

# DICTIONARY OF FOREIGN TERMS

## SECOND EDITION

C O. SYLVESTERMAWSON
CHARLES BERLITZ:

THOUSANDS OF EXPRESSIONS FROM MORE THAN FIFTY LANGUAGES

#### A

adscriptus glabae the soil, a sert ad sectam [1.1 ]. adsum (L ) Lan ; ad summam [1] ad summum '1 1 a due voci [1] ] to ad unguem [L. ]. to ed can expre the smoothne Cf. eig Bran x the nail; "a m (ir. by Coning ad unum omnes without excep a dur âne dur aigu ad usum [L.], acco ad utrumque parat ad valorem [L.] ac ad verbum [L.], to ad veree indiam [L adversa virtute r courage). adversus [L.], agai ad vitam aut culp good behavior ad vivum [L.], to th advocatus diaboli dispute claims one who argue negrescit medendo the remedy is

aegri somnia vana aegrotat [L.; pl. ac aequabiliter et dili aequam servare n (adapted from servare menter difficulties): He aequanimiter [L.], aequitas sequitur l common-law would ensue): aequo animo [L.], aequo pulsat pede Horace. See PA aere perennius [L.] aes alienum [L.], r nes triplex [L.]. tri netatis [L.], of the (or her) age. aeternum servans s wound within t ἀετὸς ἐν ιερέλαιο clouds; fig., ar afectisimo [Sp.; fe abbr. in a lette afectuoso [Sp.; fen

affabile [It.], in a p

affaire [Fr.], affair

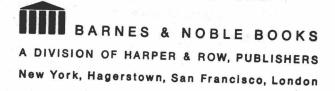
<sup>\*</sup> CHARLES BERLITZ, WORLD-FAMOUS LINGUIST, IS THE AUTHOR OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED LANGUAGE-TEACHING BOOKS, HE IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE BERLITZ SCHOOLS IN ANY WAY

# Dictionary of Foreign Terms

By C. O. Sylvester Mawson

SECOND EDITION

Revised and updated by Charles Berlitz



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#### Dictionary of Foreign Terms

#### PREFACE

There is an old Spanish proverb which holds that English is the language of business, Italian the language of singers, French the language of diplomats, German the language of soldiers and horses, and Spanish, with a backward look toward Don Juan, the language of lovers. However the truth may be in these linguistic attributions, the observation about English is well substantiated, as it is now spoken by 500,000,000 people in every corner of the world and is not only the language of business, but also of transportation, travel, communications and diplomacy. However, as English has taken over the functions of a world language, it has ceased to be entirely English and has adopted a host of foreign words and expressions culled from most of the languages of the world. This is principally because English, being essentially simple grammatically and without word gender, provides an open door to incorporate foreign words and expressions many of which express an idea so exactly, with what the French call le mot juste — the precise word — that it is easier and more piquant and expressive to leave them in their original language.

The result of this adoptive tendency of English is to fill conversation, literature, and communication media with foreign words and expressions, the exact meanings of which are often missed by the reader or listener. It is for this reason that the DICTIONARY OF FOREIGN TERMS is especially valuable to American readers constituting as it does a dictionary where foreign words and expressions, listed alphabetically, can be used as a ready reference, furnishing the exact meaning of what one may hear and read in current or literary usage. This present volume, originally compiled by C. O. Sylvester Mawson, Litt.D., Ph.D., was the first book of its kind to list all foreign expressions in English. It has now been revised by Charles Berlitz, international linguist and lexicographer, who has updated the material and added many new expressions of foreign origin currently used in the English of today.

Plucals of all words the reght present difficulty to the

Dictionaries are not unmindful of the importance of foreign terms and phrases: the larger the dictionary the greater the number of non-English inclusions. But for the ordinary reader to provide himself with an adequate collection of foreign expressions, a large number of books—some of them costly—would be required. There are literally hundreds of terms included in this volume that have so far escaped the notice of even the largest dictionaries.

A brief summary of the classes of foreign words and other features included is an indication of the scope of this dictionary, which is virtually several dictionaries in one.

