



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

A large, glowing blue and green Earth seen from space, centered in the background of the slide.

**Women in the
history of
lexicography: an
overview, and the
case of German**

Prof. Nicola McLelland
nicola.mclelland@nottingham.ac.uk



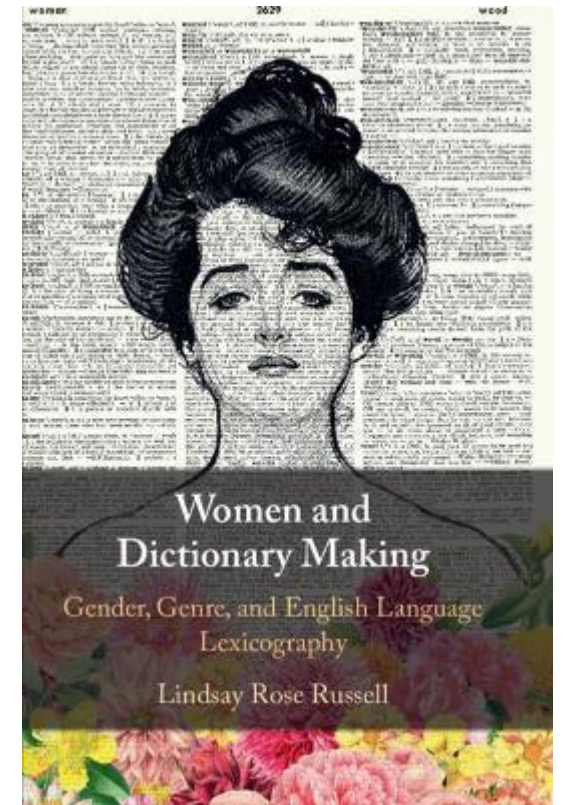
Overview

1. Introduction: women in English dictionary-making
2. Beyond English
3. Women in the history of German lexicography
4. Conclusion



Introduction

- women initially ‘useful as a passive and ignorant audience’?
- ‘Elegant’ ignorance of women could mask the ‘merely shameful ignorance of men’ (Murray 1900)
- Much more than this: women’s early involvements in dictionary making in fact continued long after the seventeenth century (Russell 2018, p. 34).



2020



What Russell found...

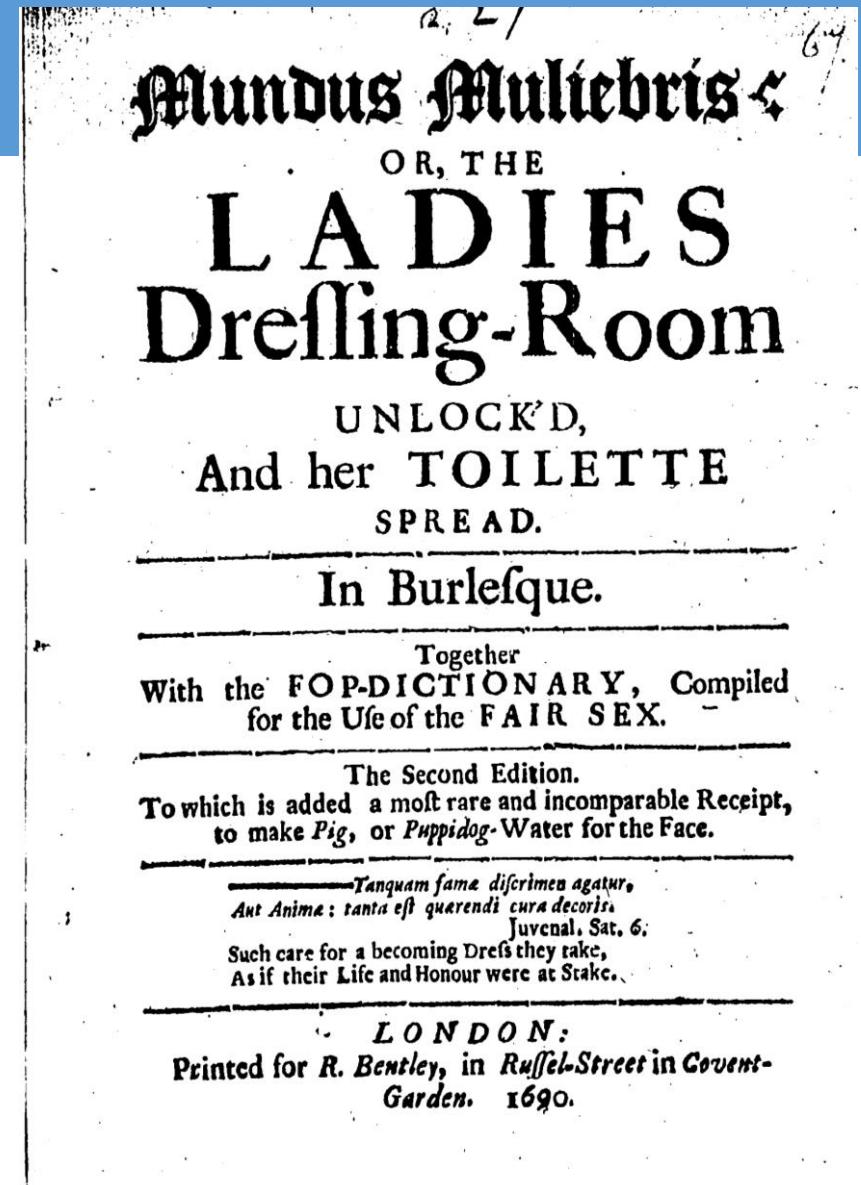
1500-1700:

- 24 dictionaries name or invoke women
 - as individual dedicatees
 - as individual inspiration (e.g. as former pupils)
 - or as intended users

1500-1900

- 150 lexicographical projects involving English undertaken by women
- About quarter are bi- or multilingual

(Russell 1918, pp. 73, 76–105, Tables 3.1 and 3.2)





e.g. Hester Lynch Piozzi (1740–1821) as a lexicographer



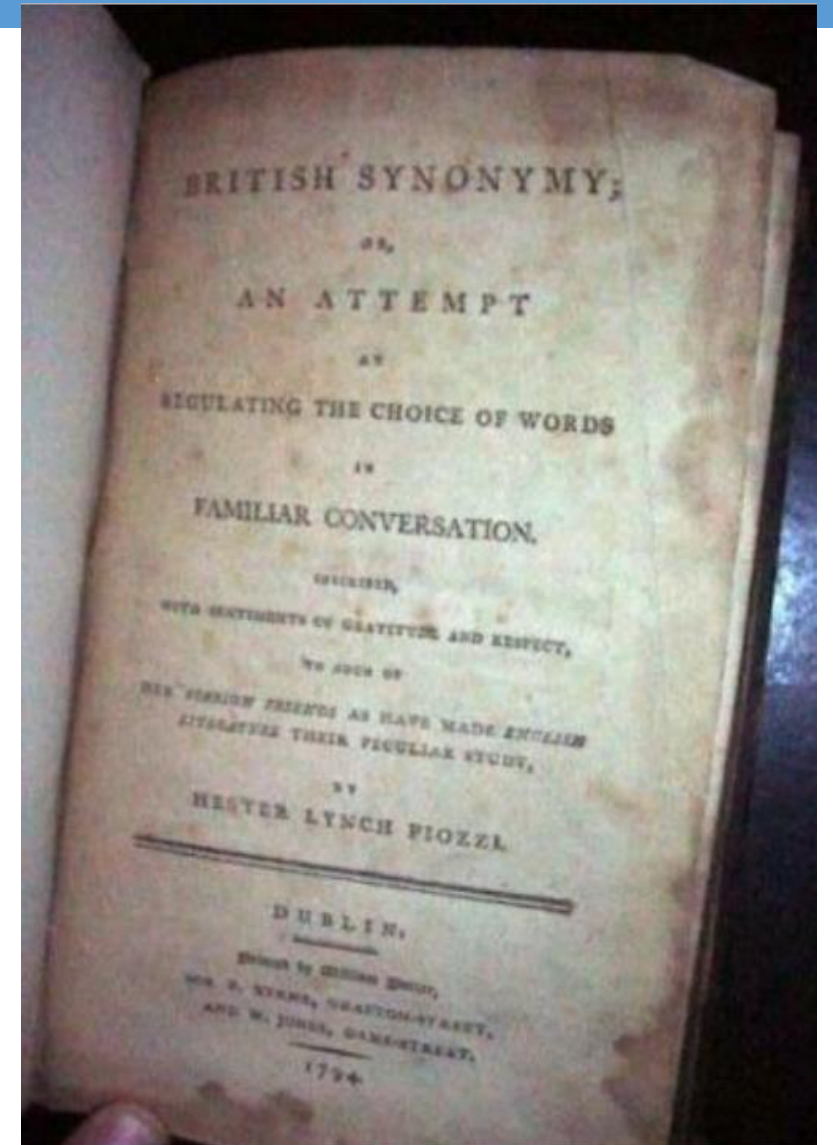
- Close associate of Samuel Johnson, author of the epoch-making *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755)
- Johnson had rooms in her house, and used her library
- Piozzi wrote *Anecdotes of Dr Johnson* (1786), an important source for the biography of Johnson





Piozzi's *British synonymy* (1794)

- *British Synonymy; or an attempt at regulating the choice of words in familiar conversation*,
- 2 vols., over 900 pp.
- *Synonymy* belongs “on ‘a parlour window, [...] unworthy of a place upon a library shelf’ (Piozzi 1794, Vol. I, pp. iv–v).
- ‘while men teach to write with propriety, a woman may at a worst be qualified – through long practice – to direct the choice of phrases in familiar talk’ (Piozzi 1794, Vol. I, p. iv).

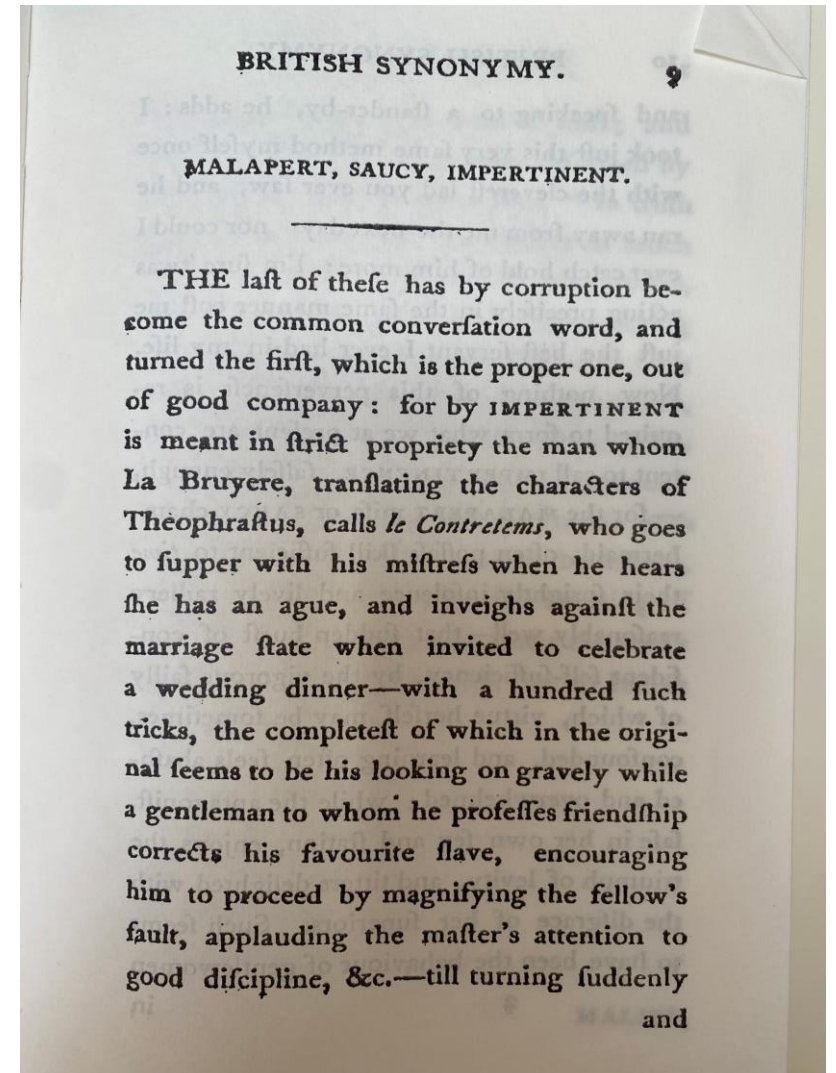




Piozzi's *British synonymy* - an example entry

Malapert. Saucy, Impertinent.

