

Partridge, Eric. The new Partridge dictionary of slang and unconventional English, ed. by Tom Dalzell and Terry Victor. Routledge, 2006. 2v bibl ISBN 0415212588, \$175.00

In this new edition of Partridge's classic slang dictionary, first published in 1937, the editors have succeeded in remaining true to the Partridge tradition, observing high standards of lexicography while producing an accessible work. This two-volume set is comprehensive in its presentation of 65,000 slang words from the last 60 years -- the period after World War II, a time of massive cultural changes that influenced and reshaped language. Entries are alphabetically organized, including author and source when known. In addition to being "unconventional," entries must "impart a message beyond the text and literal meaning." Selected terms are representative of the English-speaking world; Pidgin, Creolized English, and borrowed foreign terms also appear, as well as colloquialisms, acronyms, initialisms, vulgarisms, and catchphrases. Offensive words and those considered slurs are available, but nicknames have been minimized and geographic areas broadened. Numeric slang and a bibliography conclude volume 2. Maintaining the integrity of the former editions and adding new words representative of the 20th and 21st centuries, this dictionary will be useful to a wide range of readers.
Summing Up: Recommended. All levels.