

Le français, une langue de dictionnaires:
An exhibition



1st – 30th March 2017

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THEME 1: TRANSLATING & ENCODING FROM FRENCH INTO ANOTHER LANGUAGE

1. Pierre Danet (ca. 1650-1709)

Nouveau dictionnaire françois et latin [New French and Latin dictionary]

Paris, 1685.

Danet's dictionary contains Latin translations for French words such as 'Langue' (displayed) which is defined as 'Lingua' in Latin. It also provides examples of usage in both French and Latin, for example: 'La langue maternelle. Vernacula lingua' which translates into English as 'The mother tongue. Native tongue'.

FR: 1.2

2. Francisco Sobrino (fl. 1703-1734)

Diccionario nuevo de las lenguas española y francesa [New dictionary of the Spanish and French languages]

Brussels, 1721.

Sobrino's dictionary was produced by the printer and bookseller Francisco Foppens of Brussels in 1721. The page displayed features an ornamental woodcut headpiece and a woodcut initial letter 'A'. This copy was once owned by Dr. Bartholemew Crotty, who was Rector of the Irish College at Lisbon from 1799-1811 and President of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth from 1813 until 1832. Crotty's library was bequeathed to the College following his death in 1846.

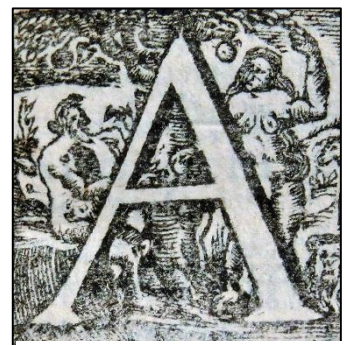
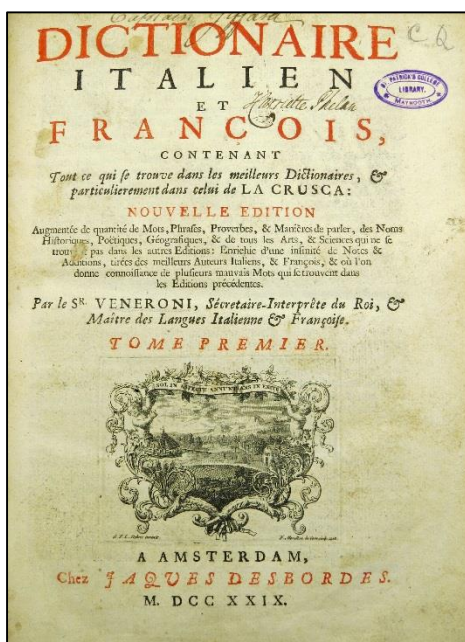


Figure 1 Woodcut initial letter 'A'

SP: 1.8 a-b



3. Giovanni Veneroni (1642-1708)

Dictionnaire italien et françois [Italian and French Dictionary]

Amsterdam, 1729.

The title page of Giovanni Veneroni's *Italian and French Dictionary* features the printer's device of the Huguenot publisher Jaques Desbordes with the biblical quotation 'Sol in aspectu annuntians in exitu' [which translates as 'the sun at its rising shines the fullest' or 'plain to our view is the sun's passage as it shines']. Veneroni's dictionary was first published in 1681, this reprinted edition is dated 1729. The title page features the annotations of potential previous owners 'Captain Giffard' and 'Harriette Phelan'. A frontispiece depicting angels holding a copy of Veneroni's dictionary appears opposite the title page.

IT: 1 8

Figure 2 Title page of Veroni's Dictionnaire

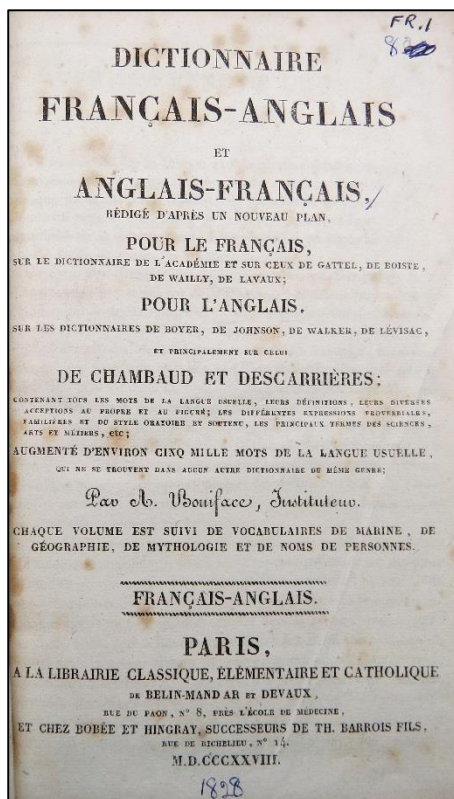
4. Abel Boyer (1667-1729)

