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A Booty of Words: A Dictionary Devoted to the Linguistic Treasure Contributed to the English Language by the Pirate William Dampier

By William Dampier, C J Cooney

Forward-Thinking Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.IN THE LATE seventeenth century, William Dampier and his fellow pirates sacked, burned, robbed and ransomed Spanish towns up and down the coasts of Central and South America. Dampier was never any good at this. As pirate or privateer captain, he never captured any treasure of note. However, he did bring home a treasury of useful knowledge in natural history, economics and political economy, hydrography, anthropology, zoology, ethnography, botany, geography, navigation, literature, and language. Of all this, Dampier's booty of words is the most significant. Today, we commonly use words introduced to the English language by the pirate Dampier. Words like banana, barbeque, castaway, sea-breeze, and subspecies. He was among the first handful of writers to use words like intelligence (information useful for achieving strategic goals), free trade (trade between sovereign peoples without interference or coercion from government), and maroon (to be lost somewhere). In all, he helped introduce around a thousand new English words and helped popularize many more. This book examines in-depth over one-hundred of Dampier's most important and interesting words. This dictionary...



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