

# The Oxford English Dictionary

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SECOND EDITION

Volume XIV

Rob—Sequyle

CLARENDON PRESS · OXFORD

# THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

*Prepared by*

J. A. SIMPSON *and* E. S. C. WEINER

VOLUME XIV

Rob ~~Sequyle~~

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# 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 *go* (gəʊ)  
h ... *hol* (həʊ)  
r ... *run* (rʌn), *terrier* ('teriə(r))  
(r) ... *her* (hə(r))  
s ... *see* (siː), *success* (sək'ses)  
w ... *wear* (weə(r))  
hw ... *when* (hwɛn)  
j ... *yes* (jes)

θ as in *thin* (θɪn), *bath* (bɑːθ)  
ð ... *then* (ðɛn), *bathe* (beɪð)  
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃɒp), *dish* (dɪʃ)  
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃɒp), *ditch* (dɪtʃ)  
ʒ ... *vision* ('vɪʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒəne)  
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʌdʒ)  
ŋ ... *singing* ('sɪŋɪŋ), *think* (θɪŋk)  
ŋɡ ... *finger* ('fɪŋɡə(r))

(FOREIGN AND NON-SOUTHERN)

ʎ as in It. *serraglio* (ser'raʎo)  
ɣ ... Fr. *cognac* (kɔŋak)  
x ... Ger. *ach* (ax), Sc. *loch* (lɒx), Sp. *frijoles* (fri'xoles)  
ç ... Ger. *ich* (ɪç), Sc. *nicht* (nɪçt)  
ʔ ... North Ger. *sagen* ('zɑːʔən)  
c ... Afrikaans *baardmanneŋjie* ('baːrtmənəci)  
ʔ ... Fr. *cuisine* (kɥizin)

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* ('mɜːʃ(i)ən), *suit* (s(j)uːt), *impromptu* (ɪm'prɒm(p)tjuː), *father* ('fɑːðə(r)).

## II. Vowels and Diphthongs

### SHORT

ɪ as in *pit* (pɪt), *-ness*, *(-nis)*  
ɛ ... *pet* (pet), Fr. *sept* (sɛt)  
æ ... *pat* (pæt)  
ʌ ... *putt* (pʌt)  
ɒ ... *pot* (pɒt)  
ʊ ... *put* (pʊt)  
ə ... *another* (ə'nʌðə(r))  
(ə) ... *beaten* ('biːt(ə)n)  
i ... Fr. *si* (si)  
e ... Fr. *bébé* (bebe)  
a ... Fr. *mari* (mari)  
ɑ ... Fr. *bâtiment* (batimɑ̃)  
ɔ ... Fr. *homme* (ɔm)  
o ... Fr. *eau* (o)  
ə ... Fr. *peu* (pə)  
ɑ ... Fr. *boeuf* (bœf) *coeur* (kœr)  
u ... Fr. *douce* (dus)  
ʏ ... Ger. *Müller* ('mʏlɐr)  
y ... Fr. *du* (dy)

### LONG

iː as in *bean* (biːn)  
ɑː ... *barn* (bɑːn)  
ɔː ... *born* (bɔːn)  
uː ... *boon* (buːn)  
ɜː ... *burn* (bɜːn)  
eː ... Ger. *Schnee* (ʃneː)  
ɛː ... Ger. *Fähre* ('fɛːrə)  
aː ... Ger. *Tag* (tak)  
ɔː ... Ger. *Sohn* (zɔːn)  
ɛː ... Ger. *Goethe* ('gɛːtə)  
yː ... Ger. *grün* (gryːn)

### NASAL

ɛ̃, ɔ̃ as in Fr. *fin* (fɛ̃), *fîl*  
ɑ̃ ... Fr. *franc* (frɑ̃)  
ɔ̃ ... Fr. *bon* (bɔ̃)  
œ̃ ... Fr. *un* (œ̃)

### DIPHTHONGS, etc.

eɪ as in *bay* (beɪ)  
aɪ ... *buy* (baɪ)  
ɔɪ ... *boy* (bɔɪ)  
əʊ ... *no* (nəʊ)  
aʊ ... *now* (naʊ)  
ɪə ... *peer* (pɪə(r))  
eə ... *pair* (peə(r))  
ʊə ... *tour* (tʊə(r))  
ɔə ... *bear* (beə(r))  
aɪə as in *fiery* ('fɪəri)  
aʊə ... *sour* (saʊə(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* (prɒˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃ(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	<i>Bull.</i>	(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.	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
a.	adjective	c. (as 19th c.)	century	Diss.	diminutive
abbrev.	abbreviation (of)	<i>Cal.</i>	(in titles) <i>Calendar</i>	Diss.	(in titles) <i>Disease</i>
abl.	ablative	<i>Cambr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Cambridge</i>	D.O.S.T.	(in titles) <i>Dissertation</i>
<i>absol.</i>	absolute, -ly	<i>Canad.</i>	Canadian	Du.	<i>Dictionary of the Older</i>
<i>Abstr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Abstract</i> , -s	<i>Cat.</i>	Catalan		<i>Scottish Tongue</i>
acc.	accusative	<i>catachr.</i>	catachrestically		Dutch
<i>Acct.</i>	(in titles) <i>Account</i>	<i>Catal.</i>	(in titles) <i>Catalogue</i>	E.	East
A.D.	<i>Anno Domini</i>	<i>Celt.</i>	Celtic	<i>Eccl.</i>	(as label) in Ecclesiastical
ad. (in Etym.)	adaptation of	<i>Cent.</i>	(in titles) <i>Century, Central</i>		usage;
Add.	Addenda	<i>Cent. Dict.</i>	<i>Century Dictionary</i>	Ecol.	(in titles) <i>Ecclesiastical</i>
adj.	adjective	<i>Cf., cf.</i>	<i>confer</i> , 'compare'	Econ.	(in titles) <i>Ecology</i>
<i>Adv.</i>	(in titles) <i>Advance</i> , -d, -s	<i>Ch.</i>	Church	ed.	(as label) in Economics;
adv.	adverb	<i>Chem.</i>	(as label) in Chemistry;	E.D.D.	(in titles) <i>Economy</i> , -ics
advb.	adverbial, -ly	<i>Chr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Chemistry</i> , -ical	Edin.	edition
Advt.	advertisement	<i>Chron.</i>	(in titles) <i>Christian</i>	Educ.	<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i>
<i>Aeronaut.</i>	(as label) in Aeronautics;	<i>Chronol.</i>	(in titles) <i>Chronicle</i>		(in titles) <i>Edinburgh</i>
AF., Afr.	(in titles) <i>Aeronautic</i> , -al, -s	<i>Cinemat.</i>	(in titles) <i>Chronology</i> , -ical	EE.	(as label) in Education;
Afr.	Anglo-French	<i>Cinematogr.</i>	in Cinematography	e.g.	(in titles) <i>Education</i> , -al
<i>Agric.</i>	Africa, -n	<i>Clin.</i>	classical Latin	<i>Electr.</i>	Early English
Alb.	(as label) in Agriculture;	<i>cl. L.</i>	cognate with		<i>exempli gratia</i> , 'for example'
<i>Amer.</i>	(in titles) <i>Agriculture</i> , -al	<i>cogn. w.</i>	(in titles) <i>Colonel, Colony</i>	<i>Electron.</i>	(as label) in Electricity;
Amer. Ind.	American	<i>Col.</i>	(in titles) <i>Collection</i>	Elem.	(in titles) <i>Electricity</i> , -ical
<i>Anat.</i>	American Indian	<i>coll.</i>	collective, -ly	<i>ellipt.</i>	(in titles) <i>Electric</i> , -s
	(as label) in Anatomy;	<i>colloq.</i>	colloquial, -ly	<i>Embryol.</i>	(in titles) <i>Element</i> , -ary
<i>Anc.</i>	(in titles) <i>Anatomy</i> , -ical	<i>comb.</i>	combined, -ing	e.midl.	elliptical, -ly
Anglo-Ind.	(in titles) <i>Ancient</i>	<i>Comb.</i>	Combinations	<i>Encycl.</i>	in Embryology
Anglo-Ir.	Anglo-Indian	<i>Comm.</i>	in Commercial usage	Eng.	east midland (dialect)
Ann.	Anglo-Irish	<i>Communic.</i>	in Communications	<i>Engin.</i>	(in titles) <i>Encyclopædia</i> , -ic
<i>Anthrop.</i>	Annals	<i>comp.</i>	compound, composition	<i>Ent.</i>	England, English
<i>Anthropol.</i>	(as label) in Anthropology;	<i>Compan.</i>	(in titles) <i>Companion</i>	<i>Entomol.</i>	in Engineering
<i>Antiq.</i>	(in titles) <i>Anthropology</i> , -ical	<i>compar.</i>	comparative		in Entomology
	(as label) in Antiquities;	<i>compl.</i>	complement		(in titles) <i>Entomology</i> , -logical
aphet.	(in titles) <i>Antiquity</i>	<i>Conc.</i>	(in titles) <i>Complete</i>	erron.	-logical
app.	aphetic, aphetized	<i>Conch.</i>	(in titles) <i>Concise</i>	esp.	erroneous, -ly
<i>Appl.</i>	apparently	<i>concr.</i>	in Conchology	<i>Ess.</i>	especially
<i>Applic.</i>	(in titles) <i>Applied</i>	<i>Conf.</i>	concrete, -ly	et al.	(in titles) <i>Essay</i> , -s
appos.	(in titles) <i>Application</i> , -s	<i>Congr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Conference</i>	etc.	<i>et alii</i> , 'and others'
Arab.	appositive, -ly	<i>conj.</i>	(in titles) <i>Congress</i>	<i>Ethnol.</i>	et cetera
Aram.	Arabic	<i>cons.</i>	conjunction	etym.	in Ethnology
<i>Arch.</i>	Aramaic	<i>const.</i>	consonant	<i>euphem.</i>	etymology
<i>arch.</i>	in Architecture	<i>contr.</i>	construction, construed with	<i>Exam.</i>	euphemistically
<i>Archæol.</i>	archaic	<i>Contrib.</i>	contrast (with)	exc.	(in titles) <i>Examination</i>
<i>Archit.</i>	in Archæology	<i>Corr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Contribution</i>	<i>Exerc.</i>	except
	(as label) in Architecture;	<i>corresp.</i>	(in titles) <i>Correspondence</i>	<i>Explor.</i>	(in titles) <i>Exercise</i> , -s
Arm.	(in titles) <i>Architecture</i> , -al	<i>Cotgr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Correspondence</i>		(in titles) <i>Experiment</i> , -al
assoc.	Armenian		corresponding (to)		(in titles) <i>Exploration</i> , -s
<i>Astr.</i>	association		R. Cotgrave, <i>Dictionnaire of the French and English Tongues</i>	f. (in Etym.)	feminine
<i>Astrol.</i>	in Astronomy		compound	f. (in subordinate	formed on
<i>Astron.</i>	in Astrology	cpd.	(in titles) <i>Criticism, Critical</i>	entries)	form of
<i>Astronaut.</i>	(in titles) <i>Astronomy</i> , -ical	<i>Crit.</i>	in Crystallography	F.	French
<i>Astronaut.</i>	(in titles) <i>Astronautic</i> , -s	<i>Cryst.</i>	(in titles) <i>Cyclopædia</i> , -ic	<i>fem.</i> (rarely f.)	feminine
attrib.	attributive, -ly	<i>Cycl.</i>	(in titles) <i>Cytology</i> , -ical	<i>fig.</i>	figurative, -ly
<i>Austral.</i>	Australian	<i>Cytol.</i>		<i>Finn.</i>	Finnish
<i>Autobiogr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Autobiography</i> , -ical			<i>f.</i>	<i>floruit</i> , 'flourished'
A.V.	Authorized Version	Da.	Danish	<i>Found.</i>	(in titles) <i>Foundation</i> , -s
B.C.	Before Christ	D.A.	<i>Dictionary of Americanisms</i>	Fr.	French
B.C.	(in titles) British Columbia	D.A.E.	<i>Dictionary of American English</i>	freq.	frequent, -ly
bef.	before	dat.	dative	Fris.	Frisian
<i>Bibliogr.</i>	(as label) in Bibliography;	D.C.	District of Columbia	<i>Fund.</i>	(in titles) <i>Fundamental</i> , -s
	(in titles) <i>Bibliography</i> , -ical	<i>Deb.</i>	(in titles) <i>Debate</i> , -s	<i>Funk or Funk's Stand. Dict.</i>	<i>Funk and Wagnalls Standard Dictionary</i>
<i>Biochem.</i>	(as label) in Biochemistry;	def.	definite, -ition		
	(in titles) <i>Biochemistry</i> , -ical	dem.	demonstrative	G.	German
<i>Biol.</i>	(as label) in Biology;	deriv.	derivative, -ation	Gael.	Gaelic
	(in titles) <i>Biology</i> , -ical	derog.	derogatory	Gaz.	(in titles) <i>Gazette</i>
<i>Bk.</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Devel.</i>	(in titles) <i>Development</i> , -al	gen.	genitive
<i>Bot.</i>	(as label) in Botany;	<i>Diagn.</i>	(in titles) <i>Diagnosis</i> , -ic	gen.	general, -ly
	(in titles) <i>Botany</i> , -ical	<i>dial.</i>	dialect, -al	<i>Geogr.</i>	(as label) in Geography;
Bp.	Bishop				(in titles) <i>Geography</i> , -ical
<i>Brit.</i>	(in titles) <i>Britain, British</i>				
Bulg.	Bulgarian				

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

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

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

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., 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 &amp; Allied Sciences</i>	Vet. Sci.	(in titles) <i>Veterinary</i>
sc.	<i>scilicet</i> , '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.	(in titles) <i>School</i>	techn.	technical, -ly	v.w.	vulgar
Scotl.	Scottish National Dictionary	Technol.	(in titles) <i>Technology</i> , -ical	W.	Welsh; West
Sel.	(in titles) <i>Selection</i> , -s	Telegr.	in Telegraphy	wd.	word
Ser.	Series	Teleph.	in Telephony	Webster	<i>Webster's (New International) Dictionary</i>
sing.	singular	(Th.),	(quoted from) Thornton's <i>American Glossary</i>	Westm.	(in titles) <i>Westminster</i>
Sk.	(in titles) <i>Sketch</i>	Theatr.	in the Theatre, theatrical	WGmc.	West Germanic
Skr.	Sanskrit	Theol.	(as label) in Theology; (in titles) <i>Theology</i> , -ical	Wks.	(in titles) <i>Works</i>
Slav.	Slavonic	Theoret.	(in titles) <i>Theoretical</i>	w.midl.	west midland (dialect)
S.N.D.	Scottish National Dictionary	Tokh.	Tokharian	WS.	West Saxon
Soc.	(in titles) <i>Society</i>	tr., transl.	translated, translation	(Y.).	(quoted from) Yule &
Sociol.	(as label) in Sociology; (in titles) <i>Sociology</i> , -ical	Trans.	(in titles) <i>Transactions</i>	Yrs.	Burnell's <i>Hobson-Jobson</i>
Sp.	Spanish	trans.	transitive	Zoogeogr.	(in titles) <i>Years</i>
Sp.	(in titles) <i>Speech</i> , -es	transf.	transferred sense	Zool.	in Zoogeography
sp.	spelling	Trav.	(in titles) <i>Travel(s)</i>		(as label) in Zoology;
spec.	specifically	Treas.	(in titles) <i>Treasury</i>		(in titles) <i>Zoology</i> , -ical
Spec.	(in titles) <i>Specimen</i>	Treat.	(in titles) <i>Treatise</i>		
St.	Saint	Treatm.	(in titles) <i>Treatment</i>		
Stand.	(in titles) <i>Standard</i>	Trig.	in Trigonometry		
Stanf.	(quoted from) <i>Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words &amp; Phrases</i>				

## 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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**rob** (rou), *sb.* Now rare. Also 6 robbe, 8-9 robb. [A. mod. L. or F. *rob*, = Sp. *rob*, Pg. *robe*, *arrobe*, It. *rob*, *robbo*; also G. and older Da. *rob*. The ultimate source is Arab. *rob*, *rub* or Pers. *rob*, *rub* fruit-syrup.] The juice of a fruit, reduced by boiling to the consistency of a syrup and preserved with sugar; a conserve of fruit.

1578 *LVT Dodoens* 683 The Robbe or dried iuice thereof. *Ibid.*, The rob made with the iuice of common Ribes and Sugar, is very good for all the diseases about sayde. 1600 *VENER Via Recta* vii. 124 The Rob, that is, the iuice of the berries boyled with a third part, of sugar added vnto it, is preferred before the raw berries. 1656 W. COLES *Art of Simpling* xiv. 80 Continue boyling it, till it attaine unto the consistence of Honey, and then it is by Physicians called the Rob. 1694 *WESTMACOTT Script. Herb.* 203 These Robs, and Conserves, are not to be given to costive Bodies. 1747 *WESLEY Prim. Physick* (1765) 122 Take an ounce of Rob of Elder in Broth. 1796 *WITHERING Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 351 note, The berries are so very acid that birds will not eat them, but boiled with sugar they form a most agreeable rob or jelly. 1821 W. P. G. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 61 A rob might also be prepared, by evaporating the syrup obtained from them. 1864 *Chambers's Encycl.* VI. 603/1 A rob made of it [white mulberry] is useful in sore throat.

fig. 1790 H. WALPOLE *Letter to Miss Bury* 31 Oct. There is a quantity of calculations, and one is forced to... boil milliards of livres down to a rob of pounds sterling.

**rob** (rob), *v.* Forms: 3-5 robben, 5 robbyn; 4 robbi, robby, 4-6 robbe, 5 (6 *Sc.*) rub, 6-rob, 7 robb (*Sc. robe*). [ad. OF. *robber*, *rober*, *roubar*, etc., = Sp. *robar*, Pg. *roubar*, It. *rubare*, of Teutonic origin, the stem *roub-* being that represented in English by REAVE *v.*]

1. a. *trans.* To deprive (a person) of something by unlawful force or the exercise of superior power; to despoil by violence. Also *fig.* and *refl.*

1225 *Ancr. R.* 86 be knithe pet robbed his poure men. *Ibid.* 150 Him lute leosen hit & been robbed. 1290 *St. Eustace* 57 in *S. Eng. Leg. I.* 394 he comen peoues and robbedden him. 1349 *Ayeb.* 1. 394 grete prelates pet benimep and robbed hire onderinges. 1362 *LANGL. P. Pl. A. III.* 188 Withouten pite, pilour! pore Men pou robbedet. 1387 *TREvisa Higden* (Rolls) IV. 443 before anon the hous was i-broke; pe pore men were i-spylled and i-robbed. 1423 *tr. Secreta Secret.*, *Priv. Priv.* 183 The extorcioner rubbyth and preyeth good men. 1535 *COVERDALE Prov.* xxii. 22 Se y<sup>e</sup> thou robbe not y<sup>e</sup> poure because he is weak. 1595 *SHAKS. John* iv. iii. 78 Must I rob the Law? 1604 *Oth.* i. iii. 209 He robs himselfe, that spends a bootlesse griefe. 1651 *HOBBS Leviath.* i. viii. 35 When a man robs one he pay another. 1715 *De Foe Fam. Instruct.* i. iv. (1841) 1. 74 Oh, thieves, thieves, I am robbed. 1739 *MILLS tr. Duhamel's Husb.* i. iv. 10 To hinder weeds from robbing the cultivated plants. 1791 *Mrs. RADCLIFFE Rom. Forest* i, Their intention was to rob and murder him. 1857 *KINGSLEY Two V. Ago* I. 280 As usual; poor Nature is being robbed and murdered by rich grace. 1862 *TENNISON Foresters* iii. We never rob'd a one friend of the true King. We rob'd the traitors that are leagued with John. 1926 *Publishers' Weekly* 19 June 1966/1 You may improve your golf game... Why not get rid of that disconcerting slice which robs your drive? 1948 *R. M. AYRES Missing Tide* i. 44 The food's quite good, and they don't rob you, anyway.

b. to rob Peter to pay (to give to, clothe) Paul (see PETER sb. 2).

1380 *WYCLIF Sel. Wks.* III. 174 Lord, hou schulde God approve pat pou robbe Petur, and gif pis robbere to Poule in pe name of Crist? 1440 *Jacob's Will* 305 bei robbyn seynt petry & seyunt it seynt Poule. 1515 (see PETER sb. 2). 1546 *J. HEYWOOD Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 26 Lyke a pyckpurs pilgrim, ye prie and ye proule At routers, to rob Peter and paie Poule. 1596 *NASHE Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded. B.ijb. Thow shalt not find many powling pence about him neither, except he rob Peter to pay Poule. 1657-1692 (see PETER sb. 2). 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 172/1 This Scheme is... calculated... to rob Peter to pay Paul, or to remove y<sup>e</sup> Burthen from one Part of the Community, and lay it upon another. 1855 *MOTLEY Dutch Rep.* iii. v. (1866) 430 It was not desirable to rob Saint Peter's altar in order to build one to Saint Paul.]

c. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 86/2 Sometimes it [antimony] is blended with the richer ores of silver, and renders the extraction of that metal difficult by volatilizing a part of the silver, or, in the language of the miners, *robbing the ore*.

d. *Association Football.* To deprive (an opposing player) of the ball.

1882 *Blackburn Times* 1 Apr. 6/3 Goodhart started the ball from the centre, but he was instantly robbed by Strachan. 1970 *Times* 30 Sept. 15/4 Novak held on too long in midfield and was robbed by Graham. 1976 *Morecambe Guardian* 7 Dec. 8/2 Towers and Thomas forced the defence into some confusion when a backpass went astray. Finch had to move quickly to rob Thomas who was charging through.

2. a. To plunder or strip (a person) feloniously of (something belonging to him); to deprive (one) of (something due). Also *transf.* or *fig.* (with a thing as object).

13.. *Coer de L.* 2286 In an evil tyme our emperour Robbed King Richard of his treasure. 1340-70 *Alex. & Dind.* 789 To robbe men of hure riht ful redy ben alle. 1400 *Destr.* Tray 6410 Ector... Would have Robbin the Renke of his riche wede. 1440 *Jacob's Will* 217 Myt eyse has robbid my soule of his lyf with watyr of lustys. 1535 *COVERDALE 2 Sam.* xvii. 8 As a Beer that is robbed of his yonge ones in the felde. 1563 *WINNET Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 105 He has...rubbit him of his geris or honouris. 1591 *SPENSER M. Hubberd* 16 My weake bodie... Was rob'd of rest and naturall reliefe. 1634 *MILTON Comus* 390 For who would rob a Hermit of his Weeds. 1665 *BOYLE Accus. Refl.* iv. xii. (1675) 240 A Cloud, which does no longer receive or transmit the Light, but robs the Earth of it. 1692 *DRYDEN St. Eremont's Ess.* 11 The Zeal of the Citizen robbed the Man of Himself. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 92

By allowing them to grow, we allow the land... to be robbed of its vegetable food. 1784 *COWPER Task* iv. 458 His victims, robb'd of their defenceless all. 1807-8 *IRVING Salmagundi* (1824) 265 [It] long since ceased bearing... every tempest robs it of a limb. 1867 *TROLLOPE Chron. Barset* lxiii. The troubles of life had almost robbed the elder lady of her beauty. 1878 *HUXLEY Physiogr.* 78 The air... which had been thus robbed of its oxygen.

† b. Similarly with double object. *Obs.* (Cf. 5.)

1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4323 (Kölbinger), Kepe we pe strait wais... & robben hem her sustenance. 1613 *HEYWOOD Silver Age* III. i. Ceres nor loue, nor all the Gods aboute, Shall rob me this rich purchase.

3. a. To plunder, pillage, rifle (a place, house, etc.).

1220 *Hali Meid.* 15 Wæs helle irobbed, & heuene beð ifulled. 1240 *Saules Wardes* in *O.E. Hom.* I. 247 Ah ne bihowed hit nawt pat tis hus beo irobbed. 1338 *R. BRUNNE Chron.* (1810) 38 pe Danes v<sup>r</sup> ayrued, Souhamptone v<sup>r</sup> brent, & robbed Cornwale. 1400 *Destr.* Troy 1912 He... told furth of his tale... How pe rewme was robbed. 1465 in *Three 15th Cent. Chron.* (Camden) 23 The Kyng of Scotte... robbed and revid the contre aboute Derham. 1513 *DOUGLAS Æneis* XII. v. 103 Ion ilk stranger... our marchis... Inuadis, rubbis, and spulzie. 1599 *SHAKS. Hen. V.* III. vi. 106 One that is like to be executed for robbing a Church. 1651 *tr. De-las-Coues' Don Fenise* 198 Pirates who... rob upon the sea all the vessels they could render themselves masters of. 1716 *SOUTH Sermon* (1744) IV. 153 Robbing the Spittle. 1826 *J. WILSON City of Plague* II. iii. 249 Wilt thou rob a church And share. The general spoil? 1855 *MACAULAY Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 221 In the country his house was robbed.

*transf.* 1877 *RAYMOND Statist. Mines & Mining* 316 Former operations were principally confined to robbing the rich pockets, while good milling-ore was left standing.

b. Const. of that which is taken.

1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 5105 (Kölbinger), Mani cursed painem... hadden robbed pis cuntry Of al pis ich fair pray. 1400 *Destr.* Troy 3209 To the tempull full tyte [he] turnyt agayne. To rob of pe Riches, and Renkes to helpe. 1420 *Cont. Brut* cxxxvii. (1908) 298 pe toum... of al ping pat myste be bore & caryed out was robbid and despoiled. 1590 *SPENSER F.Q.* III. vi. 4 All the rest it seemd they robbed bare Of bounty, and of beauty. 1613 *SHAKS. Hen. VIII.* III. iii. 255 Thy Ambition... robb'd this bawling Land Of Noble Buckingham.

4. a. *absol.* To commit depredations; to plunder; to take away property by force.

