.)

1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* xii. iii. No Serian worms... that with their thread draw out their silken lives.

seriand, -ant, -antie, etc.: see SERGEANT, -Y.

seriary (sə'riəri), a. rare. [f. SERIE-ES + -ARY.] Cf. F. *seriario*, Sp. *seriario*.] Serial.

1900 DENIKER *Races of Man* 65 The characters called seriary, to which we have recourse in order to compare man with animals which bear the closest resemblance to him.

seriate (sə'riət), a. Chiefly Zool. and Bot. [ad. mod.L. *seriat-us*, f. SERIES.] Arranged or occurring in one or more series or rows.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 139 Tubumina small... vertically seriate. 1857 [see SERIAL a. c.]. 1879 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 137 Sedum acre... leaves obscurely 6-seriate. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* xxvi. The remainder was a mere question of time and natural seriate changes.

So *seriated* a.; hence *seriately* *adv.*, in series.
 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 266 Disks seriately and reticulately budding. 1874 H. C. Wood *Fresh-w. Alga* 227 The gelatinous tubes or sheaths in which the cells are seriated are very obvious. 1874 LEWES *Probl. Life & Mind* Ser. I. 120 Vitality and Sensibility may be said to rest on seriated Change.

seriate ('sɪəriət), *v.* [Back-formation from *SERIATION*.] *trans.* To arrange (items) in a sequence according to prescribed criteria.

1944 *Genetics* XXIX. 526 We shall refer to these and other genes in the series, requiring testers to distinguish them and to seriate them, as iso-alleles. 1968 D. L. CLARKE *Analytical Archaeol.* II. xi. 453 Initially, the matrix technique was devised for seriating assemblages in terms of their proportions of component types. 1972 *Computers & Humanities* VI. 179 The program constructs a classification of objects and seriates the classes by minimizing the distance according to the Brainerd Robinson model of seriation.

|| **seriatim** ('sɪəriətɪm), *adv.* (and *a.*) [med.L., *f. L. seri-ēs* after GRADATIM, LITERATIM.] One after another, one by one in succession.

1680 C. HATTON *Corr.* (Camden) I. 225 *Yr* judges did every one of them seriatim declare y^t that board was a proper place of judicature of state affaires. a 1734 *NORTH Exam.* I. ii. 580 (1740) 72 The Judges thought fit to give their Judgments, seriatim, after solemn Argument had. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* x. I. 303 If not content with taking them [sc. spiders] seriatim you should feel desirous of eating them by handfuls. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xv. Mr. and Mrs. Kenwigs thanked every lady and gentleman, seriatim, for the favour of their company. 1871 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) II. 343 This question subdivides into several questions, which we will consider seriatim.
b. as *adj.* Following one after the other. *rare.*
 1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* x. 497 There are places where force would be lost by dividing it into two or three successive and seriatim sentences.

seriation ('sɪəri'eɪʃən), [ad. mod.L. **seriatiōnem*, *f. seri-ēs*; see *SERIES* and *-ATION*.] Succession in series, serial succession; formation of or into a series. In mod. use, esp. in *Archaeol.*, the action or result of arranging items in a sequence according to prescribed criteria.

1658 J. ROBINSON *Endoxa* iv. 30 Where there is no fear of enormity, there may be a secure variation of supremacy. 1846 ODLING *Anim. Chem.* 47 The acids of these two series presented: a marked parallelism in their constitution, seriation, and properties. 1874 LEWES *Probl. Life & Mind* Ser. I. 144 The demonstration that thinking is seriation. 1887 *Athenaeum* 3 Sept. 209/3 In the seriation of the [chemical] elements certain gaps occur. 1917 *Anthrop. Papers Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* XVIII. 283 We have found that another seriation based on the percentages of redware yields a cheaper result. 1944 *Genetics* XXIX. 534 The test indicated that the males carried bobbed alleles capable of seriation when in combination with the testes. But in homozygous condition several of these seriated alleles produced identical maximum bristle types. 1951 G. W. BRAINERD in *Amer. Antiq.* XVI. 304/1 If a series of collections comes from a culture changing through time, their placement on the time axis is a function of their similarity... This... allows a 'seriation' or ordering of collections to be formed which, if time be the only factor involved, must truly represent the temporal placing of the collections. *Ibid.* 311/2, I believe that... seriations formed by this technique will allow refinements in chronology greater than those currently possible. 1966 *Amer. Anthropologist* LXVIII. 1449 When the data are very reliable... then both ordering criteria produce the same seriation of collections. Confidence in the resulting seriation is therefore high. 1971 *World Archaeol.* III. 107 The established sequence of changing settlements also corresponded with that reached by seriation of the pottery collections from the relevant sites.