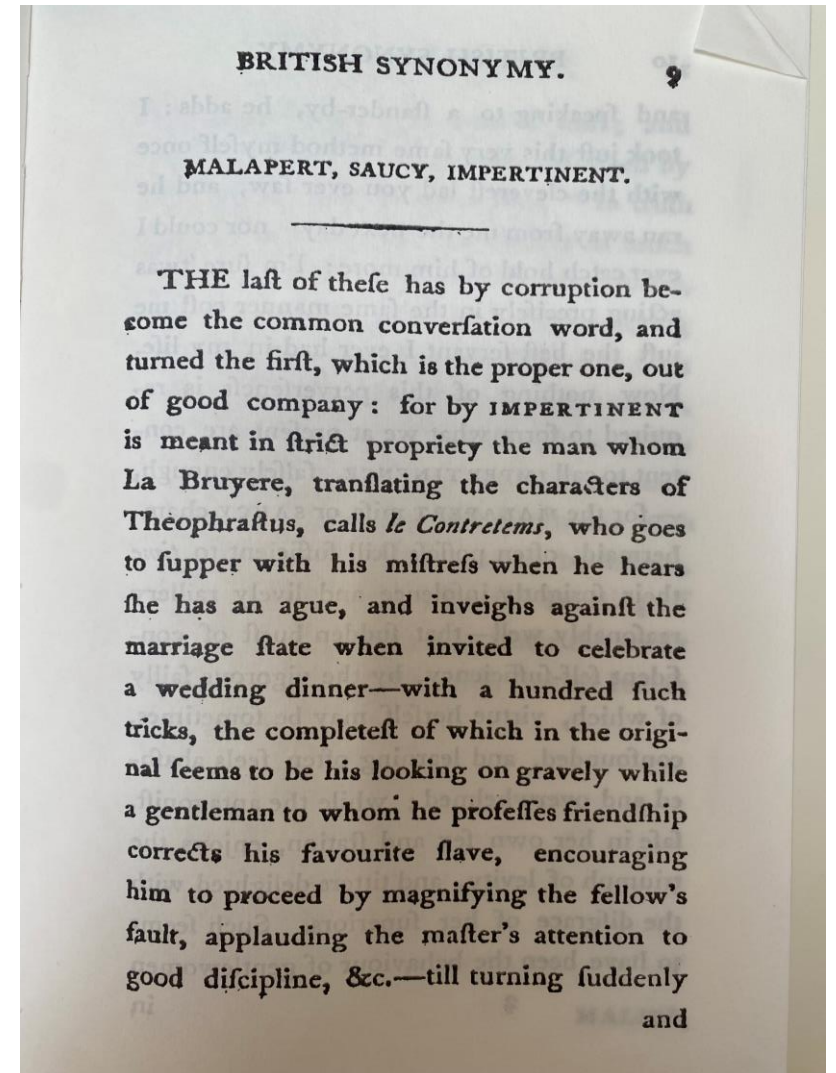
THE last of these has by corruption become the common conversation word, and turned the first, which is the proper one, out of good company: for by IMPERTINENT is meant in strict propriety [...] the man goes to supper with his mistress when he hears she has an ague, and inveighs against the marriage stage when invited to celebrate a wedding dinner [...].





Piozzi's *British synonymy* ...

[...]. Now nothing of this perverseness is required to form what we are at present content to call IMPERTINENCE, falsely enough, for the MALA-PERT miss, or SAUCY chambermaid, often possess sufficient skills to time their sprightly innocence and lively raillery reasonably well [...]. Who-ever wishes to learn the full meaning of the word MALAPERT, may study the ready responses of an English miss, or an Italian chambermaid.

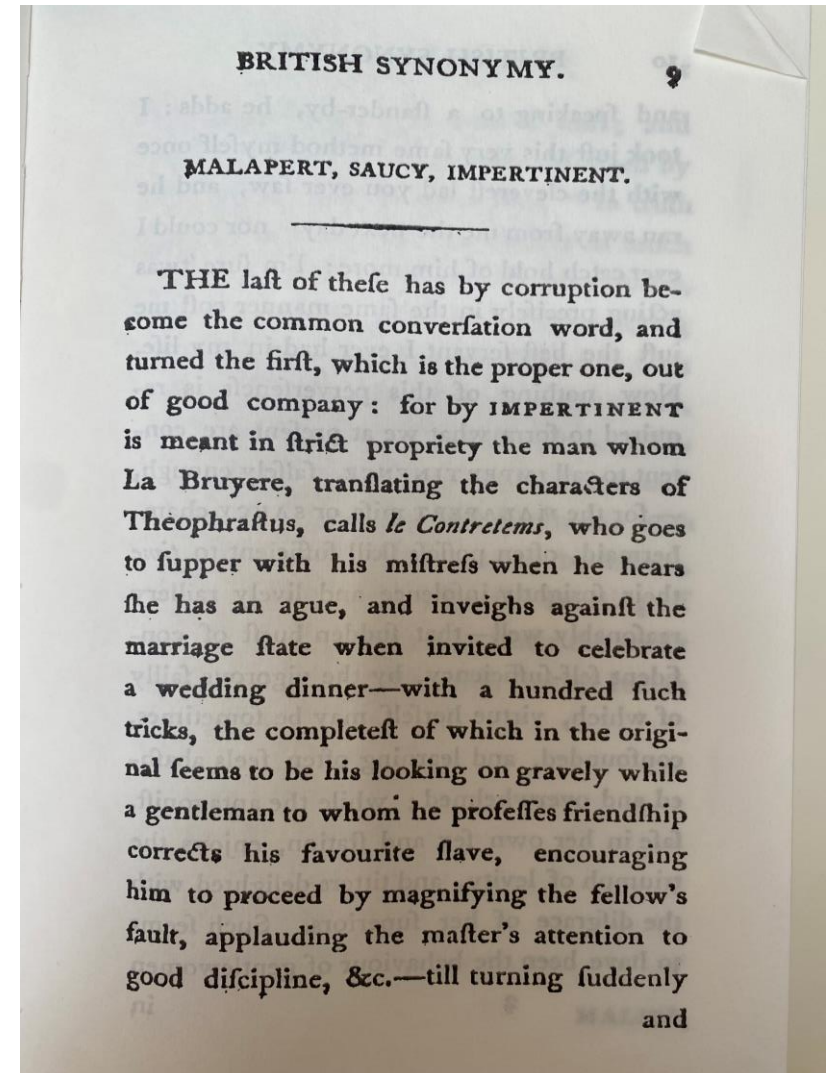




Piozzi's importance in lexicography

- 'relocate[s] the lexicon from the abstract page to the concrete parlor, to (re)domesticate meaning in order to highlight its nuance, contingency and power'.
- even 'anticipates trends in lexicography that favour spoken corpora'
- First important synonymy dictionary in English

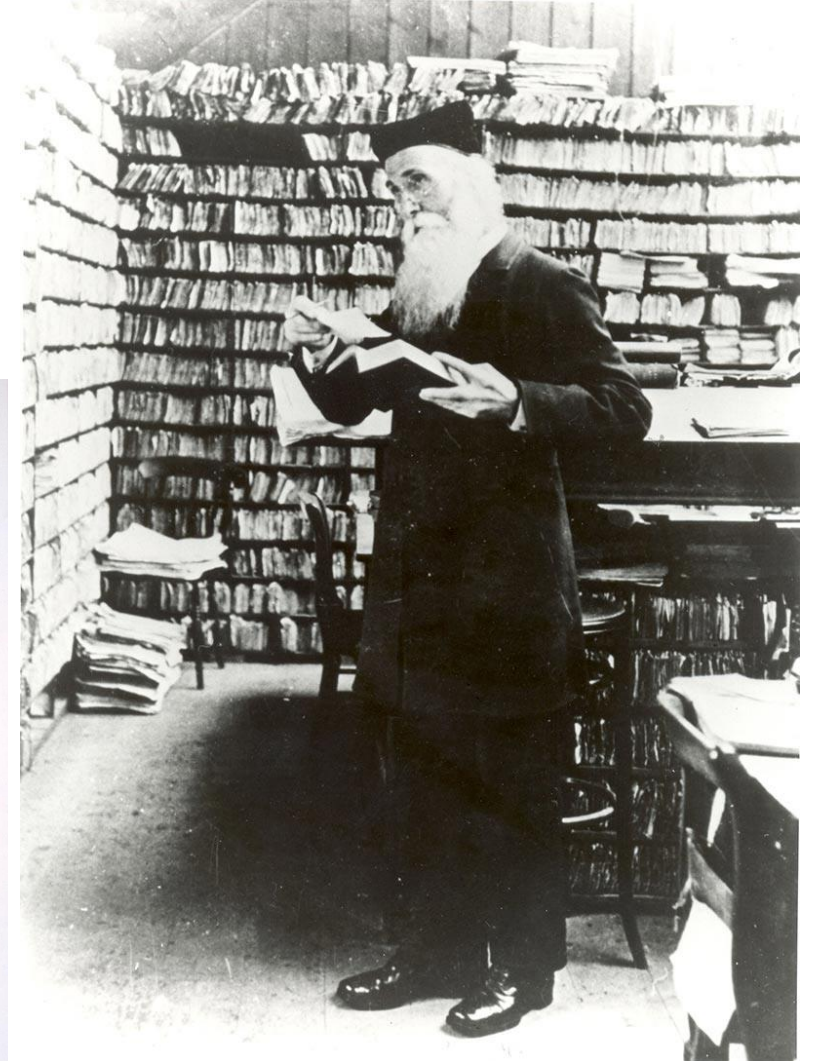
(Russell 2018, pp. 147–148)





Women and the *Oxford English Dictionary*

- Women helpers:
- Ada Murray, the wife as unpaid secretary
- All eleven children (including daughters) helped sort slips



James Murray stands in the
Scriptorium



Women and the Oxford English Dictionary

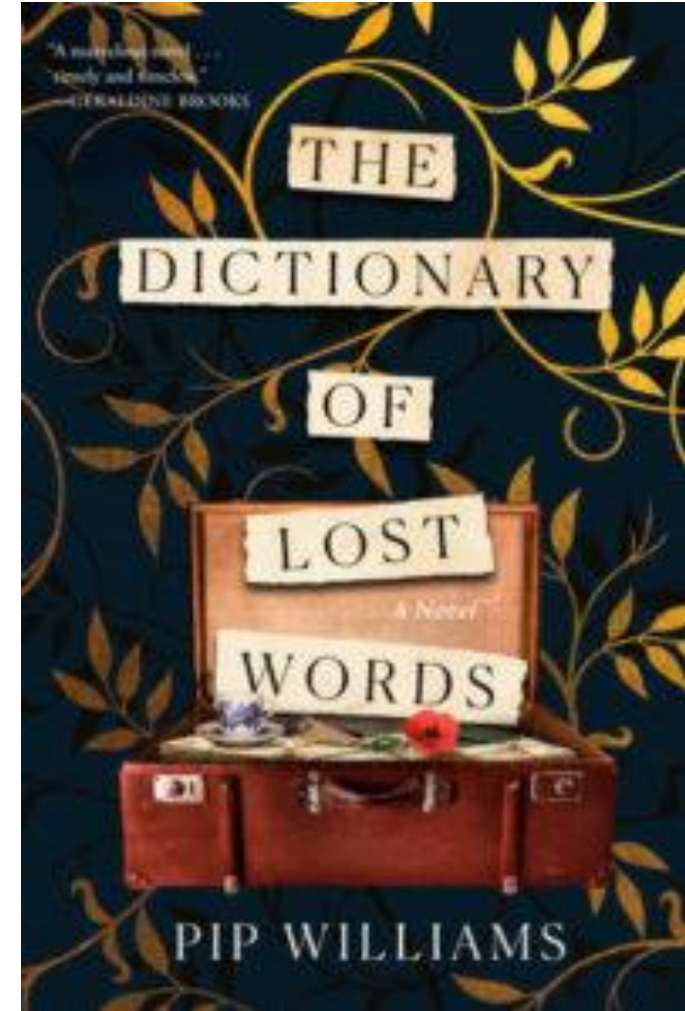
- All eleven children (including daughters) helped sort slips sent in by hundreds of volunteer readers





Other women as readers, sub-editors in the OED

- By 1884, 240 women worked as volunteer readers, collecting quotations of words in use
- Sub-editors, and, later, paid editors.
- Podcast: Women in the Oxford English Dictionary:
<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/women-oxford-english-dictionary>



(A novel about women in the OED...)