1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 604: Hi drowe hom toward kanterbury, to robbi pere al so. 1338 *R. BRUNNE Chron.* (1810) 38 Of Danmark dukes riche... Men & women slough, & robbed porgh pe lond. 1390 *GOWER Conf.* II. 134 For every thing upon richesse Awaiteth forto robbe and stele. 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5686 To swinke and traueile he not feyneth, For for to robben he disdeyneth. 1534 *MORE Conf. agst. Trib. Wks.* 1200, I mene not, to let euery malefactor passe furth unpunished, and frely runne out and rob at routers. 1596 *SHAKS. 1 Hen. IV.* II. ii. 10, I am accus't to rob in that Theefe company. 1662 *HILBERT Body Divinity* I. 165 A man may rob with a pair of fallibones or metawind in his hand. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1737/4 They Robbed the night before on Brainford-Road. 1831 *Insect Misc.* (L.E.K.) 330 Sometimes... small parties of three or four [bees] will unite to rob, as we may say, on the highway.

b. *Mining.* (See quotes.)

1881 *RAYMOND Mining Gloss.*, Rob, to extract pillars previously left for support; or, in general, to take out ore or coal from a mine with a view to immediate product, and not to subsequent working. 1883 *GRESLEY Gloss. Coal-mining*, Rob, to cut away or reduce the size of pillars of coal, &c.

5. a. To carry off as plunder; to steal. Now rare.

1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 381 pat strange men... assaileden is lond... & robbed is bestes & is game. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3450 (Laud MS.), Hij robbeden tresores & clopes. 1390 *GOWER Conf.* II. 160 He anon hem wolde assaile And robbe what thing that they ladden. 1426 *LYDG. De Guil. Pilgr.* 16014 Swych goostly goodys euerychon Ben yrobbyd And agon. 1456 *Sir G. HAYE Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 91 A man gais to the wer for... to pele and rob gudis. 1530 *PALSGR.* 693/1, I robbe his treasure from hym. 1579 *W. WILKINSON Confut. Fam. of Love* Ep. Ded. 73, Which Vine the Foxes sometimes spoyls and endamage by robbing the fruit. 1646 *R. BAILLIE Anabapt.* (1647) 10 The Priests vestments, which he had robbed in the Cathedral. 1697 *DRYDEN Virg. Georg.* iv. 312 They themselves contrive To rob the Honey, and subvert the Hive. 1830 *CAMPBELL Farewell to Love* 7 But Passion robs my peace no more. 1850 *THACKERAY Pendennis* xxxviii. There was a sideboard robbed out of the carved work of a church in the Low Countries. 1887 *MOLONEY Forestry W. Africa* 176 The descendants of the Negroes who were robbed from Africa. 1919 *G. B. SHAW Heartbreak House* II. 77, I should rob all the money back from Mangan. 1939 *JOYCE Finnegans Wake* (1964) III. 453 Robbing leaves out of my tale told book. 1953 (see *robber trench* s.v. ROBBER 2 b). 1977 *Irish Press* 20 Sept. 5/5 Vincent Walker... was found guilty of robbing the sum of £8,768.

† b. *fig.* To remove, take away, cut off from something; to ravish. *Obs. rare.*

1377 *LANGL. P. Pl. B.* xiv. 132 Allas! pat richesse shal reuc and robbe mannes soule fram pe loue of oure lorde. 1594 *SHAKS. Rich. II.* i. iii. 173 What is thy sentence then, but speecheless death. Which robs my tongue from breathing native breath? 1596 *SPENSER F.Q.* iv. 16 The which... it drew The eyes of all... And hearts quite robbed with so glorious sight. 1627 *Lisander & Cal. Ded.*, By their conversation they may endeavour to rob away tediousness though but from one hour.

6. *Card playing.* (See quotes.)

With quot. 1611 compare *Littre s.v. Piller* 6. 1611 *COTGR. Piller*, also, to rob, or rob, at cards. 1897 *FOSTER Compl. Hoyle* 277 (Spoil Five), Robbing the trump card. If the trump card is an ace, the dealer may discard any card he pleases in exchange for it. *Ibid.* 299 (Cinch), He may search the remainder of the pack, and take from it any cards that he pleases. This is called robbing the deck.

**rob-**, the stem of **ROB** *v.*, used in a few combs. in the 17th cent., in the sense of 'one who robs (the person or thing specified)', as **rob-altar**, **-carrier**, **-God**, **-orchard**, **-thief**. Also **ROB-POT**.

1614 T. ADAMS *Devil's Banquet* II. 49 'Will a man rob God?'... But, alas, what law can be given to 'rob Altars? 1649 *LEYCESTER Civil Wars* 69 The strong Garrison of Basing the very receptacle of robbing 'Rob-Carriers. 1612 W. SCLATER *Ministers Portion* 47 Search records, divine, humane: where findest thou a 'Rob-God without his vengeance? 1633 R. CARPENTER *Conceivable Christian* 80 Sacrilegious rob-Gods, desperate mocke-Preschers. 1673 S. PARKER *Repr. Reh. Transp.* 517 Truants, loiterers, and 'rob-orchards. 1600 *Look About You* xxx. Could I meet him, I'd play 'rob-thief, at least part stakes with him. 1614 T. ADAMS *Devil's Banquet* II. 82 His extortion hath erst stolne from others, and now hee plays rob-thief, and steales from himselfe.

**rob**, *obs.* form of **ROBE**.

|| **roba**, *Obs.* -1 = **BONA-ROBA**.

1602 *MIDDLETON Blurt Master-Constable* II. ii, Hah! fast, my roba fast, but young night?

**roband** ('roubænd). *Naut.* Also 8-9 roban. [Later var. of **robin** **ROBBIN**, app. more directly representing one or other of the forms cited under **RABAND**. Sometimes improved into **rope-band**.] A piece of small rope passed through an eyelet-hole in the head of a sail and used to secure it to the yard above.

1762 *FALCONER Shipwreck* II. 80 To each yard-arm, the head-rope they extend, And soon their earnings and the robands bend. 1769 *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Sail*, The heads of all four-sided sails, and the fore-leeches of lateen sails, are attached to their respective yard or gaff by a number of small cords called robands. 1840 R. H. DANA *Ref. Mast* xiv. All hands were... picking old rope to pieces, or laying up gaskets and robands. 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 2 What is a roband or rolling hitch used for? For bending sails... for reefing corners... &c. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log of Sea-waif* 82 In a man-of-war, where they can send a man to every roband.

*attrib.* 1762 *FALCONER Shipwreck* 157 The reef-lines next... Through eye-lid-holes and roband-legs are receiv'd. 1769 *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Reefing*, Provided that the turns are inserted through the roband-legs.

**Robardesmen**, variant of **ROBERDSMEN**.

**robbare**, *obs.* form of **ROBBER**.

**robbe**, *obs.* form of **ROB** *sb.* and *v.*, **ROBE**.

**robbed** (robd), *ppl. a.* [f. **ROB** *v.*]

1. Plundered, despoiled. Also *absol.*

1400 *Rom. Rose* 6823, 1. Robbe bothe robbed and robbers. 1450 *Mirour Saluacioni* (Koxb.) 18 A Samaritane... heled this robbed man of his wounds. 1604 *SHAKS. Oth.* I. iii. 208 The rob'd that smiles, steals something from the Thief. 1670 *DRYDEN & LEE* (*Edipus* v. 1) As a robbed tigress bounding o'er the woods. 1700 *DRYDEN Ovid's Met.* XII. 342 Bold Amycus, from the rob'd vestry brings The chalice of heaven. 1874 *WOOD Nat. Hist.* 621 The cod thus hollowed are technically called 'robbed' fish. 1894 *Mrs. DYAN Man's Keeping* (1899) 164 The sadness of the eyes with the look of robbed motherhood they often wore.

2. Carried off; taken away.

1590 *SPENSER F.Q.* II. viii. 40 A Lyon, which hath long time sought His robbed swallows. 1870 *Standard* 5 Dec., They are all the more savage by reason of robbed repose.

**robber** ('robə(r)). Forms: a. 2 rubbere, 3 robbare, 3-4 robbere, 5 robare, robbar, 6 *Sc.* rubber, 4- robber. β. 4 robeour, robbeo(u), -yore, 4-5 robeour(e), robbour(e), -or(e), 5 robbowre, -eur. [The a- and β-forms are respectively a. AF. and OF. *robber*, *robere*, and *robeour*, *robbour*, etc., nom. and acc. types of the agent-noun from **robber** to **ROB**. Cf. Sp. *robador*, Pg. *roubador*, It. *rubatore*.]

1. a. One who practises or commits robbery; a depredator, plunderer, despoiler.

a. 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 29 Rubberes, and pa reueres, and pa peoues. 1225 *Ancr. R.* 150 In one weie pet is al ful of peoues & of robbares, & of reuaries. 1250 *Lutet 10th Sermon* 27 in *O.E. Misc.* 186 Alle bac-biteres wendet to helle, Robberes, and reueres. 1340 *Ayeb.* 39 pe bridle is ine robberes and kuede herberes pet robberpe pe pilgrims. 1377 *LANGL. P. Pl. B.* xiv. 182 pus... ihesu Cryst seyde, To robberes and to reueres. 1425 *LYDG. Assembly of Gods* 688 Robbers, reuers, rauenous ryfelers. 1440 *Prompt. Par.* 437/2 robare, or robbar yn the sec., -pate. 1533 *LN. BERNERS Hous* xliiii. 160 They were robbers of the sec. 1535 *COVERDALE Ps.* xxxiv. 10 Who is like vnto the? which deluyreth, the poure and the nedly from his robbers. 1593 *SHAKS. Rich. II.* III. ii. 39 Then Theues and Robbers range abroad vsence. 1634 *MILTON Comus* 485 Som roaving Robber calling to his fellows. 1671 *Samson* 1188 Thou... like a Robber stripdest them of their robes. 1727 *GAY Fables* I. i, Robbers invade their neighbour's right. 1794 *Mrs. RADCLIFFE Myst. Udolpho* xxviii, Montoni was become a captain of robbers. 1838 *DICKENS Nick. Nick.* iv, Where desperate robbers congregate. 1878 *STUBBS Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 243 There is more spirit and a better heart in a robber than in a thief.

fig. 1225 *Ancr. R.* 334 pus peos two uncewes beoð two grimme robbares.

β. 1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 806 William v<sup>r</sup> king... robbour he was. 1297 *R. BRUNNE Handl. Synne* 6127 Eury man he wened had be a robbour, For drede pat he had treasure. 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4113 Al y<sup>e</sup> lynnage in euery syde, For robbours pai were y-kud. 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* iv.



b. *Const. of a place, etc.*

1465 *Paston Letts.* II. 251 Slyford was the chyff robber of the chorch. 1526 *TINDALE Acts* xix. 37 Neither robbers off churches, nor yett despisers of youre goddes. 1587 R. EDGEWORTH *Serm.* 189 He putteth example of disers, and gameners, and robbers of dead mens graues. 1632 *SHERWOOD*, A robber of the Princes, and publicke treasure, *deculetur*.

c. *transf.* (See *quots.*)

1670 Phil. Trans. V. 1197 Therefore they term it a Robber, as a substance which spoils, and takes away the richness of the Ore. 1725 Family Dict. s.v. Bee. To preserve Bees from Robbers, which very commonly infest them, . . . the way is to cloom the Hives very close. 1816 KIRBY & Sp. Entomol. xx. (1818) II. 207 These are called by Schirach corsair bees, and by English writers, robbers. 1831 Insect Misc. (L.E.K.) 320.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. *Attrib.* in various senses, as *robber-book*, *-gold*, *-haunt*, *-hold*, *-inn*, *-lair*, etc. Also objective, as *robber-hunting*.

1884 MARK TWAIN's *Huck Finn* ii, 13. The rest (of the oath) was out of pirate books, and "robber books. 1890 Mrs. BROWNING *Calls on the heart* ii, The world. Has counted it "robber-gold. 1937 J. W. DAY *Sporting Adventure* 91 The magpies will go off to their "robber-hunts in lonely carts of willows down on the marshes. 1876 GREEN *Study Stud.* (1892) 319 The countless "robber-holds of the Angevin noblesse. 1890 R. BOLDREWOOD *Miner's Right* (1899) 123/2, I had no great natural inclination to the trade of "robber-hunting. 1879 STEVENSON *Es. Trav.*, *Amateur Emigrant* (1905) 82 He had visited a "robber inn. 1866 CONINGTON *Antic* 266 Grim Cacus in his "robber-lair. 1866 PUSEY *Min. Prop.* 243 Probably...Edom...continued "robber-life along the Southern borders of Judah. 1896 VAUGHAN *Man's World* 100 "Robbers have...wreath with these valuations about their "robber-toll. 1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* v, 120 Silsitan "robber-wars.

b. Appositive, as **robber-chief**, **-company**, **-crew**, etc.; **robber baron** [BARON 1], a feudal lord who engaged in plundering; also **transf.**, **spec.** [BARON 2b] in *U.S.*, a financial or industrial magnate of the late nineteenth century who behaved with ruthless and irresponsible acquisitiveness; also **attrib.**: **robber-council** or **-synod**, the ecclesiastical council held at Ephesus in 449, the decrees of which were subsequently rescinded; **robber trench** *Archaeol.*, a trench representing the foundations of a wall, the stones of which have been partially or entirely removed.

1878 C. F. ADAMS *Railroads* 145. The commissioner has not hesitated to give his opinion of the foreign owner as a "robber baron". 1882 C. SCHURZ in *Boston Herald-Sp.* 30 June 1/3 It will not be surprising at all to see some day a movement set on foot to put an end to the operations of the modern robber barons, who, by corporate rascality, supplemented with tricks of the stock exchange, manage to plunder at will not only their fellow-gamblers, but the innocent bona fide investors in corporate enterprises. 1933 J. S. HUXLEY *Bird-Watching* in 32 *Endeavour* 322 glaucous rufous-bellied warbler. 1934 *ibid.* 323 bird world. 1934 J. JOSEPHSON (title) The robber barons. 1949 *Jrnl. Econ. Hist.* Nov. 187 In studying the so-called "robber barons," Dextler was impelled to consider also a few early 'career men'. 1957 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 8 Nov. 6703 Next she builds up an immensely lucrative cosmetic business, backed by a robber-baron tycoon named Jim Seymour. 1962 J. BRAINE *Life at Top x*. 131 A robber baron of the Middle Ages. 1976 M. J. LASKY *Utopia & Revolution* (1977) 114 Bakun joined the call for a crusade of destruction, and he, too, became a robber baron. 1977 *ibid.* 115 In April 1845 a group of 40 years psychiatrists have also been regarded as 'medicine's' robber barons. 1816 BYRON *C. Har.* iii. xlviii. In proud state Each Prober chief upheld his armed halls. 1899 O. Rev. Jan. 1 "Robber-companies, and bishops in coats of mail." 1865 PUSEY *Truth Eng. Ch.* 90 Before the 'Robber-Council of Ephesus could be displaced by the Fourth General Council at Chalcedon. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusid* 346 Soon shall our powers the "robber-crew destroy. 1797 *The College* 38 Arm'd Justice forth the "robber-demons drove. 1866 *Tozer Highl. Turkey* II. 164 Mr. . . . describes his "robber-gang" as follows. 1876 *ibid.* Aristoph. (Acharnians) 11. I have pierced the "robber-hole Like a reed. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* i. (1907) 272 The Rust-kings. . . lay up treasures for the rust; and the "Robber-kings, treasures for the robber. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 201 William Pevelr reared his castle of Peak Forest, the true culture's nest of a 'robber-knight'. 1862 DRAPER *Intell. Develop. Europe* ix. (1864) I. 287 Eutyches appealed to their emperor, who summoned . . . a council to meet at Ephesus. This was the celebrated "Robber Synod". 1933 K. J. C. C. ATKINSON *Field Archaeol.* (ed. 4.) 3772 On many Roman and later hill-forts, the robber barons of the Middle Ages . . . will have been partially or completely robbed from the walls and foundations for re-use elsewhere. In such cases the walls can be traced only as "robber-trenches". 1967 *Antiquaries Jrnl.* XLVII. 196 The outer edge of the wall and robber trenches has been found along most of the edge of the north aiale and around the west end. 1978 *Ibid.* LVIII. 1066 A late Roman beaded and corrugated pin similar to one found at Lydney was found in robber trenches of the medieval cloister. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ii. I have heard that the Spaniards in the island of Cuba, . . . 1853 KINGSTON *Mansio* ii. The Spaniards attacked Peru with their small but determined band of 'robber-warriors'.

c. Appositive with names of insects, birds, etc., as *robber-bee*, *-fowl*, *gull*; *robber-crab*, a large tropical crab which steals coco-nuts;

robber-fly, a fly of the family *Asilidae*, given to preying upon other insects.

1891 *Insect Misc.* (L.P.R.K.) 220 "Robber-flies. (Cf. v. 1.)  
1904-5 *Wood Homes without* H. (1868) 90 There is a very remarkable burrowing crustacean, called the "Robber-Crab" (*Birgus labro*). 1897 *Am. Naturalist* IV. 686 A "robber-fly" (*Proctos*) is said to be the most voracious of all the flies (Robber-flies). The *Silidius* is one of the largest families of flies. 1897 *Age* (Melbourne) 22 June, Another [family] comprising the predatory robber-flies. 1891 *ATKINSON Last of Giam-shillers* 144 As soon as the "robber fly" had begun its steady flight. 1904 J. D. HARRISON *My* *Robber-fly* was a large specimen, I suppose, I dropped like a sack of wheat, without a kick, at seventy yards.

Hence *robber*: *robberaceously adv.*, in a manner suggestive of robbers; *robberhood*, brigandage, robbery; *'robberiah* [-ISH']*, a.,* suggestive of robbers; *'robberism* [-ISM], control by or the business of robbers; robbery; *'robberlet*, a petty robber; *'robberling* [-LING'], a little or puny robber.

1772 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1904) 128, I did not know that howbreaking might not be still improving... In less than another minute, the door rattled and ahook still more robberaccously. 1855 SWINBURNE *Lett.* 4. Aug. (1959) I, 6, longed for you all to be there... for it [i.e. a cave] was admirably robberish. 1865 MARY HOWITT *P. Bremer's Greece II.* 172 The sight of unburred corpses contributed more than anything else to put an end of the system of robberhood in this part of the country. 1865 KINGSLEY *Hereu.* xxvii, Latrunculi (robberlets), sicarii, cut-throats. 1864 J. PAYNE *Tales-fair. Arabia II.* 83, I fear lest, if they slay him, his murder will revulsion upon ourselves. 1923 D. H. LAWRENCE *Love Poems & Others* 8 Under the glistening cherries... Three dead birds lie: Pale-breasted throistles and a blackbird, robberlets Stained with red dye. 1921 *Glasgow Herald* 18 Jan. 6 Communism in Russia is robberism.

**robbery** (rɒbəri). Forms: a. 3-4 roberie, 4 roborrye, 5-6 robbery, 7 Sc. roborie; 3-6 robberye, 3-7 robberie (4-erize), 6 Sc. rubberie, -ery, 4- robbery. β. 4-6 robry(e, -rie, 5 roubry, 6 robri; 5-6 Sc. rubry, -rie. [a. OF. *roberie* (AF. also *rove*). f. *rober* to ROB: see -ERY.]

1. a. The action or practice of feloniously seizing, by violence or intimidation, property belonging to another: spoliation, depredation.

*Proving exchange is no robbery; see EXCHANGE sb. i.*

*Purse-purchase* is no robbery; see PURSE sb. i.

*To purche*, *to trye*. *Coll. How.* 61. 3if he binimed us ayre 3ste,  
oþer purch fur, oþer purch piefes, oþer purch roberrie, c. 1290 *Old  
Knt. Serm.*; in O.E. Misc. 30 Roberrie, Manscheftes,  
Husbarrens, . . . and . . . opre euele deden. c. 1290 *Behet* 2152 in  
*S. Eng. Leg. l.* 168 pis bynne knyghtes . . . duden gret roberrie.  
1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl.* Semy 2449 þat ys boþe theftes and  
roberrye, And hyt ful dere shal he a-bye. 1387 TREVISIA  
*Higden* (Rolls) l. 137 þei greipeþ no þing þat wey þreyded to  
lese, þe accouñteþ no trespas gretteþ þan roberrie. 1415  
HOCCLEVE *Sir Y.* Oldcastle 456 By violence or by maistrie,  
My good to take of me, . . . þat is verray wrong & roberrie.  
1484 *Walsley* 100 þat is to saye, þat is to saye, þat is to saye,  
theftes and roberries shal at the last be knowen and robbed.  
1533 BELLEDUNE *Livy* l. vii. (S.T.S.) i. 30 Inuaðing þe  
samyñ mare be rubeerry þan any ordoure of cheuelrie. 1542  
UDALL *Eras.* *Apop.* 140b, That persons committeth  
plaine roberrie or spoyls, who denyeth an almes to any  
poore creature beyng in extreme neede. 1605 SHAKS. *Mear.*  
*for M. ii.* l. 176 Theeues for their robbery have authority,  
When Iudges steale themselves. c. 1670 HOBBS *Dial. Com.*  
*Laws* (1681) i. 17 Robbery is committed by Force, or Terror,  
of which neither is Theft; for Theft is a secret Act. 1769  
BURTON *Constab.* IV. 24 Larceny from the person may be  
either by privately stealing, or by open and violent assault,  
which is usually called robbery. 1797-1805 S. & HT. LEE  
*Conterb.* T. l. 114 He was an easy mark for robbery. 1815  
ELPHINSTONE *Act. Caubul* (1842) II. 125, I think it probable  
that the people of those parts of the country which are out of  
sight of the government, are always addicted to robbery.  
cf. 1330 *Arith.* & *Merl.* 3501 (Kölbing), po knietes . . .  
Were went in to desert, To libben bi her robrie. c. 1400  
*Loud Troy Bk.* 8357 Ther was neuere theft. . . That wayted  
better his v-santage, To do his stelfhe and his robrie. c.  
1470 HENRY FAWCET 222 (1842), gyfte of malice and  
cunning. See EYOT GOWE 113, Conscience of malice and  
cunning. 1905 DALRYMPLE *T. Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 165  
Tha war the only authoris of theft, rubrie, and rinnin of  
forvairs.

b. An instance of this; a depredation.

1297 R. GLOUCE. (Rolls) 7507 He broyste vp moni ore hous of religion also. To bete pulke robberies, þat him poste he adde ydo. 1340 *Awench.* 39þer byepv yow alle oþre maneres of robberyes. 1390 *Dynwer Conf.* 11. 331 Example of suchē Robberies I finde write. c.1400 in *Three 15th Cent. Chron.* (Camden) 41 Of whichē robberye Syr Gilbert . . . was atteynē. 1513 *More in Grafton Chron.* (1568) 11. 770 There they deuine newe robberyes nightly. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubbard* 160 Each place . . . fill'd with treasure ractit with robberyes. 1613 *R. Rastell's M. Knaues* 16 (Hunt.) 100 13 Many bolde robberies he did commit. 1667 *C. THOMSON'S Dogberry & Cholo* 43 A young Rustick, yet un-skil'd in the Assassinations and Robberies of Love. 1700 BENTHAM *Princ. Leg. xii.* §10 Where robberies are frequent and unpunished robberies are committed without shame. 1828 *JAMES Robber* i. Giving evidence about that robbery. 1877 *RAYMOND Statist. Mines & Mining* 316 The placer-mining of the gulch. . . is really a still worse robbery of the gold-deposit.

†2. *conicr.* Plunder, spoil, booty. *Obs.*  
c1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6684 (Kölbing), þe king... come  
priueliche... To binimen hem her robrie. 1450-1530 *Myrr.*  
our *Ladye* 255 *Helle* yu pryued of robry. 1405 *Parson Lett.*  
II. 251 *Slyford*... hath most of the robbery next the Bayly of  
Ey. 1535 *COVERDALE Amos* iii. 10 They gather together euell  
cotten goods, and lave yn robbery in their houses.

3. *fig.* An excessive financial demand; a proposal which wholly or chiefly benefits the

proposer; an outrageous injustice; esp. in  
daylight robbery, highway robbery (S.V.)

**HIGHWAY 4.** (1863) T. TAYLOR *Ticket-of-Leave Man* 1. 10 Dalton: 'I won't go higher than fifteen bob for a fiver. Moss... Only fifteen—it's robbery. 1874 E. P. ROZ *Barriers burned Away* v. 38 'I want five dollars out of you before you take that trunk off.' 'Why, this is sheer robbery,' exclaimed Dennis. 1886, etc. [see *highway robbery* s.v. **HIGHWAY 4**]. 1940 D. M. DAVIN *Roads from Home* 1. 8 'I can't never afford it,' said his sister. 'It's daylight robbery.' 1976 *Springfield* (Mass.) *Daily News* 23 Apr. 39/1 Though the Celtics are well known for their game-long verbal abuse of officials, the Celtics might go a bit further, as happened on 28 Feb. 8/5 in fact, a bit of daylight robbery. As Jimmy Andrews, the disappointed Cardiff manager, said later: 'Everton had all the big names and the luck.'

**robbin.** *Naut.* Now rare or *Obs.* Forms: 5 *robys*, 7-8 *robin*, 7-9 *robbin*, 9 *-en*. [Var. of **ROBAND**; the form suggests that the immediate source may have been French, but mod.F. *raban* appears to be a later adoption of Du. *raband*.] = **ROBAND**.

1497 *Naval Accs. Hen. VII* (1806) 321, iiij Smale lynes for  
lachesse & Robyns to the seid Ship. 1606 *Capt. SMITH*  
*Acid. Yng. Seamen* 15 The Robins, clew garnits,  
tycs, mardits. 1627 ——— *Seaman's Gram.* v. 22 The Robbins  
are little lynes reeued into the eyel holes of the saile vnder  
the head ropes, to make fast the saile to the yard. 1729  
*WRIGLESWORTH Jrd.* Lyell 6 Dec. Keep the People at Work  
in making Points, Gaskets, Robins, Matts, Sinnet, &c. for  
Sea Store. 1867 *SMYTH Sailor's Word-bk.* 576.