† **seriately**, *adv.* *Obs.* Also *seryatt-*, *ceriat-*, *6 seryat-*. [Partial anglicization of med.L. *SERIATIM*.] In succession, seriatim.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 273 Now I wyl fede 30w alle with awngellys mete. Wherefore to reseyve it come forth seryately. c 1475 *Parleyng* 1836 Thai. With-out taryng to wash ther handes went: After went to sitte ther cerially. c 1520 BARCLAY *Jugurth* 37 b. To write of the bynesyne and dedes of both the parties seriately and distynctly. 1540 *Str. Papers Hen. VIII.* III. 200 We have receyved Your Graces most gracijs letters... the contents wherof we have seriately redde.

seriaun, -auns, -aunt(e, etc.: see *SERGEANT*.

seriba, variant of ZAREBA.

Seric ('serik), *a. rare.* [ad. L. *seric-us*, (1) belonging to the Seres, (2) of silk (neut. *sericum* as sb., silk). = Gr. *σηρικός* (neut. *σηρικόν* silk), *f. ἑρῖες*: see *SERES*.]

1. Chinese.

1824 TUPPER *Proverb. Philos.* Ser. II. Intro. Unclean meats as of the clean hang upon my Seric shambles. 1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LX. 310 The pure concoction of the seric herb [= tea].

2. Silken.

1886 *Edin. Rev.* July 155 The manufacture of seric stuffs.

sericate ('serikət), *Chem.* [*f. SERIC-IC* + *-ATE*.] A salt of seric acid.

1841 Turner's *Elem. Chem.*, Org. 1084 Sericate of oxide of ethule is a colourless mobile liquid.

'sericated, *a. rare* = *f. L. sericāt-us* (*f. seric-um* silk; see *SERIC*) + *-ED*.] † Clothed in silk; also = *SERICEOUS*.

1623 in COCKERAM. 1860 WORCESTER, *Sericated* [sic].

sericeo- ('sɪrɪsɪə), used as comb. form of *L. sericeus* (see next) = silky and ...

1841 Penny Cycl. XX. 359/2 Ovaries sericeo-tomentose.

sericeous ('sɪrɪʃəs), *a. Zool. and Bot.* [*f. L. serice-us*, *f. seric-um* silk (see *SERIC*): see *-EOUS*.] Silky, covered with silky down.

1777 ROBINSON *Brit. Flora* 15 *Sericeous*, covered with a down of extremely fine texture. 1819 SAMUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 282 *Hylæus*... Lip lanceolate, little sericeous. 1847 HARDY in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. No. v. 236 Shining yellow sericeous down. 1885 H. O. FORBES *Nat. Wand.* IV. App. 376 *The sericeous* brand on the male.

sericic ('sɪrɪsɪk), *a. Chem.* [*f. L. seric-um* silk (see *SERIC*) + *-IC*.] = MYRISTIC.

1841 Turner's *Elem. Chem.*, Org. 1083 Sericic Acid. Syn. Myristic Acid. Discovered by Playfair.

sericulture ('serɪsɪkʲʊə(r), -tʃə(r)), [ad. *F. sericulture*, *f. L. seric-um* (see *SERIC*) + *cultura* CULTURE.]

= *SERICULTURE*. Hence *seric/cultural* *a.*, *seric/culturist*.

1892 CROOKES tr. Wagner's *Man. Chem. Technol.* 803 *Sericulture*.—Varieties of Silkworms. *Ibid.* 804 *Sericulturists* become sufficiently adepts. to be able to select a sufficient number of cocoons of each sex.

sericin ('serɪsɪn), *Chem.* Also *-ine*. [Formed as *SERICIC* + *-IN*.]

1. = MYRISTIN.

1841 Turner's *Elem. Chem.*, Org. 1083 Sericate of oxide of glycerule (sericine or myristine).

2. The gelatinous constituent of silk.

1868 BLOKAM *Chem.* 446. 1886 tr. Benedikt's *Chem. Coal-tar Colours* 39 Both fibroine and sericine (silk-glue) consist of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen.

sericipary ('serɪsɪpəri), *a. rare.* [*f. L. sericum* silk + *-par-us* (-PAROUS) + *-Y*.] Producing silk.

1869 *Eng. Mech.* 24 Dec. 350/3 A double apparatus... situated on either side of the intestinal canal, and below it, called the sericipary gland.

sericite ('serɪsɪt), *Min.* [ad. *G. sericit* (1852), *f. L. seric-um* silk; see *SERIC* and *-ITE* 2b.] A fibrous variety of muscovite.

