

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	7
<i>Foreword</i> by David Crystal	9
Serving a Life Sentence by Ralph Elliott	13
An Adjunct to Ourselves by Randolph Quirk	19
Partridge in a Word Tree by Anthony Burgess	26
Some Club Reminiscences by Winston Graham	31

Part I Word-Books

1	Adventure in Words from <i>Adventuring Among Words</i>	37
2	How it All Began from <i>The Gentle Art of Lexicography</i>	41
3	Genesis of a Lexicographer from <i>From Sanskrit to Brazil</i>	51
4	The Problem of Alphabetical Order from <i>The Gentle Art of Lexicography</i>	64
5	Some Aspects of Etymology from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	81

Part II Word-Levels

6	Slang from <i>Slang Today and Yesterday</i>	103
7	Slang and Standard English from <i>Here, There and Everywhere</i>	114
8	The Language of the Underworld from <i>Here, There and Everywhere</i>	120
9	Clichés from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	131
10	Euphemism and Euphemisms from <i>Words, Words, Words!</i>	141
11	What's in a Catch Phrase? from <i>Greetings Card, Christmas 1971</i>	150
12	Business English and its Confederates from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	154
13	The Shaggy Dog: A True Story from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	162

Part III Words

14	The Real McCoy and the Real Mackay from <i>From Sanskrit to Brazil</i>	169
15	The Etymology of Medicine from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	177
16	Quacks and Quackery from <i>Literary Sessions</i>	182
17	Whence <i>Hogmanay</i> ? from <i>A Charm of Words</i>	186
18	Familiar Terms of Address from <i>Words, Words, Words!</i>	191
19	Naming Influences and Fashions from <i>Name This Child</i>	196
20	Vignettes from <i>From Sanskrit to Brazil</i>	200

Part IV Dictionaries

	Abbreviations	207
21	from <i>Usage and Abusage</i>	210
22	from <i>Name into Word</i>	212
23	from <i>A Dictionary of the Underworld</i>	214
24	From <i>A Dictionary of Clichés</i>	216
25	from <i>Origins</i>	218
26	from <i>Shakespeare's Bawdy</i>	220
27	from <i>A Dictionary of Forces' Slang, 1939-45</i>	222
28	from <i>A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i>	224
29	from <i>A Dictionary of Catch Phrases</i>	226
30	from <i>Name This Child</i>	228
	<i>Envoi</i> A Short Story from <i>The First Three Years</i>	233
	<i>A Partridge Bibliography</i>	239
	<i>Name and Subject Index</i>	247
	<i>Word Index</i>	250