Le dictionnaire royal françois-anglois, et anglois-françois [The Royal French-English, and English-French dictionary]

London, 1753.

French-English lexicographer Abel Boyer's dictionary subdivides words into different semantic categories and 'draws from the best authors who have written in these two languages'. A definition for the adjective 'difficile' can be seen on the page displayed. Boyer defines this word as 'hard, difficult, crabbed uneasy'. Manicules (pointed hands) subdivide the various meanings associated with a given word. The entry for 'dictionnaire' (also featured on this page) describes it as 'a Collection of all the Words of a Language orderly digested and explained'.

FR: 1.3 a-b



5. Alexandre Boniface (1785-1841)

Dictionnaire français-anglais et anglais-français [French-English and English-French Dictionary]

Paris, 1828.

This is a sophisticated bilingual dictionary based on the works of prominent French lexicographers such as Gattel, Boiste, Wailly and Laveaux; as well as prominent English lexicographers such as Boyer, Johnson, Walker and Lévisac. The Dictionary contains word definitions and meanings, different proverbial expressions, as well as the main terms of the sciences and the arts. The page on display features the French pronoun 'celui' which is translated as: 'He, him; she, her, they, them; that, those [This pronoun not being a mere personal, cannot stand for a proper name...]'

FR: 1.8 a-b

Figure 3 Title page of Boniface's Dictionnaire

THEME 2: TRANSLATING & DECODING INTO FRENCH

6. Ambrogio Calepino (1435-1511)

Ambrosii Calepini dictionarium [Ambrose Calepini's dictionary]

Leiden, 1634.

The Italian lexicographer Ambrogio Calepino first published his Latin dictionary in 1502. Later editions (including the one displayed) include translations of Latin words into various other languages such as Hebrew, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and English. Calepino's name became synonymous with dictionaries and it is interesting to note that the French word for a notebook or register is 'calepin'. The entry for the Latin conjugation *Sēd enim* is displayed along with the entries for *Intendo* and *Intabesco*.

CL L 1 3



Figure 4 Printer's device from Calepino's *Dictionarium*

7. Jean-Baptiste Bullet (1699-1775)

Mémoires sur la langue celtique [Memoirs on the Celtic language]

Besançon, [1754-1760].

Thought to have been Bullet's greatest work, the *Mémoires sur la langue celtique* was printed by Claude-Joseph Daclin between 1754 and 1760. Bullet attempts to prove that all languages share a Celtic origin. The page displayed features an entry for the word 'glan'.

G 308 a - c

8. Noël François de Wailly (1724-1801)

Nouveau vocabulaire français, ou abrégé du dictionnaire de l'Académie, augmenté [New French vocabulary, or abbreviated dictionary of the Academy, revised and expanded]

Paris, 1801.

Eminent French lexicographer Noël François de Wailly published several works on language and grammar including *Principes généraux de la langue française* in 1754 and *Moyens simples et raisonnés de diminuer les imperfections de notre orthographe* in 1771. His *Nouveau vocabulaire français* was printed in Paris in 1801. The page displayed features de Wailly's definition of a dictionary which he describes as: 'Recueil alphabétique des mots d'une langue, d'une science, etc.' [An alphabetical collection of the words of a language, a science, etc.]. A definition for the adjective 'Dichotome' [Dichotomy] is also featured on this page: 'Se dit de la lune quand on n'en voit que la moitié' [Is said of the moon when one sees only half of it].

FR: 1.9

THEME 3: ENCYCLOPAEDIC DICTIONARIES

9. Joseph Nicolas Guyot (1728-1816)

Le grand vocabulaire François [French vocabulary large edition]

Paris, [1767-74].