Other women as readers, sub-editors in the OED

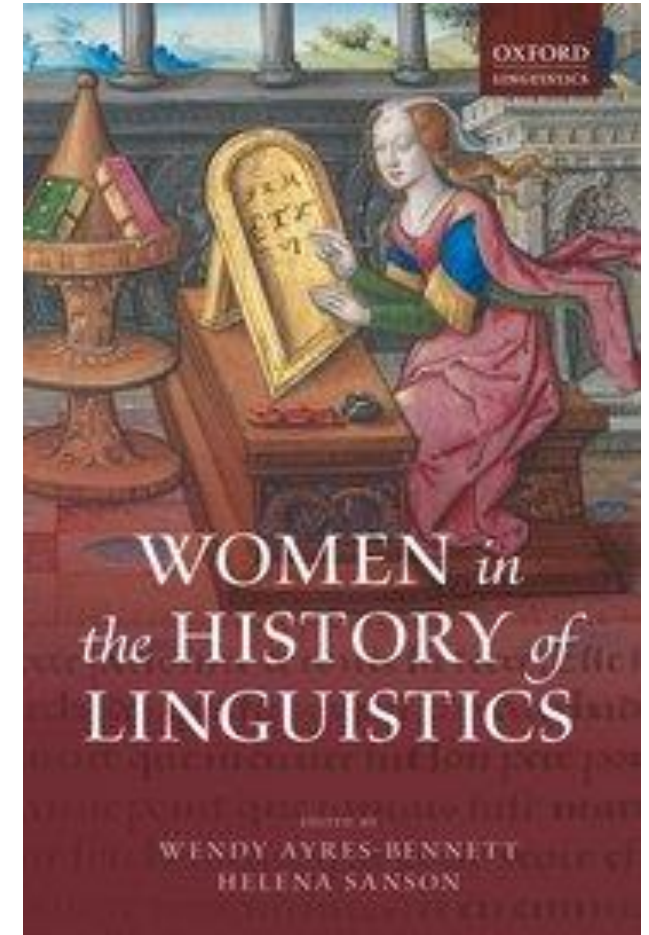
- Five out of sixty sub-editors working on particular letters of the *OED* were women. Novelist Charlotte Yonge (1823–1901) was one of the first volunteer ‘sub-editors’, preparing draft entries in the letter N in the 1860s.





2. Beyond English

- 19 chapters, but slim pickings for women in lexicography
-
- A 15th-Century Arabic source mentions a woman dictionary compiler (but we know no more)



Edited by **Wendy Ayres-Bennett** and **Helena Sanson (2020)**



Beyond English?

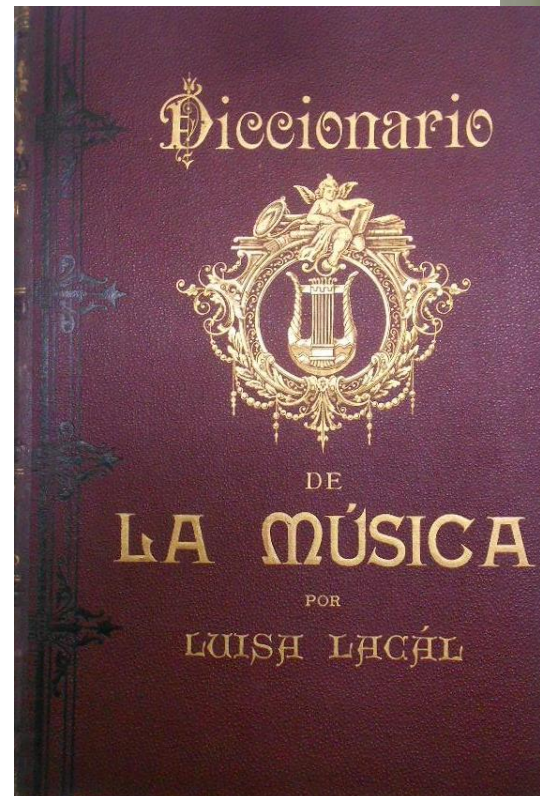
- **Italy:** Carolina Coronedi Berti (1869–1874) produced a two-volume dialect dictionary, *Vocabolario Bolognese Italiano* (1874)
- **Spain:** Luisa Lacal, *Diccionario de la musica tecnico, historico, bio-bibliografico* (1900)
- María Moliner, *Diccionario de la leñgua espanola* (1914)

VOCABOLARIO
BOLOGNESE ITALIANO

COMPILATO

DA

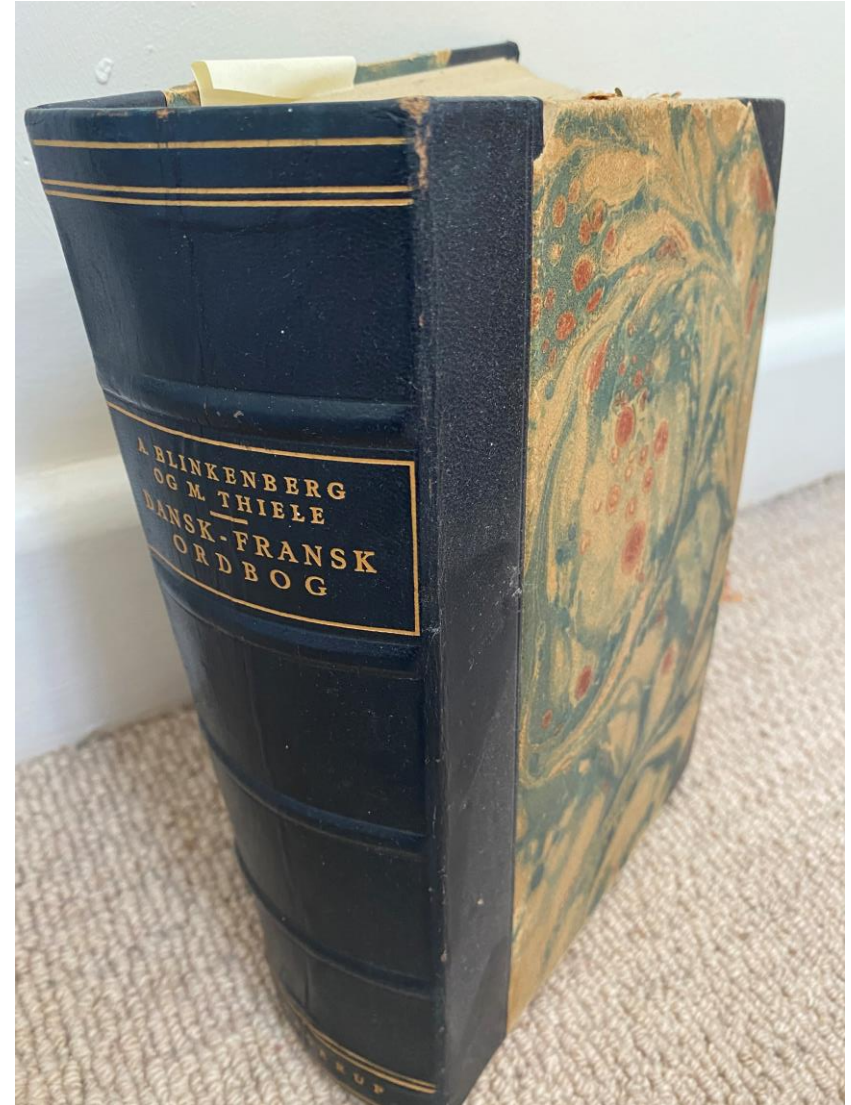
CAROLINA CORONEDI BERTI





Danish-French: Margrethe Thiele (1868-1928)

- Blinkenberg, A./Thiele, M. (1937): *Dansk-fransk ordbog*. København.
- Thiele's 100,000 slips are in the Royal Library of Denmark





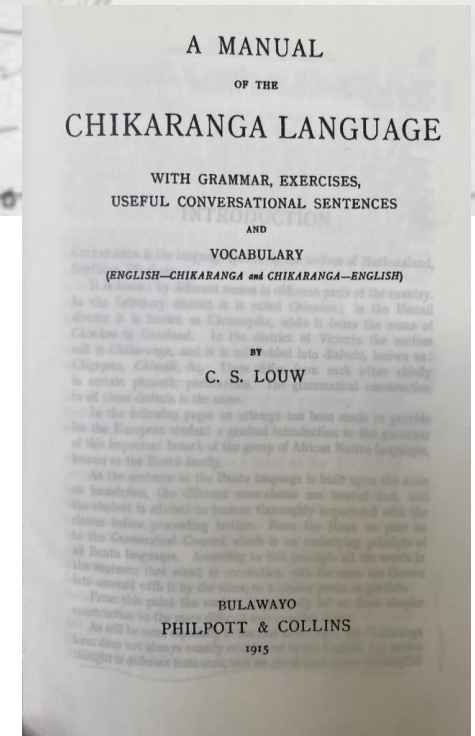
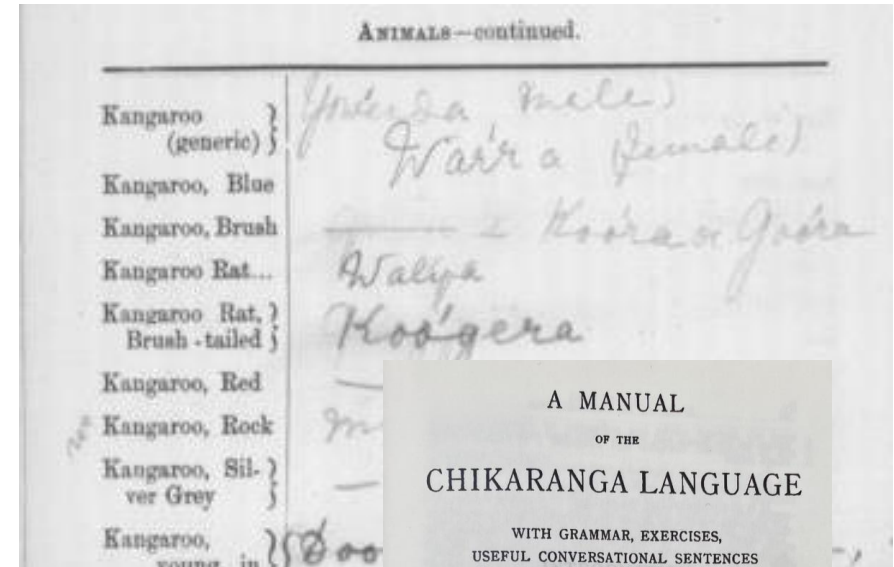
Thiele as a woman lexicographer

Kvinde c (-r) femme*. Il ~rne (og.) de la femme (fx. l'activité économique de la f., féminin (fx. le travail f.); *brav* ~ f. de bien; *falden* ~ f. perdue; *for* ~r (paa *Jærnbane*) [Côté des] dames; *Bogbindingssskole* for ~r école féminine de reliure; *Verdensmesterkab* for ~r championnat féminin; *født av en* ~ [un être né] de la femme; *løbe efter* ~rne aimer le cotillon; *Forening baade for Mænd og* ~r association mixte; ~n skal tie i *Forsamlingen* (bibl.) que les femmes se taisent dans vos assemblées, que vos femmes se taisent dans les églises.



Women and colonial and missionary lexicography

- e.g. in Australia: Daisy Bates (1859-1951) documenting Australian languages using word-lists
- e.g. in Africa: Cinie Louw (1872–1935) *Manual of Karanga*, 1915





3. Women in the history of German lexicography

1. at first invoked as readers and patrons
2. as contributors
3. as lexicographers
4. women in German-English dictionaries: a mini case study



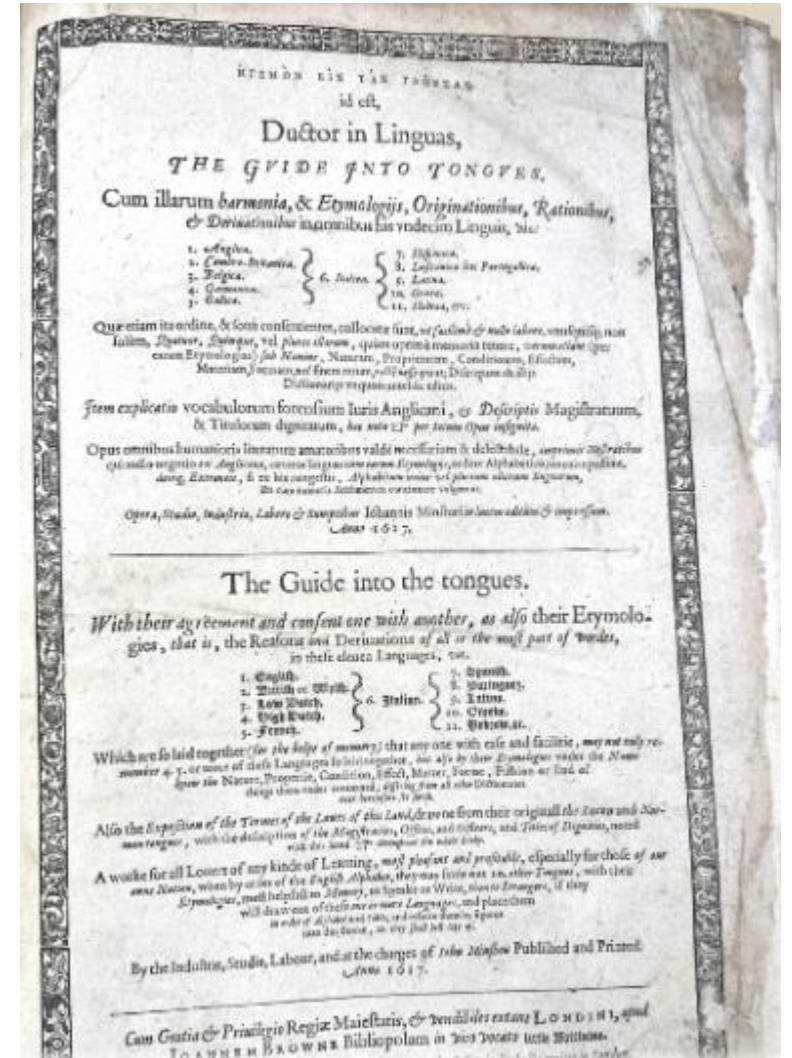
Women in the history of German lexicography

John Minsheu, *Guide into Tongues* (1617)

Includes German ...