**Robbin**, variant of ROBIN.

'robbing, *vbl. sb.*' [f. ROB *v.*]

1. The action of ROB vb.; spoliation, robbery.  
Also attrib.

1377 LANGL. P. *PI. R.* XIV. 301 3c, þorw þe þas of alcout  
 pouerte myste passe with-oute peril of robbery. c1485  
*Eng. Cong. Rel.* 26 All þe contreys about dyuelyn, wyth  
 robyng & ilyn & aleyng, weren night 1-brought to  
 noight. 1465 *Paston Lett.* II. [25.] The chyff maysters of  
 robbery was the Bayly of Ey, etc.]. 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII.*  
 c. 20 Preamble. The same mysgoverned persons shall lyf in  
 robbery and mysgovernance during thyr lyves. 1591  
 SPARRY tr. *Cattian's Geomancie* 110 It is very ill in all  
 demandes, but such as concerne . robbing, rifing, spoiling.  
 1668 *Warrs Diary* 21 Sept. 1 rode in some fear of robbing.  
 1701 R. B. *Erasm's Mor.* (1706) 66 There is no  
 travelling upon the road for robbing. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* 4  
*Bees*. This subject of the Bees robbing of one another. 1832  
*Insect Misc.* (L.E.K.) 329 The robbing season . . . occurs  
 sooner or later as the summer has been more or less  
 favourable.

b. With a and pl. = ROBBERY 1 b.  
 c. 1220 *Betray* 792 lc robbinge do wec of bac. 1340  
*Ayeb.* 30 Zuyche reuen, proust, bedelles, .. pet makep be  
 greate robberyes. c. 1460 *Contin.* Brast (1908) 518 Also, At  
 which robberying dyaue men of London .. wer .. & toke part  
 with him. 1260 j. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 405 Spoylynges  
 and robberyes of towne. 1657 *Drive Lover* 300 The  
 tediousnesse of towne, beinges, robberyes, and the like are  
 Marie Mortons song. 1623 *Mem. Cont. Tockay* 1.  
 103 The War was more like a tumultuous Robbing than a  
 War managd' with prudence.

† 2. *concr.* Plunder, booty. In quot. *pl. Obs.*  
c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4730 (Kölbing), þis four hepen  
kinges Went, to loken þis robbeings.

**'robbing, ppl. a.** [f. ROB v.] That robs; thieving, predatory.  
 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 334 The robbing Bee and the Waspe... will without strife or difference concur together to rob a hive of Bees. 1886 *Lett. Donegal* 54 There need then have been no fear that the robbing scoundrels... would have escaped punishment.

**robbing**, obs. form of **ROBING**.

† **robbie**: see **BOUNCE-ROBBIE**.

**† Robble:** see ROUNCE-ROBBLE-HOBBLE.  
1616 B. JONSON *Masque of Queenes* Wks. 954 Rouncy is  
ouer, Robble is vnder, A flash of light and a clap of thunder.

**robbo** ('rɒbu). *Austral. local slang*. [f. the name *Rob(inson)* (see quot. 1897) + -o<sup>2</sup>.] A horse and trap; a sulky; a poor horse; the driver of a horse and trap. Also, anything or anyone not up to standard, and in other extended uses.

1897 *Bulletin* (Sydney) 23 Jan. 11/3. In answer to a correspondent's question as to the derivation of 'robbo' (Sydney slang for the vehicle ordinarily called a 'sulky') 'I.P.' writes as follows:—'Four Bob Robbo'—four shillings Robinson. Robinson, who lived in the classic suburb of Waterloo, Sydney... came into a bit of money and bought a horse and trap. The money was spent, and Robinson tired of feeding the horse, which got poor; so he then sometimes let out the horse and trap (both somewhat worse for wear) for 4s. per half-day. There was a run on the cheap hire, and Rob. bought two other horses and traps, and let them out at the same price. An neighbouring firm, a stable keeper and his employee, resented Rob.'s cutting down prices; and, when any of the rival's equipages passed, used to cry out, in derision, 'Four Bob Robbo!' The cry was taken up by the kids, and has now become a Waterloo classic. *Ibid.*, 'Robbo' has in an extensive Sydney circle come to mean anything unsatisfactory. For instance, a girl enters a jeweller's shop with: 'Watcher been givin' us? Look at the clasp of this 'ere bracelet I bought of yer last week. It's gone bung already. It's a fair robbo. *Ibid.*, Also 'robbo' has come to mean amateur. 1896 A. J. TOMPKINS *With Swag & Billy* 3: Right out of the haunts of the motor, the bike and the robbo. 1898 K. T. TARRANT *Passages* v. 4: 30 There was a 'Four Bob Robbo' in the 'B' and a 'Four Bob Robbo' in the 'F'. I s'pose you've 'eard of the Four-bob Robbos; them! The chaps used to go an' hire a cart for four bob and take it round loaded with vegetables. The kids used to call after

'em, 'Four Robb Robbo, 'Four Robb Robbo.' Old Bob Noblett, 'e's an old man now, but I can remember when Bob Noblett was a four-bob robo. 1856 *Coltins New Eng. Dict.* (Austral. & N.Z. Suppl.) 1279/1a *Robbo*, *Four-Bob Robbo*, a horse and sully. Now used only for a decrepit horse.

**robbyng**, obs. form of RUBBING.

**robe** (rəub), sb.<sup>1</sup> Also 5 roob(e, 6 robe, 6-7 roabe; Sc. 5-7 rob, 5 rowb. [a. OF. robe (robbe, robe), = Prov. rouba, Catal. and It. roba, Sp. ropa, Pg. roupa; the stem is that of the verb robar, the original sense being 'spoil, booty', as in OF.]

1. a. A long loose outer garment reaching to the feet or the ankles, worn by both sexes in the Middle Ages, and still by men of some Eastern nations; a gown. Now rare, except as in 2.

1275 *Passion Our Lord* 66 in O.E. Misc. 39 Ne hedde he none robe of fowe ne of gray. 1300 *Cursor M.* 3676 His moder. cled him. Wit his broper robe. 1340 *Aenid.* 110 Yef me yefte in pe kinges cort an robe to an child. 1377 *Langol. P. Pl. B.* xiii. 227 And fewe robes I fonge or furred gounes. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret.*, Priv. Priv. 151 Hym Suffryd a lylll graue... for his halle, and for his robe. 1474 *Canton Chesse* 4 Theym that ben clad in thy clothing and robes. 1501 *Douglas Pal. Hon.* ii. iii. With lawre crowne, in robes side all new. 1582 *STANWORTH'S* 225 ii. (Astr.) 68 These [il] words robe abundant Of robe most all the Images and Statues erected to the honour of any men, as in their gowns and robes. 1667 *MILTON P. L.* ii. 543 As when Alcides... felt th' envenom'd robe. 1730-40 *THOMSON* 1240 The glittering robe Of every hue reflected light can give. 1796 *HUNTER St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* II. 511 Turbans and flowing robes are adapted to hot countries. 1840 *THIRLWALL Greece* VII. 89 The looms of Ionia were kept in constant activity to supply purple robes for the courtiers. 1877 *BRYANT Odys.* v. 278 The nymph too, in a robe of silver white... Arrayed herself.

1895 *SHAKS John* ii. 141 O well did he become that Lyons robe. These [il] words robe abundant Of robe most all the Images and Statues erected to the honour of any men, as in their gowns and robes. 1667 *MILTON P. L.* ii. 543 As when Alcides... felt th' envenom'd robe. 1730-40 *THOMSON* 1240 The glittering robe Of every hue reflected light can give. 1796 *HUNTER St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* II. 511 Turbans and flowing robes are adapted to hot countries. 1840 *THIRLWALL Greece* VII. 89 The looms of Ionia were kept in constant activity to supply purple robes for the courtiers. 1877 *BRYANT Odys.* v. 278 The nymph too, in a robe of silver white... Arrayed herself.

b. A trade name for a special form of lady's dress; a piece of material, either plain or embroidered, partly shaped for a gown.

1878 *Sylvester Home* 124 Feb. Ball dress (robe Princess), of blue faille. 1882 *Fashion of To-day* May 11 Robe of old gold velvet, collar of pascamenterie. 1889 *World of Dress* Jan. 3 Handsome embroidered chenille robe. *Ibid.* White and cream lace robes in enormous variety.

c. A dressing-gown. See also bath robe s.v. BATH sb.<sup>1</sup> VI.

1854 *DICKENS Hard T.* ii. viii. 223 She arose, put on a loose robe, and went out of her room in the dark. 1931 J. B. FAGAN *Inspector Duck* i. 25 I put on my silk robe. I go down to his rooms. 1938 M. ALLINGHAM *Fashion in Shreds* vi. 73 Robe's the new name for dressing-gown. 1945 'L. Lewis' *Birthday Murder* (1951) x. 152 She... put on the white terry-cloth robe. 1955 T. STERLING *End of Day* xiii. 134 A man in a robe and slippers. 1957 F. & R. LOCKRIDGE *Practice to Deceive* (1959) xiii. 181 Susan wore a white travelling robe. 1966 *Wall St. Jnl.* 7 Jan. 2/2 Penny officials noted heavy sales in women's robes and sleepwear. 1970 G. F. NEWMAN *Sir, You Bastard* vii. 246 Tying his robe, he stepped out and along to the kitchen. 1976 *New Yorker* 26 Jan. 50/3 At lunch, Mrs Fox, still in pajamas, slippers, and robe, nearly drops a tray on Mr Tompkins' head.

2. a. A long outer garment of a special form and material worn in virtue of, and betokening, a particular rank, calling, condition, or office.

1290 *Beket* 324 in S. Eng. Leg. i. 116 be Abite of Monck he nam, And a-boue al pan clerikere Robe. 1300 *Cursor M.* 9072 Tas of... mi king rob... pat i wer. 1362 *Langol. P. Pl. A.* ii. 277 Schal no seint for pat seruse were a selk boune. Ne no Roy Richel pulis. 1484 *CURTIS Carver* 4 Offymes the people make grette wondrings of the ryche robe of the courtour. 1577 *STARKEY Let. in England* (1878) p. lxx. Master Pole hath gotten the Cardynallys harte & robe made. 1596 *SHAKS i Hen. IV.* iii. 163 Thus I did keepe my Person fresh and new, My Presence like a Robe Pontificall Ne're scene, but wondred at. 1603 *Meas. for M.* ii. 11. 61 Nor the deputed sword, The Marshalls Truncheon, nor the Judges Robe. 1778 *POTTER Aschylus, To Mrs. Montague* (1808) p. xxviii. My pontifical robe trailing on the pavement. 1841 *LANE Arab. Nts.* i. 85 He then bestowed upon him a robe of honour. 1855 *MACAULAY Hist. Eng.* xiv. 111. 382 Johnson had therefore been stripped of his robe by persons who had no jurisdiction over him.

fig. 1837 J. H. NEWMAN *Par.* Ser. i. xvi. 398 Surely these attainments are but our first manly robe.

b. pl. with the same connotation. Often with qualifying word prefixed, as coronation, parliament robes, etc. Master, Mistress, Yeoman, of the Robes: see these words.

1448 tr. *Claudian in Anglia* XXVIII. 250 With whose preys he lyst be meivd to clothe him in his robes... as consulers said before. 1450 *Merlin* vii. 110 But first hadde Arthur the kynge put on hym an habergoun vndir his robes. 1526 *Pilgr. Porf.* (W. de W. 1531) 156b, Though the kynge were before hym in his robes of golde. 1596 *SHAKS i Hen. IV.* v. i. 12 You have... made vs doffe our easie Robes of Peace. 1618 *Sylvester Wks.* (Grosart) II. 61 Their garments passe... The glorious Salomon's rich robes of Parliament. 1671 *MILTON P. R.* iv. 64 Pretons, Proconsuls to their Provinces Hasting or on return, in robes of State. 1715 *BURNET Own Time* III. (1724) i. 499 He put on his robes in hast... and called up the Commons. 1760 *Sir W. Jones Seven Sisters* Poems (1777) 35 Accept the robes and sceptre of the land. 1832 G. DOWNES *Let. Cont. Countries* i. 248 The senators and magistrates of Rome appear clad in the ecclesiastical robes of the period, in which the manuscript was written. 1849 *MACAULAY Hist. Eng.* v. i.

592 The... aldermen came in their robes to welcome the Duke.

3. a. pl. Outer garments or clothes in general. 1575 *GASCOIGNE Flowers* Wks. (1575) 44 You shall knowe the cause, wherefore these robes are worne. And why I goe outlandish lyke, yet being Englishe borne. 1596 *SHAKS. Tem. Shr.* i. ii. 134 Now shall my friend Peruchio do me grace, And offer me disguis'd in sober robes, To old Baptista. *Ibid.* iii. ii. 114 See not your Bride in these vneuerent robes. 1770 *GOLDAM. Des. Vill.* 336 She left her wheel and robes of country brown.

b. fig. A covering or vesture compared to a long enveloping garment.

1623 *DRUMM. OF HAWTH. Poems* Wks. (1711) 25 The Moon... impearing with her Tears her Robe of Night. 1633 *Ibid.* 39 Now, ancient Caledon, Thy Beauties heighten, richest Robe put on. 1697 *DAMPFER Voy.* (1729) i. 165 In a weeks time the Tree casts off her old Robes, and is clothed in a new pleasant Garb. 1727-46 *THOMSON Summer* 92 Prime cheerer, Light... Nature's resplendent robe. 1849 *ROBERTSON Ser. Ser.* i. ii. (1846) 28 Before the world has put on its full robe of light. 1864 *TENNISON Aymer's Field* 158 Another [cottage] wore A close-set robe of jasmine.

4. a. the long robe, (the dress of) the legal or clerical profession; the short robe, (that of) 'all that profess arms, or usually wear swords' (Cotgr.). So both robes, either robe.

1601- (see LONG ROBE). 1623 *BACON Hen. VII* (1876) 127 He sent... commissioners of both robes, the prior of Lanthony to be his chancellor... and Sir Edward Poynings... with a civil power of his lieutenant. 1642 B. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 95 A Sanhedrim, or standing great Council... made up of both Robes, honourable persons amongst their brethren, Priests and Laicks both. 1642-3 in *Rushw. Hist. Coll.* (1721) II. iii. 137 They have spared... no Ordens of Men, the long Robe as well as the Short both felt their Fury. 1674 *MARVELL Reh. Tramp.* i. 282 There was gentleman of your robe a Dignitary of Lincoln. 1711 *STEELE Spect.* No. 157 ¶6 Our learned Men of either Robe. 1712-1875 (see LONG ROBE).

b. the Robe, the legal profession.

1647 *CLARENDON Hist. Reb.* i. 596 He was a son of the Robe; his Father having been a Judge in the Court of the Common Pleas. 1671 *Buccluch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) i. 497 Mr. Commartin... is a man of the robe, but in very good esteem with everybody. 1707 *Ref. upon Ridicule* 109 The most eminent Persons of the Robe. 1770 *FOOTE Lane Lover* III. I was some years in the Temple; but the death of my brother rob'd the robe of my labours. 1850 *THACKERAY Pandemonium* xxix. The cadets of many of our good families follow the robe as a profession. 1855 *MOTLEY Dutch Rep.* i. 377 Rich advocates, and other Gentlemen of the Robe.

5. transf. Persons of high estate. rare -1.

1684 *WARNER Alb. Eng.* vi. xxiii. (1602) 163 So plagues civil warre, and so from Robe to Robe doth scourge.

6. U.S. and Canada. The dressed skin of a buffalo (musk-ox, etc.) used as a garment or rug.

1836 *Backwoods of Canada* 55 A light wagon comfortably lined with buffalo robes. 1848 *BARTLETT Dict. Amer. s.v.* A pack of robes, is ten skins, tied in a pack, which is the manner in which they are brought from the far West to market. 1894 W. F. PEARSON *Grand & Small Canada* 166 The robes were in splendid condition; the undergrowth, which resembles a sheep's fleece, was now thick and firm.

7. attrib. and Comb., as robe-cloak, coat-maker, spinning, bearing; †robe-chamber, †robes-room, a robing-room; †robe-goer, one who has charge of the robes.

1598 *SYLVESTER Du Bartas* II. i. iv. *Handycrafts* 131 The shining wool Whence the robe-spinning precious Worms are ful. 1665 *PEPYS Diary* 23 June, My Lord Sandwich did take me aside in the robe-chamber. 1679-88 *Sec. Serv. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camden) 146 In consideration of his services and extraordinary attendances at the robes-room upon his said Majesty and the Privy Council and Communes. 1702 *Col. Robert P.* (1871) 249 Robes and bedgowns. 1746 in R. Chambers *Traditions of Edinburgh* (1846) 47 No misses in skirts and jackets, robe-coats, nor stay-bodied gowns, to be allowed to dance in country-dances. 1831 J. MACDONALD in *Life* (1846) III. 174 A species of religious robe-tearing. 1836-7 *DICKENS Sc. Bos* (1850) 149/2 There were Mr. Harris the law-stationer, and Mr. Jennings the robing-maker. 1902 Q. Rev. Apr. 533 His father and grandfather were both robe-makers. 1908 G. B. SHAW *Let. to Granville Barker* (1956) 139, I have persuaded her to be discovered next time in a robe-cloak. 1911 C. MACKENZIE *Passionate Elopement* xviii. 170 Swansdown misses... put into corsets almost as soon as they were out of robe-coats. 1964 *New Shetland* No. 70. 27 She wuir a hap, rob cort an bratt.

**robe** (rəub), sb.<sup>2</sup> Also 'robe. Abbrev. of WARDROBE.

1935 *Spectator* 7 June 972/1 Mr. Toop, a wholesale furniture-maker in the Curtain Road with whom I once had dealings, introduced me to some pretty examples of what grammarians, I believe, call aphorisms. 'If you want a Board,' he would say, 'I'd choose wawnut every time; but when it comes to a 'Robe, there's nothing to touch m'yogany.' 1969 *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 May 43/9 (Adv.), Built-in robes. 1974 T. R. DENNIS in J. Burnett *Useful Toil* III. 354, I did a bedroom suite for £21; it had a six-foot robe, dressing-table and tall-boy and bed to match. 1977 *Evening Gaz.* (Middlebrough) 11 Jan. 11/7 (Adv.), Two double bedrooms, one with fitted unit and 'robe.

**robe** (rəub), v. Also 7 roab. [f. ROBE sb.<sup>1</sup>]

1. trans. To clothe or invest in a robe or robes; to apparel; to dress. Also refl. Also, to apparel (oneself) in a dressing-gown.

1377 *Langol. P. Pl. B.* xv. 333 3e robeth and fedeth Hem pat han as 3e han. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* III. 60 A Piece of rich Satin, to new Robe him. 1721 G. HICKES *Two Treat. Chr. Priest.* (1847) II. 290 He robed and unrobed himself in his throne. 1729 *POPE Odys.* v. 294 Ulysses rob'd him in the cloak and vest. 1859 *TENNISON*

*Gervant & Enid* 691 Rise therefore; robe yourself in this. 1886 *MABEL COLLINS Prettiest Woman* v. She robed herself again in her national costume. 1969 *New Yorker* 31 May 32/1 If I am resolute, I will arise and robe myself.

fig. 1628 *Sir T. Herbert Trav.* (ed. 2) 14 Nature robbing the fruitful earth with her choicest Tapestry. 1803 *Forster in Life & Corr.* (1846) I. 223 He robes himself in moonlight. 1850 *LYNCH Trimal.* ix. Love robed her in a blush. 1895 *TENNISON Parvates* IV. A thousand winters will strip you bare as death, a thousand summers Robe you life-green again.

2. intr. To put on robes or vestments. 1606 *BACON Advot. touching Holy War* (1620) 96 Only to Robe, and Feast, and performe Rites, and Observances. 1829 *SOUTHEY All for Love* III. xxi. And there the Priests are robing now. 1849 *Daily News* 14 Dec. The Bishop was to meet at half-past 8 o'clock in a meeting hall, where they were to robe and form in procession.

**robed** (rəubd), ppl. a. [f. ROBE v. or sb.<sup>1</sup>]

1. Clad in robes; wearing robes. Also with *in*. 1325 *Metr. Rom.* 41 A man robed in wank wede. 1362 *Langl. P. Pl. A.* ix. 1 Thus I-robed in russet, romed I-about. 1400 *Isambard* 269 So semly alle thy bothe ware, If they were robed riche. 1608 *SHAKS. Lear* III. vi. 38 (Q.). Thou robbed man of Justice take thy place. 1624 *Sir T. Herbert Trav.* 194 Roached and laden with... Gemmes. 1757 *GRAY Bard* 17 Rob'd in the sable garb of Woe. 1784 *COWPER Task* II. 823 The Cause... has been found... in the skirts Of the rob'd pedagogue. 1834 *LYTTON Pompeii* i. iv. In the centre of the steps appeared a priest robed in white from head to foot. 1856 *Low Times* LXXIX. 385/1 Judge Powell... intimated that he should sit robed.

fig. 1623 *MILTON L'Allegro* 61 Wher the great Sun begins his state, Rob'd in flames, and Amber light. 1712 *ADDISON Spect.* No. 265 ¶9 Ovid... tells us... that Aurora... is robed in Saffron. 1881 *TENNISON To Virgil* i. Roman Virgil, thou that angelic lion's lofty temples robed in fire. 1901 F. W. H. MYERS *Hum. Personality* (1903) II. 299 Minds still robed in flesh.

2. Wearing robes of a specified kind, as long-, loose-robed, etc. Also fig.

1777 *ELIZ. RYVES Poems* 60 Where loose-rob'd Pleasure careless roves. 1858 *ELIZA COOK Spring* i. Beauty shines forth in the blossom-robed trees. 1849 *M. ARNOLD Strayed Reveller* 269 Passing through the dark stems Flowing-robed. 1857 *DUFFRIN Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 92 Silence and deep peace brooded over the fair grass-robed plain.

||robe de chambre (rob də ʃəbr). Also 8 -chamber. [F.; see ROBE sb.<sup>1</sup> and CHAMBER sb.] A dressing-gown or negligé robe.

1732 *Gentl. Mag.* i. 321 Instead of which [knowledge], we have brought home the French *Coiffure*, the Robe de Chambre of the Women, and *Toupet* and *Soubre* of the Men. 1734 *Lowd. Mag.* Oct. 351/1 Her Lady Aunt was dress'd in a Robe de chambre. 1844 *BYRON Jan. xvi. xi.* Our robe de chambre May sit like that of Nessus. 1848 *THACKERAY Van. Fair* xiv. Pointing to the spot of his robe de chambre under which his heart was still feebly beating. 1893 *Pioneer of Fashion* I. iv. A particular study has been made of our robes de chambre.

attrib. 1746 *FRANCIS tr. Horace, Sat.* i. ii. 38 That Youth... All but a robe-de-chambre Demes disdain.

||robe de nuit (rob də nui). [Fr.] A nightdress.

1855 *TROLLOPE Warden* ii. 21 He has exchanged... those shining black habiliments for his accustomed robe de nuit. 1897 G. STEVENS *Let.* 2 Nov. in *Let. W. Stevens* (1907) 16 Your Mother is making up some sort of... a Robe-de-Nuit something to cover your abused anatomy as you wander... to the toilet. 1911 E. M. CLOWES *On Wallaby* v. 119 A lady whose husband had seen another lady going to the bath in her robe de nuit alone. 1968 J. IRONSIDE *Fashion Alphabet* 71 Robe de Nuit, nightdress.

||robe de style (rob də stail). [Fr., lit. 'robe of style'] (See quot. 1969.) Also fig. and attrib.

1908 (see *adv. de Nil* s.v. *NAU*). 1931 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 25 June p. 1/4 Dignincont's... etchings and Couloums's clear setting in Bakerville lend an expensive robe de style to a novel which seems more at home in a yellow jacket. 1963 *Times* 24 Jan. 12/4 John Cavanagh's bridal model, a soft vision in white chiffon, cut on the robe de style lines, with chiffon veil falling from a flowered chignon, has given rise to much speculation whether this studied simplicity will be reflected in the gown that Princess Alexandra will choose for her wedding. 1969 R. T. WILCOX *Dict. Costume* (1970) 293/1 Robe de style, the twentieth century infants' style, an evening fashion for which Lanvin of Paris became famous; its vogue was in the nineteen twenties and thirties. It had a tight bodice with a bouffant skirt, ankle or floor length.

||robeless, a. [f. ROBE sb.<sup>1</sup> + -LESS.] Without robes; destitute or deprived of robes.

1624 *BENLOWES Theoph.* ix. xxviii. John, Joseph, Rubenkin fly; Peter, thou stay't, and stay't but to deny! 1880 *ROUSSEAU Our Fathers have told Us* i. 26 Going, in his full robes, to say prayers in church... he came across some un-happily robeless person by the wayside.

**robell** (e, obs. forms of RUBBLE.

**rober** ('rəubə(r)). [f. ROBE sb.<sup>1</sup> or v. + -ER.] One who has charge of, or who invests with, robes; a robe-maker.

1884 *Manch. Exam.* 28 June 7/1 He was steward and rober to the Connaught Bar on Circuit. 1887 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* II. 480 A prepositus... summoned the robbers to place the diadem on the imperial head.

**roberd**, obs. form of ROBERT.

†Roberdavay, Obs. Also 6 Rob Daie, 7 Rob-o-Daie. [Of obscure origin.] A kind of wine used in the 16-17th centuries.

1542 *Boorde Dyetary* x. (1870) 255 Also these hote wyne, as... caprylic, tynt, roberdavay. 1553 *Bale Vocation* 22 They went in heaps from tauerne to tauerne to seke after the best

Rob dauc and aqua vite, which are their special drinks there. 1620 J. TAYLOR (Water-P.) *Praise Hempseed Wks.* (1630) II. 65 Sherry, nor Rob-o-Dauy here could flowe.

