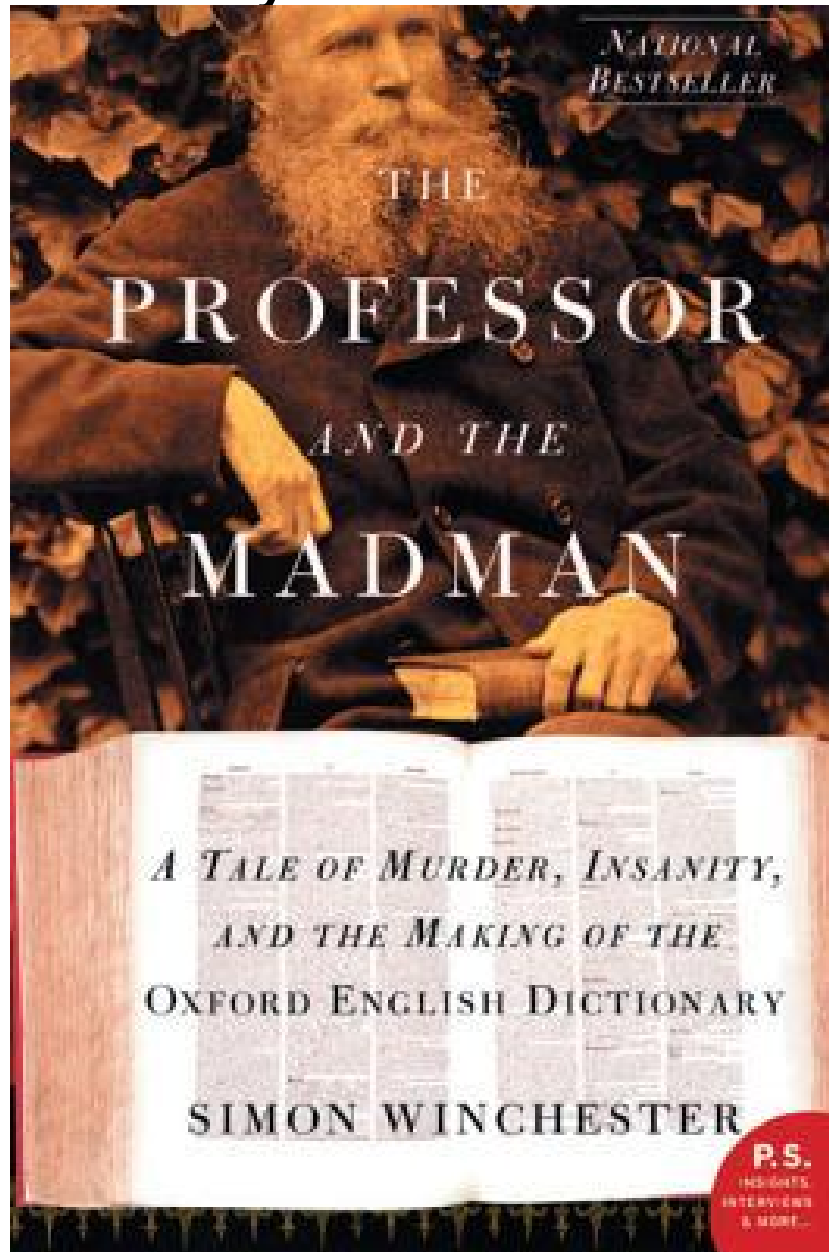


# The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Book PDF Download



**By:**  
**Simon Winchester**

# DOWNLOAD THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN: A TALE OF MURDER, INSANITY AND THE MAKING OF THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY BOOK PDF - BY: SIMON WINCHESTER

[Download: The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Book PDF Full Version](#)

## **The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Book PDF Summary -**

Are you looking for Ebook The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester? You will be glad to know that "The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary" Book PDF is available on our online library. With our online resources, you can find Applied Numerical Methods, All Books by **Simon Winchester** or just about any type of ebooks, for any type of product.