Women are among the subscribers

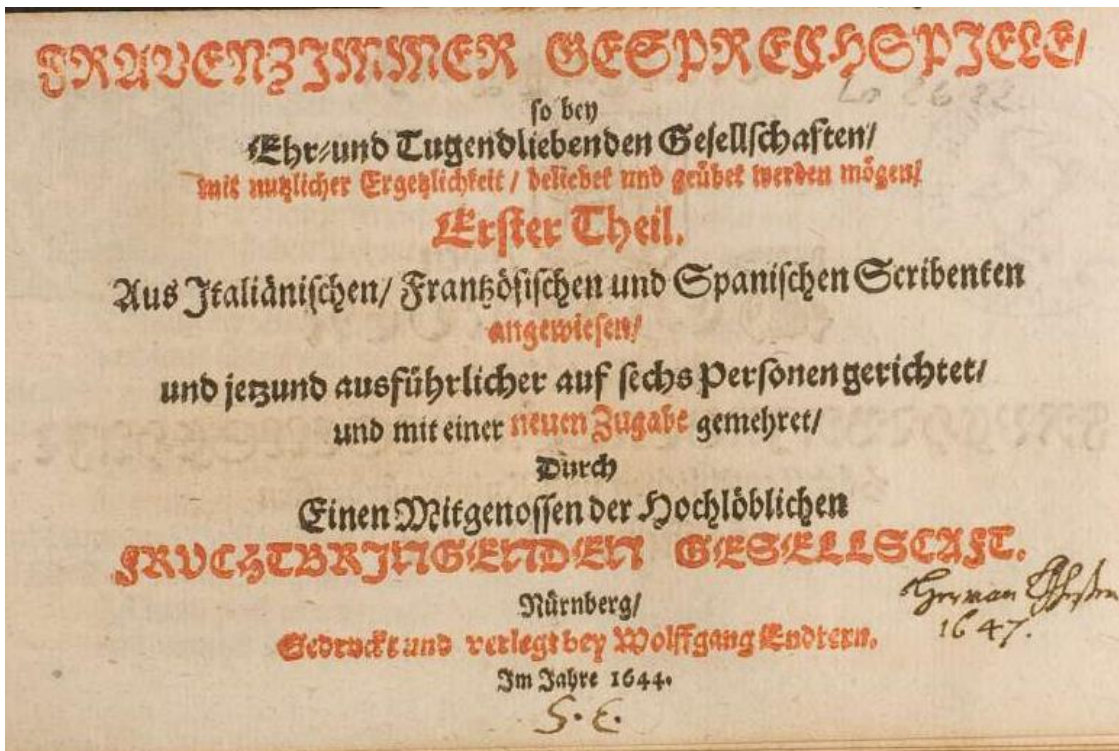
- Women were language learners, translators, poets – a few were members of language societies





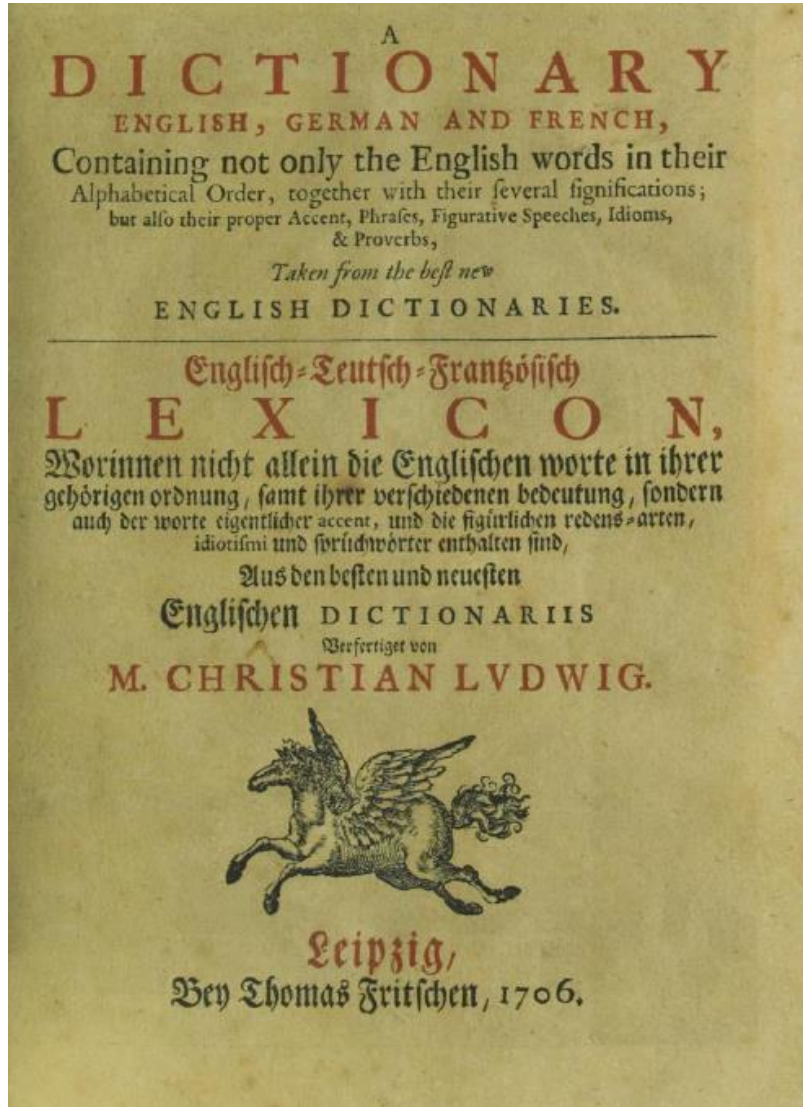
Women invoked as readers

- *Frauenzimmer Gesprächspiele* ‘*Conversation Games for Ladies*’ published in eight volumes by Georg Harsdörffer between 1643 and 1649
- many kinds of language games





3.1 ... Women as patrons



Sophia, Electoral
Princess and
duchess-
dowager of
Hanover



Women as patrons ...



A
DICTIONARY
 OF THE
 ENGLISH AND GERMAN, AND THE GERMAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
 BY
Dr. J. L. HILPERT.
 WITH A PREFACE BY *Dr. E. KERCHER.*

VOL. II.
German and English.

PART. I.
 A—K.

„Vestigia filo regenda sunt: unaliqua via, magis a primis sexuum
 perceptionibus, certâ ratione munita.”
 Hæc in præfatione ad Institutionem notantur.

NEW-YORK:
 WILLIAM RADDE, N° 322. BROADWAY.
CARLSRUHE:
 TH. BRAUN, BOOKSELLER AND PRINTER TO THE COURT.
 1846.

Ihrer Majestät
Victoria,
 Königin des Vereinigten Reiches Grossbritannien und Irland,
 und
 Allerhöchsthrem Gemahle,
 Seiner Königlichen Hoheit
dem Prinzen Albert,
 Herzog von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha,
 mit allerhuldreichster Erlaubniß

ehrfurchtvollst gewidmet
 von dem Verleger.



3.2 ... Women as lexicographers before 1750?



0 women of 78 authors

7/20/2022



0 women of 78 authors in this bibliography of printed dictionaries and word lists containing German language (1600 - 1700)



1 woman in 117 texts of language purism 1478-1750



?? Women authors of letter-writing and manners guides, with some lexicographical material??



Women as contributors in the 18th century?



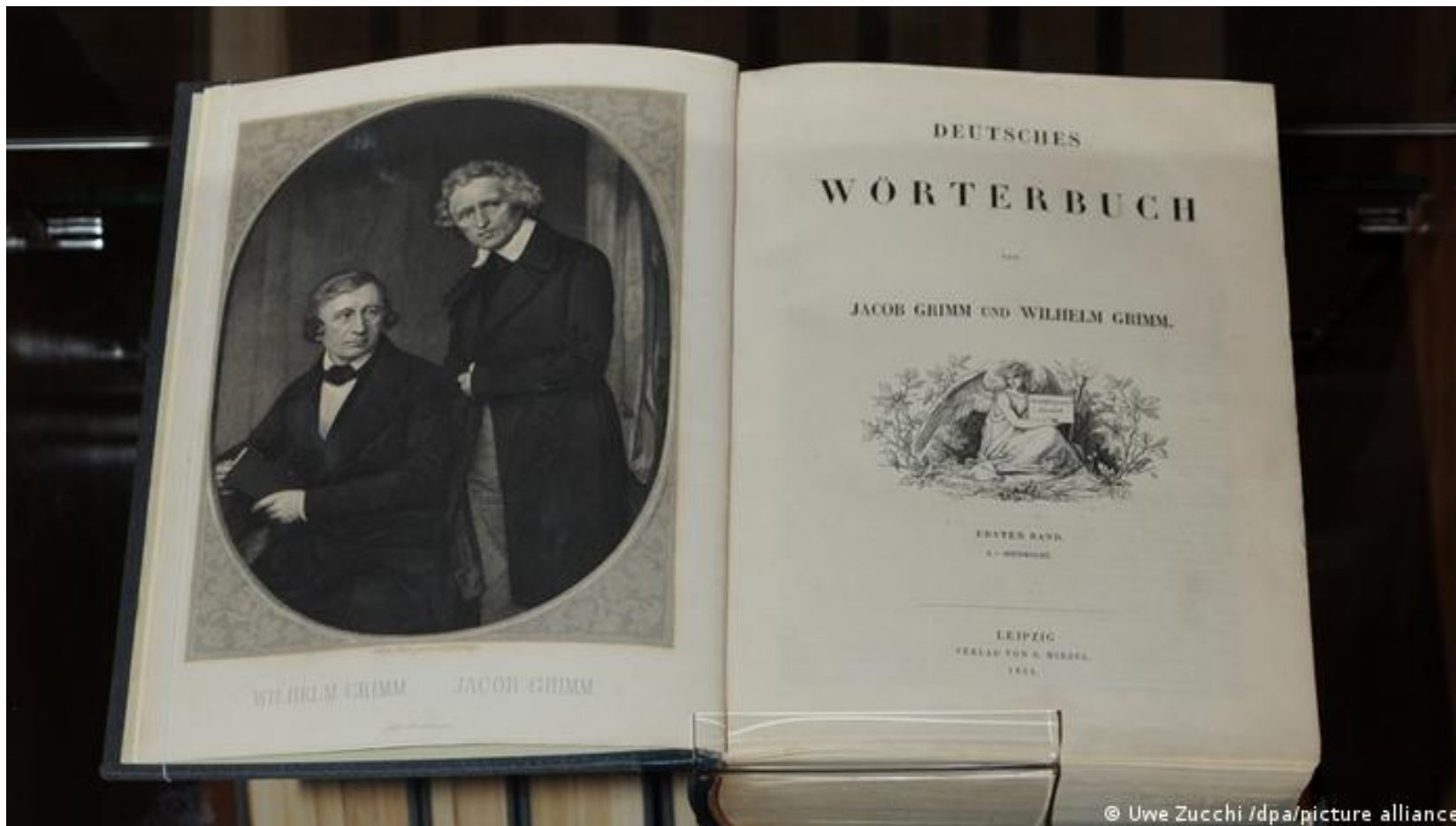
Luise Gottsched 1713-1762



Johann Christoph Gottsched
(1700-1766), writer, philosopher
and critic



Women as contributors in the 19th C? The Grimm brothers' German dictionary

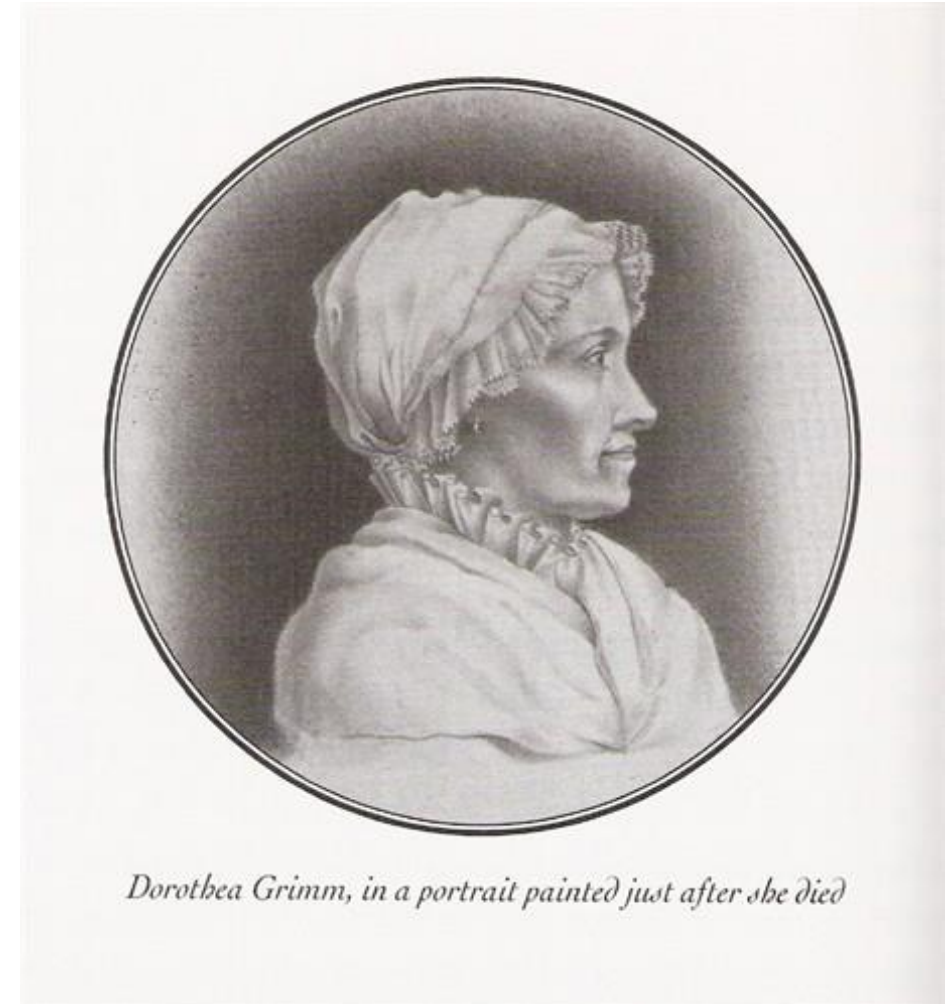




Women as contributors? The Grimm dictionary

- Wilhelm Grimm's wife Henriette Dorothea (Wild) Grimm
- Others e.g. Bettina von Arnim and Sarah Austin had some scope to contribute to the academic work of the Grimms and their circle,
- But limited to assisting in or helping publicize the work of men

See Lelke (2005)





Women as excerptors for the Grimm dictionary?

