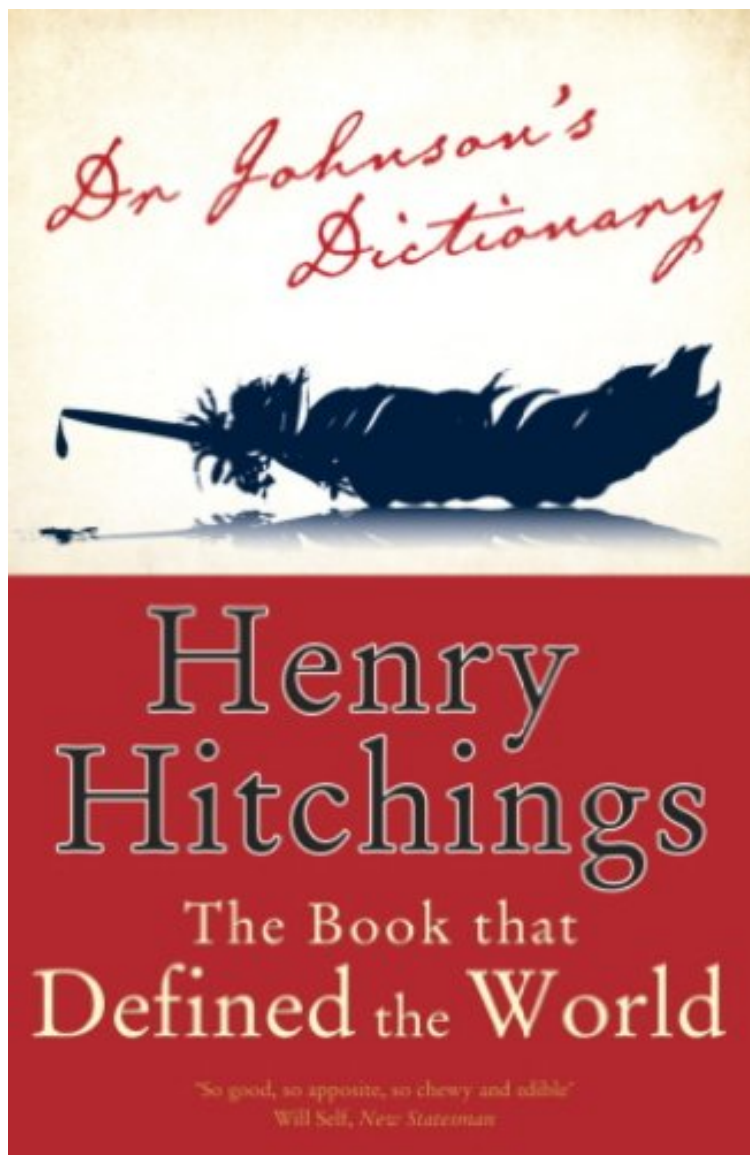


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Dr Johnson's Dictionary: The Book that Defined the World (English Edition)



Par Henry Hitchings
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Prsentation de l'diteurBy 1700, France and Italy already had dictionaries of their own, and it became a matter of national pride that England should rival them. Dr Johnson rose to the challenge, turning over the garret of his London home to the creation of his Dictionary. He imagined it would take three years. Eight years later it was finally published, full of idiosyncrasies, but complete nevertheless. It would become the most important British cultural monument of the eighteenth century. This is the story of Johnson's attempt to define each and every word. In wonderfully engaging chapters, Hitchings describes Johnson's adventure - his ambition and

vision, his moments of despair, the mistakes he made along the way and his ultimate triumph. Revue de presse Hitchings offers us a highly entertaining guided tour... anyone interested in dictionaries, Dr Johnson or the English language will surely spend many happy hours with this book (The Independent) Ingenious and fascinating (The Sunday Times) Excellent. (Daily Express) Immensely enjoyable, easily erudite (Scotland On Sunday) I can warmly recommend Henry Hitchings's book... affectionate in its portrayal of Johnson, the book itself is immensely likeable, written with serious intent and gentle good humour. (Spectator) Lively and entertaining (Observer) A pleasant stroll, with a genial guide, through Johnson's life (The Independent on Sunday) Clever, wittily-written and amusingly-arranged (The Guardian) A rich, lively and attractive book. (The Times Literary Supplement) Hitchings writes with Johnsonian clarity and verve ... This is a charming book (Evening Standard) 'A clever, sympathetic and witty sketch of both man and book.' (Waterstones Books Quarterly) 'A goldmine of pleasures... Hitchings has an infectious relish for words' - Phil Baker (Sunday Times) 'Full of elegance and nail-on-the-head wit' (Sunday Telegraph) 'Hitchings has produced an absorbing account of Johnson's Dictionary that is as likeable as it is learned' (Independent) 'Full of serendipitous felicities' (Times Higher Education Supplement) 'Hitchings excellent book is both a great potted guide to the dictionary and its creation, and a marvellous biography of Johnson... A must-have for devotees of the English Language' (Observer) 'Excellent... Hitchings's book is full of serendipitous felicities' (David Nokes, Times Higher Educational Supplement) 'In [Johnson's] description of "dull" he writes: "Not exhilarating; not delightful; as, to make dictionaries is dull work." Nobody could describe Hitchings's book as dull' (Colin Waters, Sunday Herald) 'This story is a pleasurable stroll through Johnson's life, and combines elements of biography with social history and an examination of Johnson's concerns, illustrated by examples from the great work itself.' (Irish Times) 'Memorable passages on a range of fascinating subjects.' (The Good Book Guide) 'An engaging profile of one of London's great characters' (Time Out, Tom Howard) 'Henry Hitchings (a fine 18th-century name that) is a remarkable young scholar of the age of Johnson, and his DR JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY, arranged alphabetically like the eponymous original whose 250th anniversary it celebrates, offers an entertaining window on this most fascinating character and his times' (BBC History Magazine) 'Entertaining study... The great strength of Hitchings's book is the compliment he pays to Johnson by so lavishly quoting from the Dictionary' (Sunday Telegraph) 'Hitchings has written a lively and appetite-whetting biography of the great book itself... one of the most fascinating and influential literary endeavours in the history of English literature' (Herald) 'Henry Hitchings' book on Samuel Johnson's mighty Dictionary is so good, so apposite, so chewy and edible, that I felt as if I were rereading it on my first pass' (Will Self, New Statesman) 'Hugely entertaining, it's a real treat for word lovers' (Sainsburys Magazine) 'The author is to be congratulated on narrating the drudgery of the dictionary's compilation so engagingly' (Evening Standard) 'The author has followed ably in the footsteps of his subject, producing a witty and learned book on a man whose work shaped, and continues to shape, the way we speak and think' (The Good Book Guide) 'An extraordinary read' (Venue) 'This is a delightful book about an extraordinary man. I suspect Dr Johnson himself would have approved... and there's no greater praise than that' (John Humphrys) 'A lively and appetite-whetting biography of the great book' (Herald) 'Henry Hitchings's book is lively, erudite and enriched with colourful anecdotes - a masterful account of one of the greatest literary triumphs of the eighteenth century' (Giles Milton) 'Engaging' (Literary) 'This is a delightful book about an extraordinary man. I suspect Dr Johnson himself would have approved . . . and there's no greater praise than that' (John Humphreys)

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