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Did you know:

- that the word *nice* meant foolish or stupid in the thirteenth century?
- that *deer* once referred to any animal?
- that *cumberbund*, *pundit* and *bungalow*, all relics of the Indian raj, have been in use in English since the 1600's?
- that such words as *sandwich*, *boycott* and *malapropism* take their names from people, both real and fictional?
- that *sombrero*, which comes to us from Spanish, originally meant an Oriental umbrella?

These are but a few of the thousands of fascinating tidbits to be found in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Etymology*. Here the reader will find a clear and brief account of the origins, history, and sense-development of a major part of the modern English vocabulary, including both basic words and a wide selection of derivative forms.

Begun under the supervision of the late G.W.S. Friedrichsen, this valuable reference book benefits from his many years of experience as an etymologist for the Oxford dictionaries.

About the Author:

T.F. Hoad is a Fellow of St. Peter's College Oxford.

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From Library Journal

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