Neben diesen beiden, unserm wörterbuch vorausgehenden und gar nicht für es angelegten samlungen kommt nun der weit ansehnlichere vorrat von manigfaltigen auszügen in betracht, die ihm unmittelbar zur grundlage gereichen sollten, zum theil aus unsrer eignen, unablassenden lesung der quellen hervorgiengen, zum groszen theil aber durch andere abgefasst wurden, die wir damit beauftragt hatten, oder die sie von freien stücken und nach eigner wahl anboten. der folgenden angabe ihrer namen kann jedoch, aus begreiflichen ursachen, die der einzelnen, von jedem ausgezogenen schriften nicht beigefügt werden: BERND in Bonn, BLUHME in Bonn, CALLIN in Hannover, CRAIN in Wismar, DIETRICH in Marburg, † DRONKE in Coblenz und Fulda, EISELEIN in Constanz, † FALLENSTEIN in Heidelberg, FISCHER in Suckow, FOSS in Altenburg, GUST. FREYTAG in Leipzig, FROMMANN in Coburg, GERVINUS in Heidelberg, GILDEMEISTER in Marburg, GÖDEKE in Hannover, GÖTZINGER in Schafhausen, HERM. GRIMM in Berlin, F. J. GÜNTHER in Magdeburg, AUG. HAHN in Wien, HARTENSTEIN in Leipzig, **MALCHEN HASSENPFUG in Cassel**, MOR. HAUPT in Berlin, HENNEBERGER in Meiningen, HESEKIEL in Altenburg, HOFFMANN VON FALLERSLEBEN in Neuwied, K. A. J. HOFFMANN in Celle, HOLLAND für dank in Tübingen, A. L. W. JACOB in Berlin, HEINRICH JACOBI in Berlin, KARAJAN in Wien, in Tübingen, KLEE in Dresden, KLOSZ in

The excerptors thanked in preface to vol. 1, pp. LXVI-LXVII (1854)

<https://woerterbuchnetz.de/?sigle=D>

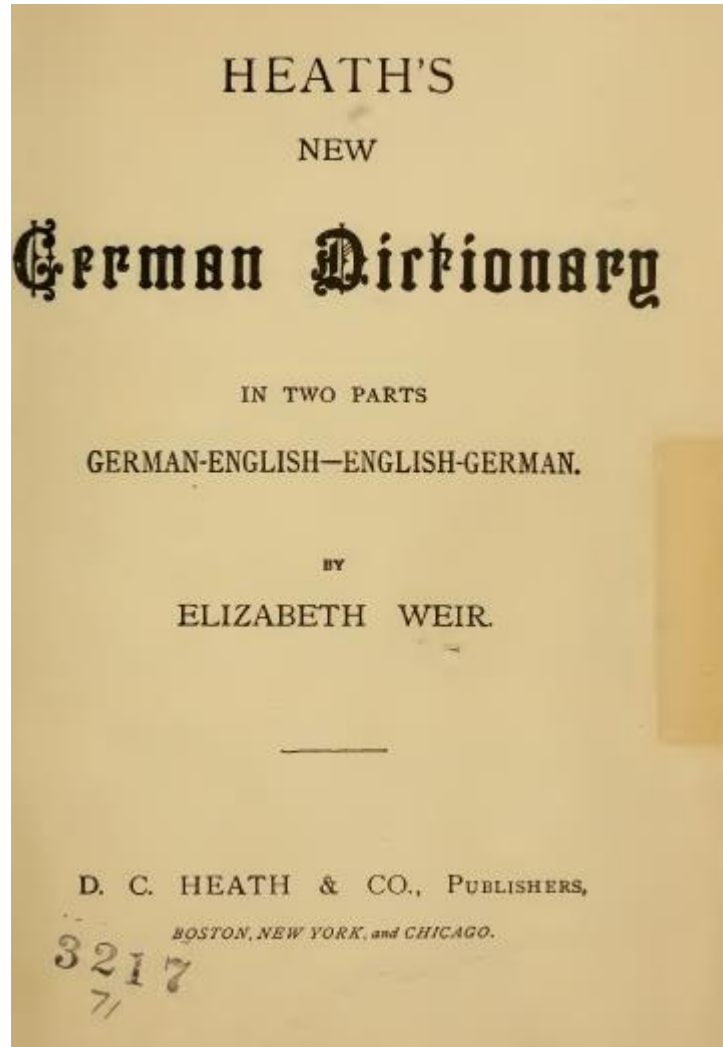
[WB#0](#)



Amalie Hassenpflug (Malchen 1800-1871) – a writer in her own right, and friend of the Grimm family



3.3. Women as lexicographers



Elizabeth Weir in *bilingual* lexicography

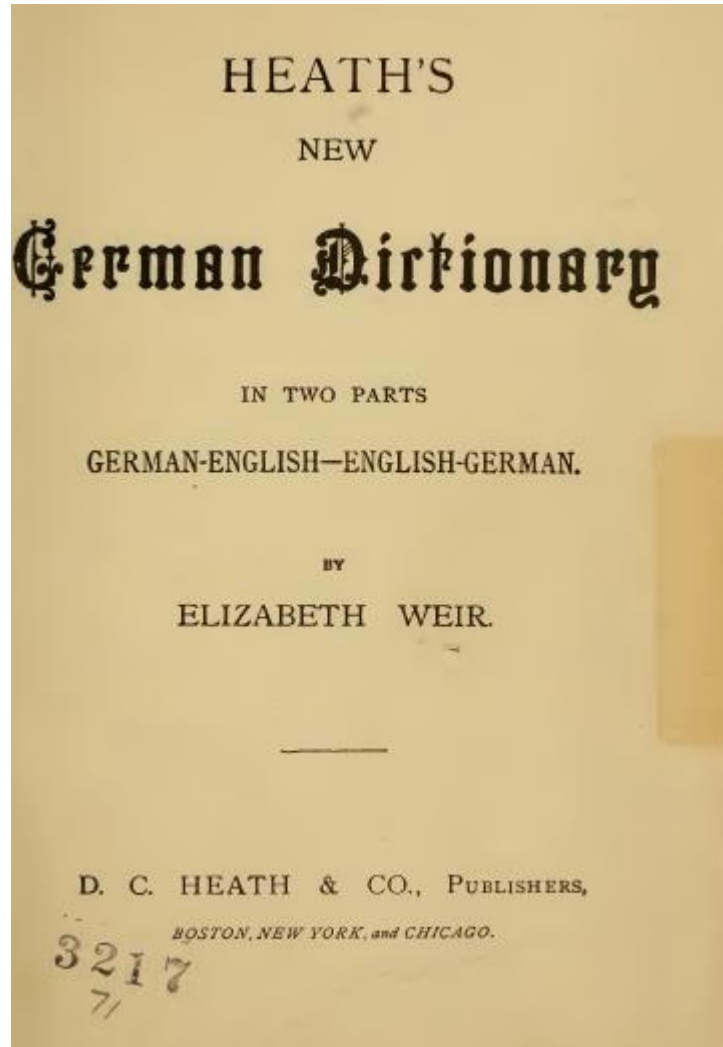
Husbands, Christopher T. 2001. **Who was Elizabeth P. Weir?: Gender visibility and female invisibility in the world of lexicography**

The Linguist, 40 (2). pp. 48-51

- Lived in Stuttgart, when compiling the English-German part



Elizabeth Weir in *bilingual* lexicography



- Intended for English learners of German
- Aimed at ‘young students’ as ‘a handy volume’, with ‘a collection of idioms, proverbs, and quotations [...], which is larger and more varied’ than in other dictionaries’ (Weir 1888, p. v)



Elizabeth Weir and *Heath's German dictionary*

Head, I. s. das Haupt, der Kopf; (*individual*) das Individuum, der Mann, das Stück; (*chief*) das Haupt, der Häuptling, Führer; (*principal*) der Vorsteher, Verwalter, Direktor; (*chief place*) das Haupt, die Spitze; (*understanding*) der Kopf, Verstand; (*prow*) der Schiffschnabel; (*source*) die Quelle; die Höhe, Krisis (*of an illness*); (*division*) der Punkt, Hauptpunkt, Abschnitt, Paragraph [...]¹

Weir (1988)



Elizabeth Weir as a woman lexicographer

To make neither ---- nor tail of, aus (einer Sache) nicht klug werden können;
[...] ---- of the stairs, der oberste Theil einer Treppe; [...] she sat at the ----
of the table, sie saß oben am Tische

Weir (1988)



Elizabeth Weir as a woman lexicographer

To make neither ---- nor tail of, aus (einer Sache) nicht klug werden können;
[...] ---- of the stairs, der oberste Theil einer Treppe; [...] she sat at the ----
of the table, sie saß oben am Tische

Weir (1988)



Compare Hilpert (1857): *The husband is the ---- of the wife, der Mann ist des Weibes Haupt.*



Elizabeth Weir as a woman lexicographer ...

- Germanist **Karl Breul**, the first Schroeder Professor of German at Cambridge
- Revised Weir's dictionary, 1906.
- Breul thanks his former students '**the Misses G. M. Parry, H. Sollas, and J. Burne**' (Breul/Weir 1906, pp. v–vi),
- And '**Miss Minna Steele Smith**, Head Lecturer in Modern Languages at Newnham College, Cambridge', who assisted in checking the proofs



Klara Hechtenberg Collitz (c.1865–1944)

- *Fremdwörterbuch des 17. Jahrhunderts* ('Foreign-word dictionary of the seventeenth century', 1904), with a list of 3380 foreign words
- *Verbs of Motion in their Semantic Divergence* (1931)

©

Fremdwörterbuch des **siebzehnten Jahrhunderts**

von

Dr. phil. Klara Hechtenberg,
Lehrerin in Germanisch Philologie, Ostschl.



Berlin W. 55.
W. de Gruyter's Verlag.
1904.