- Foreign words and phrases from more than fifty languages frequently used in conversation or likely to be encountered in the fields of literature, law, science, politics, music, art, diplomacy, fashion, travel, food and dining.
- Words from Asian languages, particularly Japanese, which have been adopted into American usage in recent years.
- Menu terms in French, Italian, and other languages, with explanations and descriptions of many foreign dishes.
- 4. Quotations from classical and modern authors frequently used in literature and public addresses with passages from the Vulgate and the Old Testament in the original Greek and also English transliteration.
- Naval and military terms from foreign languages, and some of the military slang brought into English during the two World Wars.
- Terms of French and Spanish origin peculiar to Canada and the Southwestern United States.
- Expressions adopted into English from the American Indian languages.
- Words from languages relatively new on the international scene, such as Swahili, which are currently extending their linguistic area of influence.
- Translations of foreign language mottos of states, institutions, and families.
- Translations and definitions of all foreign terms used with the secondary meanings and popular usages clearly indicated where necessary.
- Plurals of all words that might present difficulty to the English reader.

12. Feminine forms of foreign nouns and adjectives.

13. Foreign abbreviations and contractions.

The reader will also find, alphabetically indicated, certain sayings and everyday expressions from foreign languages which furnish a picturesque and pungent way of presenting ideas; and examples of folk wisdom of other languages and cultures. These sayings are a fascinating example of how proverbs expressed in other languages may differ in choice of words from ours but nevertheless deal with the same fundamental verities. These basic truths are what unite rather than divide the peoples of the world and are truly a part of a general world culture.

#### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BOOK

abbrabbreviation	elec electr	icity
adj adjective	Eng Eng	
	engin enginee	
advadverb	Esk Esk	
aero aeronautics		
Afrik Afrikaans	fem femi	nine
Am American	fig figurati	
Am. Sp American Spanish	Flem Flei	
anat anatomy	fort fortifica	ation
Anglo-Ind Anglo-Indian	fr 1	
Ar Arabic	Fr Fr	ench
AramAramaic	Fr. Am French Amer	rican
arch architecture	Fr. Can French Cana	dian
arith arithmetic	Gael G	aelic
Armen Armenian	geol geo	
astron astronomy	Ger Ger	
auto automobiles	<i>Gr.</i>	
Beng Bengali	gramgram	
biol biology	Gui Gui	
Bohem Bohemian	Hawa Hawa	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH
bot botany	Heb He	
Br British	her hera	
Bulg Bulgarian	Hind Hindi and/or I	
Can Canadian	(Hindus	
Can. Fr Canadian French	hist history; histo	
cf confer [L., compare]	Hung Hungs	
Chin Chinese	Icel Icela	andic
collog.	i.e id est [L., th	at is]
colloquial; colloquialism	Ind Ir	
com commerce	interj interje	
corr corruption	It	
Dan Danish	Jap Japa	
dial dialect; dialectal	Kan Kan	
Du Dutch	L	
	LL. Late	
eccl ecclesiastical	LL Late	Laun

lit literally
Mal Malay and Indonesian
MarMarathi
masc masculine
mech mechanics
med medicine
Mex Mexican
Mex. Sp Mexican Spanish
mil military
mod modern
myth mythology
n noun
naut nautical
<i>nav</i> naval <i>Nav</i> Navajo
neut neuter
n.f noun feminine
NL New Latin
n.m noun masculine
Worw Norwegian
OF Old French
orig originally
p. adj participial adjective
paleog paleography
Pers Persian
Pg. Portuguese
pharm pharmacy
philos philosophy
phon phonetics
photog photography
P.I Philippine Islands
pl plural
Pol Polish
pop popularly
pr pronounced
prep preposition
prob probably
psychol psychology
nite.1

q.v. . . . quod vide [L., which see] R.C.Ch.

Roman Catholic Church
rhet rhetoric
rhet rhetoric R.R. railroad
Rum, Rumania
Russ Russian
sculp sculpture
sing singular
Sing Singhalese
Skr Sanskrit
Sp Spanish
Sp Spanish Sp. Am Spanish American
specif specifically
St Saint
Sw Swedish
Swa Swahili
Tag Tagalog
Tam Tamil
tech technical
Tel Telugu
theat theatrical
theol theology
theos theosophy
topog topography
tr translated
Turk Turkish
typog typography
univ university
U.S United States
v verb
v.a verb active
v.i verb intransitive
Viet Vietnamese
v.n verb neuter
Zool zoology
Zu Zulu

#### Dictionary of Foreign Terms

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#### A

ab absurdo [L.], from the absurd: geometry.

à bas! [Fr.], down with! off with! It still do to good da so good da

;abajo con...! [Sp.], down with . . .!

ab asino lanam [L.], wool from an ass; blood from a stone.

abatis or abattis [Fr.], giblets. —abatis de dinde, turkey giblets: cookery.

abat-jour [Fr.], lamp shade or reflector; arch., an inclined device attached to a window, for directing daylight downward; also, a skylight or sloping aperture to admit light from above.