1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 223 Sericite of K. List. is regarded by him as near Damourite. 1866 LAWRENCE tr. Cotta's *Rocks Classified* 23 Sericite, a green mineral, of silky lustre.

b. attrib. = *SERICITIC*.

1879 RUTLEY *Study of Rocks* 206 *Sericite-Schist*.—This is a schistose rock closely allied to the porphyroids, and consists of sericite, fragments of quartz [etc.]. 1884 *Nature* 13 Nov. 35/1 Sericite mica.

Hence **sericitic** ('serɪsɪtɪk) *a.*, containing or having the character of sericite.

1814 *Nature* 13 Nov. 34/1 A slight development of sericite mica.

sericization, [*f. prec.*: see *-IZATION*.] Conversion into, or replacement by, sericite.

1893 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* IV. viii. II. (ed. 3) 617 Where the silky unctuous sericite has been developed from orthoclase (sericization). 1908 *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* XL1. 69 These figures show... that the type of rock-alteration may be regarded as partial sericization. 1962 W. A. DEER et al. *Rock-Forming Minerals* III. 24 This sericization may begin, and be complete, at an early stage of the metamorphism.

Hence **'sericitized** *ppl. a.*, converted into (a form containing) sericite.

1935 *Geol. Mag.* LXXII. 276 Plagioclase... occurs as large sericitized laths. 1965 G. J. WILLIAMS *Econ. Geol.* N.Z. xiii. 195/2 The wall-rocks are sericitized and chloritized.

† **sericon**, *Alch. Obs.* [*a. med.L. sericon* (indeclinable).]

In *Turbis Phosphorum alterum exemplar*, printed in *Artis Auriferæ quæ Chemiam vocant volumen primum* (Basileæ: 1593) 138, 'sericon' is mentioned (in connexion with 'magnesia': see *MAGNESIA* 1) as 'a composition which is called by ten names', and which is one of the ingredients in 'the ferment of gold'. That the word originally stood for some real chemical substance is not improbable, but its proper meaning and etymology (perh. Arabic: cf. *ZIRCON*) are obscure. There is no ground for identifying it with mod. L. *sericum* (prob. merely a use of *L. sericum* silk) cited by writers of the 18th c. as a name for the flowers of zinc. On the other hand, 'Sericon', an old name for minium', in some modern dictionaries, may represent a conjecture as to the meaning of the alchemical term.]

A substance supposed to be concerned in the transmutation of inferior metals into gold.

The explanation given in Gifford's note on the Jonson passage, 'the red tincture', appears to be an unauthorized conjecture.

? 15... in Ashmole *Theat. Chem.* (1652) 428 This centrall Earth who can it take, It and Sericon [sic] do our Maistry make. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* II. v. Both Sericon, and Bufo shall be lost.

|| **sericterium** ('serɪktəriəm), *Entom. Pl. -eria* (-təriə). Also anglicized serictery ('sɪrɪktəri). [mod.L., irreg. *f. Gr. σηρικόν* silk (see *SERIC*) + *-τήριον*, after *sialisterium* (σιαλιστήριον) salivary gland of insects.] A glandular apparatus in silkworms for the production of silk; a silk or spinning gland.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xli. (1828) IV. 137 In the sericterium the fluid that produces it [sc. silk] is sometimes white or grey. 1875 BLAKE *Zool.* 287 The two fine filaments from the sericteria are glued together by another secretion

from a small gland. 1898 PACKARD *Text-bk. Entomol.* 337 In the imago the sericteries revert to their primitive shape and use as salivary glands.

sericultural ('serɪkʲʊə(r), -tʃə(r)), *a.* [*f. next* + *-AL*.] Pertaining to or engaged in sericulture.

1864 *Q. Jynl. Sci.* I. 515 The sericultural departments of France. 1886 WARDLE *Catal. India Silk Culture* 28 Aids to Sericultural Study.

sericulture ('serɪkʲʊə(r), -tʃə(r)), [Shortened ad. *F. sericulture*; see *SERICULTURE*.] The production of raw silk and the rearing of silkworms for the purpose.

1851-4 Tomlinson's *Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) II. 520/2 The Central Society of Sericulture of France. 1863 *All Year Round* 11 July 467/1 Model silkworm houses... would greatly tend to popularise this new branch of sericulture. 1881 WARDLE *Wild Silks of India* 53 Eria sericulture plantations.

Hence **seri/culturist**, one engaged in sericulture, a silk-grower.