† **Roberdsmen.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 (7) **Roberdsmen** (7-8 **Roberdsmen**), 4 **Robertes men**, 6, 8-9 **Robertamen**. [Probably from the proper name **Robert** **ROBERT**, but the allusion is obscure.] A certain class of marauding vagabonds that infested the country in the 14th century.

All the instances later than the 14th century are merely historical.

1331 *Act 5 Edw. III.* c. 14 Diverses roberies, homicides, & felonies, ont este faitz einz ces heures par gentz qz sont appelez Roberdsmen, Wastours & Draghacche. 1383 *Act 7 Rich. II.* c. 15 Ordeigne est & assentuz que lestatutz de Roberdsmen & Drawlaches soient fermement tenuz & gardez. c. 1394 *P. Pl. Credo* 72 Rytz as Robertes men [they] taken aboute, At feires & at ful ales & fylfen pe cuppe. 1367 *HARMAN Caveat* (1869) 27 These were then the common names of these leud leuteras, Faytores, Roberdsmen, Drawlaches, and valant beggares. 1381 *LAMBARDE Eiren.* I. vi. (1588) 196 Drawlaches, Wastours, or Robertmen that is to say, either micheing or micheie theues. a 1633 *COKE On Litt.* (1648) III. 107 What this Robin Hood was that hath raised a name to these kind of men called Roberdsmen, his followers. 1731 *Gentil. Mag.* I. 238/1 [He] instances in Robin Hood, and says that from him Thieves and Highwaymen are called Roberdsmen. 1769 *BLACKSTONE Comm.* IV. xvii. 244 Persons in disguise... (who seem to have resembled the Roberdsmen, or followers of Robin Hood). 1796 *Sporting Mag.* VIII. 76 Men of his [Robin Hood's] lawless profession were from him called Roberdsmen.

**roberie**, *obs.* form of **ROBBERY**.

**Robert** ('rɒbət). [A personal name, a. F. *Robert*, ultimately of Teutonic origin.]

† 1. = **ROBIN** (**REDBREAST**). *Obs.*  
14... in *W.-Wülcker 720 Hec frigella*, a roberd. 14... *Cambr. MS. Gg.* 4. 27 lb. 9b. Robert red breast and the wrenne.

2. = **HERB ROBERT**. Also **robert's-bill**.

1847 *HALLIWELL*, *Robert*, the herb stork-bill. 1856 *CAPERNS Poems* 158 The foxglove, the robert, the gorse, and the thyme. 1859 — *Ball. & Songs* 129 The yarrow and the robert's-bill.

3. A policeman. Cf. **BOBBY** 2.

1870 *Figaro* 18 Nov. (Farmer), The 'British Peeler'... is, after all, a sensitive creature. The blood of the Roberts is at length aroused. 1899 'J. FLYNT' *Tramping with Tramps* II. 231 But look out for the Robert and the Dee (the policeman and the detective). 1929 T. L. DAVIDSON *Murder in Laboratory* iv. 108, I stopped and asked a Robert the time. 1968 J. LOCK *Lady Policeman* iv. 34 Believe it or not PCs are still occasionally wished, 'Good morning, Robert!'

4. A waiter.

From a series of articles, professedly written by a waiter named Robert, which appeared in *Punch* in 1881-2.

1886 *Pail Mail* G. 10 Aug. 3/2 The Parisian Roberts now on strike. 1910 J. Sept. 3/1 The Swiss 'Robert' proposes that his new 'Union for Swiss Waiters' shall be called the 'Winklerverein'.

5. **Robert sauce**, **sauce Robert**: see **SAUCE** sb. 1

6. *Naut. slang*. A spell off duty; a sleep, a 'nap'. 1935 'L. LUARD' *Conquering Seas* xii. 140 I'll get head down for a proper robert.

**Robert(e)s-men**, variants of **ROBERDSMEN**.

**Robertian** ('rɒbɪʃən), a. [f. **ROBERT** + **-IAN**.] Of or pertaining to Robert the Strong (d. 866), count of Anjou and of Blois, or his descendants, who became kings of France. Also as sb., a follower or successor of Robert the Strong.

1903 D. C. MUNRO *Hist. Middle Ages* vii. 66 Charles the Simple... had little power, and the kingdom was wrested from him in 923 by a member of the Robertian house. 1942 STRAYER & MUNRO *Middle Ages* vi. 147 Otto had the advantage of being the brother-in-law both of the Carolingian king and of the head of the rival Robertian family. 1957 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 589 Henceforth there ensued a long duel between the Robertians and the Carolingians in which three times the Robertians were chosen and might have taken the crown.

**Robertine** ('rɒbətɪn, -aɪn), sb. and a. [f. as prec. + **-INE**.] A sb. A follower of Robert of Melun (d. 1167), English-born scholastic theologian.

1846 T. WRIGHT *Biogr. Brit. Lit.: Anglo-Norman Period* IV. 201 His disciples formed a sect which was long known by the name of Robertines. 1906 W. H. SCHOFIELD *Eng. Lit. to Chaucer* ii. 52 At Mont St. Genevieve the 'Robertines' long continued to discuss their leader's great work... the *Summa Theologiae*, which above all gave warrant for his reputation as a metaphysician.

B. adj. = **ROBERTIAN** a.

1938 Z. N. BROOKE *Hist. Europe* iv. 96 The ambition of the Robertine house dictated the fortunes of the French kingdom in the tenth century.

Hence **Robertinian** sb., a follower or successor of Robert the Strong.

1910 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 813/1 The struggle between the Robertinians went on relentlessly. 1812/2 There was a kind of *entente cordiale* between the Carolingians and the Robertinians and Otto.

**Robertsonian** ('rɒbɪʃənən), [f. as prec. + **-onian** as in *Caledonian*, *Patagonian*, etc.] A follower of Robert the Strong (see **ROBERTIAN** a.).

1936 H. A. L. FISHER *Hist. Europe* i. xvii. 208 Robert the Strong, Count of Paris, fought for ten years against the

Northmen... The Robertsonians were as distinguished for caution as for courage.

**Robertsonian** ('rɒbɪʃənən), a. *Cytology*. [f. the name of William R. B. Robertson (1881-1941), U.S. biologist, who first described such translocations in 1916 (*Jrnl. Morphol.* XXVII. 226) + **-IAN**.] Applied to the formation of a metacentric chromosome from two heterologous acrocentric chromosomes by the fusion of their centromeres or by a translocation with the loss of a small fragment; and to karyotypic changes brought about by this process.

1954 M. J. D. WHITE *Animal Cytol. & Evol.* (ed. 2) x. 192 In certain groups such as the Acrididae, 'Robertsonian' rearrangements or whole-arm transpositions account for a large part of the obvious differences in karyotypes. 1955 *Nature* 2 Apr. 601/1 The wide variation in the mitotic numbers must be attributed to Robertsonian changes. 1960 *Jrnl. Nat. Cancer Inst.* XXIV. 1187 A large mediocentric chromosome and a heterochromatic minute were formed, apparently as the expense of two acrocentric chromosomes, providing a classic example of a Robertsonian relationship, manifesting itself within the neoplastic cell population of a transplantable tumor. 1973 *Nature* 3 Aug. 262/1 The most common chromosomal changes seen in vertebrate evolution are Robertsonian fusions which create one metacentric from two acrocentrics and inversions which, if pericentric in nature, change the position of a centromere. 1974 *Ibid.* 10 May 164/1 These consisted of thirty-eight Robertsonian translocations, forty-seven reciprocal translocations and nine pericentric inversions.

**Robertson's law** ('rɒbɪʃənz), *Cytology*. [f. as prec. + **LAW** sb.] The law that states that the number of chromosome arms of a population or species tends to remain constant, although the number of chromosomes may vary. Cf. prec.

1945 M. J. D. WHITE *Animal Cytol. & Evol.* viii. 170 In certain groups 'Robertson's law' explains many of the more obvious changes in chromosome shape. 1956 *Jrnl. Morphol.* XCIX. 265 Well-documented instances of chromosomal phylogeny conforming to Robertson's law have been reported from several groups of animals.

**Robespierist** ('rɒbspɪərɪst), sb. and a. [f. the name of *Robespierre* (see below) + **-IST**.]

A. sb. A follower of Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre (1758-94), one of the leaders in the French revolution; a Jacobin (sense 2). B. adj. Associated with, or adhering to, Robespierre.

1834 [see **ORLEANIST**]. 1904 J. R. M. MACDONALD in *Cambr. Mod. Hist.* (1907) VIII. xii. 338 The Commune, whose conception of the ultimate ends of the coup d'état differed too *cælo* from those of both Dantonists and Robespierists. 1929 L. R. GOTTSCALK *Era of French Revol.* I. III. iii. 263 (heading) The Robespierists destroyed. 1937 *Downside Rev.* Oct. 519 It is certain that the laws [of Ventôse] contributed to the fall of the Robespierists. *Ibid.* The majority of the Committee were unsympathetic and obstructive, which increased the tension between them and the Robespierist minority. 1975 G. RUDÉ *Robespierre* 9 It marks a welcome addition to Robespierist studies. *Ibid.* 43 While the Jacobins and the Convention—even the Robespierists among them—were prepared to tolerate controls and State-direction of the nation's economy merely as exceptional and temporary measures, [etc.].

**robeux**, *obs.* f. **RUBBISH**.

**robi**, *obs.* f. **RUBY**.

**robiboo**, var. **RUBBABOO**.

† **ro'biginous**, a. *Obs.* -<sup>o</sup> [ad. L. *rōbiginōsus*, f. *rōbigo* rust.] 'Much blasted, rusty' (Blount, 1656).

**robilis**, *obs.* form of **RUBBISH**.

**robill**, *obs.* form of **RUBBLE**.

**Robin** ('rɒbɪn). Except in sense 1, usu. with lower-case initial. Forms: 4-5 **Robyn**, 6 **Robin**, Sc. **Robene**, **Robeen**, 7 **Sc. Robein**, 7, 9 **Robbin**, 5- **Robin**. [a. OF. *Robin*, a dim. or familiar form of the personal name *Robert*.]

For several specific uses see **ROUND ROBIN**.

I. 1. The personal name, in more or less allusive or general application.

poor Robin: see **POOR** a. 8. For dial. uses such as *Robin-round-cap*, *run-rake*, etc., see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troilus* v. 1174 From hassell wode there Ioly Robin pleyde. 1377 *LANGL. P. Pl.* B. vi. 75 Sauz lakke pe igelouwe. And Robyn pe Rybaudoure. c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6337 Now am I Robert, now Robyn; Now frere Menour, now Iacobyn. *Ibid.* 7455 He, that whylom was so gay, And of the daunce Ioly Robin, Was tho become a Iacobyn. 1555 LATIMER in FOXE A. & M. (1570) III. 1919/2 Now that would I see, quoth long Roben, ut *dicatur vulgariter*. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 23 Some Robin the dyell, or I wot not what spirit of the Ayre. 1603 *Philotts* cxxvii. Now grace and honour on that face, Quod Robyn to the Haggies.

II. 2. = **ROBIN REDBREAST** 1a. (Cf. *Fris. robyn(t)sje*, *robynderke*, Du. dial. *robijntje*, the linnet.)

1549 *Compl. Scott.* vl. 39 Robeen and the lilt vran var hamely in vyntir. 1605 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 383 Here are also Ayeries of Hawks and sundry others Birds; as Goshawks, Robbins, Herons white and beautiful. 1802 WORDSW. *Redbreast chasing Butterfly* 3 The pious bird with

the scarlet breast, Our little English Robin. 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch Arden* 677 On the high-naked tree the robin piped Disconsolate.

Any bird of the genus *Erithacus*.

1855 *Orr's Circle Sci.*, *Org. Nat.* III. 303 In the subfamily of the *Erithacinae* or Robins, the bill is rather short, slender, tapering, and depressed at the base.

3. N. Amer. The red-breasted thrush, *Turdus migratorius*.

1793 S. SEWALL *Diary* 16 Mar. (1879) II. 75 The Robbina cheerfully utter their Notes this morn. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* May 331/2 The American robin, larger than ours. 1808 *WILSON Amer. Ornith.* I. 37 The Robin is one of our earliest songsters. 1848 *LONGF. M. Standish* III. 3 Into the tranquil woods, where blue-birds and robins were building. 1888 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* vi. (1900) 182 In America I shoot robins and find them thrushes. 1944 S. BELLOW *Dangling Man* 172 A few large birds, robins and grackles, appeared in the trees. 1966 *Vancouver Province* 19 Nov. 1/5 The robin had been sitting in a mountain ash tree in his front yard.

4. The name given to various birds (esp. in former colonies), as in New Zealand to those of the genus *Miro*, in Australia to species of *Petroica* and other genera, in Jamaica to the green tody, etc.

Recent American dicta. assign the name to the red-breasted snipe and merganser, and to the mouse-bird or colaptes.

1880 R. DAVIES *Poems & Lit. Rem.* (1884) 264 In the bush (of New Zealand) the robin always comes about. 1880 MRS. MEREDITH *Tasmanian Friends & Foes* 123 The Robin (*Petroica multiphala*) is... certainly more brilliantly beautiful than his English namesake. 1894 *NEWTON Dict. Birds* 791 Robin, a well-known nickname of the Red-breast... has been transplanted... to Jamaica in the case of the Green Tody.

b. With distinctive epithets (adj. or sb.) applied to many birds, esp. of the (former) colonies or India, as *blue robin*, the bluebird, *Sialia sialis*; *golden robin*, the Baltimore oriole; *Indian robin* (see quot. 1855); *magpie robin* (see MAGPIE 8); *yellow robin* (see quot. 1855); etc.

For an enumeration of the various Australian birds thus named see *Morris Austral English* 390-1.

1827 *Trans. Linn. Soc.* XV. 242 'This bird,' Mr. Cayley says, 'is called yellow-robin by the colonists. It is an inhabitant of bushes.' 1844 J. E. DEKAY *Zool. N. Y.* II. 65 The Bluebird, or Blue Robin as it is called in the western counties. 1855 *Orr's Circle Sci.*, *Org. Nat.* III. 265 One of the commonest species, the Baltimore Oriole, 'has received the name of fire-bird... It is also called the Golden Robin. *Ibid.* 283 The *Eopsaltria australis*, which is also an Australian species, is known to the colonists of New South Wales as the Yellow Robin. *Ibid.* 307 The *Thamnodia fulcata*, or Indian Robin, even exceeds his European representative in boldness and familiarity. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 610/1 Our New England forefathers call him the 'blue robin'.

c. Used attributively or appositively in names of various birds.

robin accoutre, a small red-breasted bird of the thrush family (*Thraupis rubeculoides*), inhabiting the Himalayas; robin breast, = robin snipe; robin breast, Sc., = Robin REDBREAST; robin-chat, one of several African thrush-like birds belonging to the genus *Cosyrops* of the family Turdidae; robin dipper, U.S., the buffle-headed duck; robin (trick), -rook, -ruck, dial., = sense 2; robin sandpiper, the knot; robin snipe, (a) = prec.; (b) the red-breasted snipe. See also **ROBIN RUDDOCK**.

1555 *GESNER Hist. Anim.* III. 699 A robin... alibi a robbyn rock. 1736 *PEGG Kenticisms* (E.D.S.), Robin-rook, a robin-redbreast. 1824 *MACTAGGART Gallivod. Encycl.* 412 The tane o' them was the Robbin Breeste. 1879 *COUES N. Amer. Birds* 256 Robin-snipe... Bill equalling or rather exceeding the head. *Ibid.* 632 *Tringa*,... Robin Sandpiper. Bill about as long as, or rather longer than, the head. 1896 *Oates Papua Brit. India Birds* II. 169 *Thraupis rubeculoides*, the Robin Accoutre. 1901 A. C. STARK *Birds S. Afr.* II. 300 (heading) Noisy Robin-chat. 1931 *Discovery* May 138/2 The robin chat... is smart in appearance, with... blue shoulder patches and bright orange-rufous underparts. 1960 *Times* 20 Sept. (Nigeria Suppl.) p. xxi/7 The colourful white-headed robin chat, that richest and most versatile of Nigerian songsters.

5. *attrib. and Comb.*, as *robin-anthem*, -song; *robin-red* adj.; *robin dinner*, a Christmas dinner given to London waifs by subscription; *robin's egg*, U.S., (of) a greenish-blue colour; usu., *robin's egg blue*; *robin-snow*, U.S., a light snow coming before the departure or after the return of the American robin.

1853 *THOREAU Jrnl.* II. 12 Jan. in *Writings* (1906) x. 462 He says that the most snow we have had this winter (it has not been more than one inch deep) has been only a 'robin snow' as it is called, i.e. a snow which does not drive off the robins. a 1862 *THOREAU Early Spring in Mass.* (1881) 49 The slight robin snow of yesterday is already mostly dissipated. 1873 *ELIZ. PHELPS Trotty's Wedding Tour* 166 She saw her robin's egg saak and gloves. 1880 *LAMIER Owl agst. Robin Poems* (1892), Nothing but robin-songs heard under heaven. 1881 *Robin's-egg blue* [see *PEACOCK* sb. 5]. 1897 M. E. WILKINS *Humble Romance* 15 A dress-pattern of robin's-egg blue silk. 1899 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 3/1 A 'Robin' dinner took place last night at the headquarters of the Camberwell Mission. 1899 — 17 Oct. 6/5 A robin-red velvet waistcoat. 1920 *Bury Man's Mag.* Dec. 65/1 On either side were swift hills mottled with green and gold, ahead a curdle of snow-capped mountains, above a sky of robin's-egg blue. 1933 N. WALN *House of Exile* I. iii. 43 Two lovely robin's-egg-blue bowls and two pairs of ivory chopsticks. 1951 E. PAUL *Springtime in Paris* v. 91 Cloud battalions retreating, and stragglers streaked with red—geranium, salmon, vermillion, magenta. Between them, their complements of robin's egg, turquoise, and faint bottle green. 1951 *AUDEN Nones* (1952) 15 A robin with no

Christian name ran through The Robin-Anthem which was all it knew. 1790 R. LOWELL *Notable*. 27 The boys... Crawling the swimming pool's robin's-egg sky. 1976 M. Puzo *Foots Die* xi. 118, 1 gave up all thoughts of buying a Cadillac and settled for the robin's-egg blue Dodge.

III. 6. A name given locally or dialectally to various plants; as red campion, ragged robin, herb Robert, etc. (See Britten & Holland.)

*red robin*: see RED a. 19 and RED RAO 2.  
1894 WESTMACOTT *Scrib. Herb.* 23 Altering the taste with a handful of... Ground Ivy, or Robin leaves. 1906 *Academy* 5 May 423/4 Dewdrops daffodils, With robin, medley in the thicket grass. 1913 D. H. LAWRENCE in *New Statesman* 16 Aug. 595/4 We called the purple primroses 'robins', for no reason, unless that they bloomed in winter.

b. The first element in several popular names of plants, esp. *Robin in the hedge* (see quot. 1828); *Robin-run* (*in the hedge*, ground-ivy; goose-grass or cleavers; bindweed; Lady's bedstraw, etc.

See also Britten & Holland, and the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*  
1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 326 Ground Ivy... Robin run in the hedge. Groves, hedges, and shady places.  
1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Beryl.* *Robin-run in the hedge*, a trailing kind of weed, which runs along hedges, a robin net.  
1828 *Crofton Gloss.* *Robin-run in the hedge*, red flowered campion. *Lychnis dioica*. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 446/3 The wild-pink on the craggy ledge... And 'en the Robin-run in the hedge. Are precious in mine eyes. 1846 KIGHTLY *Notes Virg. Flora* 385 Cleavers, Clivers, Goose-grass. In some places (particularly in Ireland) it is called Robin-run in the hedge. 1847 HALLIWELL *v. Robin*, Robin in the hedge, *lychnis dioica*. 1853 BURNES *Shropsh. Folk-Lore* xliii. The old Ludlow custom of dining on a leg of pork stuffed with Robin-run in the hedge.

c. Used attributively in plant-names, as robin-flower, ragged robin; herb Robert (Britten & Holland); robin-net (see b. quot. 1824); robin-wheat, U.S., = robin's rye.

*robin-wheat*, = *wake-robin*, in Crabb's *Technical Dict.* (1823), is prob. a mistake.

1886 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XXIX. 368 The birds are not the only harvesters of the pretty moss known as robin-wheat.

d. In genitive combs. forming plant-names, as robin's cushion, = robin's pincushion; robin's eye(s), flower, herb Robert; rose campion, etc. (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*); robin's pincushion (see quot. 1850); robin's plantain, U.S., a species of fleabane (*Erigeron bellidifolium*); robin's rye (see quot. 1897).

1846-50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 326 Robin's Plantain.  
1850 *Epitaphs* *Int. Life* 67 The rose bedeguar wears the appearance of a mossy tuft... In some parts of England it is said to be known by the name of Robin's Pincushion.  
1855 H. MARSHALL *Year in Sweden* II. 286 A stunted wild-rose, now covered with these feathery red excrescences, called in England 'robin's-cushion'. 1897 *Syd. Soc. L.* *Robin's rye*, a common name for the hair-cap moss, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

IV. 7. The name of various fishes: a. *dial.* A small or an inferior codfish.

1658 *Newness Househ. Bks.* (Surtees) 81, 2 robbins, 12 cods... 1703 *W. WAUGH* *Fisherman's Def.* 4 (Cumb. Gloss.). The small cod called Robbin. 1892 H. A. MACINTOSH *Fauna Lakeland* 184 The 'Robbin' or 'Robble' is a deformed-looking fish, often taken at the end of the winter fishing.

b. U.S. (See quotes.)

1823 J. RICHARDSON *Let.* 24 May in N.E. *Elisabetha Torkel* *Talk* (1956) 290 We caught 19 brim & robbins. 1896 *Goods Fishes* *Burman* to The Pilchard... Shed... and the Robin (*Deceptorius punctatus*), are used as 'full-baits'. 1898 *Amer. Fisher* 99 The 'Sailor's Choice'... bears several other names... as the 'Robin' and 'Pin-fish'. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 263/2 Here's a sea-robin! The robin grunted vigorously as I relieved him of the hook.

c. *attrib.*, as robin huss (see quot. 1879).

1879 N. & Q. vii Ser. XII. 193/2 The Sussex coast, where the small-spotted dog-fishes (*Scyllium canicula*) is termed a robin huss. 1893 *DAY FISHER* *Gl. Brit. & Irel.* II. 310.

† *robin*. *Obs.* Also 8 robbin. [var. of ROBIN *obl. sb.*] = ROBIN *obl. sb.* 2.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 29 The cuffs and robins curiously embroidered by the fingers of this ever charming Archane. 1777 *MME. D'ARLLEY Early Diary* 7 Apr. Her green and grey [gown], trimmed with gauze, white ribbons, gauze apron, cuffs, robins, etc. 1789 *Mss. Pizzoni Journ. France* I. 306 With heavy lace robins ending at the elbow.

'*robin*'. *Commerce*. Also robbin. [a. Fr. *robin*.] (See quot. 1858.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*. *Robbin*, a package in which pepper and other dry goods are sometimes imported from Ceylon. The robbin of rice in Malabar weighs about 84 lbs. 1880 WHITLEY *Fish & Alm.* 82 Robin of coffee = 1 to 1½ cwt. 1887 *Daily News* 6 Oct. 2/8 Of 230 cases 240 bags and robins [of] Cochinchina ginger.

'*robin*'. *Chem.* [irreg. f. ROBINIA: see -IN¹.] The specific toxin of *Robinia pseudacacia*.

1901 *British Med. Jnl.* 4 May 1070 The vegetable toxins of ricin, abrin, and robin.

robin, variant of ROBBIN.

[[*Robine*. *Obs.* Also Robin. [F.] An early variety of pear.

1796 LONDON & WISE *Retired Gardener* I. 29 The Robine, or Summer-Pear-Royal, is of a strong perfum'd Taste, very sugary. 1795 *Family Dict.* *v. Pear*, Robin, is in Shape and Size like a small Bergamot... sugar'd and

perfum'd Juice [etc.]. *Ibid.*, Robine described before. 1786 [see MUSK sb. 4 d].

robinet ('robnet). Forms: 4-5 robynet, 5-6 -ett, 6 -ette, -att(e); 5 robenet, 6- robinet, 9 dial. robinut, robbinat. [a. OF. *Robinet*, dim. of the personal name *Robin* ROBIN¹.]

In the following quot. probably the proper name of the single engine (but cf. sense 2): 13... *Coeur de L.* 1390 Another schyp was laden yet With an engine hyghte Robynet: It was Rychardys a mangonel.

† 1. App. some form or part of hoisting-tackle.

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII.* (1896) 89 Gynne with a robenet & other apparell, j. *Ibid.* 113 Crane rope, j. Robenet rope, j. Slynrope, j. 1512 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 608 Gynnes, wheles, cables, robynettes, sawes.

† 2. A kind of small cannon. *Obs.*

1547 in *Archaeologia* LI. 263 Skotiash Gounes of Brasse Fawcons once, Fawconets ix. Robynettes once. 1587 *HARRISON England* II. xvi. The names of our greatest ordnance are commonlie these. Robinet, whose weight is two hundred pounds, and it hath one inch and a quarter within the mouth. 1621 FLORENTO, *Ribadocho*, a small piece of ordnance called of vs a Robinet.

3. = ROBIN¹ 2. Now north. *dial.*

1545 *Voc.* in W. Wulcher *440 Hec frigella*, robynet red-breast. 1548 *Cath. Angl.* 310/2 A Robynnet, *frigella*. 1604 DRAVTON *Colt* 127 The Sparrow and the Robinet agree, to live neere to the Mansion place of Men. 1639 *Mss.* Elys. viii. 106 The Nightingale... To doe her best shall straine her voyce; And to this bird make a Set, The Mapis, Merle, and Robinet. 1867 in *Lanc.* and *York.* glossaries.

