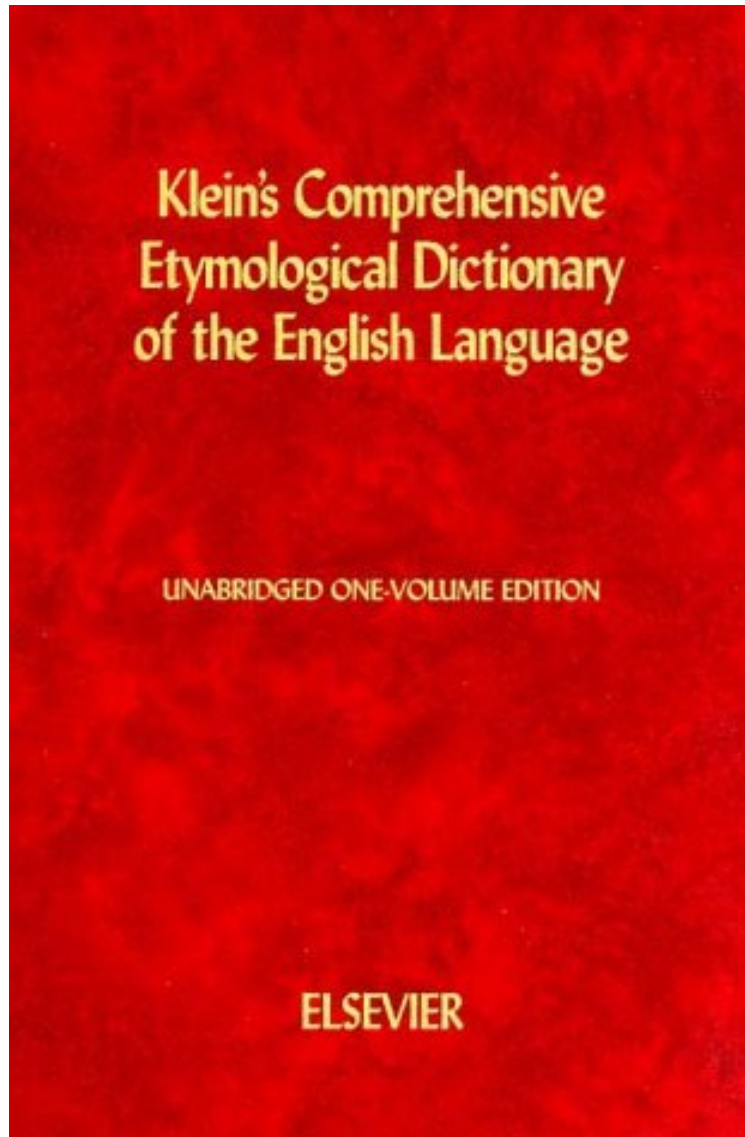


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Kleins Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language

Ernest Klein

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Ernest Klein : Kleins Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kleins Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The ultimate etymological dictionary of English By Elliott B. Urdang, MD Brilliant, fascinating, profoundly erudite. A wonderful discovery, with Klein's deep philological discussions, cross references, emphasizes Tocharian and the Semitic languages 23 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Fine reference but a bit pricey... By A Customer Dr. Klein's work is indeed the product of a real scholar and is a most useful etymology. The book is well-bound (signature-sewn) with a bonded-leather hardcover. The entries are incisive and many provide information not found in other such tomes. However, I feel that the price is very, very steep compared to such top-rate etymologies as Chambers, etc. The book is definitely worthwhile to own, if you can stretch your book-buying budget enough (mine cried "ouch", but I bought it anyway). Well, we are on this earth only once, I suppose. =) 8 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Poor Binding and quality By pimpjitsu The content of this book is in line with other books of this type. I purchased this one because it, reportedly was of the highest quality... hence the price. What I received was a poorly bound book, with a cover that doesn't completely cover the book and glue that is already losing adherence. It appears the publisher is no longer making the high-quality binded version but is still charging the high quality price.

Although during the last sixty years philology has attained a high degree of development, looking at the literature available, Etymology appears only to have reached the level of philology at the turn of the century. This dictionary is the first major work of its kind in the 20th century, and as such, embodies the findings of modern philological scholarship. For example, full reference is made to Tocharian, the extinct language rediscovered at the end of the Nineteenth Century which often provides the key to the important transition form between the Old-Indian and the Indo-European group of languages to which English belongs. Several hundred words previously defined as being "of unknown etymology" are fully analyzed. The etymology of words of Semitic origin in the English language is given, the transliteration of Semitic words is based on a concept which renders exactly every consonant, vowel and diacritical sign. Hybrids are not only referred to, but in many cases a new, correctly formed word is suggested. Special attention is paid to loan translations (important elements in the cultural interrelationship between the nations) especially in regard to their passage from one language to another. The dictionary also provides the etymologies of proper and mythological names. Exhaustive cross-referencing, allows the reader to trace all words derived from one and the same base.

Aside from its outstanding value and importance to students of linguistics, Dr. Klein's work is a source of fascinating reading and browsing to anyone with an interest in language. The American Translators Association Chronicle -- The American Translators Association Chronicle