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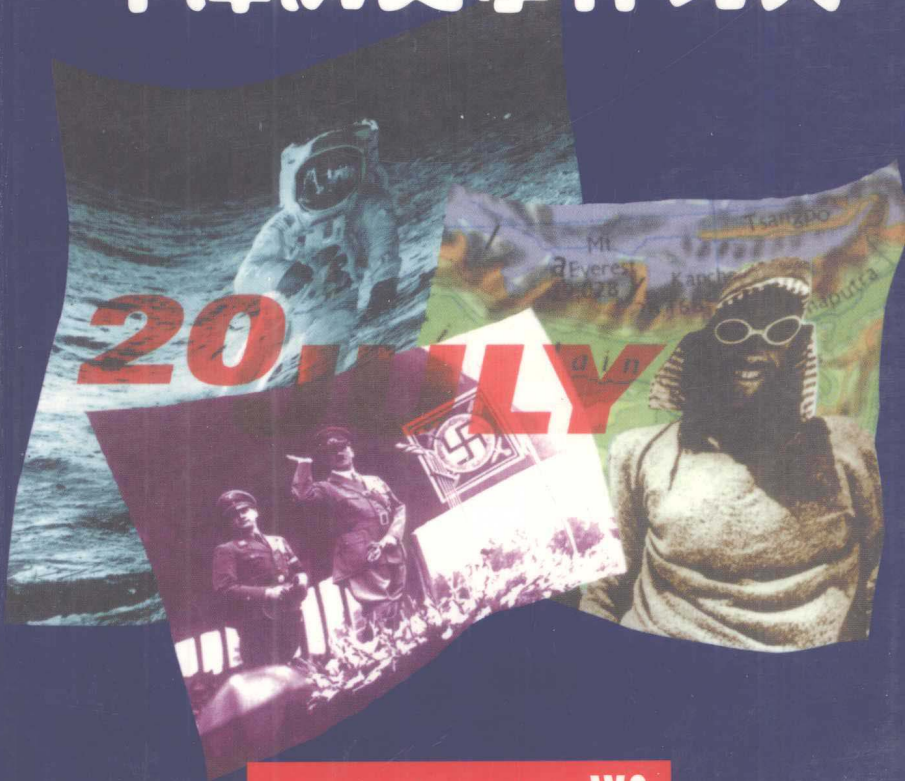


Oxford

DICTIONARY OF

DATES

牛津历史事件词典



上海外语教育出版社
SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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CYRIL LESLIE BEECHING



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出版说明

随着改革开放的不断深入以及国际交流的日趋广泛,外语学习已经不仅仅局限于语言技能的培养。通过英语获取专业知识、提高专业水平、跟踪学科的最新发展已经成为时代的要求。因此,目前国内急需一批用英语编纂的专业词典。

牛津英语百科分类词典系列是由牛津大学出版社组织编纂的一套工具书。该系列涉及语言学、文学、文化、艺术、社会学、数学、物理学、化学、生物学、医学、食品与营养、计算机等社会科学和自然科学门类近百种,均由造诣很深、经验丰富的专家撰写。作为第一批,我们从中精选了 52 本,以满足国内读者的需要。词典用浅显的英语,精确地解释了常用的专业词汇,充分体现了牛津大学出版社在出版工具书方面严谨的传统。

该系列词典可作为大专院校各专业的学生以及专业技术人员学习专业知识、提高专业英语能力的参考书。

本社编辑部

*To Frank Atkinson,
latterly Librarian of
St Paul's Cathedral,
in remembrance of his
help and encouragement
in the compilation of
this book*

INTRODUCTION

In the preparation of this book, it has become clear that most readers have an interest in dates in one way or another: from the obvious personal anniversaries to the wider awareness of historical events of lesser or greater significance. It is also undoubtedly the information about the people and happenings *behind* the dates which gives them their particular attraction and makes their listing so much more than a straightforward catalogue or directory. (There are, too, a remarkable number of fascinating coincidences concerning birthdays and other occurrences on certain days of the year, though no claims are made for any astrological significance in this respect.)

The book's two main sections are intended to give easy references to the dates and their associated details in both day-by-day and chronological order. In addition there is a very extensive index which, apart from its main function, could be seen as a 'good read' in itself.

Inevitably, if only for reasons of finite space, there are some names and items which the reader will look for in vain; but it has been the intention to cover as wide a field of interest as possible. Some items, however, have been deliberately omitted because of the lack of certainty about the dates; and in the instances of dates being duplicated through the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, the usual convention of taking the New Style has been generally followed. (For fuller details of this aspect the reader may refer to 'Gregorian calendar' in the index of this book.)

C.L.B.

New Malden, Surrey
January 1993

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JANUARY &

& 1 January

THIS day was first recognized as New Year's Day with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain in 1582; yet it was not until 1752 that the New Style was adopted in Britain.

The oldest existing London daily newspaper, *The Times*, was first published on this day in 1788, replacing the *Daily Universal Register*, which had been in circulation for three years; and in 1814 the first Welsh-language newspaper, *Seren Gomer*, was published in Swansea.