à bâtons rompus [Fr.], lit., with sticks broken; by fits and starts; fitfully.

abat-sons [Fr.], a device for throwing sound downward, as in a belfry; louver.

abattu [Fr.; fem. abattue], dejected; cast down.

a battuta [It.], lit., by the beat; in strict time: music.

abat-vent [Fr.], any device for breaking the wind, without blocking the passage of air and sound.

abat-voix [Fr.], sounding board, as over a pulpit.

ablache [It.], lamb. danother danother in one way or another dans in dans [It.], in one way or another dans in the lamb and dans in the

abbaye [Fr.], abbey.

abbé [Fr.], abbot; priest, esp. one without official ecclesiastical

abbellimento [It.], embellishment; ornament: music. 10 102130

Abbildung [Ger.], picture; cut: typog. Had a [1] smaller alamanda

à beau jeu beau retour [Fr.], one good turn deserves another.

à beau mentir qui vient de loin [Fr.], travelers from afar can lie with impunity.

Abendessen [Ger.], supper. some oh salog mal on il siroqua and a

abends wird der Faule fleissig [Ger.], in the evening the lazy man

a beneplacito [It.], at pleasure; music, at the discretion of the performer.

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Aberglaube [Ger.], "extra-belief"; superstition, esp. in the earlier sense of excessive reverence for that which is unknown: called by Goethe the "poetry of life."

abest [L.; pl. absunt], he (or she) is absent.

abeto [Sp.], spruce tree; fir tree; also, its wood; spruce.

abeunt studia in mores [L.], studies change into habits; pursuits assiduously followed become habits: Ovid.

ab extra [L.], from without.

Abhandlung [Ger.; pl. Abhandlungen], treatise; pl., transactions, as of a society: abbr. Abh.

ab hoc et ab hac et ab illa [L.], from this man and this woman and that woman; from here, there, and everywhere; confusedly.

abiit ad plures (or majores) [L.; pl. abierunt], he (or she) has gone to the majority (i.e., is dead).

abiit, excessit, evasit, erupit [L.], he has departed, gone off, escaped, broken away: Cicero (of Catiline).

abîmé de dettes [Fr.], over head and ears in debt.

ab imo pectore [L.], from the bottom of the heart.

- ab inconvenienti [L.], lit., from the inconvenience (involved); designating an argument designed to show that the opposite construction is untenable because of the inconvenience or hardship it would create: law.
- ab incunabilis [L.], from the cradle; from childhood: Livy.
- ab initio [L.], from the beginning: abbr. ab init.

ab intra [L.], from within.

ab invito [L.], unwillingly.

ab irato [L.], lit., from an angry man; in a fit of anger; hence, not to be taken too seriously.

à bis ou à blanc [Fr.], in one way or another; by hook or by crook.

abito [Can. Fr.]. Same as ABOIDEAU.

**ab Jove principium** [L.], from Jove is my beginning; let us commence with Jupiter; let us begin with the most important person or thing: *Vergil*.

abnormis sapiens [L.], a natural-born philosopher: Horace.

abogado [Sp.], counselor at law; advocate.

aboideau or aboiteau [Can. Fr.], a sluice or tide gate in a dike: eastern Canada. Called also abito and bito.

à bon appétit il ne faut point de sauce [Fr.], a good appetite needs no sauce.

à bon chat, bon rat [Fr.], to a good cat, a good rat; tit for tat; diamond cut diamond; set a thief to catch a thief.

à bon cheval point d'éperon [Fr.], a good horse needs no spur; do not spur the willing horse.

à bon chien il ne vient jamais un bon os [Fr.], a good bone never comes to a good dog; merit rarely meets with its reward.

à bon commencement bonne fin [Fr.], a good beginning makes a good end.

à bon compte [Fr.], cheaply; at a low cost.

abondance de biens ne nuit pas [Fr.], opulence (lit., abundance of good things) does no harm; store is no sore.

à bon droit [Fr.], with good reason; justly.

à bon marché [Fr.], at a good bargain; cheap.

abonnement [Fr.], subscription.

à bonne raison [Fr.], with good reason.

à bonnes enseignes [Fr.], deservedly; on sure grounds.

à bon vin point d'enseigne [Fr.], good wine needs no signboard; good wine needs no bush.

ab origine [L.], from the origin (or beginning).

a bove majori discit arare minor [L.], from the older ox the younger learns to plow; as the old cock crows, the young one learns.

ab ovo [L.], from the egg; from the beginning.

ab ovo usque ad mala [L.], lit., from the egg to the apples (i.e., from the first to the last course of a Roman dinner); from beginning to end: *Horace*.

abra [Sp.], orig., a bay; mountain gorge or pass; mouth of a canon; a break in a mesa, as in Texas: southwestern U.S.