4. A cock or faucet of a pipe (see quot.).

The ordinary sense of F. *robinet*.

1867 *SMYTH Sailor's Word-bk.* *Robinet*, the name of some useful cocks in the steam-engine, as for gauge, brine, trial, and steam-regulator.

'robing, *obl. sb.* [f. ROBE v. + -ING¹.]

1. Apparell, array; a costume or gown.

1470 *Gologros & Gew.* 1565 Yone riche cummis arait in riche robing. 1764-72 H. BROOKER *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 143 He seized the hem of her robing, and glued it to his mouth. 1853 KANE *Grimm's Exp.* xxxiv. (1856) 304 The three under-shirts, the fur outer robe, and the seal-skin boots. 1867 *Mrs. WHITNEY L. Goldsmith's* ix. Her accumulating treasure of reserved robings. 1882 *Pall Mall* G. 20 Mar. 5/2 The woman whose graceful personality shines through her robing.

2. A trimming in the form of bands or stripes upon a gown or robe.

1727 *Mrs. DELANY Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 143 Gold chains... were tacked on the robings of their gowns in loose scollops in the manner of a gallow. 1741 *RICHARDSON Pamela* I. 49, I made Robings and Facings of a pretty Bit of printed Calico, I had by me. 1747 GARRICK *Miss in her Teens* I, I'd give the world I had put on my pink and silver robings to-day. 1824 *Hist. Univ. of Oxford* I. 111 The Doctors in Divinity being distinguished by robings of black fur. 1886 *St. James's Gaz.* 25 Sept. 11/1 The most lovely trimmings are of large panels and stripes, or robings, composed partly of lace, partly of beaded pascamenterie.

3. The action of putting on robes.

1838 *DICKENS Nick. Nick.* xiv. This pious reasoning supported the bride through the ceremony of robing.

4. *attrib.*, as robing-table; robing-room, a room specially appropriated to the putting on the official robes; so robing accommodation.

1711-12 *A SWIFT Journal* to Stelle 2 Jan. So I only went into the robing-room, to give my four brothers joy. 1830 *MACALAY in Trevelyan* 10 Feb., Brougham... has blamed Lord Lansdowne in the robing-room of the Court of the King's Bench. 1859 *DICKENS* *The Clink* ix. iv. Berwyer shouldered his way back to the robing-room. 1897 *Daily News* 15 Oct. 5/1 Robing accommodation will be provided. 1927 T. WILDER *Bridge San Luis Rey* II. 19, I slipped into the sacristy, climbed the robing-table... and walked in.

Robin Goodfellow ('robin 'gudfalsu). [See ROBIN¹ and GOODFELLOW. For the use of the adj. cf. GOOD a. 2 d.]

1. A sportive and capricious elf or goblin believed to haunt the English country-side in the 16-17th centuries; also called Hobgoblin or Puck.

A full account of the popular beliefs concerning Robin Goodfellow is given by Shakspere in *Mids. II. ii. 13 ff.* In R. Scot *Disc. Witchcraft* (1584) *Devils & Sp.* I. xxi. he is described as a helpful being, similar to the Scottish brownie.

1531 *TINDALE Wks.* (Parker Soc. 1849) 139 The scripture... is become a maze unto them, in which they wander as in a mist, or (as we say) led by Robin Goodfellow, that they cannot come to the right way, no, though they turn their caps. 1770 B. GOODE *Pop. Kingd.* III. (1880) 33 Masse drives out Robin good fellow, & bugs that walk by night. 1790 SHAKS. *Mids. II. ii. 13* That shrewd'st art knaught against, Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. 1801 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Disc. Seneca* (1611) 84 But warres best use, is the same that nurses make of Robin-goodfellow, to terrifie. 1822 *BRETTON Strange News Wks.* (Grosart) II. 101/2 In the old time when Hobgoblin and Robin good fellow made company wenchies keeps their houses cleane ouernight. 1701 *FARQUHAR Sir H. Wildair* I. i. The English came in like Robin Good-fellow, cried Bohl and made 'em be quiet. [1827 *HOOD Mids. Fairies* ix, Robin Goodfellow, that merry swain.]

*transf.* 1600 E. GUILPIN in *Eng. Parnassus* 223 Let us esteeme Opinion as she is... The Proteus Robin Good-fellow of change.

† b. In general sense: A fairy or goblin of this kind. *Obs.*

1593 *NASHE Terrors of Night Wks.* (Grosart) III. 222 The Robbin good-fellows, Elfs, Fairies, Hobgoblins of our latter age... did moost of their merry pranks in the Night. 1821 *BURTON Anat. Med.* I. ii. 1. ii. A bigger kind there is of them called with vs Hobgoblins, and Robin good fellows, that would in those superstitious times, grind

Came for a messe of milke. 1635 *HEYWOOD Hierarch.* ix. 574 These... Make fearful noise in Buttries and in Dairies; Robin good-fellows some, some call them Fairies.

c. With punning allusion to robbing ppl. a.

1646 W. DE BRITTAIN *Hum. Prud.* xii. 59 If not to practice the Law, yet to gain so much knowledge therein, as to defend your... Estate from the Robbing-good-Fellows of it.

† 2. *Robin Goodfellow's losses*, the wood-loose.

1854 HULOT, Chesapeake worme, otherwise called Robin-goodfellowe his lowse, *lytus*.

Robin Hog. ? A constable.

1705 HICKERINGHILL *Priest-c.* I. (1721) 56 Calling upon the Jailors, the Sumners, the Rascals, the Robin Hogs, and Bumbailiffs, to help you to smother a Book, and stop it in the Press.

Robin Hood ('robin 'hud), *sb.* Forms: 4 Robyn hood, 4-6 hode; Sc. 5 Robyne, 6 Robyn, Robene Hude, 6 Robeyn Hwde; 6 Robin Hood, -hood, 6- Robin Hood, -hood, 8-Hood. [A personal name, whether real or fictitious is uncertain: see Child's *Ballads* III. 40-56, and the prefatory matter to Ritson's *Robin Hood*.]

1. The name of a popular English outlaw traditionally famous from at least the fourteenth century; hence allusively, an outlaw or bandit, or leader of such persons. Also, more widely, any person who acts irregularly for the benefit of the poor. † a tale (or great) of Robin Hood, an extravagant story.

1277 *LANGOL. P. Pl.* B. v. 402, I can rymes of Robyn hood, and Randolf eric of Chestre. c. 1245 WYNTOUN *Crow.* vii. x. 3525 Lytill Ihon and Robyne Hude... In Yngliwode and Barnydale Thai oysyd all this time thare walwe. 1439 *Rolls of Parl. V.* 16 The same Piers Venables... with many other unknowyn... in manere of Insurrection, wente into the woodes in that Contre, like as it hadde be Robyn-hode and his knyghtes. 1471 *RIPLEY Com. Alch.* in Ashm. (1652) 175 Many man spekyth... Of Robyn Hode, and of his Bow, Whych never shot therin. I trow. 1509 *BACLEY Ship of Folsy* (1874) II. 155 Fables and lassis of Robyn hode, Or other tryfls that stantly ar so gode. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 77 Tales of Robin hode are good among foolcs. a. 1586 *SIDNEY Apol. Poetry* (Arb.) 51 Lastly... they cry out with an open mouth, as if they out shot Robin Hood. 1597 *Carew MSS.* (1866) 273 Sundry loose persons, as some of the McShees... and others, became Robin Hoods, and slew some of the Undertakers. 1617 *MORRISON Hist.* II. 181 Hugh MacGyver Lord of Fermanagh, and the first Robinhood of this great rebellion. 1622 *HART Anat. Ur.* I. iii. 36 Let vs proceed to a point... which will seeme to many a strange Paradox, or a tale of Robin Hood. 1875 F. HALL in *Lippincott's* *Mag.* XV. 434/2 It was a notorious freebooter, a Hindu Robin Hood, that I had dropped upon 1931 J. BUCHAN *Blanket of Dark v.* 96 This Cath... robbed especially rich men... but spared the Church and the poor — a shabby Robin Hood. 1946 G. V. GALWEY *Lift & Drop* iv. 70 Strip cartoons relating the adventures of Hugh Stinton the Robin Hood of private enquiry agents. 1967 *Listener* 30 Mar. 421/2 The challenge of an Asian-style Robin Hood telling the poor that they will be fattened with good food for which the rich and corrupt... will be forced to pay. 1973 P. B. AUSTIN *Tr. & Wahl's Locked Room* xiv. 263 She thought of him as a Robin Hood who stole from the rich to give to the poor. 1976 *Oodley & Wigston (Leica)* *Advertiser* 26 Nov. 2/4 The plot involves five main characters, all budding Robin Hoods who realise there is money in fur coats. 1978 M. PUZO *Foots Die* xii. 119, I still had a little bit of the Robin Hood in me.

*attrib.* and *Comb.* 1653 CHISENHOLE *Cath. Hist.* 284 If any condemn the authority of the Romane Church, that he shall not be able to assure himself of Scripture, any more then of a Robinhood-tale. 1835 JAMES GIPSY vi. 'This is a very Robin-Hood-like scene,' said Colonel Manners. 1851 *PALGRAVE Norm. & Eng.* I. 563 Prosecuting a Robinhood insurance warfare in Lotheringia. 1951 KOSTLER *Age of Longing* II. iii. 235 Pierre... practised a kind of Robin Hood democracy. 1963 A. LAPOUCHE *Austral. Roundabout* 161 The bushrangers also had a number of allies... for their Robin Hood attitude to their victims. 1975 *Times* 8 Apr. 4/7 A home loan fraud with a Robin Hood quality... to obtain mortgages for Asian immigrant families. 1977 *It* May 29/3 Ideally these would be assessed on a Robin Hood basis.

† 2. a. One who acted the part of Robin Hood in a mummer's play or yearly festival. Hence *Robin Hood's days*, *men. Obs.*

1473 *Fauston Lett.* III. 89, I have keypd hym thys iij yer to pleye Seynt Jorge and Robyn Hod and the Shryff off Notyngham. 1531 *Acc. Ld. High Treas.* Scot. V. 434 Item, vj quarters gray taffets of Jeynes to be one parte of the Kingis Robene Hudis baner. 1549 LATIMER *6th Ser.* bef. *Edw. VI.* X.vb. Syr thys is a busyde daye wyth vs... it is Robyn hoodes daye. *Ibid.*, It was faine to geue place to Robyn hoodes men. 1579 TOMSON *Cathin's Ser.* *Tim.* 23/1 God will not have us occupied like little children in puppets or hobbie-horses, as players and Robin hoodes. 1589 *Hay, any Work for a Cooper* 3 Hearing either the Sommer Lord with his Maie game, or Robin Hood with his Morrice daunce going by the Church. 1616 NICCOLLS *London's Arillery* 87 This worthy practise... when her Robin Hood Had wont each yeare... to lead his yong men out.

† b. The play or mummery in which Robin Hood was the leading character. *Obs.*

1578 *Gen. Assembly in Child Ballads* III. 45/1 All kynd of insolent plays, as King of May, Robin Hood, and sick others, in the month of May, played either be bairnes at the schools, or others. 1820 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 277 Dischargeing all and sinding his Majesties liegis of using of Robene Hude and other vane and unlesum gamms.

3. As a plant-name: † a. (See quot.) *Obs.*  
1665 *REA Flora* 126 This common Anemone is by many Gentlewomen, and others as ignorant, called Robin Hood, Scarlet and John.

b. *dial.* = ROBIN¹ 6.



1844 W. BARNES *Poems Rural Life* 105 Theos bank wi' eltro row'r An Robinhoods drest. 1848— in south-western dialect use (see Britten & Holland, and *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

4. Used fig. with allusion to hood.

1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* v. iv. Let not... Your Robinhoods, Scarlets and Johns, tie your affections In darkness to your shops.

5. In various genitive combs., as Robin Hood's bargain, pennyworth: see PENNYWORTH 3 d; Robin Hood's barn, used as the type of an out-of-the-way place; esp. in phr. (*a*)round Robin Hood's barn, by a circuitous route (lit. and fig.); Robin Hood's feather, hatband (see quot. 1820, 1828); Robin Hood's mile, one of several times the recognized length.

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasie* 57 Those are Robin Hood's miles, as the proverb is. 1709 Brit. *Apollon* No. 58. 3/1 When... A Purchase you reap, That is wondrous Cheap. Their Robin-Hood Bargains are call'd. 1820 KNOWLSON *Cattle-Doctor* 47 Traveller's joy, (or Robin Hood's feather): it grows among ling, and runs to a great length. 1828 *Craeen Gloss.* Robin Hood's hat-band, common club-moss. *Lycopodium clavatum*. a 1854 J. F. KELLEY *Humors of Falconbridge* (1856) 220 The way some folks have of going round 'Robin Hood's barn' to come at a thing. 1878 N. & Q. 22 June 486/2 'Where have you been today?' 'All round Robin Hood's barn! I have been all about the country, first here and then there.' 1912 E. M. WATSON *Rustic Speech* 66. 186 To go round by Robin Hood's barn (Cmb. w. Midl.) is to go a roundabout way, to go the farthest way. 1928 S. LEWIS *Man who knew Coolidge* 17 When it came to talking, why say, he wandered all round Robin Hood's barn! 1934 E. M. RHODES *Beyond Desert* 201 Wagon-road goes all around Robin Hood's barn to get to my place. 1951 H. WOUK *Caine Matiny* xxxix. 464. I have gone all the way around Robin Hood's barn to arrive at the old platitudes, which I guess is the process of growing up. 1977 *Time* 31 Jan. 1/3 Your article on birth control goes around Robin Hood's barn for an answer to the birth control problem.

6. Used attrib. and absol. to designate a type of high-crowned hat with the brim turned up at the back and down at the front, trimmed with a feather.

1894 C. G. HARPER *Revolted Woman* ii. 43 Rational Dress... is only Bloomerism with a difference... A 'Robin Hood' hat, even as in the bygone years, crowns this confection. 1939 R. CHANDLER *Big Sleep* xi. 79 Her black hair was glossy under a brown Robin Hood hat. 1944 A. THIRKELL *Headmistress* x. 220 What interested him was her hat; a kind of Robin Hood hat of green felt with a long quill stuck jauntily through the crown. 1960 *News Chron.* 11 Apr. 8/4 Gone are the heavy-looking tribbles... In their place have come the delta and the Robin Hood. 1966 A. YORK *Eliminator* v. 66 While... dressed in flannel bags and sports coat, added an old Robin Hood. 1975 W. HILLOCK *Bracknell's Law* 36. I was accosted by a little old woman in black: black coat, black stockings, black hat—and all a throwback to the forties, with the hat of the Robin Hood type.

Hence Robin-Hood v., to live like Robin Hood; Robin-Hoodish a., characteristic of a Robin Hood; beneficent to or benefiting the poor; Robin-Hoodism (see quot.). *nonce-words*.

1856 KINGSLEY *Poems, The Invitation*, Once a year, like schoolboys, Robin-hooding go. 1887 *Ch. Times* 9 Dec. 1013/1 If the question were merely a matter of Robin-Hoodism—the robbing of the rich for the sake of the poor. 1974 *Listener* 18 July 86/3 The morally respectable, Robin-Hoodish bank robbery.

|| **Robinia** (rəʊˈbiːnə). *Bot.* [mod. L. (Linnaeus), f. *Robin*, name of the royal gardener at Paris, who introduced these trees to Europe in 1635.] A genus of North American trees and shrubs of the bean family, chiefly represented by the locust-tree.

1759 B. STILLINGF. *Misc. Tracts* (1762) 186 From that distant country we have the robinia's and a honey-suckle. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Ann. in Gard. Assist.* 32 *Robinia*, or false acacia. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 45/2 The best known species of Robinia is the *R. pseudacacia*, the Bastard or False Acacia, or Locust-tree. *Ibid.* 46/1 There are two other species. *R. viscosa*, Clammy Robinia, and *R. hispida*, Hairy Robinia, or Rose Acacia. 1882 *Garden* 15 July 41/1 The Robinias, except *Pseudacacia*, are a neglected class of low trees.

**Robincocracy** (rɒbɪnˈkrəsi). [f. the name *Robin* (ROBIN) + -OCRACY.] The régime of Sir Robert Walpole (1676–1745), the predominant figure in British politics between 1721 and 1742; the clique led by Walpole; the period of Walpole's supremacy.

1727 *Craftsmen* 22 July 71 This week was publish'd Robin's Panegyric on Himself and his Friends at Westminster; modestly proving that they were all very honest Fellows and deserving Patriots; with a full Confutation of the charge of Bribery and Corruption Offered to the consideration of the Freeholders; Citizens, Burgesses and Freemen of Great-Britain. *Populus me sibi*, at mihi plaudo. Hor. Printed for S.B. W.W. and T.W. Printers to the Robincocracy. a 1902 ACTON *Lect. Mod. Hist.* (1906) xvi. 274 After the fall of Walpole it was observed... that the country felt itself superior to the government. This was the natural result of the time known as the Robincocracy; not because he devised liberal measures, but because he was careful to be neither wiser nor more liberal than the public. 1974 J. B. OWEN *Eighteenth Cent.* i. 23 On 19 April 1722 Sunderland died of pleurisy, and the way was open for Walpole to assert his supremacy. The Robincocracy had begun. 1977 W. A. SPECK *Stability & Strife* x. 222 Bolingbroke could be highly persuasive and his essays were the most substantial contemporary critiques of the Robincocracy.

**Robin 'redbreast.** [Cf. ROBIN' and REDBREAST.]

1. a. The European redbreast or robin (*Eriothacus rubecula*), usually as a proper name, but also with a and pl.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Hoeliat* 464 Robyn Redbreast nocht ran, Bot raid as a hensman. a 1520 SKELTON *P. Sparrow* 399 Robyn redbreast, He shall be the preest The requiem masse to synge. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 863 When the short days begyn to be colde, robinredbreast will come home to ye. 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* v. (Routledge) 45/2 The robin-redbreast and the wren... with leaves and flowers do cover The friendless bodies of unburied men. 1683 TRAYON *Way to Health* 448 The Raven as unfit for food... and the pretty Robin-red-Breast for its innocency, are very seldom killed. 1710 STEELS *Tatler* No. 134 P2 Hearing by Chance of your Worship's great Humanity towards Robin-Redbreasts and Tom Tits. 1774 GOLDAM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 314 Among slender billed birds, he enumerates the thrush... the red-start, the robin red-breast. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xxviii. Robin-red-breast, whose chirruping song was heard among the bushes. 1862 *All Year Round* 13 Sept. 9 The infiction... is hard upon the innocent traveller, who has been brought up to respect robin redbreasts.

b. dial. (See quot. and cf. ROBIN' 6 d.)

1878 *Folk-Lore Rec.* i. 38 The excrescence often found upon the briar-rose, and called here in Sussex by the name of Robin Redbreast's Cushion. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* Robin red-breast, the red, mossy gall which grows upon the branches of the wild rose.

c. dial. The red campion, *Lychnis diurna*.

1886 BRITTEN & HOLLAND *Plant-Names*.

d. U.S. = ROBIN sb. 1 3.

1696 S. SEWALL *Diary* 4 Jan. (1878) I. 242 Some say they saw a Robin-Redbreast to-day. 1865 *Atlantic Monthly* May 517/1 Shortly after Robin-Redbreast... [arrives] the Golden-Winged Woodpecker. 1949 *Hobbies Oct.* 155/1 Robin Redbreast—most familiar of North American birds—has thrived as man's close neighbor.

2. slang. A Bow Street runner. Cf. REDBREAST 2.

1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* II. 173 The New Police Bill, by which raw robbers were introduced in place of robin-red-breasts. 1885 WINGFIELD *Barb. Philpot* III. ii. 45 Vended by hawkers in the street under the noses of the robin-red-breasts.

**robin'redbreasted**, a. *nonce-wd.* [f. ROBIN REDBREAST + -ED.] Clad in a red waistcoat.

1924 JOYCE *Ulysses* 465 Tom Rochford, robin'redbreasted, in cap and breeches.

**'Robin 'ruddock.** Now dial. Also 7, 9 reddock(e), 9 riddick. [See ROBIN' and REDDOCK.] = prec. 1 a.

a 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* in Dodale (1744) I. 272 Did you ever see two such little Robin ruddocks? 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* II. x. 61 Ten said Sancho: By Saint Roque, our Mistres is as light as a Robin-ruddocke. 1639 in *Gloss.* (1890) 201 Hee drew it as blith as a Robin reddocke: viz. As a robin redbreast. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial.* W. Eng. 128 Wrens an robin-riddicks Tell all the cares o' God. 1873 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

**Robinsonade** (rɒbɪnˈsəːd, -l-aɪd). Also Robinsonnade and with lower-case initial. Pl. Robinsonades, -l-aden. [ad. G. *Robinsonade* (coined by J. G. Schnabel, *Die Insel Felsenburg* (1731), Preface): see next and -ADE.] A novel with a subject similar to that of *Robinson Crusoe*; a story about shipwreck on a desert island.

1847 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 330/2 These outcasts from civilisation, the adventures of most of whom would furnish abundant materials for a Robinsonade. 1942 P. B. Gove *Imaginary Voy. Prose Fiction* p. ix, The late Hermann Ullrich, whose knowledge of the influence of *Robinson Crusoe* has probably never been equaled, put on the title page of his bibliography of robinsonades in 1898 'Teil I'. *Ibid.* i. v. 125 Imitations of *Robinsonade* have been known usually as *Robinsonaden* or *robinsonades* (only rarely as robinsoniades), and similar works published before 1719 as *per Robinsonades*. 1967 B. W. ALDERSON *Dr. B. Hurlimann's Three Centuries Children's Bks. in Europe* xvii. 252 Robinsonades, like history, geography, and travel books, have always had a big attraction for the Swiss. 1974 *Encycl. Brit. Micropedia* VIII. 618/2 *Robinsonade*, novel written in imitation of *Robinson Crusoe*... dealing with the problem of the castaway's survival on a desert island. 1975 D. WAGGONER *Hills of Faraway* 16 The Robinsonade is, of course, named for *Robinson Crusoe*, and is the story of a castaway—a voyage cut short—in an isolated setting, which the author can use to describe his ideas of the basic elements separating man from beast.

**Robinson Crusoe** (rɒbɪnˈkrʊːsoʊ). The name of the eponymous hero of Daniel Defoe's fictional narrative (1719), who survives shipwreck on a desert island, used allusively. Also attrib. and (rare) ellipt. as *Robinson*. Cf. CRUSOE. So 'Robinson Crusoe v. trans., to maroon on a desert island; 'Robinson Crusoe a.

1768 *London Mag.* Oct. 543/1, I am of late from a sprightly fellow become a peevish mal-content; and am as unhappy among the people of England, as if some misadventure had Robinson-crused me, by throwing me into a desert-isle... where I could have nothing but seals and wild goats for my companions. 1849 L. HUNT *Bk. for Corner* 14 There are Robinson Crusoes in the moral as well as physical world...—men, cast on desert islands of thought and speculation; without companionship; without worldly resources; forced to arm and clothe themselves out of the remains of shipwrecked hopes, and to make a home for their solitary hearts in the nooks and corners of imagination and reading. 1856 E. K. KANE *Arctic Explorations* I. xxvi. 348 A host of expedients were to be resorted to, and much Robinson

Crusoe labor ahead. 1878 TROLLOPE *How 'Mattiffs' went to Iceland* ii. 6 Though the life of a Robinson Crusoe or a few Robinson Crusoes may be very picturesque, humanity will always desire to restore a Robinson Crusoe back to the community of the world. 1919 G. B. SHAW *Matter with Ireland* (1962) 213 His Robinson Crusoe independence of his neighbors. 1930 R. CAMPBELL *Adamastor* 30 Of all the ocean-gods and magics The last surviving Robinson. 1941 L. MacNISC *Poetry* W. B. Yeats x. 218 Eliot... in *After Strange Gods* has grouped Lawrence and Yeats... as writers who have suffered from the lack of an established religion and a traditional moral code and who have invented for these things Robinson Crusoe substitutes. 1974 H. MACINNES *Climb to Lost World* iv. 53 The army compound... had a Robinson Crusoe atmosphere with the palm and pau pau trees. 1979 'G. BLACK' *Night Run from Java* viii. 76 One [island] where I could Robinson Crusoe the marine accident victims.

**robinsonite** ('rɒbɪnənɪt), *Min.* [f. the name of S. C. Robinson (b. 1911), Canadian geologist + -ITE.] A bluish or grey lead antimony sulphide occurring as slender prismatic crystals and fibrous or compact masses.

1922 L. G. BERRY et al. in *Amer. Mineralogist* XXXVII. 438 The powder pattern obtained by Professor Peacock was found to be identical with one of several unidentified patterns obtained by Dr. S. C. Robinson at Queen's University during his investigation of the synthesis of lead antimony sulphides... The name robinsonite is given to this new mineral in honor of Dr. Robinson, whose synthesis made its identification possible. *Ibid.* Robinsonite occurs as a primary mineral with pyrite, sphalerite, stibnite, and boulangerite in small pieces in oxidized ore bodies at the Red Bird mercury mine, Pershing County, Nevada. 1973 *Canad. Mineralogist* XII. 199/1 The Pb-Sb-S system... has been examined... between 300 and 700°C. Five phases have been synthesized: Phase I (3PbS:Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>) stable between 642 and 605°C; boulangerite (3PbS:2Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>) stable below 638°C; Phase II (3PbS:Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>) stable between 603 and 405°C; robinsonite (6PbS:5Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>) stable between 582 and 318°C; zincinene (PbS:Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>) stable below 545°C. *Ibid.* 205/2 Preservation of robinsonite, which appears to break down below 185°C, as a mineral is a perplexing problem; natural robinsonite may be stabilized by small amounts of impurities.

