Guide to the Webster’s Third New International Dictionary Clippings 1961-1964

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.WEBSTERS

Title Webster’s Third New International Dictionary. Clippings

Date 1961-1964

Size 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract This collection contains photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles that document the various reactions to the inclusion of slang and colloquialisms in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary of the English Language.

Acknowledgments

Information on Use

Access

No restrictions.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Webster’s Third New International Dictionary. Clippings, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The publication of Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (Springfield: G. and C. Merriam Co., 1961) provoked reactions both favorable and unfavorable to its unprecedented inclusion of slang and colloquial words.

Scope Note

This collection of xerox copies of newspaper and magazine articles documents the various reactions of different cultural arenas to the inclusions in this edition of Webster’s dictionary.

The clippings are arranged in groups that are basically chronological; each group bears the title used by Mr. McDavid.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:
Subject Headings

- Webster’s third new international dictionary of the English language.
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries.
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries -- History and criticism.
- Slang.

INVENTORY

Series I: Pre-publication, September 6-27, 1961

Box 1
Folder 1
News stories, signed
Box 1
Folder 2
News stories, unsigned
Box 1
Folder 3
Editorials, columns, etc., signed, without comment on "ain't"
Box 1
Folder 4
Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned, without comment on "ain't"
Box 1
Folder 5
Editorials, columns, etc., signed, with comment on "ain't"
Box 1
Folder 6
Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned, with comment on "ain't"

Series II: The First Reviews, September 28-October 11, 1961

Box 1
Folder 7
News stories, signed
Box 1
Folder 8
News stories, unsigned
Box 1
Folder 9
Editorials, columns, etc., signed
Box 1
Folder 10
Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned

Series III: The Journalistic Assault, October 12-November 30, 1961

Box 1
Folder 11  
News stories, signed

Box 1
Folder 12  
News stories, unsigned

Box 1
Folder 13  
Editorials, columns, etc., signed

Box 1
Folder 14  
Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned

Box 1
Folder 15  
Replies by Philip B. Gove, Editor-in-Chief of G. and C. Merriam Company

Series IV: The Silly Season, December 1961-February 1962

Box 1
Folder 16  
News stories, signed and unsigned

Box 1
Folder 17  
Editorials, columns, etc., signed

Box 1
Folder 18  
Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned

Box 2
Folder 1  
Comments upon Wilson Follet's attack published in the Atlantic Monthly, January 1962

Box 2
Folder 2  
Comments by James Parton of American Heritage Publishing Company

Box 2
Folder 3  
Comments by American Bar Association, The Library Journal, and comments on the dictionary's treatment of trademarks

Box 2
Folder 4  
Replies by Philip B. Gove (Editor-in-Chief) to journals and newspapers attacking the dictionary

Box 2
Folder 5  
Reviews on "finalize" and John F. Kennedy's use of the word

Box 2
Folder 6  
Reviews on "jew," "jap," "McCarthyism," and "nigger"
Series V: The Scholar’s Counter-Attack, March 1962-November 1963

Box 2
Folder 7
  News stories, signed
Box 2
Folder 8
  News stories, unsigned
Box 2
Folder 9
  Editorials, columns, etc., signed
Box 2
Folder 10
  Editorials, columns, etc., signed
Box 2
Folder 11
  Editorials, columns, etc., unsigned
Box 3
Folder 1
  Barnett, Lincoln
Box 3
Folder 2
  Barzun, Jacques
Box 3
Folder 3
  Evans, Bergen
Box 3
Folder 4
  Gove, Philip B.
Box 3
Folder 5
  MacDonald, Dwight
Box 3
Folder 6
  Parton, James
Box 3
Folder 7
  Pei, Mario
Box 3
Folder 8
  Reviews on technical terms
Box 3
Folder 9
  Reviews concerning trademarks
Box 3
Folder 10
Reviews on "jew," "negro," etc.

Series VI: The Continuing Controversy, December 1964

Box 3
Folder 11
Miscellaneous reviews, editorials, etc.

Series VII: Foreign Observers

Box 3
Folder 12
Miscellaneous reviews, mostly in English

Series VIII: Low-grade Material

Box 3
Folder 13
Miscellaneous reviews and comments on the dictionary, not relating to any specific aspect, including general comments on the uses of dictionaries.