The 20th century: Agathe Lasch (1879–1942) and Low German lexicography

- In charge of a new dictionary archive
- Planning and collecting material for a dictionary of the Low German variety of *Hamburgisch*
- Groundbreaking:
 - a city variety, not a rural dialect
 - used historical sources *and* questionnaires
 - a sociolinguistic approach to dialectology



Made “Extraordinary” Professor in Low German Philology 1923 at Hamburg



Agathe Lasch and the *Hamburgisch* dictionary



- Completed 2006, still following principles laid down by Lasch





Lasch and the Middle Low German dictionary



- Published an important Low German grammar in 1914 already
- 1923 launched and planned a concise dictionary of Middle Low German
- building on insights from her grammar, e.g in how *Umlaut* is marked





Agathe Lasch (1879–1942) and Low German lexicography





Luise Berthold (1891–1983) and the Hessen-Nassau dialect dictionary





Luise Berthold (1891–1983) and the Hessen-Nassau dialect dictionary

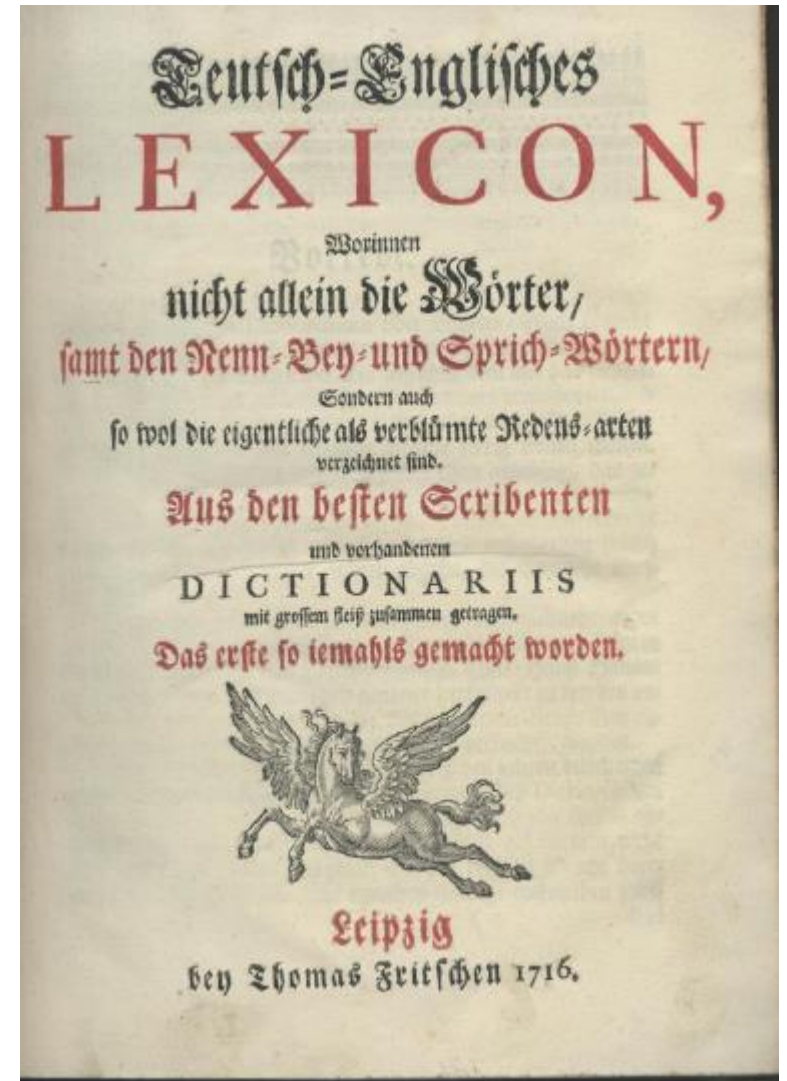
- Based in Marburg, part of the Marburg school
- Used questionnaires to produce word geography maps
- This became a model for later dialect dictionaries and the *Deutscher Wortatlas* (1951-1980)





3.4 Women *in* German/English bilingual dictionaries

- 2 case studies:
Hure (whore)
Woman
- Bilingual dictionaries of 18th and 19th centuries very little studied
- Tentative!



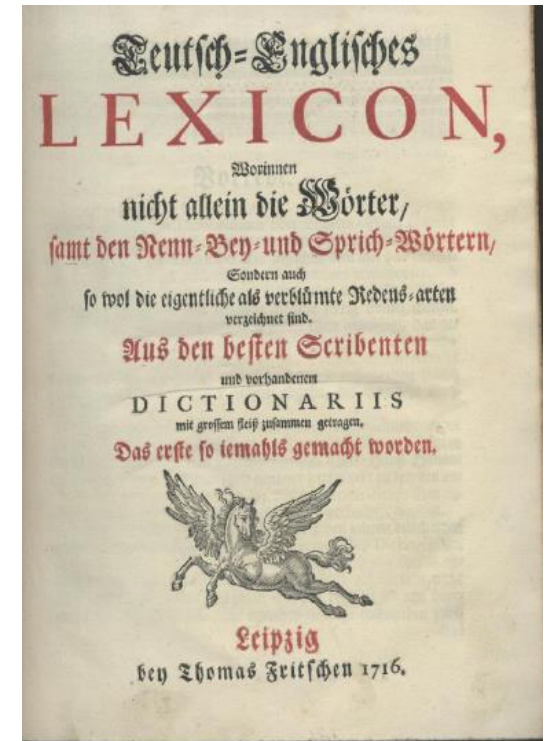


Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- Over 150 years, from 1706 to 1850s, English equivalents given for *Hure* change little
- Whore, strumpet, harlot, prostitute

But ...

- euphemisms are added e.g *woman of the town*
- And figurative use is distinguished: women who have sex outside marriage are distinguished from those who exchange sex for money

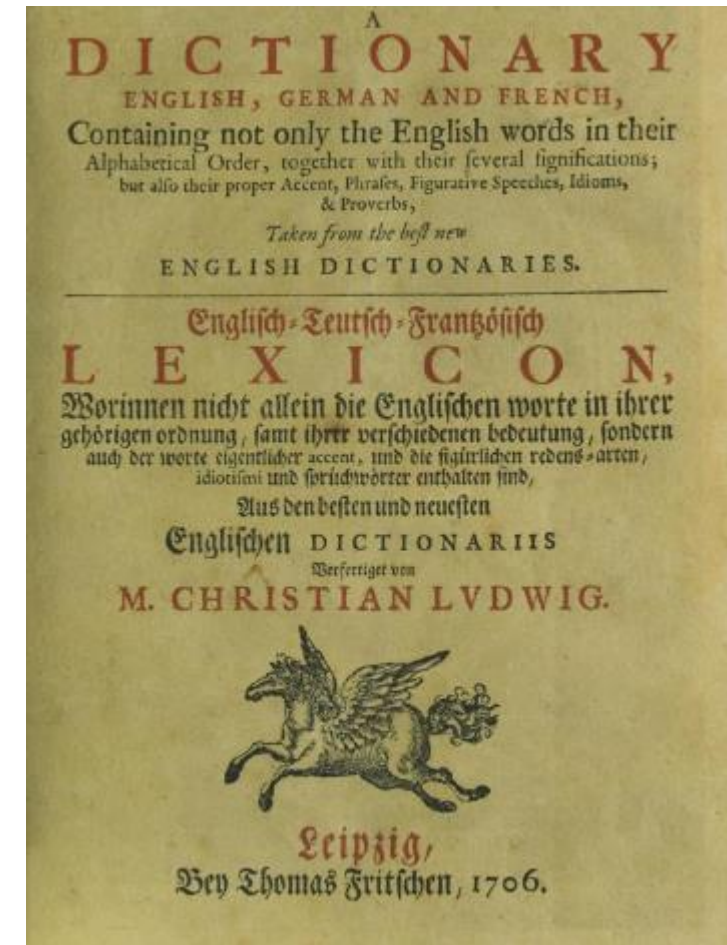




'woman' in the eyes of the first two German-English bilingual lexicographers

- Ludwig (1706):

Woman, eine frau, ein weib, femme, **A lady's woman, a waiting woman**, einer damen kammerfrau, la femme de chambre d'une dame. **A woman of the town**, ein unzüchtiges weib, eine hure, *une femme debauchée, une putain*





'woman'

Arnold (1752)

WO'MAN, (wumän. V. S. wiman. prob. V. wamb u. Man) *femme. mulier. foemina*, das Weib, die Frau. **WOMEN, Money and Wine, have their good, and their Ruin**, *femmes, argent & vin, ont leur bien et leur venin*, in muliere, pecunia. et vino venenum. Weiber. Geld und Wein, pflegen so schädlich als nützlich zu seyn. **Three WOMEN and a Goose make a Market**, *deux femmes font un plaid, trois un grand Caquet, quatre un plein marché*, est quasi grande forum. vox alta trium mulierum. drey Weiber und eine Gans machen einen Jahrmarkt. **The more WOMEN look in their Glasses, the less they look to their Houses**, *femme qui trop se mire, peu file*, quæ in speculo diutius seipsam intuetur, colum negligit et fusum, ie fleißiger die Weiber in Spiegel sehen. ie weniger sehen sie nach ihrer Haushaltung. **WOMEN laugh when they can, and weep when they will**, *femme rit, quand elle peut, et pleure, quand elle veut*, quoties potest ridet, stet autem quando lubet mulier. die Weiber lachen. wenn sie können, und weinen, wenn sie wollen. **A WOMAN conceals what she knows not**, *une femme cache ce qu'elle ignore*. quod nescit foemina. celat. eine Frau verschweigt. was sie nicht weiß. **Tell a WOMAN she's handsome, but once, the Devil will tell her so fifty times**, *dis à une femme, qu'elle est belle, et le diable lui le dira cinquante fois*, pulchritudo nimis laudata tumescit, wenn man das Frauenzimmer gar zu sehr lobet, wird es nur stolz.




Conclusions and outlook

- Women *in* dictionaries: a predictable story (as Pusch 1984 already showed for German), but a story worth pursuing; and interesting to pursue it bi- and multilingually
- Beyond English, the history of lexicography remains largely uncharted
- Likely that there is ***much*** more to find: especially in bilingual dictionaries, in dialect dictionaries, and in other ‘less mainstream’ areas.
- Those who we have identified would reward further study (e.g. Thiele and Weir)
- Women lexicographers may do things differently?
- Women lexicographers have been pioneers in their fields, irrespective of their gender, with far-reaching influence: Thiele, Weir, Lasch, Berthold



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

A large, glowing blue and green Earth is centered in the background, set against a dark space with scattered stars. The Earth is partially enclosed by a white rectangular border.

**Thank-you (also
for taking me on
this journey of
discovery!)**

Prof. Nicola McLelland
nicola.mclelland@nottingham.ac.uk



Bonus material ... Women in the German historical legal dictionary

- ***Deutsches Rechtswörterbuch:***
- Source material collected ca. 1900
- Women were among the ca. 700 volunteer excerptors from around Germany and Europe who provided quotation slips
- Women also among the early staff

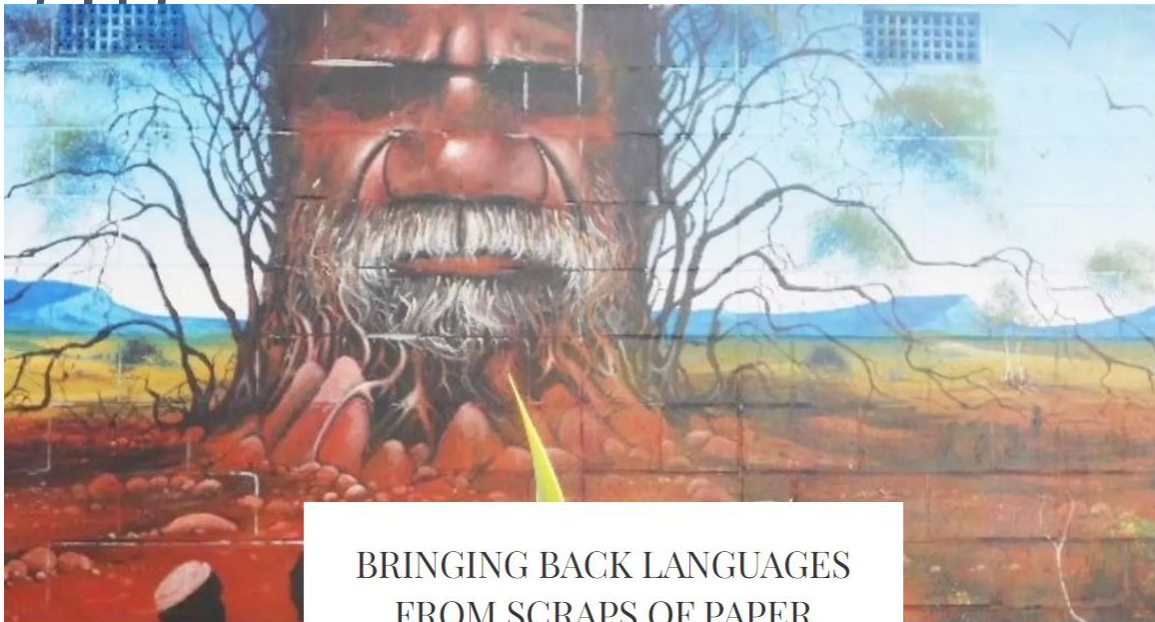
(Andreas Deutsch, p.c., yesterday!)





Women and colonial and lexicography

- e.g. in Australia: Daisy Bates (1859-1951)



BRINGING BACK LANGUAGES FROM SCRAPS OF PAPER

The controversial ethnographer Daisy Bates recorded many Aboriginal languages in the early 20th century, which would otherwise be lost today; now her papers have been digitised

By Associate Professor Nick Thieberger, University of Melbourne

12
ANIMALS—continued.

Kangaroo (generic)	<i>Warta male</i>
Kangaroo, Blue	<i>Warta female</i>
Kangaroo, Brush	<i>Koora or Gora</i>
Kangaroo Rat...	<i>Walpa</i>
Kangaroo Rat, Brush-tailed	<i>Hodgera</i>
Kangaroo, Red	<i>mooring</i>
Kangaroo, Rock	
Kangaroo, Silver Grey	
Kangaroo, young, in pouch	<i>Boolar'el dabbulga, ngan'ep daitin</i>
Mouse (generic)	<i>Dantel, Banera, Makoon</i>
Mouse, house...	
Mouse, pouched	
Opossum, Black	<i>Ngook'a male</i>
Opossum, Grey	<i>Joimal (female)</i>
Opossum, large Grey	<i>Joimal female ngan'ep ngan'</i>
Opossum, Ring-tailed	<i>Ngook'a (young possum) yung'we</i>
Pig ...	
Porcupine ...	
Porpoise ...	<i>Yella</i>
Rat (generic) ...	<i>Ngan'garitch (water)</i>
Rat, House ...	