1864 *Q. Jynl. Sci.* I. 515 He recommends the sericulturist to separate his dark worms from the general stock.

seridclath, northern *f. cered cloth*: see *CERED*. 1438-9 Durham Acc. Rolls (Surtees) 408 In 22 virgis panni linei empt. pro le Seridclath pro vestimentis.

† **serie**, *Obs.* [app. ad. *L. seriēs*: see *SERIES*.] Succession of points in an argument.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 2200 What may I concluden of this long serye. But after wo I rede vs to be merye?

seriea(u)nt, -y, *obs.* forms of *SERGEANT*, -Y.

seriema ('serɪɪmə), **çariama**, **carriama** (sæ-, kærɪ'mə). Also *sieriema*. [mod. L. *seriema* (A. de St. Hilaire, 1830), *carriama* (Brisson, 1760), *a. Tupi seriema*, *sariama*, *çariama*, explained by Ruiz de Montaya as = crested. The erroneous form *carriama* (without cedilla) comes down from Marcgrav, *Hist. Nat. Brasil.* 1648.] A large long-legged crested bird, *Cariama cristata*, inhabiting parts of Brazil; the crested screamer.

1836 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 30 Though the *Cariama*, in its osseous structure, exhibits but little resemblance to the Birds of the Rapinoid order. 1860 *Ibid.* 334 A New Form of Grallatorial Bird nearly allied to the *Cariama*. 1869 R. F. BURTON *Highl. Brazil* II. 26 The *Sieriema*, that hunted the serpents from our path. 1870 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 666 Burmeister's *Cariama*. 1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XLVI. 770 The far-famed seriema (*Dichophaps cristatus*), a form that has puzzled the best of taxonomers since the middle of the seventeenth century.

series ('sɪəri:z, formerly 'sɪəri:z). Pl. (8-) *series*, (7-8, *rare* in 9) *serieses*, (7-8) *series's*. [*a. L. seriēs* row, chain, series, *f. ser-ere* to join, connect. Cf. *F. série*, It., Sp., Pg. *serie*.]

1. General senses.

1. A number or set of material things of one kind ranged in a line, either contiguously or at more or less regular intervals; a range or continued spatial succession of similar objects; † in early use applied to a row of building.

1611 CORVAT *Crudities* 454 A very faire architectonical Machine... in which are three degrees... whereof each containeth a faire Statue... At the very toppe of this rowe or series of worke is erected a most excellent effigies of a Cocke. *Ibid.* 636 A faire front of building... Which front or series extendeth it selfe in a goodly lunde. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 163 For five hundred paces it every way gives a series of all sorts of Persian fruits and flowers. 1812 MISS MITFORD in *L'Estrange Life* (1870) I. 191 In Oxfordshire, where I saw a landscape, or rather a series of landscapes, of singular beauty. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits*, *Autocracy* Wks. (Bohn) II. 81 The series of squares called Belgravia. 1872 H. C. Wood *Fresh-w. Alga* 68 Cells mostly arranged in a simple or double series in the filament.

2. *a. A number of things of one kind* (chiefly immaterial, as events, actions, conditions, periods of time) following one another in temporal succession, or in the order of discourse or reasoning.

1618 CHAPMAN *Hesiod's Georg.* II. 455 The noisome gales, that incense the seas And raise together in one series louses Autumn dashes. 1646 HOWELL *Lewis XIII.* 20 So was his whole life attended with a series of good successes. 1656 tr. Hobbes *Elem. Philos.* I. All men can reason to some degree... but where there is need of a long series of Reasons, there most men wander out of the way. 1663 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 122 The Series and Chain of our former Experiments. 1709 FULTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 158 The worst Province an Historian can fall upon, is a Series of barren Times, in which nothing remarkable happeneth. 1765 W. WARD *Grammar* IV. iv. 167 Several participles cannot conveniently be used so as to affect every part of long serieses of words immediately. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 514/1 These different heights of tide are observed to succeed each other in a regular series... This series is completed in about 15 days... Two serieses are completed in the exact time of a lunation. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. vi. What a hoping People he had, judge by the fact, and series of facts, now to be noted. 1871 R. W. DALE *Commandm.* x. 242 These Commandments occupy a great place in a series of Divine revelations. 1886 *Act 49 & 50 Viet.* c. 44 § 13 That the repayment of the money to be borrowed should be spread over a series of years.

with *pl. concord*. 1864 BABBAGE *Passages* 46 Another series of experiments were... made. 1871 MOBLEY *Carlyle in Crit. Misc.* Ser. I. 245 A complex series of historic facts do not usually fit so neatly into the moral formula.