

unless and until the said copy of the memorandum is found.

As for the arms, they were eventually seized by the British after the outbreak of war between France and Britain, and Beaumarchais, although on a mission abroad for the French Government, was to be registered on the list of *émigrés*!

JOHN HAMPTON.

Leicester.

SOME WORDS FROM "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

IT is hardly to be expected, at this date, that *Pride and Prejudice* should provide other than comparatively trivial examples of words not in *O.E.D.* or of earlier date than hitherto recorded. A few such examples are however still to be found.

Cassandra Austen tells us that *First Impressions* was written between October, 1796, and August, 1797; it was offered for publication in November, 1797, but rejected. R. W. Chapman infers that *First Impressions* was substantially rewritten in 1812, and the novel we now know as *Pride and Prejudice* was published in January, 1813. It is not, therefore, safe to assume (as *O.E.D.* does for *Shoe-rose* under *Shoe*, sb., 6a) that words in the published edition may be attributed to the date of the original manuscript; but were this so, then *family circle*, III. xvi. 369 (280) [*O.E.D. Family*, sb. 11. 1809] and *self-gratulation*, I. xviii. 99 (229) [*O.E.D.* 1802] might be added.

The references are to R. W. Chapman's edition of *Pride and Prejudice* (1932 impression), and the page references in round brackets immediately following are those of the first (1813) edition.

Boulangier. [Not in *O.E.D.*] I. iii. 13 (24). The two third he danced with Miss King . . . and the two sixth with Lizzy, and the Boulangier.

breakfast-room. [*O.E.D. Breakfast*, sb. 3. 1837.] III. vii. 304 (133). Their father then went to the library to write, and the girls walked into the breakfast-room.

dress a salad. [This expression does not appear under *O.E.D. Dress*, v. 13a, though "dress (a soup, etc.)" is recorded from an earlier period.] II. xvi. 219 (188). These two girls had been . . . happily employed in . . . dressing a sallad and cucumber.

family party. [Not in *O.E.D.*] III. xviii.

384 (314). The comfort and elegance of their family party at Pemberley.

live with. [Not in *O.E.D.* in this sense. *Live together* meaning "to cohabit" (*O.E.D. Live*, v.¹ 12b) is dated 1891.] III. viii. 311 (147). She was more alive to the disgrace, which the want of new clothes must reflect on her daughter's nuptials, than to any sense of shame at her eloping and living with Wickham, a fortnight before they took place.

lottery tickets. [Not in *O.E.D.* in this sense; the first quot. for *Lottery*, a card-game (*O.E.D. Lottery* 4) is dated 1830.] I. xv. 74 (168). They would have a nice comfortable noisy game of lottery tickets.

overhearing. [*O.E.D. Overhear*, v. 4. 1883.] I. v. 19 (38). My overhearings were more to the purpose than yours.

out. [*O.E.D. Out*, adv. 26b. 1814; also from Jane Austen.] II. vi. 165 (72). Are any of your younger sisters out, Miss Bennet?

shop-boy. [*O.E.D. Shop*, sb. 9. 1834.] I. xv. 73 (166). Mr. Jones's shop boy . . . had told her that they were not to send any more draughts to Netherfield.

white soup. [Not in *O.E.D.*; the latest quot. for *white broth* (*White*, adj. 11e), which is marked as obs., is 1691. *White stock*, probably the modern equivalent, is not in *O.E.D.*] I. xi. 55 (123). As for the ball . . . as soon as Nicholls has made white soup enough I shall send round my cards.

MARGHANITA LASKI.

London, N.W.3.

"ASTRONAUTICS"

THE problem of the origin of the term *astronautics* (*astronaut*, *astronautical*) was raised by Mr. Woodford A. Heflin, Chief, Documentary Research Division, Research Studies Institute, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, U.S.A., when he visited the offices of the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement* recently. He had spent a considerable time trying to trace its history and the evidence he collected pointed to the conclusion that the term was coined by the French novelist J. H. Rosny the Elder¹ and that it was first used in a scientific context by the French aviator and inventor Robert Esnault-

¹ J. H. Rosny aîné (pseudonym for Joseph Henri Honoré Boëx-Borel), 1856-1940.

Pelterie in a paper² delivered before the general assembly of La Société Astronomique de France on 8 June, 1927, and published in Paris in 1928.

1928 R. ESNAULT-PELTERIE *L'Exploration par Fusées de la Très Haute Atmosphère et la Possibilité des Voyages Interplanétaires* 94. Il m'a paru désirable de provoquer un mouvement d'intérêt en faveur de cette locomotion future et j'ai d'abord voulu qu'elle reçoive un nom; M. J. H. Rosny Aîné a très heureusement inventé celui d' "Astronautique" que j'ai immédiatement adopté.

Esnault-Pelterie's statement attributing the invention of the word *astronautique* to Rosny is corroborated by various later testimonies, both French and English.

1929 *Bulletin Société Astronomique de France* XLII. 59. Cette science de l'avenir, l'*Astronautique*—ainsi l'a magnifiquement dénommée un de nos plus puissant écrivains, M. J.-H. Rosny aîné.

1937 *Journal British Interplanetary Society*. Dec., 21. The name "Astronautics" was born here [in France], its father being the well-known writer J. H. Rosny.

1945 W. Kaempffert, *Science Today and Tomorrow*, 2nd series, xi, 129. It was the novelist J.-H. Rosny, aîné, who coined the word "astronautics".

However none of these sources indicates where the novelist first used the word and, although an extensive search was made, it has not been possible to establish that the term occurs in any one of his novels.³

On the other hand, according to the following entry in the Bulletin of the Société Astronomique de France, M. Rosny was personally associated with Esnault-Pelterie and André Hirsch in founding the "Commission d'Astronautique"² in 1927.