**robishe**, obs. form of RUBBISH sb.

|| **roble** ('rɒbl). [Sp. and Pg. *roble*, = It. *rovere*, Prov. *roure*, F. *rouvre*.—L. *robor-*, *robur* oak-tree.] a. The Californian weeping oak (*Quercus lobata*). b. A timber tree (*Platymiscium platystachyum*) of the West Indies. c. A West-Indian species of catpala (*C. longistiquia* or *longissima*). d. A Chilean species of beech (*Fagus obliqua*).

1864 GRISEBACH *Flora W. Ind. Isl. Col.* Names, Roble, *Platymiscium platystachyum*. 1866 *Tras. Bot.* 987/1 *Roble*, a shipbuilding wood obtained from *Catalpa longissima*. 1871 KINGOLEY *At Last* vii. That... is... a Carapo, that a Cedar, that a Roble (oak). 1885 LADY BRANSHY *The Trades* 177 There were... the robble (*Catalpa longissima*), a tree very like an elm [etc.].

**roble**, obs. form of ROUBLE.

**roble**, error for *romble*: see RUMBLE v.

† **roblet**, sb. *Obs. rare*. In 8 robleit. [Perh. for *Robinet* (cf. dial. *remlet* for *remnant*), which occurs as the name of a goblin in Wright's *Latin Stories* 38.] A goblin leading persons astray in the dark. In comb. *roblet-led*.

1755 J. CLUBBE *Misc. Tracts* (1770) I. 52 From hence superstition has possessed the inhabitants, that... it is impossible to find the way out of this field in the dark, but that every one that is so hardy as to make the experiment is *Roblet-led*; by which they mean led by some ghost or phantom.

Hence † *roblet* v. *trans.*, to lead astray. *Obs.* 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selo*. 65 One reason... why the understanding has been robletten in to these wastes and wilderness. *Ibid.* 173 If the man... will needs be setting up a Will in the wisd, no wonder if the glare of it sometimes roblet him into bogs and marl pits.

**robomb** ('rɒʊbɒm). *temporary*. [f. ROB(OT + BOMB sb.) = *robot bomb*, flying bomb.]

1944 *Saturday Night* (Toronto) 22 July 17 (heading) Germany's robombs another case of 'too little and too late'. 1945 H. S. ZIM *Rockets & Jets* xix. 266 Like the V-1 robomb it must be given a high initial speed before the engine begins to operate.

**roborant** ('rɒʊb-, 'rɒbərənt), sb. and a. *Med.* [ad. L. *roborant-*, *roborans*, pres. pple. of *roborare*: see next.]

A. sb. An invigorating or strengthening medicine.

1661 R. LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 403 The vertigo is helped by temporal repellents, discutients, roborants... and quinces. 1789 CULLEN *Mat. Med.* II. 6 Upon the same ground (astrings) are fitly enough named Strengtheners or Roborants. 1822-34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 97 In China, ginseng has for ages been in high esteem... as a general restorative and roborant. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 59 *Prunus Virginiana*... is frequently useful in phthisis when a roborant is needed.

B. adj. Strengthening; restorative.

1836 in SMART, 1885 W. ROBERTS *Urin. & Renal Dis.* III. iv. 401 Medicinal agents of roborant character should be exhibited from time to time.

†**roboratē**, *pa. ppl.* *Obs.* [ad. L. *roborāt-us*, *pa. ppl.* of *roborāre*: see next.] Confirmed, ratified, strengthened.

1432-50 *tr. Higden (Rolls) VIII.* 245 The kyng made a charoure roborate by auctorite of the pope. 1533 BELLENDEN *Lyx i.* (S.T.S.) l. 54 Money thyre bandis war roborate betuix þe two pepill. 1536 — *Cron. Scot.* (1821) l. 21 The peace beand roborat in this maner, baid the kyngis returnit hame. 1550 ROLLAND *Civ. Venus* II. 251 His Fortoun was with strength so roborat. *Ibid.* 585 With subell wark it was so roborat.

†**roborate**, *v. Obs.* [ad. ppl. stem of L. *roborāre* to strengthen, *f. robor-, robor* strength.]  
1. *trans.* To ratify, confirm (a charter, league, etc.).

1432-50 *tr. Higden (Rolls) VIII.* 203 Gregorius . . roborate the sentence of excommunication ageyne Frederike the emperoure. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburgis* l. 2450 to to confirme, and roborate the all With thyns dedes, and scales patre. 1611 SPEDD *Hist. G. Brit.* ix. iv. §2. 454/2 Even now will I confirme, your ouer-worne and vndermined Charters, and will roborate them most firmly with a new oath. 1655 FULLER *Hist. Camb.* ii. §36 This Bull also relateth to ancient privileges of Popes and Princes, bestowed upon her; which herein are roborated and confirmed.

2. To strengthen, invigorate; to fortify. Also *fig.*

1533 *tr. Erasmus. Expos. Commune Crede* 118b, Anone after as waxing yonge men, they were roborated and made stronge vnto grete batayles. 1615 CROOKER *Body of Man* 163 He prescribeth stipplice . . to roborate or strengthen the vertue of the guttes. 1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* i. iii. 74 By preventing Grace . . the Liberty of the Will . . is wonderfully perfected and roborated. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 85 It roborates the Parts that are hurt. *ibid.* 1690 BARROUGG *Med. Physick* v. v. (1639) 275 Those things which doe confirme and roborate. 1857 TOMLINSON *Remov's Disp. Pref.* Some Simples . . to qualify, the rest to . .

3. To make obdurate; to harden. *rare*—1.  
1652 GAULLE *Magistrom* 217 To what end served those false mirabiles of the magicians, but to roborate or harden Pharaohs heart?

Hence †**roborating** *ppl. a. Obs.*  
1684 *tr. Bonet's Merc. Compt.* xix. 680 Before all things roborating and comforting things should be given to the Sick.

†**roboratō**, *n. Obs.* Also 5 *roboracion*, 6 *-aciōn*, *-acyōn*. [ad. med. L. *roboratio*, noun of action *f. roborāre*: see prec.] Confirmation; strengthening; support; invigoration.

1432-50 *tr. Higden (Rolls) III.* 193 Hit hade be sufficente to the roboracion of a sentence if hit hade be aside 'Pictagoras seide so'. 1473 in *Sheriffdoms of Larnark & Renfrew* (Maitland Cl.) 194 In strenthning and roboracion of this present obligacion. 1533 BELLENDEN *Lyx i.* xii. (S.T.S.) l. 70 To þe strenth & Roboraciōn of all religioun and ordoure afoure diuinit. 1536 *Exhort. to North in Furniv.* *Ballads* l. 306 The machabieys beyng fewe in the comparason of thir enmys. . . Zai, trustyng in gode, thai haide Roboracyōne. 1657 TOMLINSON *Remov's Disp.* 54 This Lotion is commendad, as of sufficient roboracion to ballance the weakness of the Liver.

†**ro'boresan**, *a. Obs.*—0 [f. L. *robore-us* + -AN.]  
'Made of Oak, or such like strong Timber.'  
1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* Hence in some later Dicts.

**ro'boresous**, *a. Obs.*—0 [f. *prec.* + -OUS.] 'Of the nature of, or pertaining to oak.'  
1727 BAILEY (vol. II.). Hence in some later Dicts.

**robot** ('robot). [Czech, *f. robota* forced labour; used by Karel Čapek (1890-1938) in his play *R.U.R.* ('Rossum's Universal Robots') (1920).]

1. *a.* One of the mechanical men and women in Čapek's play; hence, a machine (sometimes resembling a human being in appearance) designed to function in place of a living agent, esp. one which carries out a variety of tasks automatically or with a minimum of external impulse.

1923 P. SELVER *tr. Čapek's R.U.R.* 28 You see . . the Robots have no interest in life. They have no enjoyments. 1923 *Times* 9 June 10/5 If Almighty God had populated the world with Robots, legislation of this sort might have been reasonable. 1928 *Daily News & Westminster* *Gaz.* 20 Apr. 11/4 The latest . . Rotary Press, a veritable Robot in the complicated work it performs night after night without hitch. 1937 *Spectator* 23 Apr. 758/1 Men who will go to their doom with the unswerving directness of robots. 1942, etc. (see *robotic* sb. 1). 1945 *Sun* (Baltimore) 9 Feb. 6-C/2 A robot, which never forgets, will do the job. 1958 (see *ANDROID*). 1969 I. & P. OPIE *Children's Games* xii. 340 'They pretend to be robots gone mad', reports a headmaster. 1976 *Sci. Amer.* Feb. 77 (caption) Spot-welding robots . . are used in assembling the under-bodies of Chevrolet Novas. 1979 *Daily Tel.* 7 Nov. 6/8 The British Robot Association believes between 6,000 and 7,000 robots were in use world-wide in industry last year. 1980 *Times* 1 July 19/5 A real robot is programmable; it can be programmed to perform different, and changing tasks. In 1978 Japan put 1,100 playback or programmable robots into its factories.

*b.* A person whose work or activities are entirely mechanical; an automaton.

1923 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 June 7/5 Mr. G. Bernard Shaw defined Robots as persons all of whose activities were imposed on them. 1926 C. E. M. JOAD *Babbitt Warren* 82 Robots live by standardization. 1929 C. CONNOLLY *Let. in Romance & Friendship* (1975) 325 America is . . a great youthful boisterous robot. 1943 J. B. PRIESTLEY *Daylight on*

*Saturday* ix. 55, I thought it would be better having a fairly intelligent . . girl instead of one of these little office robots. 1977 G. W. H. LAMPS *God at Spirit* ii. 51 The person who is 'seized' by the Spirit is thought of as a passive object, temporarily reduced to the status of a robot.

*c.* Chiefly *S. Afr.* An automatic traffic-signal.

1931 *Even. Standard* 5 Aug. 2/1 (heading) Traffic 'Robots' in the City. 1939 *Forum* (Johannesburg) 4 Feb. 35/1 The Daily Dispatch, East London, is critical of a proposal to fix robots in the town's streets. 1948 H. V. MORTON *In Search of S. Afr.* 17 Another word used in South Africa, but long discontinued in England, is robot for traffic lights. 1958 *Johannesburg Star* 16 Dec. 6/7 Johannesburg drivers . . want to turn right or left while pedestrians, with the robot in their favour, are crossing. 1969 A. FUGARD *Boesman & Lena* II. 38 When the robot said 'Go' there at Berry's Corner I was nearly hung in my brooch. 1974 *Eastern Province Herald* 4 Oct. 9 Vandals removed the lamps from seven traffic robots and the flashing head from a warning pole.

*d.* A robot bomb. *temporary.*

1944 *Daily Tel.* 11 July 15/5 Many of the robots launched against England on Sunday night finished up in the sea. 1944 J. LESS-MILNE *Prophecy Peace* (1977) 86 From here James saw his first robot.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *robot army*, *astronaut*, *-brain*, *clerk*, *-land*, *-maker*, *masses*, (*petrol*) *station*, *-pilot*, *satellite*, *system*, *type*, *-worker*; *robot-controlled*, *-like* (also *-ppl.*), *-man* *adjs.*; *robot bomb* = *flying bomb* *s.v.* *FLYING* *vb.* *sb.* 3; *robot plane*, (*a*) = *queen bee* *s.v.* *QUEEN* *sb.* 14; (*b*) = *robot bomb*; *robot roost*, a place for the storage of robot bombs; *robot teacher*, an electronic teaching aid; *robot train*, a robot-controlled underground train.

1927 *Morning Post* 20 Aug. 9 (heading) Robot army 'gassed'. 1961 *Daily Tel.* 14 Sept. 1/4 Technicians at Cape Canaveral, Florida, successfully sent a Project Mercury space capsule carrying a robot astronaut and recovered it from the Atlantic. 1944 *Sun* (Baltimore) 20 June 9/1 Most military authorities here are generally agreed that the robot bomb or plane is of . . little military value. 1944 *N.Y. Times* 25 June 42/1 (heading) Germans' robot bomb is a potential menace. 1945 G. MILLAR *Magnus* xiv. 292 A false report that a certain factory there was making parts for the robot bombs that the Germans had begun to send to London. 1951 KOESTLER *Age of Longing* i. viii 120 The ancient Neanderthaler with a modern robot-brain. 1954 *Britannica* *Bk. of Year* 637/2 *Radar-Brain*, a device used to guide supersonic missiles from the ground, and *Robot-Brain*, a similar apparatus built into the missile. 1928 *Daily Express* 8 June 3/2 A new automatic selling machine, described as the 'Robot clerk', which will say 'Thank you' and give change, will replace the present automatic machines. 1964 *Am. Reg.* 1963 394 London transport had also developed a robot-controlled underground train. 1960 KOESTLER *Lotus & Robot* II. vi. 173 The robotland reflected in the mirror makes us shudder. 1927 *N.Y. Times* 7 Mar. 16 An iron robotlike woman Rotwang had made previously. 1928 *Daily Express* 11 Aug. 3/7 The romance of past centuries and robot-like drama of modern times meet at Sandwich. 1972 T. McHUGH *Time of Buffalo* xi. 132 Among the most widespread was the Pawnee myth of the robotlike buffalo that pursued and devoured people. *Ibid.* 123 Marching robotlike after the coyote, the skull eventually devoured him. 1976 B. BOVA *Multiple Man* (1977) xiv. 147 That same robot-like Oriental butler served us steaks. 1946 J. T. SHIPLEY in W. S. Knickerbocker *20th Cent. Eng.* 131 Despite robot-makers . . human nature changes, if at all, but slowly. 1946 J. S. HUXLEY *Unesco* ii. 43 The robot masses and class-types of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. 1972 *Times* 9 Nov. 35/1 (heading) Robot petrol stations. *Ibid.*, The two trends now being combined to produce what BP . . calls robot stations, namely self-service and automatic money acceptance. 1920 *Aberdeen Press & Jnl.* 31 Mar. 7/3 One of these robot-pilots has been fitted to a big twin-engine Supermarine Napier flying boat. 1951 A. Y. BRAMBLE *Air-Plane Flight* xv. 247 Automatic control or 'robot-pilot' is really a piece of control mechanism rather than an instrument as generally understood. 1935 *Robot plane* (see *queen bee*). 1944 J. LESS-MILNE *Prophecy Peace* (1977) 84 Dame Una made stately preparations to dive under the table at the first sound of a robot plane. 1944 *Sun* (Baltimore) 20 June 1/3 United States heavy bombers struck twice today at the robot roost around Pas de Calais. 1958 I. ASIMOV *Naked Sun* i. 11 Fear of open spaces that barred them from the robot-roost farming and mining areas of their own planet. 1958 C. C. ADAMS *Space Flight* 142 A manned satellite will be a formidable project. . . Unlike the robot installed in or on a rocket for delivery to orbit. 1976 *Sci. Amer.* Feb. 77 (heading) Robot systems. 1962 *Daily Tel.* 5 Sept. 21/5 Two robot teachers were on show in the Psychology Section. One, like a portable television set, had nine black knobs and a red button on the front. The pupil presses the black knobs to give his answer and the red button to obtain the correct solution. 1963 *Ibid.* 9 Apr. 17/4 (heading) Robot train tested with passengers. 1959 H. BARNES *Oceanogr. & Marine Biol.* 177 It is convenient to mount a robot-type camera in a water-tight case, usually fastened to a pole. 1938 H. G. WELLS *Things to Come* 13 All the baldershead . . about 'robot workers' and ultra skyscrapers, etc., etc., should be cleared out of your minds.

Hence **robotic**, an expert in the making of robots; **robotesque** *a.*, resembling or suggestive of a robot; **robotian** *a.*, of or belonging to a robot or robots; **robotism**, mechanical behaviour or character; **robotnik** [-NIK], a person behaving with mindless obedience to authority; **robotry**, the condition or behaviour of robots; **roboty** *a.*, robot-like.

1924 *Observer* 6 Jan. 12/4 When we reach the gloomy depths of 'commercial English' . . we are dealing with a mere thing of use, the very pith and genius of Robotry. 1927 *Daily Express* 30 Aug. 3/4 The Girl in the Lift must on some occasions drop her magnificent Robotry. *Ibid.* 5 Sept. 9/1 There are times when they seem to be purely robotesque, automata driven by impulses of destruction beyond their

control. 1928 *Ibid.* 17 Mar. 4/2 A few have their wooden craniums transfixed by bedkins, and some have 'Robotian hooks instead of hands. 1928 *Observer* 29 Jan. 9/3 (heading) The robotism of architecture. 1933 E. E. CUMMINGS *ami* 3 Horridly . . roboty child smothered by ferocious Blau, swinging a ditto balloon at end of wire. 1944 C. L. MOORE in *Anteater Science Fiction* Dec. 155/2 The impression of robotism was what she meant to convey. 1946 *Amer. Jnl. Psychol.* LIX. 190, I wish to define the rôle of robotism in psychology, to show what sense there is in talking about robots. 1955 *Times* 27 July 9 It might be a pretty compliment to the brothers Čapek, if we called this new way of life robotry. 1960 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 16 Sept. 593/2 Too much law, and too centralized authority in all things breeds a society of automata, robotniks and helots. 1970 A. TOPFER *Future Shock* ix. 180 Despite setbacks and difficulties, the roboters are moving forward.

**robotic** ('raubotik), *a.* and *sb.* [f. *ROBOT* + -IC.]  
*A. adj.* Of or pertaining to robots; characteristic of or resembling a robot.

1941 I. ASIMOV in *Anteater Science Fiction* May 50 You'd cut your own nose off before you'd let me get the credit for solving robotic telepathy. 1946 *Amer. Jnl. Psychol.* LIX. 192, I believe that robotic thinking helps precision of psychological thought. 1947 I. ASIMOV in 'E. Crispin' *Best SF Two* (1956) 111 The mathematical interpretation of verbal reactions of robots is one of the more intricate branches of robotic analysis. 1959 *Archit. Rev.* CXXV. 212/3 His line is bold, his colour is bright but lifeless, and his figuration is decoratively robotic. 1963 *New Worlds Sci. Fiction* Apr. 52 Johnston wouldn't have been . . surprised to find out that more than half of the city's population was robotic, no matter how cleverly they were disguised. 1973 M. AMIS *Rachel Papers* 49, I said in a robotic voice: 'Christ I'm sorry about that I had no idea it was your party and I wondered whether you might possibly let me make it up to you.' 1976 L. DEIGHTON *Thinkable, Thinkable Little Spy* viii. 84 The kind of dispassionate robotic bastard that communism breeds.

*B. sb.* 1. *pl.* The art or science of the design, construction, operation, and application of robots and the like; the study of robots; *laws of robotics*, a set of rules devised to govern the actions of robots, enunciated in the science fiction stories of Isaac Asimov (see quot. 1968/1).

At first a science-fiction term but now more generally used of automatic processes in industry.  
1941 I. ASIMOV in *Anteater Science Fiction* May 53 There's irony in three of the greatest experts in robotics in the world falling into the same elementary trap, isn't there? 1942 — in *Ibid.* Mar. 100/1 Let's start with the three fundamental rules of Robotics—the three rules that are built most deeply into a robot's positronic brain. 1957 — *Naked Sun* (1958) i. 21 The robot showed no adverse response. It couldn't, of course. Its responses were limited and controlled by the Laws of Robotics. 1968 — in *Sci. Jnl.* Oct. 116/2 Eventually, I formulated these safeguards in the shape of 'The Three Laws of Robotics'. 1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. 2. A robot must protect its own existence, except where such protection would conflict with the First or Second Law. 1968 *Times* 1 Nov. 32/2 Significant technological advances in the field of 'robotics'—the use of robots in the field of industrial automation—were announced today. 1974 G. BUTLER *Coffin for Canary* viii. 100 Perhaps we are robots. Robots acting out the last Law of Robotics. . . To tend towards the human. 1978 *Observer* (Colour Suppl.) 22 Oct. 15/2 In dealing with the many aspects of robotics—historical, philosophical, mythical, actual and projected—Jasiri Reichardt defends the machine image of ourselves. 1979 *Topic* (Imperial Coll., London) 22 Jan. 9/1 *Supporter* is planned for . . new computer applications (e.g. industrial robotics).

2. *sing.* A robot. *rare.*  
1921 C. SIMAK *Time & Again* (1956) v. 20 The robotic clicked and chuckled. It moved a pawn. . . A human simply can't beat a robotic expert. 1981 *Times* 10 Mar. 4/1 Will he consider direct grants for the purchase of such robotics?

So **robotical** *a.*; **robotically** *adv.*; **roboticist**, an expert in making and operating robots; **roboticized** *a.*, robotized.

1940 I. ASIMOV in *Super Sci. Stories* Sept. 70/2 Johnson is an expert Roboticist. 1942 — in *Amazing Stories* Feb. 227/1 Austin Wilde, Roboticist Engineer, turned to Sam Tobe and said, 'Did you get anything out of the robot?' 1947 — in 'E. Crispin' *Best SF Two* (1956) 127 'The government cruiser was making ready to carry the two roboticists back to Earth. 1957 — *Naked Sun* iii. 35 A thoroughly roboticized economy. 1960 M. SCRIVEN in *Hook Dimensions of Mind* xiii. 120 The roboticist in his task of duplicating the brain functions of higher vertebrates. 1972 *Internat. Jnl. Man-Machine Stud.* IV. 444 The most obvious computer solution would be to sample serially through each region to find which was the largest. For a roboticist using a serial computer, that may well be the best approach. 1976 K. BONFIGLIOLI *Something Nasty in Woodshed* v. 33 Sam got up in a robotic sort of way. 1979 C. THOMAS *Snow Falcon* 24 Asked to rehearse once more lines he knew by heart. . . Robotically, he began.

**robotize** ('raubotaiz), *v.* [f. *ROBOT* + -IZE.]  
*trans.* *a.* = *AUTOMATE* *v.* 1. *b. fig.* To render mechanical or lifeless, to cause to act as if lacking will or consciousness. So **robotized** *ppl. a.*; also **robotization**.

1927 C. M. GEMMY *Allyn* 46 Dostoevsky's mistake was to imagine that Russia alone could prevent the robotization of Europe. 1927 *Daily Express* 7 Nov. 10/5 Lacking a skilled class of artisans, it is only by robotizing industry that she can hope to fight her way back to prosperity. 1928 *Ibid.* 20 Apr. 13/3 Sir William Joynton-Hicks . . protested that he had not seen any sign during the last few months that the House [of Commons] had become robotized. 1928 *Observer* 15 Jan. 11/5 These robotized people . . are only employed

and allowed to exist because no one has yet been sufficiently energetic to invent a machine to replace them. 1936 *Ibid.* 16 Feb. 17/6 He adds... that in machine mass production lies the foundation of the evil, saying: 'We must not robotise America.' 1932 B. WOLFE *Limbo* xv. 236 Even when I was a kid the big plants had been pretty completely robotized. 1967 L. VON BERTALANFFY *Robots, Men & Minds* ii. 64 The robotisation of the human individual. 1969 N.Y. *Rev. Bks.* 2 Jan. 13/4 The masses, through state victory chants, book burning... robotized phalanxes of soldiers devour their enemies. 1975 *New Yorker* 31 Apr. 24/2 Katharine Ross plays the young New Yorker who moves to Steppford and discovers that the wives have been robotized by their husbands. 1976 *Sci. Amer.* Feb. 77/1 During the 1930's and 1940's petroleum refineries and petrochemical plants were extensively 'robotized' by inserting rather simple analogue control instruments in the feedback loops that regulated the pressure, temperature and flow rates in distillation columns, catalytic crackers and other equipment designed to process continuously flowing materials.

**robotology** (ˈrəʊbɒlədʒi). [f. ROBOT + -OLOGY.] The study of robots; robotics. So **robotologist**.

1946 *Amer. Jnl. Psychol.* LIX. 190 The second robot is beginning the progress in his world which, if generalized, would make him into a scientist... or at least a robotologist. *Ibid.* 192 When the physiological picture is complete it will be found that physiology is not necessarily identical with robotology. 1970 A. TOPFLER *Future Shock* (1971) ix. 210 In a quite different field of robotology there is progress, too. Technicians at Disneyland have created extremely life-like computer-controlled humanoid capable of moving their arms and legs, grimacing, smiling, [etc.]. 1972 *Computers & Humanities* VI. 135 Such a theory will... be part of a general performance theory, certain aspects of which are... covered in what one might call 'general robotology'... such as questions pertaining to the interaction between robot and man.

**robotomorphic** (ˈrəʊbɒtəʊmɔːfɪk), *a.* [f. ROBOT + -omorphic, after ANTHROPOMORPHIC *a.*] Designating or pertaining to a view of man as a robot or an automaton.

1969 KOESTLER in Koestler & Smythies *Beyond Reductionism* 2 The common target of these 'holy discontents'... seems to be what von Bertalanffy called the robotomorphic view of man. 1970 *Times* 17 Dec. 15/4 You say I overestimate the dangers of the Robotomorphic or Ratomorphic view. 1974 *Nature* 30 Aug. 765/1 The 'robotomorphic' mechanistic view of man implied in behaviourist psychology.

**robous, -ows, -oys, obs.** forms of RUBBISH.

†**rob-pot.** *Obs.* [f. ROB *v.* + POT *sb.* <sup>1</sup> *i.c.*] A deep drinker, a toper.

1999 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingd.* (Percy Soc.) 48 He challenge all the true rob-pots in Europe to leap up to the chinnie in a barrel of beer. 1603 DEKKER *Wonderfull Yearre Wks.* (Grosart) I. 139 My puffing Host... blest himself, that a Londoner (who had wont to be the most valiant rob-pots) should now be stroked downe only with two hoopoes. 1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Maritry* II. i. Bacchus... grand Patron of rob-pots.

**robriasse, obs.** form of RUBRISH, rubric.

**Rob Roy** (rɒb ɔɪ). [The name (meaning 'Red Robert') of a famous Highland freebooter (1671-1734).] 1. *Rob Roy canoe*, a light canoe for a single person propelled by alternate strokes of a double-bladed paddle. Also *ellipt.*

[Name given by John Macgregor (1825-1892) to a canoe in which he made extensive voyages.]

