

Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged

Harold (Editor) Whitehall

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Harold (Editor) Whitehall : Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1050's Dictionary is perfectBy SueAnnJust what I needed for researching language from the 1950's. In excellent condition.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great unabridged, comprehensive Websters... looks great too.By hanshanmtnGreat "Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary, Unabridged". Not titled "second edition". No ISBN, published 1957 by Standard Reference Works Publishing Company Inc. (spine) and (flyleaf states) World Publishing (same company?). They list previous as 1940-1952, (and other previous editions of 1936-38, 1933-35, and 1904-26 by other company names.) Very sturdy thick library style with embossed nouveau-art style scrolled raised design on too cover and spine. Contains about 2400 pages (1900-something pages of dual-column very comprehensive dictionary, plus about 390-400 pages of diverse appendices, numbered separately). Has 3000 illustrations scattered through the small dictionary text (black white), and frontpiece page to the title has a glossy color print if a portrait painting of Webster. Editor was Indiana University's english linguistics department head Ph.D prof named Whitehall, and a staff of others is mentioned. Has a preface where he earnestly explains scope, intent, and their editing approach to keep so many words and to keep them accurate. Shows a chart of the large languages tree out of which modern english emerged. Bound tightly with apparently flat metal bolts, because the book is so thick - which you only see when opening front cover, as they are not visible elsewhere because

the binding is very tight. The strong leatherette boards are ornately decorated on front and spine (back cover matches but is smooth) and book opens easily. There are no thumb tab indentations in the pages edge side, as some dictionaries have. Size is large and quite thick. The pages on mine are lightly tanned. I love it because it has more words than modern dictionaries, it's very accurate, and it's quite good looking, so I have it out for easy access. Not selling mine because we use it its good looking, reminds me of happy library hours, and its useful because older quality Webster's contain more words (our nation is dumbing down). Was curious to see it described here - then saw no description, so here it is. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. **YOU REALLY SHOULD OWN THIS BOOK!** By D. Blankenship This old Webster's Dictionary is probably the most valuable book I have ever owned. I love this old book. When we were first married, some 44 years ago, we were traveling through a small town in Alabama. We were sort of broke, living on this and that, luck and love. We stopped in a small town that happened to have a grocery store. We went in to buy food as we certainly could not afford a restaurant of any sort at that time. As luck would have it, this store had a promotional sale going on. Buy \$10.00 worth of food, and they would, for only a dollar more, would toss in this wonderful dictionary. We only had about eight dollars between us at that time, but by digging in the floor boards of the car and behind the seats, we came up with the coin we needed. (Finding six pop bottles at a rest stop the day before did not hurt...three cents each - refund!). Best buy we ever made. (The bread was a bit stale from that store, and I swear the packages of pickle loaf meat had sort of a green tinge, but that was okay, we got our book!) Over the years I have used this one a lot. I can promise you that I have yet to find one spelling error in it. The dictionary contains more than 330,000 definitions, over 2,000 pages plus an additional 350 pages of notes and maps. It weighs a bit over five pounds and is at least five inches thick and has a hard, durable cover. The binding on the book is excellent. This is all quite important, as this book has served us well for more than merely looking up words. Let me explain and illustrate the various roles this work has played throughout the years. It has been a rodent exterminator. We lived in a small, and I mean a really small apartment in Turkey for a number of years. We shared this apartment with three cats and had an additional 20 plus cats that we fed in the back garden. One night, while working, I noted the cats watching something at my feet in their usually laid-back manner. It was a rat! Right there at my feet! I grabbed this very dictionary and squashed the poor little critter right there in his tracks. Lesson learned: The dictionary is a better rodent exterminator than a group of over fed, lazy and spoiled house cats, and you don't have to feed or water it and it has never gotten even one fur ball. It has acted as a device to repair furniture. A few years after "the murder of the rat," we were in bed. Now keep in mind that my wife and I have always been in very good physical condition, and are both rather athletic. Anyway, one night the old bed we had at the time came crashing to the floor. The bottom leg had broken while we were expressing our fondness for each other. (Don't ask why it was the bottom corner leg...this is a family site, and we need not go into that!). There was no way that we could afford a new bed, and I am not very good at fixing things, so, me being me, I used this very dictionary to prop the bed up. It worked! The book acted as a bed leg for over a year! I have also used it on a chair to stand on to change light bulbs and once or twice I have used it to prop open windows. It is quite useful as an aide for love making...see furniture repair note above. It can act as a rodent repellent under certain conditions. I stored this book, along with a number of contemporary novels in an old garage for a bit. When I opened the box, all the novels had been shredded by mice for bedding. Not one mouse had so much had taken even a nibble of my faithful old Webster's. I can only assume that these were highly literate mice and had great respect for the English language. There were also a number of old New Yorker magazines in the box...they shredded those too. It can act as a medical device. Several years ago I had open heart surgery. During my recovery at home, I had to cough, forced to by a wife who insisted on my following the physician's silly orders. Anyway, coughing, when you have been split open like a caught carp, is painful. Holding a single pillow at my chest helped some, but if I added the dictionary to the top of the pillow, I gained tremendous relief. This was great! About four years ago, while trail running, I injured my right ankle. The physician recommended ice, aspirin and elevation for the right leg. By placing this dictionary on my old ottoman, and a pillow on top the dictionary, it was exactly the right height and I was comfortable. It can be used as an intellectual weapon. I cannot for the life of me, after all these years, beat my wife at scrabble, something we have played constantly since the beginning of time. The primary reason for my losses is this book! She uses it as a weapon, challenging word after word I use. This does not seem right some how, but what can I do? The book is the Sacred Scrabble Book. I dare not go against it, or for that matter, my wife. It has acted as a coffee rest for my mug for years. It has hundreds of coffee ring stains on the cover and back, along with various other stains and scrapes. This has had no effect on the information found within, what so ever. Now keep in mind, this is an old book. It does not have many of the current works, as in like those added to our language over the past thirty years or so. This is okay though. The chances of my using any to those words in anything I write are almost nonexistent. These are technical terms for the most part. As to other words that have crept into our language....well I probably don't need to be using those words anyway. All in all, you could go do a lot worse than owning this book. It is a very useful thing to have around the house. I recommend it highly.

This single volume edition is huge. Pages 1 - 2006 cover letters A through Z. 1956. Heavy duty binding with text

bolted into tan leatherette cover (embossed with leaf pattern). Very large book containing many color illustrations.