We suggest you to search our broad selection of eBook in which distribute from numerous subject as well as topics accessible. If you are a college student, you can find huge number of textbook, paper, report, etc. Intended for product end-users, you may surf for a whole product manual as well as handbook and download them for free.

Our library is the biggest of these that have literally hundreds of thousands of different products represented. You will also see that there are specific sites catered to different product types or categories, such as

[Download: The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Book PDF Full Version](#)

Read Now and Download The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Book at Our Online Library. Get The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary PDF

Book For FREE From Our Library

**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE TO READ BOOKS LISTED BELOW:**

## What people Say:

### Stephen

As a completely fledged

and an ever-striving-to-be

, I was all

with anticipation to bury my face in this purported history of the

(OED). Alas, despite being well-written and thoroughly researched, Iâ€™m having to

a bit to give this a full 3 stars.

My primary

problem with the bookâ€™s arrangement was the dearth of page time given to what I see as the most fascinating aspect of the storyâ€”the actual nuts and bolts

As a completely fledged

and an ever-striving-to-be

### Jeffrey Keeten

I was driving into work the other day thinking about Herbert Coleridge and realized that I might possibly be the only person on the planet driving to work thinking about Her

I was driving into work the other day thinking about Herbert Coleridge and realized that I might possibly be the only person on the planet driving to work thinking about Herbie. Of course, there are such a vast number of people on this planet that chances are someone was thinking about him. Perhaps some Coleridge scholar working on a dissertation on Herbertâ€™s famous grandfather, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, or maybe someone thinking about the beginnings of the Oxford English

Dictionary. Herbert Coleridge was technically the first editor of the OED and would have done a fine job, I'm sure, if he hadn't caught a chill and died tragically young at thirty years of age.

The reason I was thinking about him is because Simon Winchester mentioned him, and my quick research, before leaving for work, had been unsatisfactory in discovering how exactly he was descended from Samuel. He was not the son of one of Samuel's sons so that only left the daughter Sara. Of course, my first thought was that she must have had him out of wedlock. I must formally apologize to Mrs. Sara Coleridge for thinking such scandalous thoughts. As it turns out, she married her first cousin Henry Nelson Coleridge. Herbert was very much a legitimate child.

Though the idea of creating a complete dictionary of the English language was proposed in 1857. It was not until 1884 that parts of it were ready for publication. It floundered for decades under the weight of its own expectations. It wasn't until the 1870s, when James Murray was asked to helm the project, that the possibility of achieving such a feat became a real possibility.

Murray was a precocious talent, a true scholar who was, for the most part, self-educated.

We are living in an age of specialized knowledge, and too many people only read books or magazine articles that contribute to their specialized knowledge. Knowing something for the sake of knowing it has become such an outdated concept as to be considered odd behavior.

Murray knew that this project was too large for the academic community to shoulder alone. He placed advertisements asking for help from the whole country. He needed readers who would notate words and the sentence they were used in. The system Murray developed to handle this influx of information is ingenious, and like most clever systems simple by design. One of the people who answered his call for help was an American surgeon named Doctor William Chester Minor.

He became one of the largest, most consistent contributors to the OED. He had a lot of time on his hands given the fact that he was

## Sean Gibson

People tend to juxtapose the idea of reading the dictionary with other activities as a means of underscoring how incredibly uninteresting and undesirable those other activities are. For example: "I have to interact with Sean today. UGH. I'd much rather read the dictionary."

This is an effective comparison for good reason. Look, I love words as much as the next guy, but even I find reading the dictionary only slightly more fun than reading the phone book ("What's a phone book?" ask all the millenni

People tend to juxtapose the idea of reading the dictionary with other activities as a means of underscoring how incredibly uninteresting and undesirable those other activities are. For example: "I have to interact with Sean today. I'd much rather read the dictionary."

This is an effective comparison for good reason. Look, I love words as much as the next guy, but even I find reading the dictionary only slightly more fun than reading the phone book (What's a phone book? ask all the millennials simultaneously, scratching their virtual heads).