à bras ouverts [Fr.], with open arms.

à brebis tondue Dieu mesure le vent [Fr.], God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.

abrégé [Fr.], abridged; epitomized; also, a summary.

abri [Fr.], shelter; cover; protection.

abricot [Fr.], apricot.

abricot-pêche [Fr., pl. abricots-pêches], peach-apricot.

Abschied [Ger.], dismissal; departure; leave; farewell.

Abschnitt [Ger.; pl. Abschnitte], paragraph; section; division (abbr. Abs.): typog.

abscissio infiniti [L.], lit., the cutting off of the infinite (or negative part); the systematic comparison and rejection of hypotheses till the true conclusion is reached: logic.

absence d'esprit [Fr.], absence of mind.

absens haeres non erit [L.], the absent one will not be the heir; out of sight, out of mind.

absente reo [L.], the defendant being absent (abbr. abs. re.): law. absent le chat, les souris dansent [Fr.], when the cat's away, the mice will play.

absichtlich [Ger.], intentional; intentionally; on purpose.

absit invidia [L.], let there be no ill will; take it not amiss; envy apart.

absit omen [L.], may the omen (as in a word just used) augur no evil.

absitzen! [Ger.], dismount!: mil.

absque [L.], without. —absque hoc, without this (a term used in a special traverse or formal denial): law.

a buen bocado, buen grito [Sp.], for a good morsel, a good groan; indulgence exacts its toll.

a buen entendedor media palabra basta [Sp.], to the good listener half a word is enough.

ab uno ad omnes [L.], from one to all.

ab uno disce omnes [L.], from one learn all; from one sample judge the rest: Vergil.

a buon vino non bisogna frasca [It.], good wine needs no bush.

ab urbe condita [L.], from the founding of the city (i.e., Rome, founded about 753 B.C.): abbr. A.U.C.

abusus non tollit usum [L.], abuse does not take away use; abuse is no argument against proper use.

a caballo [Sp.], on horseback.

a capella [It.], in the style of old church music; unaccompanied: music.

a capite ad calcem [L.], from head to heel.

a capriccio [It.], at the performer's pleasure; at will: music

acariâtre [Fr.]. peevish; crabbed; cross-grained.

accablé [Fr.; fem. accablée], crushed; overwhelmed; depressed; dejected.

accademia [It.], academy.

accedas ad curiam [L.], you may approach the court; a commonlaw writ to remove a cause to a higher court: Eng. law.

accelerando [It.], gradually faster (abbr. accel.): music.

accentus [L.], part of a ritualistic church service chanted or intoned by the priest and his assistants at the altar: distinguished from concentus.

accepta [L.], receipts; credits.

accessit [L.; pl. accesserunt], he (she, it) came near.

acciaccatura [It.], a short grace note, one half step below a principal note: music.

accipiter praedam, nos gloriam [L.], the hawk seeks prey, we glory: punning motto of the *Hawker* family.

accolade [Fr.], lit., an embrace; typog. & music, brace; a congratulatory embrace: an award.

accompagnamento [It.], accompaniment: music.

accompagnatore [It.; fem. accompagnatrice], accompanist: music. accordez vos flûtes [Fr.], lit., tune your flutes; settle it between you.

accordo [It.], agreement; harmony; music, chord.

accouchement [Fr.], delivery in childbed; confinement.

accoucheur [Fr.; fem. accoucheuse], obstetrician.

accroché [Fr.; fem. accrochée], lit., hooked; brought to a deadlock. accueil [Fr.], reception; welcome.

accuse (or incriminate) himself, unless before God: law.

aceite [Sp.], oil; lubricant; also, an edible oil.

aceituna [Sp.], olive (fruit).

aceituno [Sp.], olive tree.

a cembalo [It.], for the pianoforte: music.

acequia [Sp.], canal; irrigation trench. —acequia madre, main canal or acequia: Sp. Am. & southwestern U. S.

acequiador [Sp.], overseer of an acequia (q.v.).

acera [Sp.], sidewalk.

acerbus et ingens [L.], fierce and mighty.

acervatim [L.], in heaps; summarily.

ac etiam [L.], and also.

à chacun son fardeau pèse [Fr.], everyone thinks his own burden heavy.

à chaque fou plaît sa marotte [Fr.], every fool is pleased with (or rides) his own hobby.

à chaque oiseau son nid est beau [Fr.], every bird thinks its own nest fine.