Johnstone



Women and colonial lexicography

- Using word lists to document languages

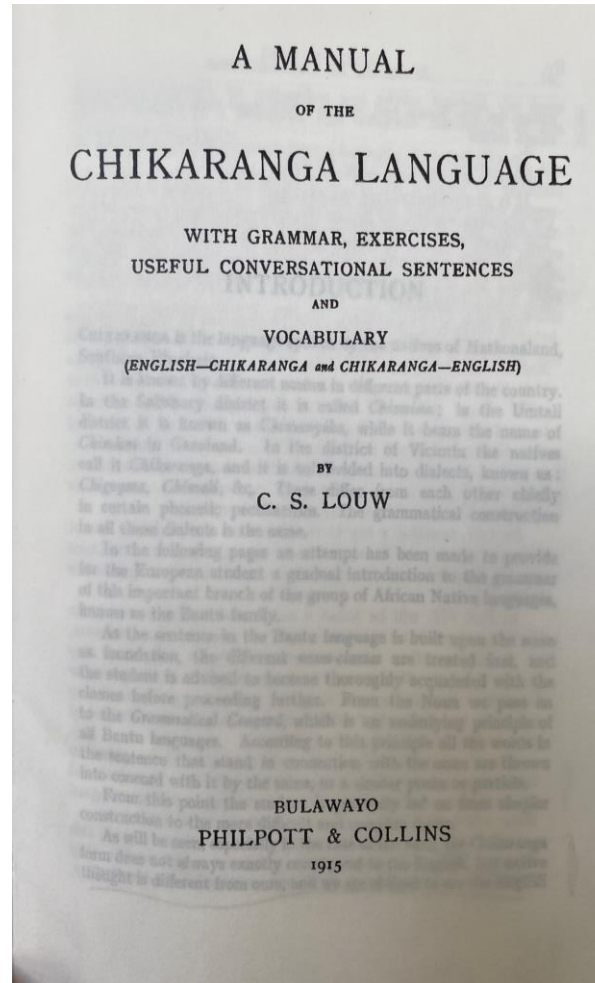
ANIMALS—continued.

Kangaroo (generic)	} <i>Yurinda (male)</i>
Kangaroo, Blue	<i>Warr'a (female)</i>
Kangaroo, Brush	<i>Koorra or Jora</i>
Kangaroo Rat...	<i>Walipa</i>
Kangaroo Rat,) Brush-tailed)	<i>Koo'gera</i>
Kangaroo, Red	<i>—</i>
Kangaroo, Rock	<i>Moorring</i>
Kangaroo, Sil-) ver Grey)	<i>—</i>
Kangaroo, young in	<i>Boolar'el dabulga,</i>



Women and missionary lexicography

- e.g. Cinie (Francina Susanna) Louw (1872–1935)
- Manual of Karanga, 1915

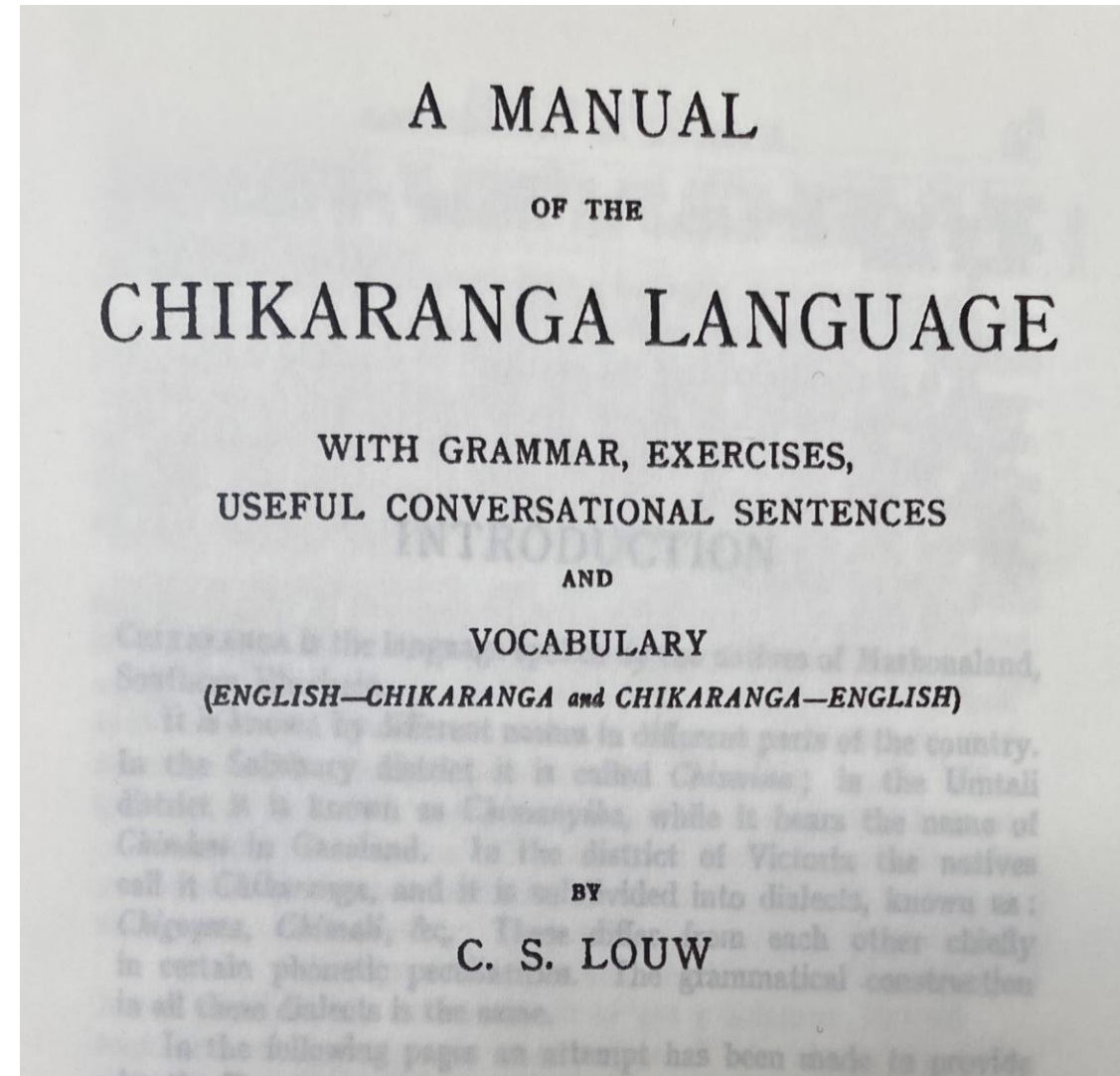


Cinie Louw with her husband A.A. Louw, the founders of a missionary station of the Dutch reformed church, in today's southern Zimbabwe



Louw's *Manual of the Chikaranga language with vocabulary* (1915)

- The English-to-Karanga vocabulary (pp. 149–291) is almost half as long again as the Karanga-to-English part (pp. 291–395). (Unusual in this?)

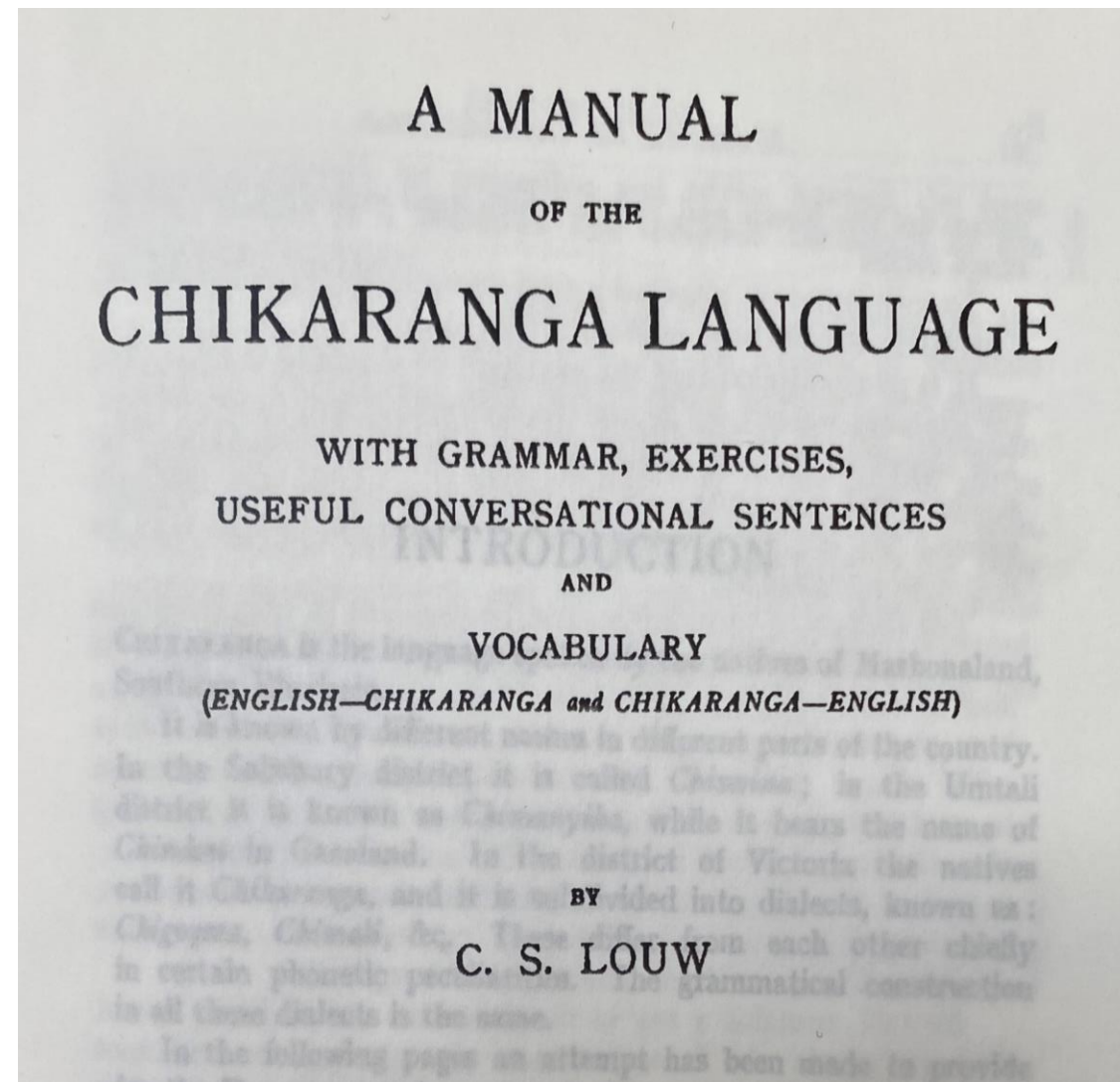




Louw's *Manual of the Chikaranga language with vocabulary* (1915)

“The Vocabulary of Part IV. does not claim to be either an exhaustive or correct dictionary. Such words have been collected as could be collected from the natives, and meanings assigned to them, which, it is hoped, will be found to be generally correct. [...]

I must also express my deep indebtedness to **my faithful native helper Timotheus**, who assisted me with untiring perseverance.”





