

# Database of Latin Dictionaries: *Defining & Translating Dictionaries*

## General dictionaries covering Antiquity

In the conception of the *DLD*, Antiquity (i.e. Classical Antiquity) is considered as the period from the beginning of Latin literature (third century BC) until, roughly, the second century AD. So the dictionaries at hand are the ones pertaining to so-called 'Classical' texts and to inscriptions dating from this time, that is to say: Forcellini's *Lexicon* and *Onomasticon*, and the dictionary of Lewis & Short. One should note, however, that these three dictionaries also take into account certain authors from the Patristic period, for example Augustine and Isidore of Seville.

Forcellini, E., Furlanetto, G., Corradini, Fr., & Perin, J. (1940).

***Lexicon Totius Latinitatis.***

Patavii: Typis seminarii.

The *DLD* presents a fully-searchable version of Forcellini's *Lexicon* in its entirety. The edition used is the latest, which includes the numerous *addenda* of Mgr. Perin, which were first published in 1940. Besides its immense historical importance, this *Lexicon* remains essential for everything which has not yet appeared in the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* (the letters N, P, R [beginning], Q, and S to Z). The importance of Forcellini also lies in his bibliographical notes and his numerous multilingual translations (into French, German, English, Spanish and Italian).

Forcellini, E., & Perin, J. (1940).

***Lexicon Totius Latinitatis. Onomasticon.***

Patavii: Typis seminarii.

The integration of the *Onomasticon* into the *DLD* is of marked importance, the more so because the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* for proper names has only been published for the letters A to D and because there are currently no plans to continue the publication of the *Onomasticon*.

Gaffiot, F. (1934).

***Dictionnaire illustré latin-français.***

Paris: Hachette.

Commissioned by the publisher Hachette to create a new Latin-French dictionary, Félix Gaffiot finished this seminal work in 1934. The monumental dictionary, containing over 1,700 pages, quickly superseded Quicherat and Daveluy's *Dictionnaire latin-français*, which had dominated the French-speaking world since 1844. Up to this day, Gaffiot's *opus magnum* remains the standard Latin dictionary for French-language scholars and students alike.

Lewis, Ch. T., & Short, Ch. (1879).

***A Latin Dictionary.***

Oxford: Clarendon Press.

First published in 1879, Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short's *Latin Dictionary* (often abbreviated to L&S) quickly became, and remains, one of the main reference dictionaries in English-language classical scholarship. It was derived from the 1850 English translation by Ethan Allen Andrews of the Latin-German *Wörterbuch der Lateinischen Sprache* by Wilhelm Freund, which was based in its turn on I. J. G. Scheller's 1783 Latin-German dictionary.

## General dictionaries covering the Patristic period

The Patristic period (i.e. Late Antiquity) runs from the second century until 735 AD (death of the Venerable Bede). The *DLD* here provides the two reference dictionaries: the *Dictionnaire latin des auteurs chrétiens* by A. Blaise ('Patristic Blaise'), and the *Glossary of Later Latin* by A. Souter.

Blaise, A. (1967).

***Dictionnaire latin-français des auteurs chrétiens.***

Turnhout: Brepols.

This dictionary, which is the only scholarly tool dedicated to the era of the Latin Church Fathers as a whole, covers the period from the earliest Christian writings (the time of Tertullian and the *Passio Perpetuae*) to the dawn of the Carolingian Renaissance. It comprises classical words used by the Fathers in new senses as well as new lexical creations. The electronic version includes a harmonisation of the references to works cited, an indication of the century of composition of these works, and later corrections (*addenda et delenda*).

Souter, A. (1957).

***A Glossary of Later Latin to 600 A.D.***

Oxford: Clarendon Press.

A Latin-English dictionary of late Latin, covering the period from the end of the second century to the beginning of the seventh, and originally conceived as a supplement to the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, the latter not including Christian texts or going beyond the earliest centuries.

## General dictionaries covering the Middle Ages and later periods

All the dictionaries belonging to this section concern Medieval Latin, but three of them, the *Glossarium* of Du Cange, A. Blaise's *Lexicon latinitatis medii aevi* ('Medieval Blaise') and the *Glossarium* of Bartal Antal, extend their chronological limits to the Modern Period.

Blaise, A. (1975).

***Lexicon latinitatis medii aevi.***

Turnholti: Brepols.

Continuing his work on lexicography after completing his dictionary for the Latin of the Church Fathers, in 1975 Albert Blaise published the *Lexicon latinitatis medii aevi*. Intending to counter the absence of lexical tools for scholastic literature, the author included attestations from beyond the traditional upper limit of the Middle Ages and even included some modern Latin terms, for instance those used during the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

Du Cange, Ch. et al. (1883-1887).