à chaque saint sa chandelle [Fr.], to each saint his candle; honor to whom honor is due.

achar [Hind. & Pers.], pickles; any salt or tart relish: *India*.
acharné [Fr.], bloodthirsty; infuriated; enthusiastic; rabid;
hunting, fleshed.

acharnement [Fr.], ferocity; blind fury; rage; fig., gusto.

achcha [Hind.], good; well; opposite of kharab. —bahut achcha,
all right; very well.

Acheruntis pabulum [L.], food for Acheron; marked for death (said of a corrupt and depraved man): Plautus.

à cheval [Fr.], on horseback; astride. —à cheval! to horse! a chi vuole non mancano modi [It.], where there's a will, there's a way.

Achtung! [Ger.], attention!

à clin [Fr.], clinker-built; lapstreak: naval.

à cœur joie [Fr.], to one's heart's content.

à cœur ouvert [Fr.], with open heart; unreservedly.

à compte [Fr.], on account; in part payment.

à contre cœur [Fr.], reluctantly; against the grain.

à corps perdu [Fr.], lit., with lost body; impetuously; head-long; with might and main.

à corsaire, corsaire et demi [Fr.], set a thief to catch a thief. Cf. A FRIPON, etc.

à coups de bâton [Fr.], with blows of a stick (or cudgel).

à coup sûr [Fr.], lit., with sure stroke; surely; assuredly; unerringly; without fail.

à couvert [Fr.], under cover; sheltered; secure; safe.

acqua [It.], water. —acqua cheta rovina i ponti, stagnant water ruins bridges; still waters run deep. —acqua lontana non spegne fuoco vicino, distant water does not extinguish a neighboring fire.

acquista buona fama e mettiti a dormire [It.], acquire a good

reputation and go to sleep.

acquit [Fr.], receipt; discharge. —pour acquit, paid; settled:
 written on receipted bills, etc.

âcre [Fr.], tart; biting; acrid.

a cruce salus [L.], salvation by (or from) the Cross.

acta est fabula [L.], the play is over; words used at the close of a dramatic performance in the ancient Roman theater; the dying words of the Emperor Augustus. Cf. LA FARCE EST JOUÉE.

acte d'accusation [Fr.], bill of indictment. actionnaire [Fr.], shareholder; stockholder.

actio personalis moritur cum persona [L.], a personal action dies with the person: law,

actualité[Fr.], passing event; question of the hour.

actualmente [Sp.], at the present time.

actuel [Fr.; fem. actuelle], real; present.

actum agere [L.], to do what has been already done.

actum est [L.], it is all over. —actum est de republica, it is all over with the commonwealth.

actum ne agas [L.], do not do what is done; let well enough alone: Terence.

actus [L.], an act; actuality; in Scholastic philosophy, equivalent to  $\epsilon \nu \epsilon \rho \gamma \epsilon \iota \alpha$  (activity, energy) as used by Aristotle. —actus me invito factus non est meus actus, an act done against my will is not my act: law. —actus non facit reum, nisi mens est rea, the act does not make a man guilty unless the mind (or intentions) be guilty: law.

a cuspide corona [L.], from the spear a crown (i.e., honor for military exploits).

ad absurdum [L.], to what is absurd: said of an argument demonstrating the absurdity of an opponent's proposition.

adagietto [It.], rather slow; a short adagio: music.

adagio [It.], slow; slowly; also, a slow movement between largo and andante: music.

adalat [Hind. & Ar.], a court of justice.

ad amussim [L.], according to a rule; accurately; exactly.

ad aperturam libri [L.], at the opening of the book; wherever the book opens.

ad arbitrium [L.], at will; at pleasure.

ad astra [L.], to the stars; to exalted place; to high renown.
 —ad astra per aspera, to the stars through hardships (lit., rough things): motto of Kansas.

a dato [L.], from date.

ad baculum [L.], to the rod (i.e., to force rather than to reason):

said of an argument or appeal.

ad captandum [L.], for the sake of pleasing: said of an agrument or appeal. —ad captandum vulgus, to catch (or attract) the crowd; to please the rabble.

ad clerum [L.], to the clergy.

ad crumenam [L.], to the purse; to one's personal interests: said of an argument or appeal.

adde parvum parvo magnus acervus erit [L.], add little to little and there will be a great heap: Ovid.

addio [It.], good-bye; adieu.

additum [L.; pl. addita], something added.

adelig und edel sind zweierlei [Ger.], noble of birth and noble of soul are two very different things.

Adel sitzt im Gemüte nicht im Geblüte [Ger.], nobility lies in worth not birth.

à demi [Fr.], half; by halves; in part.

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