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UN SERVIZIO PERSONALIZZATO DI QUALITÀ A BIBLIOTECHE, CENTRI DI RICERCA ED UNIVERSITÀ DAL 1935

DICTIONNAIRES DE L'ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE 1687 – 1935 **THE DICTIONARIES OF USAGE FROM THE XVIIth TO THE XXth CENTURY :**

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Le *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, (de A à Neuf), avant-première, Paris 1687

Le *Grand Dictionnaire de l'Académie française* (de A à Aversion), avant-première, Francfort, 1687

Le *Grand Dictionnaire de l'Académie française* (de A à Confiture), avant-première, Francfort, 1687

Le *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française dédié au Roy*, Paris, 1694

Nouveau Dictionnaire de l'Académie française dédié au Roy, Paris, 1718

Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, Paris 1740

Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, Paris 1762

Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, Paris 1798

Dictionnaire de l'Académie, Paris, 1835

Dictionnaire de l'Académie, Paris, 1878

Dictionnaire de l'Académie, Paris, 1932-1935

preface and foreword of the ninth edition (1986 – 1992)

THE TWO GREAT DICTIONARIES OF SCIENCE, ARTS AND TECHNICS

conceived as the complement of the serie of dictionaries of usage and directed by the French Academy :

. *Dictionnaire des arts et des sciences*, de Thomas Corneille (1694)

. *Complement du Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, de Louis Barré (1842)

The *Corpus des dictionnaires de l'Académie française* gathers all the editions from 1687 to

nowadays, thus representing linguistic policy in France from the XVIIth century.

The first edition has been much discussed because of its classification by family of words. It may be regarded as the first linguistic manifestation of political power which sought, through the Academicians, the appropriate image to give of the French language. The choice fell on the common language – ordinary, everyday words – excluding technical terms.

The next three editions (1718, 1740 and 1762) continued the work of the former Academicians but with some modifications and innovations. The spelling was modified in 1740 and follows modern use. In time, a few quotations appeared and, in 1762, the general outlook was influenced by philosophy to the detriment of traditional piety.

The 1798 edition was published in a very special context: the French Revolution. This edition was governed by the concern of the Directory Committee (the Académie disappeared in the revolutionary period) to produce definitions in accordance with the new ideology. That is why this edition contained a Supplement of revolutionary terms or of old words which had been defined in a new way, such as "ROI" ("KING") for example. The main body of this edition carried on the revisions accomplished by the academicians before the dissolution of the Académie.

The 1835 edition of the Dictionary of the Académie française is the Bible of the best writers of the 19th century. The plan and nomenclature of the preceding editions was revised: this edition marks the change from monarchical language to republican language, the change from the old world to modernity. It is considered by specialists to be the most successful of the series of Dictionaries of the French Academy. The 1878 edition will simply provide a supplement to this excellent edition with additional entries to reflect the evolution of the French language.

The edition published in 1932-1935 is the only complete edition of the Dictionary of the French Academy devoted to modern language. It is characterised by an ever more modern and well-founded art of definition and by the intention to give a faithful reflection of the XXth century. The following edition is still being composed.

The series of Academic dictionaries devoted to usage neglect almost entirely the terms of arts and sciences. In 1694, the role of the *Dictionnaires des Arts et des Sciences* was to fill this gap.

Published in Paris at the same time as the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie*, it was patroned by the Academy, which entrusted the undertaking to Thomas Corneille. It was conceived as a supplement to the Dictionary of common usage. Launched after the publication of Furetière's Dictionary and inspired by that publication, the work produced by Thomas Corneille compiles several

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contemporary sources and constitutes a considerable achievement.

The *Complément du Dictionnaire de l'Académie*, under the direction of Louis Barré, took over in 1842. With its *Complément*, the Dictionary of the Academy became a Universal Dictionary (« Dictionnaire Universel » (préface p. XVIII)). A veritable mine of information and science, this irreplaceable dictionary provides an innovation in the form of an anthology of some 20,000 references or quotations from many authors, from the Middle Ages to the 19th century – which was to be an important source for Littré.

CONTENT

13 dictionaries, 195 000 000 signs, 700 000 entries and 30 000 000 words; entries, definitions, notes and bibliographical information key-boarded in full-text; many different fields of search + their own visible indexation : search by entry, grammatical category, orthographical variation, connotations, subject-fields; possibility to search within the notes only (editor notes or electronic editors' notes), into the pre- and post texts only, to build one own's corpus and use all the database functions to search in.

An important documentary section : a scientific presentation written by the best specialists.

Fac-similés of the dictionaries shall be gradually added to the database.

SEARCH SOFTWARE

BABEL software offers the most complete search functions:

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searches by entry,

searches in full text on all words of the dictionary and their environment,

index of words,

searches using Boolean operators, adjacency and proximity operators; complex equations,

movement in the text starting with a search or an entry,

comparison mode with a multi frame windows,

recorded history of searches already made,

possibility to print and save texts, search results or history of searches,

All searches that have been done may be consulted using the frame history.

The function "Print" may print the criteria of searches, extracts or full text results and all elements that can or have been saved.

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FIELDS OF INTERES

Dictionnaristic, lexicography, history, history of language, literature

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