[1866] J. MACGREGOR (title), *A thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe*. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 812/1 The general type of this 'Rob Roy' canoe is built of oak with a cedar deck. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Sept. 14/1 For Sale, a Rob Roy Canoe, with sail, mast and vane. 1938 J. BETJEMAN *Oxf. Univ. Chest v.* 97 At the ferry you board a punt or canoe or rob roy and paddle down the stream of the Cherwell. 1976 *Country Life* 8 Apr. 870 The Rob Roys were essentially all-purpose canoes.

2. A cocktail made of Scotch whisky and vermouth.

1960 P. QUENTIN *Green-Eyed Monster* i. 5 The two of them were... drinking Rob Roys. 1962 H. KANE *Killer's Kiss* xi. 75 'A drink, Mr. Chambers?' 'Double Rob Roy, not too sweet.' 1975 M. H. CLARK *Where are Children?* vi. 44 Jonathan's favorite drink—a Rob Roy with a twist.

**robryk, obs.** form of RUBRIC.

||**robur** (ˈrəʊbɜː(r)). *rare.* [L. *rōbur* an oak.] A very hard-wooded variety of oak. Also *roburoak*.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* i. 542 The same is the case of the mast-Holme, the wild Robur also, and the common Oke. 1611 FLORIO, *Essalbaradito*, a kind of Robur or Oke tree. 1882 *Ouida* *Maremma* ii. It was again noon when she passed the last robur-oak and cork trees.

**roburite** (ˈrəʊbɜːraɪt). [f. L. *rōbur* strength + -ITE *a.*] A flameless explosive of very high power. Also *attrib.*

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Jan. 1/1 The German Army also possesses a new explosive agent, called Roburite. 1891 *Athenaeum* 17 Jan. 91/1 Roburite... consists of chlorinated dinitrobenzene mixed with sufficient ammonium nitrate to completely oxidize it. 1897 *Albion's Syst. Med.* II. 956 The result of his [Bedson's] analyses showed the absence of deleterious gases in roburite smoke.

†**ro'burnean, a. Obs.** <sup>0</sup> [f. late L. *rōburneus*.] 'Of or belonging to Oak' (Blount, 1656).

**robust** (rəʊˈbʌst), *a.* Also 6-7 **robuste**. [ad. L. *robustus*, f. *rōbur* strength.]

1. *a.* Of persons: Strong and hardy in body or constitution; possessed of rude strength; strongly and stoutly built; of a full and healthy habit.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* xvii. 146 The pepit chest is certain of gowernours of the maist robust & maist prudent to be there defendours. 1563 T. GALE *Enchirid.* 43 b (Stanf.), Stronge & robuste persons. c. 1645 HOWELL *Let.* III. xxi. He being newly awas'd... and thinking to defend himself, a robust boysterous rogue knockt him down. 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 9 The most furious and robust man is not the best horse-breaker and pacer. 1736 CARTE *Ormonde* I. 576 To fall in with them sword and pike in hand, which would give the victory to the robust men. 1789 W. BUCHANAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 31 Though grown people, who are hardy and robust, may live in such situations, yet they generally prove fatal to their offspring. 1837 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* xviii. (1836) 258 On this journey she must have undergone hardships from which the most robust man would have shrunk. 1845 DAY *Tr. Simon's Anim. Chem.* I. 264 The individual whose blood was analysed... was a robust young man, aged 29 years. 1895 SHAND *Gen. Hamley* I. 28 Although his constitution afterwards hardened... at that time he was far from robust.

*Comb.* 1824 MISS FERRIER *Inherit.* ix. The portrait represents a considerably larger and more robust-looking person than Miss St. Clair. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xx. III. 137 All other maladies terminated in this, which appeared to prey equally upon the robust and the infirm.

*b.* Similarly of the body or its parts, constitution or habit, health, etc.

1625 BACON *Ess.* *Anger* (Arb.) 566 Tender and Delicate Persons... have so many Things to trouble them; Which more Robust Natures have little Sense of. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* ii. 46 Dalmatians... of a robust nature, courageous and desperate. 1719 *Young's Par.* 708 260 Survey the warlike horse! didst thou invest With thunder his robust extended chest? 1784 COWPER *Task* iv. 360 Thy frame, robust and hardy, feels indeed The piercing cold, but feels it unimpair'd. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* II. i. His form was still so robust and athletic. 1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. in White* 134 How I envy you your robust nervous system. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 452 The patient may seem in fair, if not in his ordinary robust, health.

*Comb.* 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Apr. 3/1 The most robust-lunged must find the stifling atmosphere a severe drain on their vital force.

*c.* Of plants: Strong and healthy; sturdy.

1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* III. xvi. It is not the oak... or any of the robust trees of the forest. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 12 Canes... even after this precaution, are usually too robust and luxuriant to make sugar with. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xviii. (1813) 292 A robust and erect stature is the beauty of any plant. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract.* *Acid.* (ed. I.) 141 It grows very robust, with large leaves, flat and narrow, with thick veins. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 249/2 The Brompton Stock... is a robust plant, growing 3 feet high. *d.* Zool. Of animal structures: Stout, thick-set, strongly made. Also *Anthrop. Opp. gracile*.

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 281 *Alce. florides*. Bill shorter than the head, or of the same length; strong, robust. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 158/2 The zygomatic arches are more open and robust in the former. 1904 B. S. KRAUS *Basin Human Evol.* vii. 224 Those (individuals) of Swarthrans and Kromdraai were considerably taller and more robust, perhaps attaining the stature and weight of modern Man. 1977 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 21 Oct. 11/2 The first gracile australopithecine to be found was the skull that Dart found at Sterkfontein half a century ago, but more recently robust hominids have also been identified at the South African sites.

2. *a.* Coarse, rough, rude. Now *rare*.

c. 1564 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) iv. 11 To hant that game robust, And beaity appetite. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* Pref. Cijb. Feeling... being a sense that judges of the more gross and robust motions of the Particles of Bodies. 1669 *Decay Chr. Piety* 195 To consider our ways, to reflect not only on those robust gyant-like provocations which have thus bid defiance to Heaven. 1730-46 THOMSON *Autumn* 529 Rumpolling Miss Is, haul'd about, in gallantry robust. 1748 *Foot's Knights* II. You are grown too headstrong and robust for me. 1872 HOWELLS *Wedding Journ.* (1892) 15 He... presently began a robust flirtation with one of them. He possessed himself, after a brief struggle, of her parasol.

*b.* Pertaining to, or requiring, bodily strength or hardness; vigorous.

1883 TRYON *Way to Health* 271 Men ought not to put Women to such robust Employments and hard Labours as many do, except pure Necessity compels them to it. 1697 AUBREY *Lives* (1808) I. 107 He was an early riser and studied well, but also took his robust pleasures of fishing, fowling, &c. 1707 MORTIMER *Hub.* (1721) II. 31 They [cheatnuts] afford a good robust Diet, and are very nourishing. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* Intro. p. ii. Most of them consisted of robust exercises. 1871 LOWELL *My Study Windows*, *Good Word for Winter*, Cowper... preferred his... garden-walk to those robust joys.

3. *a.* fig. Strong, vigorous, healthy.

1788 *New Lond. Mag.* 238 To prevent the robust title of occupancy from again taking place, the doctrine of escheats is adopted. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 264 They exhibit a robust even, a mind stored with classical erudition. 1888 *Glasgow Even. Times* 24 Aug. 2/5 English is a robust language.

*Comb.* 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 July 3/2 Probably, as a robust-minded man, he may have agreed with Kinglake.

*b.* Philol. (See *quots.*)

1776 J. RICHARDSON *Arab. Gram.* 8 The three letters ʾ, ʿ, ʾ are called weak... All the others are stiled robust. 1843 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 138 It [Berber] has a distinction of letters... into robust and weak. The weak letters of course are W, Y, and A.

*c.* Vigorous in mind, voice, etc.

1824 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. vii. 333 The beneficial influence he has exerted as a most robust thinker and a most admirable writer. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. 1.

(1873) 203 Can this be said of any other modern? of robust Cornille? 1897 *Daily News* 5 Feb. 8/7 Signor Ceppi, a robust tenor.

4. Applied to a statistical test that yields approximately correct results despite the falsity of certain of the assumptions on which it is based; also, to a calculation, process, or result if the result is largely independent of certain aspects of the input.

1955 BOX & ANDERSEN in *Jrnl. R. Statistical Soc. B.* XVII. 1 To fulfil the needs of the experimenter, statistical criteria should (1) be sensitive to change in the specific factors tested, (2) be insensitive to changes, of a magnitude likely to occur in practice, in extraneous factors. A test which satisfies the first requirement is said to be powerful and we shall typify a test which satisfies the second by calling it 'robust'. 1966 S. BEER *Decision & Control* x. 232 What is important is the recognition of common features in the set of outcomes; these are the inductive inferences which may be claimed as forecasts. We say that the system is robust in respect to a particular set of outcomes. 1972 *Jrnl. Social Psychol.* LXXXVIII. 204 The tests are robust regarding the assumptions of normality and equality of variances, but only when sample sizes are equal. 1976 *Nature* 16 Nov. 264/1 The ANOVA assumes equality of variances, a condition not satisfied here, however the test is robust to small deviations in homoscedasticity. 1979 *Sci. Amer.* Apr. 69/2 This conclusion, they point out, is 'robust', in that we have derived it from the global geochemical distribution of uranium, and we have also derived it from the U.S. uranium-mining history and from a wide variety of subsets of the U.S. uranium-mining history.

Hence **robustful** *a.*; **robustfulness**.

1802 COURTIEN *Solitude* 38 Join with new ardour the robust strife. 1879 MAXMOUTH *Eclogist* III. xi. 241 He knew his breathing robustfulness to be as an east wind to weak nerves.

**robusta** (rəʊˈbʌstə). [fem. of L. *robusta* ROBUS, specific (now varietal) epithet (L. Linden *Catal. Plantae economicae de l'horticole coloniale* (1900) 64).] An evergreen variety of coffee, *Coffea canephora* var. *robusta*, native to Africa and widely cultivated elsewhere for its heavy crops of small beans; also, the beans produced by a tree of this kind. Also *attrib.*

1909 *Philippine Agric. Rev.* II. 590 A new variety of coffee known as 'robusta' was discovered some years ago growing wild on the estates in Africa. *Ibid.*, The robusta coffee planted in east Java yields after three years. 1922 [see ARABICA]. 1944 *Empire Jrnl. Exper. Agric.* XII. 191 Robusta coffee... grows wild in many of the wetter forests of Uganda. 1959 [see ARABICA]. 1961 F. L. WELLMAN *Coffee* v. 81 The most common variety is named Robusta, and this type has large, dark-green leaves... Trees of the Robusta variety tend to have a flattened top. 1976 *Times* 7 May 22/5 Fears of a shortage... sent robust coffee prices to new all-time highs on the London markets. *Ibid.*, Shortages will increase the demand for African robustas.

†**ro'bu'stic, a. Obs.** Also 7-8-ick. [f. ROBUS + -IC.] Robust, robustious.

1883 TRYON *Way to Health* 10 Such People are... fit for all robustick, dirty, killing Employments. 1694 SALMON *The Dispens.* (1713) 651/2 Unless you meet with a very hard and robustick Habit of Body. 1719 D'URVEY *Pills* (1872) III. 27 In fine it rules all, though ne'er so robustick.

Hence **robusticness, Obs.**

1876 HUBBARD *Happiness of a People* 3 By reason of the robusticness of their body.

**robusticity**. Chiefly *Anthrop.* and *Zool.* [f. as ROBUS + -ITY.] Robustness.

1777 R. DONKIN *Milit. Coll.* 201 Robusticity is no valour, nor is debility always pusillanimity. 1874 JULIA WARD *Harm in Sex & Educ.* 22 The stout sisters who full outlines attest their own robusticity. 1910 F. E. ZEUNER *Dating Past* ix. 299 They show nothing of the robusticity and exuberance of bodily growth of Cr6-Magnon Man, whose contemporaries they were. 1959 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 460/2 Other features than size, e.g. shape and robusticity, are expressed in anthropometry by indices. 1971 *Nature* 5 Feb. 407/1 In overall size and robusticity the fossil closely resembles the pygmy chimpanzee.

**ro'bu'sthood, nonce-wd.** [f. ROBUS, after *hardihood*, etc.] Robustness.

1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 50 He was a Highlander, and his limbs showed the robustihood of the mountaineer.

**ro'bu'stious, a.** [f. ROBUS + -IOUS.]

In common use during the 17th century. In the 18th it becomes rare, and is described by Johnson (1755) as 'now only used in low language, and in a sense of contempt'. During the 19th it has been considerably revived, esp. by archaizing writers.

1. Of persons: Robust; stout and strong or healthy-looking.

a. 1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Rich.* III. 56 b, Let us... marche forth like stronge & robustious champions. 1615 DANIEL *Hymen's Triumph* II. 1, Not degenerate From my robustious manly Ancestors. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I.* (1655) 72 This Gunner was a robustious Vulcan. 1727 SWIFT *On a Woman's Mind*, She gets a Cold as sure as Death;... Admires how modest Women can be so robustious like a Man. 1822 IRVING *Bracebridge Hall* viii. (1845) 29 The number of robustious footmen and retainers of all kinds bustling about. 1863 A. SMITH *Dreamthorp* 24 The robustious fellow who sits at the head of the table. 1875 DOWNY *Shaks.* 213 Carriers and drawers, and merchants, and pilgrims, and loud robustious women.

*b.* So of the body or its parts, constitution, appearance, etc.

1584 R. PARSONS *Leycester's Commonw.* (1641) 94 Her highnesse... well stricken in yeeres, and of no great good

health or robustious and strong complexion. 1599 *NASHE Lenten Stuffe Wks.* (Grosart) V. 256 It will...harden his soft bleeding vaines as stiffe and robustious...branches of Corall. 1600 *VENNERS Vite Recit.* vii. 128 The dry Walnuts are onely good for robustious bodies. 1671 *MILTON Samson* 560 These redundant locks Robustious to no purpose clustering down. 1771 in *Hone Every-day Bk.* II. 207 It is by far too dainty for their robustious constitution. 1817 *BYRON Let. to Murray* 9 May. I am...congratulated...on my robustious appearance. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* (1822) II. 88 Ladies who are shocked at that robustious indication of good health, a moist palm.

c. Of things: Big and strong; massive. 1548 *HALL Chron.*, Hen. VI. 85b. When the duke of Yorke had fastened his chaine between these two strong and robustious pillars [i.e. the Earls of Warwick and Salisbury]. 1612-8 *Daniel Life & Reign William I. Wks.* (Grosart) IV. 135 Roul, or Rou, a great Commander amongst them, furnishing them with robustious power...and first landed in England. 1679 G. R. tr. *Boissieu's Theat. World* 139 His Cloak...was likewise so very heavy and robustious. 1809 *IRVING Knicker.* (1861) 32 When erect he had not a little the appearance of a robustious bear barrel. *transf.* 1654 *JER. TAYLOR Real Pres.* 90 Against this Bellarmine brings...a most robustious argument. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Imag.* 437 Assertours and Abettours of Truth, then which nothing is more robustious and strong.

2. Violent, boisterous, noisy, strongly self-assertive: a. Of persons, their disposition, etc. 1548 *HALL Chron.*, Hen. VII. 57 Men through abundance of riches waxe more insolent, hedstrange and robustious. 1602 *SHAKS. Ham.* III. ii. 10 O it offends mee to the Soule, to see a robustious Perry-wig-pated Fellow, teare a Passion to tatters. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* v. 155 Men of a more fierce, strong, robustious temper...are more inapt to see any such Specters. 1722-8 *SWIFT Polit. Comm.* 109 You are so robustious, you are like to put out my Eye. 1839 *DISRAELI Corr. v. Sister* (1886) 146 They had a roaring, robustious, romping party. 1881 *World* 28 Dec. He is a strong 'robustious' lecturer. 1881 A. LANG *Library* 47 The man who is defective as to the love of books...we may call...the Robustious Philistine.

b. Of actions, movements, etc. 1599 *SHAKS. Hen. V.* III. vii. 159 The men doe sympathize with the Mastiffes, in robustious and rough coming on. 1612 *DRAYTON Poly-olb.* 1. 250 This robustious play By which the toiles of warre most livelie are exprest. 1649 *MILTON Eikon.* 37 In Scotland they had hand'd the Bishops in a more robustious manner. 1701 *WOLLEY Jmnl.* N.Y. (1860) 46 They [the Indians]...love extremes either to sit still or to be in robustious motions. 1839 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVI. 39 The lecturer becomes milder and more robustious. 1897 *SPRINGUE Life Wakesley* xxx. 276 The crude and robustious declamations of a demagogue.

c. Of storms or climate; Violent, severe. 1612 *DRAYTON Poly-olb.* x. 77 Meeting from the South Great Neptunes surlier tides, with their robustious shokes. 1632 *QUARLES Div. Fancies Wks.* (Grosart) II. 213/2 If a robustious Storme should rise...thy Harbour's safe enough. 1641 *Newsp. f. Hell, Rome, etc. in Harl. Misc. (Malh.)* IV. 399 A robustious storm of wind out of the North. 1809 *STEVENSON Edinburgh.* 144 Slunk from the robustious winter to an inn fire-side.

ro'bus'tiously, *adv.* Now *arch.* [f. ROBUSTIOUS + -LY<sup>2</sup>.] In a rough or boisterous manner; with noisy self-assertion.

1607 *MIDDLETON Phenix* I. iv. There's a kind of captain very robustiously inquires for you. 1624 *HEYWOOD Gunaik.* II. 115 Tall and spreading trees amongst whose leaves the wind only whispers, but never robustiously blows. 1655 *BP. RICHARDSON Obs. O. T.* 287 Speaketh wickedly, roughly, and robustiously.

1893 *STEVENSON Catriona* 322. 'I believe I have been quite plain from the beginning!' cries he robustiously.

ro'bus'tiousness, *Now rare.* [f. ROBUSTIOUS + -NESS.] Robustness; boisterousness.

1600 *Abbot Jonah* 188 For which...we are fit, by the stayedness of our Constitution and robustiousness of nature. 1650 *GENTILIUS Consid.* 10 The Philosopher from the robustiousness of the complexion, argues a weakness of the intellect.

1882 *St. James's Gaz.* 11 Oct. 6 There was a certain 'robustiousness' about the morals put together by the firm. 1894 *HALL CAINE Manxman* 401 He threw Auntie Nan into tremors of nervousness by his noise and robustiousness.

ro'bus'tly, *adv.* [f. ROBUST + -LY<sup>2</sup>.] In a robust manner; strongly.

1708 *MOTTEUX Rabelais* (1737) V. 230 Your Phrase, robustly propt. 1709 *MRS. MANLEY Secr. Mem.* (1736) II. 46 Insensible, Hoydening, ungainly Brisk, robustly Gay. 1836 *Random Recoll. Ho. of Lords* ix. 190 He is of the ordinary height, rather stoutly, though not robustly made. 1878 *BAYNE Purit. Rec.* xi. 458 Constituting a robustly Protestant and Liberal Church.

ro'bus'tness. [f. ROBUST + -NESS.] Robust character or quality.

1599 *SANDYS Europe Spec.* (1632) 187 That robustnesse of body, and puissance of person, which is the onely fruit of strength that those colder climes doe yield. 1632 *LITHGOW Trav.* vi. 253 They were in great danger of perishing, although the robustnesse of my body carried mee through on my feete. 1672 *BOYLE Wks.* (1772) III. 620 Rather from the robustness of the bladder...than from the non-gravitation of water. 1756 *BURKE Subl. & B. Wks.* I. 56 An air of robustness and strength is very prejudicial to beauty. 1768-74 *TUCKER Let. Nat.* (1834) I. 236 It shows more robustness to carry a weight for miles, than to pull out a wedge at a jerk. 1817 *RICKMAN Gothic Arch.* (1862) 8 Strength and robustness are retained in the Doric. 1838 *JAMIS Robber* I. His arms were not such as would have called attention from their robustness. 1870 *HOOKER Student's Flora* 391 Very variable in habit, size, robustness. 1933 G. E. P. Box in *Biometrika* XL. 318 This remarkable property of 'robustness' to non-normality which these tests for comparing means possess, and without which they would be much less appropriate to the needs of the experimenter, is

not necessarily shared by other statistical tests. 1973 J. BUETTNER-JANUSCH *Physical Anthropol.* viii. 240 [Modern men] may walk bipedally. Among the specializations that permit this are the shape of the arch and the position and robustness of the big toe. 1974 *ADBY & DEMPSTER Introd. Optimization Methods* iv. 78 A concept both more vague and much more difficult to ensure is termed robustness. A robust algorithm is one which in practice usually yields the global minimum or a good local minimum of any function of even a large number of variables from a poor initial approximation.

†ro'bus'tous, *a. Obs.* [f. ROBUST + -OUS.] Robust, robustious.

1597 *GERARDE Herbal* II. lxxviii. 315 Vnto robustous or strong bodies twelve spoufuls may be given. 1655 *HARTLIB Ref. Silk-worm* 23 She is not a nice curious kind of Silkworm; but stout and robustous, that will require little care or attendance. 1681 *RYCAUT tr. Gracian's Critick* 185 The Bonds...though but feeble, were yet the Chains of the most robustous Champions.

†ro'bus'tuous, *a. Obs.* [f. ROBUST, after *tempestuous*.] = ROBUSTIOUS.

1637 *HEYWOOD Pleas. Dial. Wks.* 1874 VI. 258 Nymphs, not generated...from violent and robustious seas. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* xiv. xlv. No constraint Can...breed Robustious Firmness in a broken Reed.

Hence †ro'bus'tuousness. *Obs.* -1

1679 *DRYDEN Pref. Troil. & Cr. Ess.* (ed. Ker) I. 221 If he want the skill which is necessary to a wrestler, he shall make but small advantage of his natural robustuousness.

†rob'urtous, *v. variant of* ROBORT.

c1475 *Pict. Voc.* in *Wv.*-Wulcker 786 *Hec lancea*, a roburte.

robyl, *obs. f.* RUBBLE.

Robyn, *obs. f.* ROBIN.

robys, *obs. f.* RUBBISH.

roc (rɒk). Forms: a. 6 roc, 7 roque, 8 rock, 9 roc (rokh). β. 6-7 roc, ruc, ruck(e, g rukh(kh). [ad. Arab. *rokh*, *rukh(kh)*: hence also *F. rock*, *It. roche*, *Sp. trocho*, *Pg. roco*; *Sp.*, *It.*, *Pg. roc (ruch)*. The older source for the word is the account of Madagascar in Marco Polo III. clxxxv ('et l'appellent les genz de ces isles ruc'); in mod. use it is partly from the *Arabian Nights*.] A mythical bird of Eastern legend, imagined as being of enormous size and strength.

a 1579 *TWYNE Phil. agst. Fortune* II. Ep. Ded. 159 About the Indian sea there is a certein birde of an incredible bignesse, whom our countreimen call a Roche, which is able and accustomed to take vp, not onelie a man, but also an whole shippe in her becke. 1631 *MASSE tr. Celestina Prol.* (1894) 15 Of a bird called Roque, which is bred in the East India Sea, it is said to be of an incredible greatness. 1774 *GOLDMAN Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 251 It is supposed that a great bird called the Rock, described by Arabian writers...is but a species of the condor. 1802 *Arab. Nts.* (1815) I. 242 The roc comes and seizes them both in its claws. 1839-52 *BAILEY Festus* (1864) 418 Mild rokh, simorgh, wise sun-spirt. 1855 *THACKERAY Newcomes* xviii. I might wish for the roc's egg. 1865 *KINGSLEY Herew.* i. But beyond, things unspeakable—dragons, giants, rocs.

β. 1598 *BP. Hall Sat.* iv. vi. 68 Of the bird Ruc that beares an elephant. 1621 *BURTON Anat. Mel.* II. ii. 11. i. As I goe by Madagascar I would see that great bird Rucke that can carry a man and horse, or an Elephant. a 1635 *CORBET Poems* (1807) 99 O that I ere might have the hap To get the bird which in the map is call'd the Indian Ruck! 1691 T. HEYRICK *Misc. Poems* 7 The Ruck, in Madagascar bred, Whom greatest Beasts and armed Horsemen dread.

1841 *LANE Arab. Nts.* (1859) I. iii. 188 Whereupon a bird called the 'rokh' will come to thee, and fly away with thee. 1924 *Nature* 19 Apr. 564/2 Purely fabulous species, such as the phoenix and the ruck, are likewise dealt with. 1974 *Encycl. Brit. Micropedia* VIII. 619/2 The Kublai Khan inquired...about the ruckh and was brought what was claimed to be a ruckh's feather, which may really have been a frond of the *Raphia* palm.

roc, *obs. form of* ROCK, ROOK.

†rocaille (rɒkaj). Also rocail and with capital initial. [a. *F. rocaille* rock-work, rococo.] An artistic or architectural style of decoration characterized by ornate rock- and shell-work; a rococo style. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

1856 M. DIGBY WYATT in O. Jones *Grammar of Ornament* I. xix. 109 The twisted and foliated scrolls and shells...grew into the 'rocaille' and 'groto-work' of [baroque]...degenerating at last into... 'Chinoiserie'. 1905 *Scribner's Mag.* July 47 Rocaillie differs from our rockwork in that it does not attempt to imitate the natural formation of rocks, but rather seeks to create architectural forms by combinations of pebbles and shells, such as conventionalized figures of sea-gods, and dolphins. 1936 *Burlington Mag.* Oct. 187/1 Louis XVI, who did not care for the 'rocaille' style like his grandfather, 1944 J. LESS-MILNE *Presphering Peace* (1977) 60 A cliff-like structure hung with reliefs, and encrusted with shells, sea urchins and rocaillie ornaments. 1958 *Listener* 2 Oct. 530/1 The staggering rocaillie on Bena Lulua figures. 1960 *Times* 14 Jan. 14/5 Saucyboats of 1737 having shell shaped bowls or rocaillie bases. 1975 J. GORES *Hammett* (1976) xi. 82 The ornate rocaillie pier glass. 1979 E. H. GOMBRIK *Sense of Order* vii. 189 To what extent can Riegl's method be used for the explanation and analysis of the Rocaillie? Are these playful shells...just another metamorphosis of the acanthus?

rocamboule (rɒkæmbəʊl). Forms: 7 roccombo, rockambol (?); 8 rockenbole, rockanbolwi; rockambol, rockam-, rocombole; 8-9 rocamboule.