Consequently, it may come as a shock to hear that reading ABOUT a dictionary is quite delightful. Winchester's chronicle of the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary—or, at least, the bizarre story of Dr. William Chester Minor's contribution to it—is a fascinating story of perseverance, mental illness, and logophilia (which is not, I assure you, a strange proclivity for fornicating with corporate logos). Say what you will about the OED (primary critiques might focus on its overwhelmingly white maleness), it's an epic achievement in the history of language, and the fact that a not insignificant portion of its content was contributed by a mentally unstable American murderer who thought that mysterious beings snuck into his room at night to violate him and return him into a pimp is one of the more delightful intriguing footnotes you'll come across.

In short, when Professor James Murray, the man tasked with being the architect of the OED, sent out a call for volunteers to assist the editors in compiling examples of how words were used to help contextualize definitions, it was Minor, already an inmate at an asylum after it was determined he was not mentally fit to be jailed for his crime, who stood first (or, at least, among the first rank) among equals when it came to contributing. A brilliant man with nothing but time (and blood, one might argue) on his hands, Minor diligently scoured pages and pages of texts from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries to find the supporting references that are the OED's hallmark. That he produced such a prodigious and precise body of work while battling his own inner demons is a testament to his impressive mental faculties.

To illustrate just how powerful those demons were, consider, for a moment—an exceedingly painful moment—that, at one point, in a desperate attempt to reconcile a burgeoning religiosity with past sexual indiscretions and ongoing sex-fueled delusions, Minor, a doctor by trade, used a penknife to CUT OFF HIS OWN PENIS. Now, look—we all have days (those of us with penises (penii?), I mean) where we're frustrated with the little guy. I, for example, get agitated when I accidentally mix mine up with the garden hose when doing yard work (which happens more frequently than you'd think on account of similarities in length, girth, and greenness). But, still—the idea of it being severed, let alone severing it myself sans anesthesia and using a turn-of-the-century penknife—well, let's just say that I'd rather read the dictionary.

This is by turns fascinating, grotesque, tragic, and informative—recommended for those who like their historical monographs esoteric and bizarre.

## Will Byrnes

Professor James Murray was one of the primary editors of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). Dr Chester Minor, was one of the primary contributors to the massive project. But Murray did not know that Minor was an inmate in an insane asylum.

- image from Andersons Bookshop

The book tells their separate stories, how Murray rose to the prominence necessary to land this major position, how Minor emerged from a troubled, if well-to-do youth to commit a heinous and addled murder in L

Professor James Murray was one of the primary editors of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). Dr Chester Minor, was one of the primary contributors to the massive project. But Murray did not know that Minor was an inmate in an insane asylum.

- image from Andersons Bookshop

The book tells their separate stories, how Murray rose to the prominence necessary to land this major position, how Minor emerged from a troubled, if well-to-do youth to commit a heinous and addled murder in London, and then to be institutionalized for the rest of his life. The book gives a vivid picture of the times (mid to late 19th century). Winchester has a gift for bringing history to life, and surprising us.

Published - September 28, 1008

Review - April 28, 2017

=====

Links to the author's

## Jason Koivu

A man goes insane, shoots another man to death and then helps write one of the first complete dictionaries. What an odd way to enter the academic world!

And believe it or not, those aren't even spoilers! Simon Winchester gives us all that right in the title

of his surprisingly riveting read

.

The idea of reading a book on the creation of a dictionary only sounded mildly interesting. In the hands

A man goes insane, shoots another man to death and then helps write one of the first complete dictionaries. What an odd way to enter the academic world!

And believe it or not, those aren't even spoilers! Simon Winchester gives us all that right in the title of his surprisingly riveting read

.

The idea of reading a book on the creation of a dictionary only sounded mildly interesting. In the hands of the wrong writer that book might not have entertained me from start to finish the way Winchester did. Granted the story has its intriguing oddities and the occasional shocking moment, but it's Winchester's ability to dramatize this hundreds-of-years-old story that makes it seem as vivid and catchy as the headlines of the morning newspaper. He is a writer who brings legend to life.

As exciting as I find it, this is a book about making a dictionary and that won't enthrall all readers. It gets an extra nudge up in the star department from me, because this is a book about words and I like words. If you're still reading this, I suspect you do too.