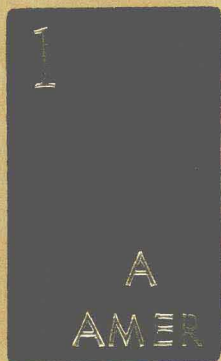


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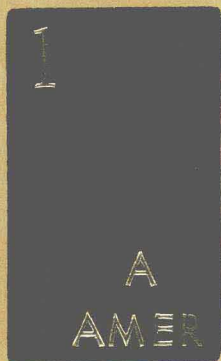
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PREFACE

A new Funk & Wagnalls encyclopedia, and especially a successor to the UNIVERSAL STANDARD ENCYCLOPEDIA, is a proper occasion for celebration. Members of this fine family of encyclopedias have been distributed in quantities almost beyond imagining; the UNIVERSAL STANDARD alone in the last few years has sold nearly forty million volumes.

Now here is the FUNK & WAGNALLS STANDARD REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA, newer and handsomer than any before. In the pages following this Preface you will read the names of the hundreds of outstanding scholars, authorities in every field, and the hundreds more far-famed institutions—museums, institutes, government agencies, industrial firms, publications, learned societies—who helped make these pages what they are. And though the list takes up about forty pages, it still leaves unnamed some thousands of individuals in these organizations who also deserve our gratitude for their aid.

This is the sum of their work, our new FUNK & WAGNALLS STANDARD REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA, with important articles of its predecessor encyclopedia rewritten, and several thousand lesser articles revised, with many new articles that have not yet appeared in any Funk & Wagnalls encyclopedia, and with hundreds of new maps and new illustrations reproduced by the offset process to improve their quality, enclosed in new endpapers, a new binding.

By no means can the above express the vastness of the work that entered into this new STANDARD REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA, the concentrated labor of several years. Here are over *thirty thousand* separate articles, over *seven million* words. Here is the distilled essence of knowledge in every field of human learning, which had to be carefully reviewed and consulted upon to decide areas for revision, then assigned for revision and again researched, edited, and often rewritten.

But that is by no means all. Really to understand the task of producing this new work you must know the idea behind it, the editorial standard set and maintained by Joseph Laffan Morse, famous Editor in Chief of the New Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia and the Universal Standard Encyclopedia.

Education in twentieth-century America is not the prerogative of the few, but of the many. It is, in fact, the right of all, and the duty of all.

So this genuinely twentieth-century, truly American encyclopedia is not written for the few, but for *all* Americans—not merely for graduate or research scholars, nor only for the college trained, but also for those of average, or even limited, education, for the student at school, the housewife at home, the man in factory, shop, or office.

After all, for whose purpose should an encyclopedia—any encyclopedia—be written? Should it be compiled in such a manner that an expert may utilize it for technical research in his own narrow field? Or, at the other extreme, should it be suited to the widest possible use?

The right answer, to Dr. Morse, seemed self-evident . . . No expert would dream of using an encyclopedia for research in his own field; for that purpose he goes always to original sources.

The truth is that the expert uses an encyclopedia exactly as does everyone else—for looking up data *outside* his field. He uses it to discover simple facts understandable to the nonexpert: dates, persons, events, places, clear and easy explanations written for those without special training in the subject matter of an article.

Thus was born a new concept of encyclopedias. Almost a generation ago, Dr. Morse decided that an encyclopedia should be designed to be read not by a special few but by all members of a family, of a community. It was the belief of Dr. Morse that an encyclopedia should be designed to be used not infrequently, but constantly: to *attract* use by its brevity and clarity.

The editorial test for inclusion of material ranging from a single fact to an entire article lay in the answer to one simple question: *Was it likely to be looked up, or most unlikely?* To include too much obscure subject matter, too many technical data, too much nearly useless detail would make the encyclopedia difficult to read, cumbersome, unattractive. The editorial test for style, for proper writing, was equally simple: Was the article *understandable* to one who knew little or nothing of the subject, and who was looking it up for the first time? No writer, however expert, was permitted to write only for other experts.

That these principles have stood the test of time is now part of the history of encyclopedia publishing. The Funk & Wagnalls encyclopedias are not merely among the most widely distributed; they are, we firmly believe, the most *used* of all encyclopedias.

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Major General (retired), British Army. Military Historian. Decorated, Legion of Honour, Order of Leopold of Belgium. Author of *Decisive Battles of the United States*, *The Second World War*, *A Military History of the Western World*, *Grant and Lee*, *Memoirs of an Unconventional Soldier*.

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Director, Shellfishery Laboratory, Bureau of Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Leader of oceanographical expeditions to the Black and Marmora Seas, Hawaiian Islands, West Indies, Gulf of Panama, Venezuela, and along U.S. coasts. Trustee Emeritus, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. Author of *Gulf of Mexico, It's Origin, Waters, and Marine Life*.

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Professor of Physics, University of Colorado. Professor of Theoretical Physics, George Washington University (1934-55). Member, National Academy of Sciences, Royal Danish

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Director, Operations Division, Hanford Operations Office, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Richland, Wash. Associate Sanitary Engineer, Tennessee Valley Authority (1935-37). Assistant Professor of Hydraulic Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1937-53).

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Tournament bridge player and newspaper columnist, "Goren on Bridge". Number 1 Ranking Player, American Contract Bridge League. Practicing Attorney. Author of *Contract Bridge in a Nutshell, Point Count Bidding, Contract Bridge Complete*.

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Belgian Commissioner of Information in the United States. Deputy Commissioner General for Belgium, World's Fair, New York (1939-40). Author of *Belgium in Bondage*. Coauthor of *Rubens in America, Belgian Letters*.

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Writer and editor specializing in Australia. Head of the Department of English, Urbana Junior College (1923-25). Carnegie Fellow in Australia (1937-38). Author of *Introducing Australia, Australia* (U.N. Series).

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Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin. Director, National Bureau of Economic Research. Member, Wisconsin State Assembly (1930-31), Tax Commission (1931-32), Senate (1934-36), Staff, U.S. Treasury Department (1940-41), Committee for Economic Development (1943-45). Vice-President, American Economic Association (1944). Author of *Financing Government, Postwar Taxation and Economic Progress*.

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Professor of Language Arts, San Francisco State College. Editor, *ETC.: A Review of General Semantics*. President, International Society for General Semantics (1949-50). Author of *Language in Action; Language in Thought and Action; Language, Meaning, and Maturity*.

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Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University. Chairman, Committee on African Anthropology, Committee on International Relations in Anthropology, National Research Council (1942-50). Chairman, Committee on Negro Studies, American Learned Societies (1939-50). Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Member, National Academy of Sciences. Author of *Man and His Works; The Myth of the Negro Past; Cultural Anthropology*.

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