[a. *F. rocamboule*, of obscure origin: hence also *G. dial. rockenbolle*, -*polle*, which has by some been regarded as the source of the *F.* word.]

1. A species of leek (*Allium Scorodoprasum*) indigenous to Northern Europe, used as a seasoning for dishes; Spanish garlic, sand-leek.

1698 M. LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 150 Also Leeks, Rockambol, and Shallots are here in great use. 1699 *EVELYN Arctaria* 28 A light touch on the dish, much better supply'd by the gentler Rocambo. 1709 *W. KING Cookery* 326 Where rocombole, shallot, and the rank garlic grow. 1786 *ABERCROMBIE Arr. in Gard. Assiat.* p. ix. Some [are raised] by small bulbs at top of the stalks, as rocombole and tree onion. c1820 *Edin. Encycl.* XI. 264 The Rocambol... is a perennial plant, indigenous to Sweden and Denmark. 1855 *DELAWARE Kitch. Gard.* (1861) 48 Rocambol produces bulbs on the top of its stem, and in the axille of its leaves. 1882 *Garden* 11 Nov. 425/2 Rocambol... is a mild form of Garlic.

*attrib.* 1699 *EVELYN Acetaria App. P.* 4. Adding to the Spice some Rocambo. See also *1766 DRYDEN Bath Guide* (ed. 3) 91 Puffs his vile Rocambo! Breath in her Face. 1793 *WOODVILLE Med. Bot.* III. 459 Rocambo! Garlic.

b. *fig.* That which gives flavour or piquancy. 1709 *VANBRUGH False Friend* I. i. Difficulties are the Rocambolle of Love; I never valu'd an easy conquest in my life.

2. A plant of this, or the edible portion of one. (See also quot. 1716.)

1707 *MONTMIRE Husb.* (1721) II. 163 Rocamboles are a sort of wild Garlic, otherwise called Spanish Garlic. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 349 Which Heads [of leeks] some call Rockenboles, tho' others say that the Cluster of the Cloves of Garlic is the proper Rockanbol. 1863 *Life Normandy* II. 60 A very small quantity of herbs...chives and rocamboles—were put into a flat pan.

†rocamboulesque (rɒkæmbəʊlesk), *a.* [a. *F. rocamboulesque* fantastic, *f. Rocambol* the name of a character in the novels of Ponson du Terrail (1829-71), French author, the subject of improbable and fantastic adventures + -ESQUE.] Of or resembling Rocambo! (see etym.); incredible, fantastic.

1949 *KOESTLER Promise & Fulfilment* I. viii. 91 It was the first anti-British terror act of the Irgun and it displayed already all the features of rocamboulesque etiquette. 1960 B. MARSHALL *Divided Lady* I. xxi. 75 How amused the General would have been by this rocamboulesque religiosity. 1976 *New Society* 13 May 370/3 An exemplary surrealistic life... which included a rocamboulesque episode... in which he kidnapped his Bulgarian mistress from her husband.

rocate, *obs. Sc. form of* ROCKET.

rocellate (rɒk'seɪt). *Chem.* [f. as next + -ATE.] A salt formed by the action of roccellic acid upon a base.

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 128 Dr. Heeren, from the analysis of several rocellates, has determined the atomic weight of the acid to be 18.82. 1845 *Penny Cycl. Suppl.* I. 350/1 The alkaline rocellates dissolve in water, and yield solutions which froth like soap.

roccellic (rɒk'seɪk), *a. Chem.* (See quotes.)

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 128 Of roccellic acid. This acid was discovered by Dr. Heeren in the *Rocella tinctoria*. 1868 *WATTS Dict. Chem.* s.v. Roccilic acid forms delicate, white, rectangular... plates, having a silvery lustre. *Ibid.*, *Roccilic anhydride*... is a colourless or faintly yellow neutral oil, having a fatty odour.

roc'cellin. *Chem.* Also -ine. [f. as prec. + -IN<sup>1</sup>, -INE<sup>2</sup>.] A coal-tar colour used in dyeing, derived from the orchil lichen.

1852 *GREGORY Org. Chem.* (ed. 3) 307 Rocelline... is neutral, yields no red colour with bleaching liquor.

roc'cellinin. *Chem.* Also -ine. [Cf. prec.] 'A crystalline substance obtained from *Rocella tinctoria*' (Watts).

1848 *Chem. Gaz.* VI. 126 Rocellinin... Obtained by drying the gelatinous mass which is precipitated from the lime solution by muriatic acid, and boiling in strong spirit. 1863 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 9) 666 Hair-like crystals of a silvery lustre, of a substance called roccellinin.

roccelo, *obs. variant of* ROQUELAURE.

roccombo, *obs. var. of* ROCAMBOLE.

†rocester earth. *Obs.* -0 (See quot.)

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 310 Rocester erthe, campanum, nitrum.

roch, *obs. f.* RATCH sb.<sup>1</sup>

roch, *obs. f.* ROACH sb.<sup>1</sup> and sb.<sup>2</sup>

rochate, *obs. f.* ROCHET<sup>1</sup>.

roche (rɒʃt), sb.<sup>1</sup> Now *dial.* Forms: 3- roche (4 rooche), 4-7 roche, 5-6, 9 *dial.* roth(e), 7 roach. [a. *OF. roche*, *roche* (mod. *F. roche*), *var. of roque*, *roke* *ROCK* sb.<sup>1</sup> Hence also MDu. *roche*, *rotche*, *rotse* (Du. and Fris. *rots*).]

1. A rock or cliff; a rocky height.

c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 25:5 Til ihesus was... buried in 6e roche cold. c1290 *St. Agatha* 124 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 197 Strong fuyr... barnde pe hard roche of ston ase pei it Col were. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6390 Moyes on pe roche can stand, & smit it wit his forsaid wand. c1380 *Sir Perum.* 1108 By hilles & roches wythe horrible on hur cors pay wente. c1400 MAUNDEY (Roxb.) ii. 6 Vnto pe roche of mount Caluarie. 1470-85 *MALORY Arthur* I. xxv. 73 Within that lake is a roche. 1515 *Scottish Field* 634 in *Chetham Misc.* (1856), All



ring with that rowe, roches and other. 1589 *Golden Myrr.* (Chetham Soc.) 12. I durst not well approach. . . But closely kept me vnderneath a rock. 1631 *BRATHWAY Whimzies, jealous Neighbour* 115 His earth-reverting body. . . is to be buried in some cell, roach, or vault. [c. 1700 KENNETT in *MS. Lansd.* 1033 fol. 326 Several of the mountains in Staffordshire are called Roches, bearing no grass, but running in bare ridges like stone walls.]

fig. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9975 par roche pat es polist as slight, es maiden maria hert ful right. 1340 *Ayenb.* 142 be ilke roche is leu crist him-zelf.

attrib. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. 38 The depe hou cauernis of cleuchis & roche craggis ansuert vith ane hie not. 1601 *HOLLAND Pliny* I. 331 The wild Goats called Roch-goats, haue their homes turning backward.

† b. A huge mass of stone; a boulder. *Obs.* 1597 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 4165 Anon ryst he hom ssende Mid gleyue ower mid roche, & vewe aloue he let. c. 1330 *R. BRUNNE Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12171 Grete roches at pem he cast, & per schiote to-rof & brast. a 1585 *MONTGOMERIE Cherrie & Slace* 82, I saw an river rin. . . With tumbling and rumbling. Among the rochis round.

2. In north and north-midland dial. use, applied to various kinds of rock, stone, or geological strata. Also attrib. Cf. *ROACH sb.* 4. 1603 *FLYMLEY Agric. Shroph.* 53 *Roche*, dark-grey hard rock. 1820 *W. ABRAHAM Gloss. Cheshire, Roche*, refuse stone. 1831 J. HODGSON in *Raine. Mem.* (1858) II. 217 Perpendicular fissures too are formed in the roche. *Ibid.* 218 The roche pebbles are glazed. 1841 *HARTSHORNE Salop. Antig. Gloss.*, *Roche*, 1. The strata about a marshy deposit; 2. Earth mingled with stone; 3. Any strata which is superincumbent to the one about to be worked. 1883 *GRESLEY Gloss. Coal-mining, Roche or Roche* (South Staff.), a softish and moderately friable sandstone.

† 3. ? Alum or borax. (So *F. roche*.) *Obs.*

1494 in *Cov. Corpus Christi Plays* 88 It. paid for a strawn hate, ob; a leffe of roche clere, j. d. 1570 in *Willis and Clark Cambridge* (1886) II. 109 Item to Paule Smyth for certen colouris as. . . mastye vernysch yelowo moty orpment roch vermylon verges.

**roche, sb.** 2: see *ROCHE MOUTONNÉE*.

† **roche, sb.** 3 *Obs.* -1 A kind of wine.

Perhaps for *Rochel ROCHELLE*, but *Roche* is a common place-name in France, and sugar de *Roche* is freq. mentioned in the Durham Account Rolls along with that from Morocco and Cyprus.

a 1400 *Sir Degreant* 1414 (Linc. MS.), Ever scho drewe thame the wyne, Bathe the Roche and the Ryne.

**Roche** (rauʃ), *sb.* 4 *Astron.* The name of Edouard Albert Roche (1820–83), French mathematician, used attrib. and in the possessive to denote concepts arising out of his work, as *Roche's* (a) limit, (a) the closest distance to which a self-gravitating body (strictly a fluid body: see quot. 1900) can approach a more massive body without being pulled apart by the gravitational field of the latter body; (b) the smallest continuous equipotential surface (having the form of two lobes meeting at a point) which can exist around both members of a system of two gravitating bodies, spec. a binary star system; *Roche lobe*, either of the two volumes of space (meeting at a point) that are bounded by Roche's limit (b) in a binary system; *Roche zone*, the region of space within Roche's limit (sense (a)).

1889 G. H. DARWIN in *Harper's Mag.* June 73/1 The distance of . . . 2.44 of a planet's radius I call Roche's limit for that planet. 1900 *Astrophysical Jnl.* XI. 122 In the derivation of Roche's limit the assumption was made that the satellite was a perfectly homogeneous incompressible fluid, and that its rotation and revolution were performed in the same period. 1930 R. H. BAKER *Astron. v.* 212 All parts of Saturn's rings lie within Roche's limit. 1959 Z. KOPAL *Close Binary Syst.* iii. 133 Such configurations represent the largest closed equipotentials capable of containing the whole mass of the respective components, and will hereafter be referred to as their Roche limits. 1969 *Times* 10 July 12/8 If the moon had ever come within a critical distance of earth, known as the Roche limit, the tidal forces raised by the earth would have disrupted it. 1972 W. STROMMEIER *Variable Stars* vii. 182 Expansion of the components in close binaries towards their Roche limits, in a time scale of 10<sup>4</sup> years, can also give rise to an exchange between the rotational and orbital momenta. 1974 *Sci. Amer.* Feb. 53/1 Only a body with more than gravitational cohesion can withstand the tidal effects within Roche's limit. 1960 *Astrophysical Jnl.* CXXXII. 149 (caption) The radii of the Roche-limit lobes for a mass ratio of unity. 1969 *Ibid.* CLVIII. 571 Morton concluded that on such a time scale the contact component would be stable, shrinking within the Roche lobe after initial mass loss. 1975 *Sci. Amer.* Mar. 30/3 In the evolution of a typical binary, as soon as one of the components expands to a volume larger than that of its Roche lobe the matter outside the lobe will begin to flow toward the companion star. 1971 J. G. GASS et al. *Understanding Earth* vii. 112/2 What would happen if the Moon were to enter the Roche zone? 1978 *New Scientist* 23 Nov. 607/2 One or more former moons of Uranus spiralled into the planet's Roche zone where they broke up because of tidal forces, producing the parent fragments of the rings.

**roche** (rauʃ), *v.* 1 Also 7, 9 *roach*. [f. *ROCHE sb.* 1 Cf. *ROCHE ALUM*.]

† 1. *trans.* To make hard like a rock. *Obs.* -1 1582 *STANVHURST Aetia*, etc. (Arb.) 136 Thee winters coldness thes ruer hardlye roching.

2. *ta. intr.* To form crystals. *Obs.*

1631 [see *ROCHING sb.* 1]. 1673 *RAY Trav.* (1738) 403 When burnt it is turned into a white calx, which naturally roches into parallelepipedums of the figure of a lozenge.

b. *trans.* To recrystallize (alum) in lead-lined casks after previous dissolution by water or steam.

1678 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 1056 After which it [alum] is Roached, as followeth. Being washed, it is put into another Pan with a quantity of Water, where it melts and boils a little. Then is it scooped into a great Cask, where it commonly stands ten days, and is then fit to take down for the Market. 1853 *USE Dict. Arts* I. 58 The rough alum thus made is sometimes purified by a subsequent recrystallization, after which it is 'roched' for the market, — a process intended merely to give it the ordinary commercial aspect.

† **roche, v.** 2 *Obs.* -1 [? var. of *ruche* RICH v. 2] *trans.* To tug or tear (asunder).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12511 The sea. . . cut down pere sailes, Ropis al-to rochit, rent vp the haches.

**roche, obs.** form of *ROACH sb.* 1; obs. var. *ROOK sb.* 2; var. *ROTC* *Obs.*; obs. f. *ROUGH a*.

**roches** (rauʃ), [mod. L. (A. P. de Candolle) *Plantarum Historia Succulentarum* (1803) 7103], f. the name of François de la Roche (d. 1813), French botanist + -A 2.] A succulent plant of the genus so called, belonging to the family Crassulaceae, native to South Africa, and bearing leathery leaves and clusters of white, pink, or red flowers.

1932 A. J. MACSELF *Amateur's Greenhouse* xi. 253 Hybrid Kalosanthos or Roaches in white, rose, etc., are similar in habit. 1955 V. HIGGINS tr. *Bertrand's Indoor Plants* 84, Rochea. . . For some years now the florists have offered this attractive plant on Mother's Day. 1979 A. HUXLEY *Reader's Digest Success with House Plants* 340/3 Rocheas are small shrubs grown primarily for their clusters of flowers.

**roche alum** (rauʃ 'æləm). Also 5 *rooch*, 5–9 *roch*, 7–8 *roach*. [f. *ROCHE sb.* 1 + *ALUM sb.*, after *F. alun de roche* (cf. *alun en roque*, 1368), *It. allume di rocca*: cf. *Du. rotsaluin*, *G. rotsalaun*, and the synonymous *Sp. piedra alumbre*, *Pg. pedra (a)hume*.]

The statement that the name is derived from *Rochea*, a Turkish province in N. Syria, is evidently quite unfounded.

= *Roek alum* (see *ALUM sb.* 1).

a. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy in Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 172 They bringe with hem. . . Cotton, roche-alum, and gode golde of Jene. 1453 in *Heath Grocers' Comp.* (1809) 422 *Alum*, foyle or rooch, ye bale, iijid. 1597 *LOWE Chirug.* Y 4 b, Bonina worme-wood, roch ally. 1601 *HOLLAND Pliny* II. 165 Seeth the same, together with Saffron, Roach-alum, Myrrh, and the best Attick honey. 1669 *STURMY Mariner's Mag.* vii. xxiv. 50 Put in the bigness of a Hens Egg of Roach Alum. 1747 *WESLEY Prim. Physick* (1762) 42 Make a Plaister of Roach Alum, Vinegar and Honey. 1753 J. BARTLEY *Gentl. Farriery* (1754) 190 Giving drinks prepared with green vitriol, roch alum, Roman vitriol. 1853 *USE Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 57 The mother liquor of the 'roch alum' is called 'tun liquor'. 1860 [see *ROCK ALUM*].

β. 1619 *BERT Hawkes* 84 Seeth some spring water, and. . . put into it a peece of Roach-Alum. 1620 *Observ. Silkwoormes* D 3 b, Roach Alum, called Romish Alum. 1704 *Land. Gas.* No. 400814, Roach-Alum, Coffee, Brimstone. 1753 *CHAMBERS Cycl. Suppl.* v. *Phosphorus scellia*, Mix it with the same quantity of roch alum grossly powdered. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* II. 401 Together with. . . half a pound of roch alum, &c.

**roched, ppl. a.** rare -1. [f. *ROCHE v.* 1] Subjected to roching. † **roched petre**, = *ROCHE PETRE*.

1666 *BOYLE Formes & Qual.* 227 And yet these Christals, though sometimes they would shoot into Priame-like Figures, as *Roch'd Petre*; and sometimes [etc.].

**roche lime.** Also 7–8 *roach*. [f. *ROCHE sb.* 1] Unslaked lime; lime-shells.

1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 41 Lime-water is prepared by infusing unslaked lime or roche lime in water. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 49 We spread a plentiful Coat of Roach-lime and sharp Gravel over the Ground. 1800 *Hull Advertiser* 5 Apr. 1/3 Mortar composed of clean sand and Roche Lime. 1830–2 CARLETON *Traits* (1843) I. 118 Our plan was to bring a pocketful of roche lime with us, and put it into the pool.

**Rochelle** (rauʃel). *Obs.* Also 6, 8 *Rochel*, 6–7 *Rochell*. [The place-name (*La*) *Rochelle*, a seaport of western France.]

1. Used attrib. or absol. to designate the kind of wine exported from this place.

1391 *Earl of Derby's Exped. (Camden)* 10 Pro lxxvj stopis vini Rochelle ab ipis emptis ibidem. a 1400 *Morte Arthure* 203 Rynisch wyne and Rochelle. c 1475 *Spr. Lowe Degre* 760 Wyne of Greke, and muscadell, Both clare, pyment, and Rochell. 1533 *MORE Answ. Poisoned Bk.* Wks. 1103/1 A little taste of wholesome ynough, though some-what small and rough rochel wyne. 1552 *Reg. Privy Coun.* Scot. I. 129, vid. the pynt of Rochell wyne. 1592 *GREENE Vpnt. Courtier Wks.* (Grosart) XI. 278 If he hath a strong gascoigne wyne. . . he can allay it with a small rochel wyne. 1615 *MARKHAM Eng. Housew.* II. iv. There are Rochell wines, which are in pipes long and slender. 1731 *MILLER Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Wine*, They transform poor Rochel and Cogniac White-wines into Rhensh.

2. *Rochelle salt*: (see quotes). *Rochelle powder*, = *Seidlitz powder*.

1753 *LEWIS New Dispensatory* (1765) 475/2 *Sal Rupellensis*, Sel de Seignette, or Rochel salt. 1767 *MONRO in Phil. Trans.* LVII. 501 The Rochelle salt, made with the acid of tartar, and the fossil alkali, is so common a purging salt, that I shall not enter into any description of it. 1808 *REECE Dict. Dom. Med.* s.v. *Rheumatism*, Then strain, and

add Rochelle, or Epsom Salt. 1854 *Pereira's Polarized Light* (ed. 2) 227 In Rochelle salt (tartrate of potash and soda), the optic axes of the . . . rays are considerably separated. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 69/2 *Rochelle salt*. . . is prepared by not quite neutralizing hot solution of carbonate of soda with powdered cream of tartar.

|| **roche moutonnée** (roj mutne). *Physical Geogr.* [Fr., f. *roche* rock, *ROCHE sb.* 1 + *moutonnée MOUTONNÉE*.] A bare rock outcrop which has been shaped by glacial erosion, characteristically smoothed and rounded by abrasion but often also displaying one side (the 'downstream' side) which is rougher and steeper because of plucking. Hence, *roche moutonnée a.*, abounding in *roches moutonnées*.

De Saussure (see quot. 1786), to whom the term is frequently attributed, applied the adj. *moutonnée* to small rounded hillocks (usu. covered with vegetation) which suggested, *en masse*, a fleece or a wig of a style termed *moutonnée*. These features do not correspond to the meaning of *roches moutonnées* which later became accepted, and were not associated by de Saussure with glaciers. (See also s.v. in *Gloss. Geol.* (Amer. Geol. Inst., 1972) 613.)

[1786 H.-B. DE SAUSSURE *Voyages dans Alpes* II. xlviii. 512–3 Plus loin, derrière le village de Juviana ou Emvionne on voit des rochers qui ont une forme que je nomme *moutonnée*. . . Les montagnes que je désigne par cette expression sont composées d'un assemblage de têtes arrondies, couvertes quelquefois de bois, mais plus souvent d'herbes, ou tout au plus de broussailles. Ces rochers continus & répétés forment en grand l'effet d'une toison bien fournie, ou de ces perreaux que l'on nomme aussi *moutonnées*.]

1843 J. D. FORBES *Trav. through Alps* iii. 53 The surface of rock, is even and rounded, often dome-shaped or spheroidal, showing the structure of the rock in section. . . Such surfaces were called *Roches Moutonnées* by De Saussure. 1862 Q. *Jnl. Geol. Soc.* XVIII. 187 For many miles in the Alb Valley, both above and below St. Blasien, *roches moutonnées* stand like islands through the alluvium. 1865 tr. *Figuier's World Before Deluge* (1891) 443. 1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* 70 Here, sheltered among *roches moutonnées*, began to appear little beds of alpine grass. 1874 J. GRIBKE *Gl. Ice Age* vii. 90 note, Rocks which are so rounded, whether striated or not, are known as *roches moutonnées*. 1905 *Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.* XVI. 51 The northern slopes. . . have been considerably smoothed by ice action. . . The whole surface is rochemoutonnée, especially on the north, where nearly all rocks are absolutely fresh. 1935 *Discovery* Mar. 79/2 Dome-like rocks are exposed which in appearance recall the ice-formed *roches moutonnées*. 1957 J. K. CHARLESWORTH *Quaternary Era* I. xi. 251 De Saussure gave the name *roche moutonnée* to the distinctive, rounded forms which abound in glaciated terrain (he himself failed to associate them with ice) and give the effect of a thick fleece or the wavy wigs styled *moutonnées* in his day (they were sliced down with mutton tallow) 1972 A. HALAM *Planet Earth* 86/3 Many valleys are very deeply incised, with U-shaped cross-profiles and floors composed of smoothed, striated and streamlined rock hummocks (called *roches moutonnées*).

† **rochen, a.** *Obs.* -1 [f. *ROCHE sb.* 1 + -EN.] Having the nature of rock.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9915 be grund neist par es ful tru, Metand wit par rochen stan.

† **roche petre.** *Obs.* In 7 *rochpeter*, *rochpeeter*, *roch-peter*. [f. *ROCHE sb.* 1 + *PETRE*.] Native saltpetre, occurring as an efflorescence on rocks.

1634 J. BLATE *Myrt. Nature* 54 The ingredients likewise are chiefly these, Saltpetre, Rochemeter, Sulphur. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 36 A fine white Salt, which. . . seemed to have Sides and Angles in the same number and figure as *Rochpeter*. 1669 *STURMY Mariner's Mag.* v. xiii. 87 *Roch-Peter*. . . Quick-Brimstone. . . and fine Powder-dust.

**rocher** ('rotʃ(r)). *Obs.* exc. dial. [a. OF. *rochier* (mod. *F. rocher*) masc., or *rochiere*, -iere fem., f. *roche ROCHE sb.* 1] A rock; also dial. a stony or rocky bank.

13. . . K. Alis. 7090 Ther he fond latimeris That ladde him to hyche rocher. To rocheris and wildernes. 13. . . *Gau. & Gr. Knt.* 1427 Such a glauerande glam. Ros, pat pe rocheriez rungen aboute. c 1450 *Mertin* 342 These vy kyniges com down the rocher sore hem diffendinge. 1637 in *Sheffield Gloss.* (1888), They grow out of such a rocher of stone that you would hardly think there were earth enough to nourish the roots of the said trees. 1675 *HOBBS Odyssey* (1677) 65 A rocher with his arms he then imbract. 1676 — *Iliad* 224 They the prey let go To save it self i' th' woods or rochers high. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.*, *Rocher*, a rock.

**rochet** ('rotʃt). Forms: a. 4– *rochet*, 5–6 *rochett* (5–yt, -ytt, 6–ate, rogett), 6, 8 *rochette*; 6–8 *rotchet* (6–ette). β. 6 *rechet*, *rachet*, *ratchet*. [a. OF. *rochet* (also *roket*, *roquet*, whence *ROCKET sb.* 1), = It. *roccetto*, *rochetto*, Sp. *roqueta*, Pg. *rochete*, *roquete*, med. L. *rochetum*, *roquetum*, etc. (see *Du Cange*), a dimin. of the Teutonic word which appears as OHG. (*h*)*roch*, *roc*, *rokk* (MHG. *rock*, *rock*, G. *roch*), OS. *hroc* (LC. *rock*, whence Sw. *rock*, Icel. *rokkur*), MDu. *roc*, *rock* (Du. *roch*), OFris. (*h*)*roch*, OE. *rocc*, and in med. L. as *roccus* (808).]

1. An outer garment of the nature of a smock-frock, cloak, or mantle. Now dial.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4754 For al-so wel wol love be set Under ragges as riche rochet. ? 14. . . *MS. Bibl. Reg.* 12 B. i. f. 12 (Halliwell), *Superior vestis mulierum, Anglice a rochet*. 1547 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 257 To Edward Hungaite, my sone, my velvett rochet. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius Voy. Ambass.* 400 The Envoy help'd him to put it on, with a Rochet of cloth of Gold, a Girdle, and Turbant. 1755 *SMOLLETT Don Quix.* (1803) IV. 130 They threw down their staves, laid aside their rochets or mantles, so as to remain in