Guyot's *Vocabulary* contains explanations of each word along with various grammatical meanings and synonyms; it also features the general principles of grammar and the rules of spelling, along with reasoned and philosophical details on the economy, trade, the navy, and politics etc. An entry on 'Absinthe' [Absinth] describes the physical characteristics of the plant 'ses fleurs sont rassemblées dans un calice à côté l'une de l'autre, & donnent une semence très-menue' [its flowers are grouped in a calyx next to each other, and give very small seeds]. It also outlines the medical properties associated with Absinth which is described as 'une plante médicinale, dont la racine est ligneuse' [a medicinal plant with a woody root].

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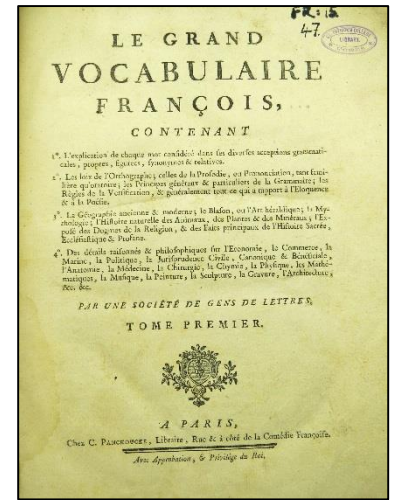


Figure 5 Title page of Guyot's *Le grand vocabulaire François*

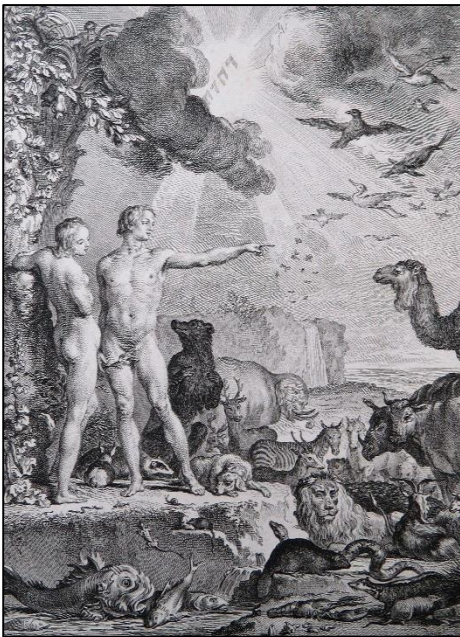


Figure 6 Frontispiece from *Dictionnaire raisonné universel d'histoire naturelle*

10. Jacques-Christophe Valmont de Bomare (1731-1807)

Dictionnaire raisonné universel d'histoire naturelle [Universal natural history dictionary]

Paris, 1768.

This revised edition of French botanist Jacques-Christophe Valmont de Bomare's bestselling dictionary on natural history was published in 1768. The page displayed features a lively description of the babouin [baboon]:

‘On appelle ainsi de gros singes qui ont des queues plus ou moins longues, & qui sont différents des *cynocéphales*. Voyez *ce mot* & *l'article* SINGE.’

[So called big apes, which have tails of varying length, and which are different from the *cynocéphales*. See *this word* & *the article* MONKEY.]

SC: 30 28 a, c-d

11. Denis Diderot (1713-1784)

Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers [*Encyclopaedia, or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Crafts*]

Livourne, 1772.

French philosopher and writer Denis Diderot worked with Jean le Rond d'Alembert as chief editor of the renowned *Encyclopédie* which was first published between 1751 and 1772. This is the third edition of the famous encyclopedia which was printed in 1772. The page displayed features the definition of 'Dictionnaire'.

R 123

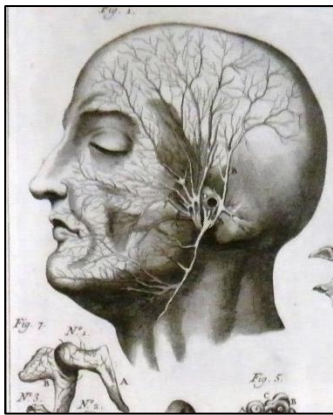


Figure 7 Image from
Diderot's *Encyclopédie*

12. Denis Diderot (1713-1784)

Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers [*Encyclopaedia, or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Crafts*]

Livourne, 1772.

The page displayed is PI XI. XII 'Anatomie'.

R 123



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