Born on this day were: Paul Revere (1735–1818), the American patriot and folk hero of the War of Independence (see 18 Apr.); the British novelist Maria Edgeworth (1767–1849); A(rthur) H(ugh) Clough (1819–61), the English poet especially remembered for 'The Latest Decalogue' and the verse 'Thou shalt not kill; but need'st not strive / Officiously to keep alive' (frequently quoted by advocates of euthanasia); Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937), the French sportsman who revived the Olympic Games in Greece; the English novelist E(dward) M(organ) Forster (1879–1970); J(ohn) Edgar Hoover (1895–1972), the director of the FBI from 1924 until his death; Harold Adrian Russell 'Kim' Philby (1912–88), the British double agent known as 'the third man'; and the British playwright Joe Orton (1933–67).

In 1909 the first payments of old age pensions in Great Britain were made, with all persons over the age of 70 with an annual income of less than £21 receiving five shillings a week.

& 2 January

ON this day . . . in 1839 the French photographic pioneer Louis Daguerre took the first photograph of the moon (in Paris); and in 1959 the Russian artificial satellite *Luna I*, the first rocket to pass the moon, was launched from Tyuratam.

Born on this day were: General James Wolfe (1727–59), the British soldier and hero of the battle of Quebec; Mily Alexeyevich Baldkirev (1837–1910), the Russian composer and leader of the group of national Russian composers known as ‘the Five’ (the others were Borodin, Cui, Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov); Gilbert Murray (1866–1957), the Australian-born scholar who became the chairman of the League of Nations 1923–38; Arthur William Charles ‘Wentworth’ Gore (1868–1928), the English tennis player who appeared at Wimbledon on every occasion from 1888 to 1927 and was the men’s singles champion in 1901, 1908, and 1909, when he became the oldest winner of the championship; the English composer Sir Michael Tippett (1905–); and Isaac Asimov (1920–92), the American scientist and author of science fiction.

3 January

ON this day . . . in 1911 what came to be known as ‘the Sidney Street Siege’ was witnessed by two future British prime ministers: one of them was Clement Attlee, whose 28th birthday it happened to be; and the other was Winston Churchill, at that time the Home Secretary and personally involved in the proceedings. (The incident was a sequel to ‘the Houndsditch murders’ of 16 December, in which three police officers had been shot, and the siege ended when the house was burned down with its occupants as the police and the military were attempting to storm the building.)

Born on this day were: James Bridie (1888–1951), the Scottish dramatist whose real name was Osborne Henry Mavor and who used the pseudonym of ‘Mary Henderson’ for his first play; Herbert Morrison, later Lord Morrison of Lambeth (1888–1965), who was a cabinet minister in both the Churchill and Attlee administrations; John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892–1973), the philologist and author of the mythological tales *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*; and the Danish-born pianist and entertainer Victor Borge (1909–).

William Joyce, the British traitor who had broadcast for the Nazi regime in World War II, known as ‘Lord Haw-Haw’ from his affected ‘upper-class’ drawl, was hanged at Wandsworth Prison in 1946.

In 1959 Alaska was admitted to the Union as the forty-ninth state.

4 January

BORN on this day were: Jacob Grimm (1785–1863), the German philologist who invented the word ‘umlaut’ (but is best known for his *Fairy Tales*, written with his brother Wilhelm); Louis Braille (1809–52), the Frenchman who invented and gave his name to the universal system of reading and writing for the blind (and was himself blind from the age of 3); and Sir Isaac Pitman (1813–97), the Englishman who invented the shorthand system named after him.

Also born on this day were: Josef Suk (1874–1935), the Czech composer who was the son-in-law of Dvorak; the Welsh painter Augustus John (1878–1961); C(yril) L(ionel) R(obert) James (1901–89), the West Indian writer on cricket and racial discrimination; Jane Wyman (1914–), the American actress who was the first wife of the US president Ronald Reagan; the American Soprano Grace Bumbry (1937–); and the American boxer Floyd Patterson (1935–), who was the youngest world heavyweight champion when he won the title in 1956 and the first to regain the title, in 1960.

In 1938 the circus was first televised with Bertram Mills’ Circus transmitted live from Olympia. (And since this was also the first time that pictures were shown of the paying public at any event, the customers were informed that they could, if they so desired, be seated out of the cameras’ range!) In 1960 the French writer Albert Camus was killed in a car accident; and in 1967 the British racing motorist Donald Campbell was killed attempting to establish a new water-speed record on Coniston Water, in the Lake District.

5 January

BORN on this day were: the Italian pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli (1920–95); the Austrian-born pianist Alfred Brendel (1931–), who is an honorary KBE; and the Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini (1942–).

Also born on this day were: King Camp Gillette (1855–1932), the American inventor of the safety razor; Konrad Adenauer (1876–1967), the first chancellor of West Germany, in 1949; HRH Jean, the Grand

Duke of Luxembourg (1921–); Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1928–79), the president of Pakistan who was executed for conspiring to murder a political rival; HM King Juan Carlos of Spain (1938–); and Mansur Ali Khan, formerly the Nawab of Pataudi (1941–), the former Indian cricket captain.

The Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton died at South Georgia on his fourth and last expedition in 1920–2; and in 1941 the pioneer air-woman Amy Johnson was drowned after baling out of her aircraft over the Thames Estuary.

6 January

IN 1540 Henry VIII was married to his fourth wife Anne of Cleves. (The marriage was declared null and void after some six months: 'The King found her so different from her picture . . . that . . . he swore they had brought him a Flanders mare.')

Born on this day were: Richard II (1367–1400), the eighth and last of the Plantagenet kings of England; Percival Pott (1714–88), the English surgeon who gave his name to a fracture and a disease; Gustave Doré (1832–83), the French painter and illustrator; the German composer Max Bruch (1838–1920); the Russian composer Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915), whose nephew was the Russian revolutionary leader Molotov; the American poet Carl Sandburg (1878–1967); and Tom Mix (1880–1940), the Texas ranger and US marshal who became one of the best-known film actors in 'Westerns' with his horse 'Tony'.

7 January

ON this day . . . in 1558 Calais was finally taken from the British by the French, under the Duke of Guise; and the first Channel crossing by air was made from Dover to Calais by the Frenchman Jean-Pierre Blanchard and the American Dr John Jeffries in a hydrogen balloon, in 1785.

Born on this day were: Jacques Étienne Montgolfier (1745–99), the French inventor who with his brother Joseph Michel Montgolfier built

the first successful hot-air balloon, in 1783; the German inventor Johann Philipp Reis (1834–74), who first demonstrated an electrical telephone in 1861 (fifteen years before Bell's invention was patented); and Arthur Clifford Hartley (1889–1960), the English inventor of World War II's PLUTO (Pipeline under the Ocean) and FIDO (Fog Investigation Dispersal Operation).

Also born on this day were: Millard Fillmore (1800–74), the thirteenth US president, who came to office on the death of Zachary Taylor, in 1850; Adolph Zukor (1873–1976), the Hungarian-born pioneer of the film industry and its first centenarian; the French composer Francis Poulenc (1899–1963); the English dramatist and actor Arnold Ridley (1896–1984), who latterly achieved fame as one of the members of television's *Dad's Army*; and Gerald Durrell (1925–95), the zoologist and writer and younger brother of the writer Lawrence Durrell.

8 January

ELVIS PRESLEY (1935–77), the American singer known as 'the king of rock 'n' roll', was born on this day: and two other popular singers, Shirley Bassey (1937–) and David Bowie (1947–), share his birthday.

Also born on this day were: Wilkie Collins (1824–89), the English novelist who introduced the first detective in fiction, 'Sergeant Cuff', in his novel *The Moonstone*; James Craig, the first Viscount Craigavon (1871–1940), the first prime minister of Northern Ireland; Dennis Wheatley (1897–1977), the English novelist and inventor; and Georgi Malenkov (1902–88), the Soviet leader who succeeded Stalin in 1953.

9 January

BORN on this day were: John Jervis, the Earl of St Vincent (1735–1823), the British admiral who took his title from the third battle of St Vincent, in 1797; Jeanette 'Jennie' Jerome, Lady Randolph Churchill (1854–1921), Sir Winston Churchill's American-born mother; Karel Čapek (1890–1938), the Czech writer who introduced the word 'robot' into the language, in his play *RUR* (*Rossum's Universal Robots*); Dame

Gracie Fields (1898–1979), the English singer and comedienne who became internationally famous; the thirty-seventh US president Richard Milhous Nixon (1913–94), who was the first to resign his office, in 1974; and the American singer Joan Baez (1941–).

In 1972 the *Queen Elizabeth*, for more than thirty years the world's largest passenger liner, was gutted by fire in Hong Kong harbour.

🌸 10 January

ON this day . . . in 1645 the archbishop of Canterbury William Laud was beheaded on Tower Hill, having been found 'guilty of endeavouring to subvert the laws, to overthrow the Protestant religion, and to act as an enemy to Parliament'. (It was to be more than fifteen years before the next archbishop was appointed, with the Restoration of Charles II.)

In 1840 the 'penny post' (the British system of delivering mail at a standard charge, regardless of distance) came into operation. This coincided with the introduction of the first correspondence course, which was for Isaac Pitman's system of shorthand; and in 1863 the first underground railway, London's Underground Metropolitan Railway, was opened to fare-paying passengers, with trains running at fifteen-minute intervals from Farringdon Street to Paddington.

Born on this day were: the historian and politician Lord Acton (1834–1902), who told us that 'Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely'; Charles Adrien Wettach (1880–1959), the Swiss clown known as 'Grock'; Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903–75), the British sculptor; and Galina Ulanova (1910–), the Russian ballerina.

🌸 11 January

ON this day . . . in 1922 insulin was first administered to a diabetic patient (a 14-year-old Canadian boy, Leonard Thompson), who went on to lead a normal life. (It was only the previous year that the Canadian physiologists Frederick Grant Banting and Charles Herbert Best had discovered and isolated the hormone.)