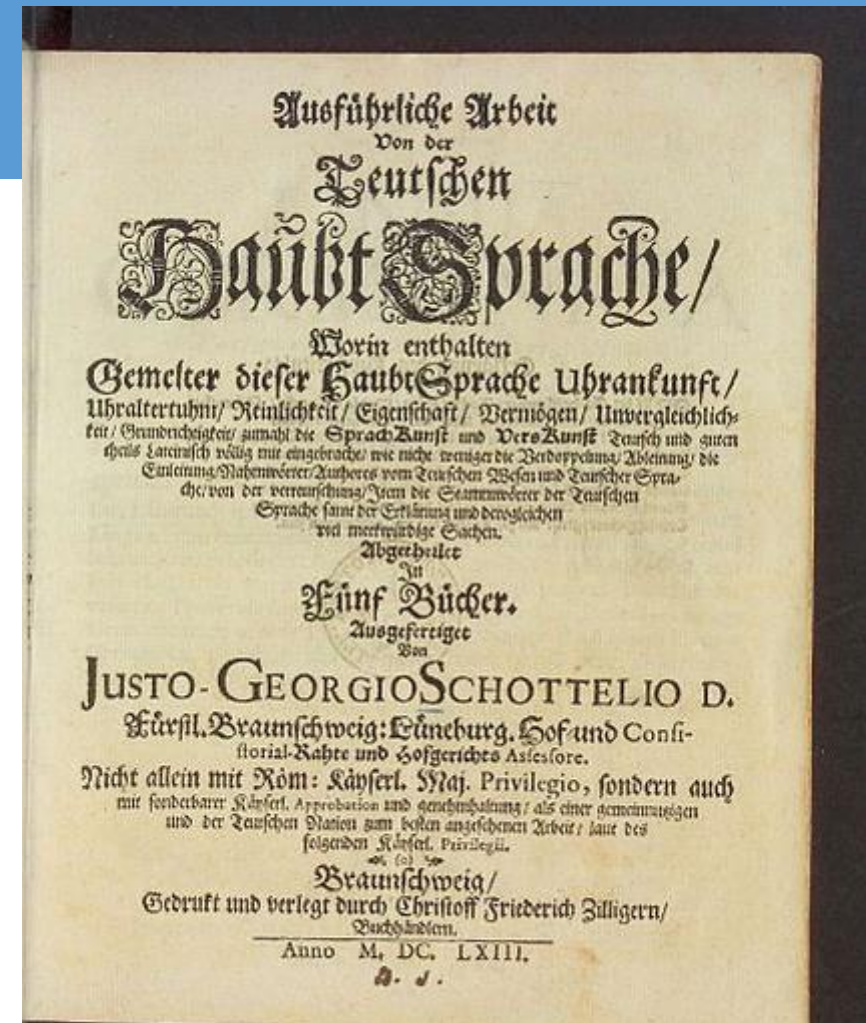
Louw's *Vocabulary* – some examples

- **adulterer, adulteress**, mupati; momb̄ge; nzenza; zengeya. **very bad** --- mushwerakwenda; mvemveti; mb̄gamati; ziveve.
- **woman**, *mukadzi*; *munukadri*. --- **who has borne children**, *mvana* --- **whose children all die**, *vumba*, *u ne pfuva* **lying-in** ---, *muzere*. **old** --- *muchemgere* ; or *chembere*. **a young married** --- , *murovora*.---, **a stranger who becomes the wife of a chief**, *moromoka*
- **aggravate**: ... 'aggravate illness by casting a shadow'
- **apportion**: ... 'apportion work in a garden'



3.1 Women as inspiration?

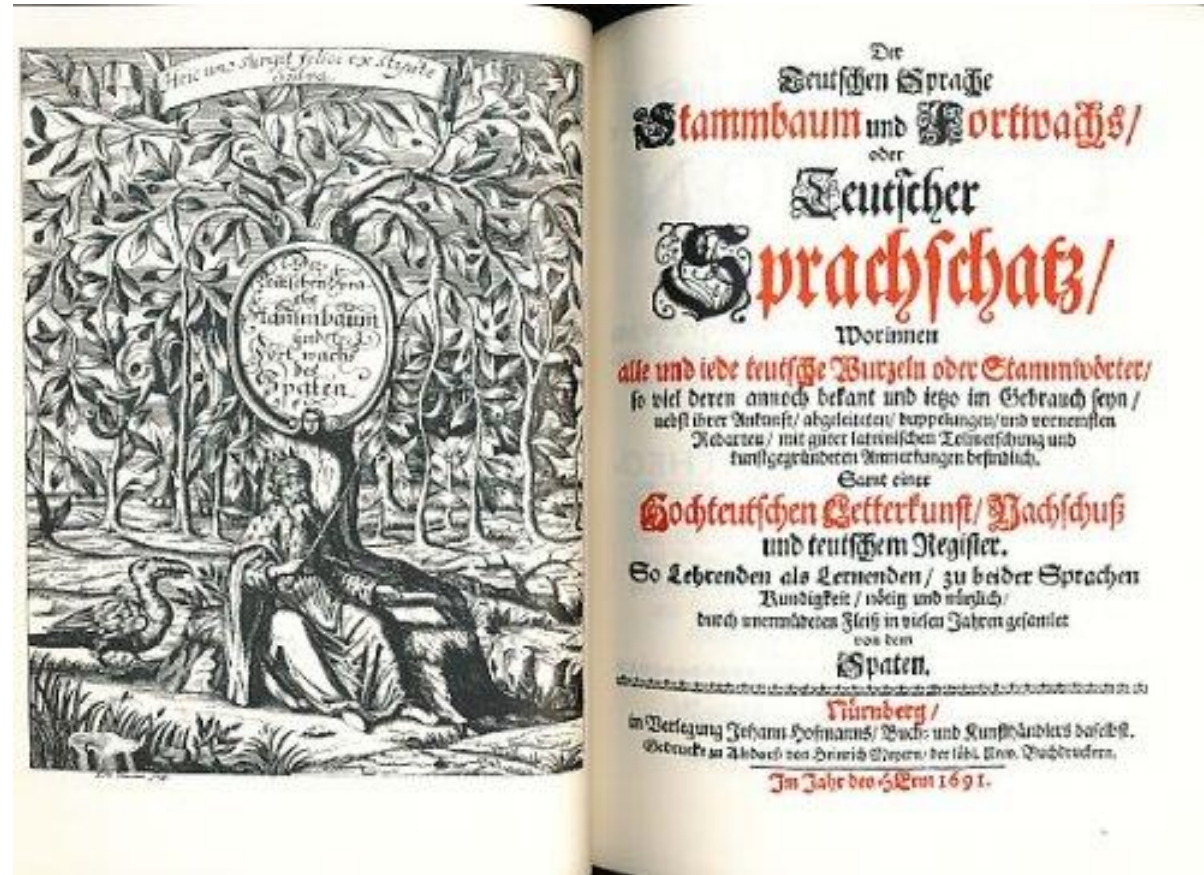
- Schottelius: major grammar of German, 1663
- Schottelius was tutor to his patron's children, including daughters
- Dedicated his poetics to their mother Elisabeth Sophie, poet and musician





3.2 Women as (hidden?) contributors?

- Caspar Stieler compiled the first complete dictionary of German, *Der teutschen Sprache Stammbaum und Fortwachs* (1691)
- married twice
- Invisible enablers?





Hechtenberg Collitz's *Verbs of Motion in their Semantic Divergence* (1931)

- contained alphabetical listings of verbs of motion in Greek, Latin, German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish with analysis of their figurative use with senses of 'propriety, fitness, suitability, or related meanings'
- e.g. German *bequemem*, *passen* (in senses of 'to fit, suit, attract'), with senses of 'propriety, fitness, suitability, or related meanings'
- 'Thus it has been shown that in Indo-European languages most verbs of motion can assume the sense of PROPRIETY (or IMPROPRIETY) [...] and that expressions regarding PROPRIETY etc. are, as a rule, derived from verbs of motion' (Collitz 1931: 107).
- noted as an instance of an 'older study' of the structure of verbs of motion in the work of the well-known psycholinguist William Levelt (Levelt et al. 1978: 138).



Klara Hechtenberg Collitz (c.1865–1944)

- Klara endowed a 'Hermann and Klara H. Collitz Professorship for Comparative Philology' to be awarded by the Linguistics Society of America
- Became known as the Hermann Collitz chair
- The name of the woman who actually endowed it was only restored in the 1990s





Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- Ludwig 1716 (the first bilingual German-to-English dictionary ever)

Hur oder Hure (die) a whore, wench, harlot, prostitute, strumpet, crack, cucquean, trull, cockatrice, doxy. [...]





Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- Ludwig 1716 (the first bilingual German-to-English dictionary ever)

Hur oder Hure (die) a whore, wench, harlot, prostitute, strumpet, crack, cucquean, trull, cockatrice, doxy. [...]

- Followed Ludwig's 1706 English-to-German dictionary
- Closely based on Boyer 1699/1700 French-English two-way dictionary
- Boyer (1699):

PUTAIN, S.F. (*Fille ou femme prostituée*) Whore, Wench, Harlot, Prostitute, Strumpet, Crack, Cockatrice, Doxy



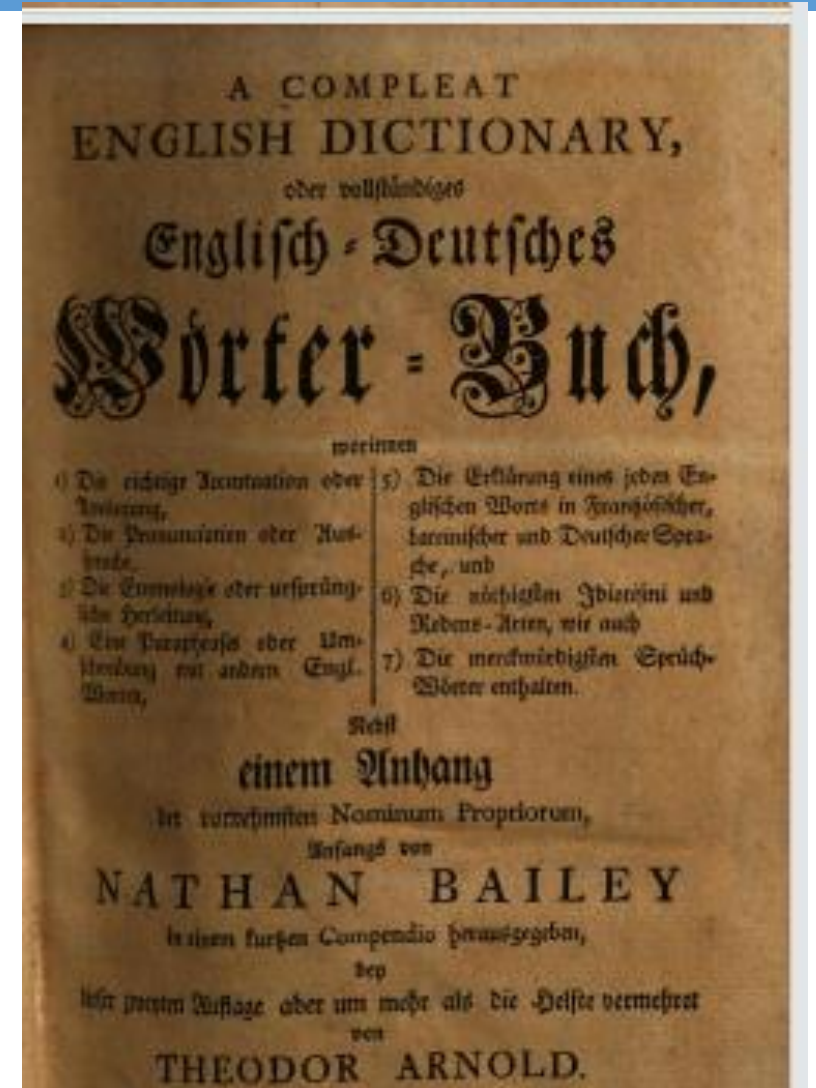


Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- **Arnold (1753) German-English dictionary**

Hure, a Whore, Wench, Harlot, Prostitute, Strumpet, Crack, Wench, Cucquean, Trull, Doxy, Cockatrice

- Virtually the same list at the end of the 18th century too
- But Ebers (1796-99) also adds three **euphemistic** terms *A woman of the Town, a Woman of Pleasure, a Courtezan*





Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- **Flügel (1741)**, a revised edition, criticized the earlier edition in which 'the forgotten obscenities of the 17th and 18th centuries have been raked together into one heap' (Flügel 1841, p. iii).
- The revised 1841 dictionary accordingly lists just four English equivalents for *Hure*:
whore, harlot, strumpet, prostitute.



Hure 'whore' in German/English dictionaries

- **Hilpert (1857)** aimed to give:
 - ‘the most modern and the most colloquial forms to its expressions, instead [...] of copying and handing down from lexicon to lexicon old terms and forms of speech’ (Hilpert 1857, p. xv)
- Hilpert (1857) gives the same four English equivalents for *Hure* as Flügel 1741 (*whore, harlot, strumpet, prostitute*),
- And two **euphemisms** in English: *a common woman, a woman of the town*)



Changing sensibility to usage of *Hure*?

- **Fahrenkrüger/Arnold (1797)** differentiates figurative usages for *Hure* to indicate that the term may be used, in an extended sense, of any woman caught in unchaste behaviour:

[...] *f[igurative]. eine geschwächte Person* defloured [sic] maid, lady; *f[iguartive]. jede weibliche Person, welche die Keuschheit oder eheliche Treue verletzt* lady -- woman of pleasure, one of the family of love

- **Hilpert (1857)** does the same (though gives the figurative sense for *Hure* first):

1) [in general] any woman who violates chastity [*eine gefallene*]. *Ein Mädchen zur --- machen*, to debauch or deflour [sic] a girl; *zur --- werden*, to become or be defloured or debauched; *sie hat ihre Tochter selbst zur --- gemacht*, she has prostituted her daughter herself.

2) [in a more limited sense] a woman who prostitutes her body for hire, a harlot, prostitute, a whore, a common woman, a woman of the town, a strumpet.



'woman' in German-English bilingual dictionaries

- **Adelung (1783/1793)** used Samuel Johnson (1755)'s English dictionary, which gives literary attestations of use.
- From Johnson's nine attestations for the word *woman* – from Shakespeare, the Bible, and other sources – Adelung gives two:
 - ‘Vivacity is the gift of women, gravity that of men’
 - ‘By her woman I sent your message’, Shakespeare

