





The Meaning of Everything: The Story of the Oxford English Dictionary (Paperback)

By Simon Winchester

Oxford University Press, USA, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 201 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. From the best-selling author of The Professor and the Madman, The Map That Changed the World, and Krakatoa comes a truly wonderful celebration of the English language and of its unrivaled treasure house, the Oxford English Dictionary. Writing with marvelous brio, Winchester first serves up a lightning history of the English language-- so vast, so sprawling, so wonderfully unwieldy -and pays homage to the great dictionary makers, from the irredeemably famous Samuel Johnson to the short, pale, smug and boastful schoolmaster from New Hartford, Noah Webster. He then turns his unmatched talent for story-telling to the making of this most venerable of dictionaries. In this fastpaced narrative, the reader will discover lively portraits of such key figures as the brilliant but tubercular first editor Herbert Coleridge (grandson of the poet), the colorful, boisterous Frederick Furnivall (who left the project in a shambles), and James Augustus Henry Murray, who spent a half-century bringing the project to fruition. Winchester lovingly describes the nuts-and-bolts of dictionary making--how unexpectedly tricky the dictionary entry for marzipan was, or how fraternity turned out so...



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