1928 *Bulletin Société Astronomique de*

³In this paper Esnault-Pelterie announced the endowment of an annual prize for research work furthering the progress of astronomical science and the establishment of a "Commission d'Astronautique" which was to coordinate all the information relating to the problems involved.

²It has been suggested by L. V. Fabbriante, Ph.D., Columbia, who wrote his dissertation on Rosny aîné, that the most likely novel was *Les Navigateurs de l'Infini*, 1925, but the term was not found there.

France XLII. 59. "Commission d'Astronautique" . . . [footnote] (1) En plus des deux fondateurs du Prix . . . MM. Robert Esnault-Pelterie et André Hirsch et de M. J.-H. Rosny aîné, membre de l'Académie Goncourt, la "Commission d'Astronautique" comprend . . . [list of members follows].

It seems therefore at any rate possible that Rosny coined the term specifically for this project in his capacity as a founding member of the "Commission". This assumption is supported by Esnault-Pelterie's reference in his paper to his having *immediately* adopted the name (que j'ai immédiatement adopté) which suggests that the word was proposed and accepted on the spur of the moment and not taken from one of M. Rosny's existing works. Moreover, it may be thought improbable that such a learned body as the Société Astronomique de France, which sponsored the venture, or Esnault-Pelterie, would have wished to designate a project intended to inaugurate a new branch of science, by a name lifted from imaginative fiction. M. Rosny's novels in this field were works of pure fantasy.

No evidence for the existence of the term earlier than 1927 has so far come to light. In view of this, it is perhaps somewhat surprising that the first volume of *Larousse du XX^e Siècle*, which was published in 1928, contains an entry for *Astronautique*.

1928 *Larousse du XX^e Siècle* I. 405/2. *Astronautique*, n.f. Science de la locomotion dans les espaces intersidéraux.

If the term was in fact coined only in the early part of 1927, the compilers of *Larousse* were certainly quick off the mark in including it in a volume published in the following year.

In English the words *astronaut* and *astronautical* appear to have been first used in 1929.

1929 *Journal British Astronomical Society* June, 331. That first obstacle encountered by the would-be "Astronaut", viz., terrestrial gravitation. *Ibid.*, 332. Prof. Oberth . . . has just been awarded the £80 prize offered for the most successful solution of the "astronautical" question.

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County Hall, Trowbridge. The Wiltshire Record Office dates, in effect, from 1947; before that time the records suffered the usual vicissitudes. For some years they found a safe, if forbidding, home in eight cells of the gaol at Devizes; but the Prison Commissioners complained. The records of one county are very much like those of any other, but those of Wiltshire are notable for their remarkably complete series of Sessions bundles, for a fine set of Minute Books (including one, of Elizabethan date, which is probably the earliest of its kind), and for a rare seventeenth-century series of Pleas in the Sheriff's Court.

A third first appearance is that of the *Handbook to the Gloucester Municipal Charities*, published last year at 2s. 6d. and to be had from the Clerk to the Trustees at Westgate Chambers, Gloucester. This brochure falls into two parts, of unequal interest to the general reader, for the second half sets out the scheme under which the city's charities are now administered, and that is matter for the specialist only. But it is preceded by an admirable history of the charities, contributed by their Senior Trustee, Mr. T. Hannam-Clark, whose fame as antiquary, lecturer and broadcaster is more than local. The greater part of the charities consists of four ancient almshouses, one of which is dedicated to St. Kyneburgh (concerning whom the learned author remarks, with a certain demureness, that she is "probably the only inhabitant of Gloucester who has, as yet, been canonised").

JAMES E. MEDCALF.

WITH the publication of Number 4 of Volume VI, and Number 1 of Volume VII *The Scottish Genealogist* (the Quarterly Journal of the Scottish Genealogical Society) overtakes its arrears of publication. Both parts contain notes on recent grants of arms and matriculations in the Campbell family by Colin Campbell. These will interest not only heraldically minded members of this great clan, but also genealogists, since a determined effort is made to fit each recipient into his place in the pedigree, as far as this is possible. The earlier number also contains an analysis of all the proceedings of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, setting out information contained therein which is likely to concern heralds and

genealogists. This is followed by a short collection of addenda to an earlier article on the McNeils of Barra. In the later number is an address by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, dealing with the problem of disposing of heirlooms and of what to keep, what to sell, and how to record the latter first, under modern conditions.

MICHAEL MACLAGAN.

THE September *Notes & Queries* will contain a number of contributions on Shakespeare and other dramatists of his time.

MR. VERNON RANDALL, editor of *Notes & Queries* from 1907 to 1912, died on 13 May at the age of 91.

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The earliest printed evidence for *astronautics* available at present comes from the biographical article on Esnault-Pelterie in *The International Cyclopaedia of Aviation Biography*, 1931.

1931 *Robert Esnault-Pelterie* (Offprint from *Int. Cycl. Aviation Biog.*) 2/2. He has already had published two volumes dealing with his researches in astronautics. . . . This volume⁴ affords a most thorough groundwork upon which the future development of the science of "Astronautics" will doubtless depend.

In 1932 the American Interplanetary Society, established in 1930, renamed its journal *Astronautics*; issues up to April 1932 appeared as the *Bulletin of the American Interplanetary Society*. In the same year *astronautics* is used in the *Times Literary Supplement* with reference to the French "Commission d'Astronautique".

1932 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 16 June, 439/3. France has a Committee of Astronautics.

From 1932 onwards all three forms of the term occur with increasing frequency as interest in the practical possibility of rocket-propelled flights beyond the earth's atmosphere became widespread.

ELIZABETH BROMMER.

London.

⁴ R. Esnault-Pelterie, *L'Astronautique*, Paris, 1930.