



Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary

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Editorial Review

About the Author

The Merriam brothers desired a continuity of editorship that would link Noah Webster's efforts with their own editions, so they selected Chauncey A. Goodrich, Webster's son-in-law and literary heir, who had been trained in lexicography by Webster himself, to be their editor in chief. Webster's son William also served as an editor of that first Merriam-Webster dictionary, which was published on September 24, 1847.

Although Webster's work was honored, his big dictionaries had never sold well. The 1828 edition was priced at a whopping \$20; in 13 years its 2,500 copies had not sold out. Similarly, the 1841 edition, only slightly more affordable at \$15, moved slowly. Assuming that a lower price would increase sales, the Merriams introduced the 1847 edition at \$6, and although Webster's heirs initially questioned this move, extraordinary sales that brought them \$250,000 in royalties over the ensuing 25 years convinced them that the Merriams' decision had been abundantly sound.

The first Merriam-Webster dictionary was greeted with wide acclaim. President James K. Polk, General Zachary Taylor (hero of the Mexican War and later president himself), 31 U.S. senators, and other prominent people hailed it unreservedly. In 1850 its acceptance as a resource for students began when Massachusetts ordered a copy for every school and New York placed a similar order for 10,000 copies to be used in schools throughout the state. Eventually school use would spread throughout the country. In becoming America's most trusted authority on the English language, Merriam-Webster dictionaries had taken on a role of public responsibility demanded of few other publishing companies.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Stover:

Here thing why that Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary are different and reliable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no guide that similar with Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your way home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary in e-book can be your option.

William Medellin:

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Melvin Bragg:

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Cindy Mattis:

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