



Gallimaufry: A Hodgepodge of Our Vanishing Vocabulary

Michael Quinion

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When did you last hear someone refer to the *wireless*? Do you know the origin of the expression *tin-horn gambler*? Language is always changing, and in *Gallimaufry*, Michael Quinion has gathered together hundreds of fascinating examples of words and meanings which have vanished from our language. Sometimes a word is lost when the thing it describes becomes obsolete, sometimes it survives in a figurative sense while the original meaning is lost, and sometimes it simply gives way to a more popular alternative. We discover that *scuttlebutt* was the name of a water cask on a ship, around which sailors might gossip. The popular hat *Fedora* got its name from a character in a French play (Fedora Romanov, played by Sarah Bernhardt). With over a thousand curious words grouped under such headings as Food and Drink, Health and Medicine, and Entertainment and Leisure, and an index of featured words, this book is perfect for anyone intrigued with the history of the English language.

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