***Glossarium mediae et infimae latinitatis.***

Niort: L. Favre.

In 1678, Charles du Fresne, sieur du Cange, published the first edition of his *Glossarium ad scriptores mediae et infimae Latinitatis*. Through multiple reeditions and revisions, this glossary of medieval and late Latin writers has become and remains up to this day a staple resource for researchers of the European Middle Ages. For the *DLD*, the 1883-1887 edition by Léopold Favre was selected, as it also includes *addenda* by the Maurists, Dom Carpentier and other scholars.

## Regional dictionaries covering the Middle Ages and later periods

In this section a distinction must be made between general dictionaries on the one hand, and national/regional ones on the other. ‘General’ dictionaries are those, such the Du Cange and the Medieval Blaise, that do not focus on a particular geographical area, while the term ‘national’ or ‘regional’ applies to works that do exactly this. This distinction is motivated by the fact that during the Middle Ages, Latin was differentiating more and more from one country or even region to another, due to the influence of vernacular languages and local realities. In its current state, the *DLD* contains dictionaries covering five countries or regions:

- Great Britain, with the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources*;
- Hungary, with the *Glossarium mediae et infimae Latinitatis regni Hungariae* by A. Bartal;
- Italy, with the *Latinitatis Italicae medii aevi Lexicon* by Fr. Arnaldi (et alii);
- Czechia, with the *Latinitatis medii aevi Lexicon Bohemorum* by L. Varcl (et alii);
- the Kingdom of León, with the *Lexicon Latinitatis Medii Aevi Regni Legionis* of M. Pérez González.

Arnaldi, Fr. & Smiragli, P. (2001).

***Latinitatis italicae medii aevi lexicon (saec. V ex.-saec. XII in.).***

Firenze: SISMEL.

This lexicon is devoted to the vocabulary of Latin texts from Italy, from the end of the fifth to the beginning of the eleventh century. In a single volume, this work gathers the three tomes of the *Latinitatis Italicae Medii Aevi Lexicon imperfectum*, issued respectively in 1939, 1951-1953, 1957-1964, as well as the twelve addenda published in the *Archivum Latinitatis Medii Aevi* (ALMA), from 1965 to 1997. The *Lexicon* is continuously developing, and therefore, since the edition of 2001, several supplements have appeared in the ALMA. Eleven of those – from 2002 to 2013 – are now available in the *DLD*, and the forthcoming publications will be integrated on a regular basis.

Bartal, A. (1901).

***Glossarium mediae et infimae Latinitatis regni Hungariae.***

Lipsiae: Teubner.

The *Glossarium mediae et infimae latinitatis Regni Hungariae*, commissioned from Antonius Bartal in 1894 by the Hungarian Academy of Letters, was published in 1901 and contains close to 37,000 entries. It was designed as a Hungarian supplement to the Du Cange dictionary, to which it often explicitly refers, and it focuses primarily on a vocabulary of *realia* from a variety of domains. It systematically provides Latin definitions alongside Hungarian translations, and often gives German translations as well. Its sources are mainly historical, but also ecclesiastical, legal, administrative, and diplomatic.

Latham, E., Howlett, D. R. & Ashdowne, R. K. (1975-2013).

***The Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources.***

London: British Academy.

The *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources*, published by the British Academy, is the most extensive dictionary of Medieval Latin ever produced and the first to have been devoted to British medieval Latin. Covering a particularly long period, stretching from Gildas (fl. 540) to William Camden (1600), it is entirely based on original research, that is to say, on a meticulous reading of thousands of medieval Latin texts, both literary and documentary, carried out specifically for the purpose of identifying their lexical particularities, whenever possible on the basis of the best available sources, whether original manuscripts or modern critical editions. It is also based on systematic searches in electronic databases, including Brepolis' *Library of Latin Texts*.

Pérez González, M., & Pérez Rodríguez, E. (2010).

***Lexicon Latinitatis Medii Aevi Regni Legionis (s. VIII-1230) imperfectum.***

Turnhout: Brepols.

Published in 2010, this Latin-Spanish lexicon, or more precisely Latin-Romance-Spanish lexicon, studies the vocabulary of historiographical and diplomatic texts written in the Kingdom of León – with the exception of Galicia – between the eighth century and 1230, the date of the definitive unification of the Kingdoms of León and Castile.

Silagiová, Z. et al. (2018-2021, 2nd edn.).

***Latinitatis medii aevi Lexicon Bohemorum. A-M.***

Prague: Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences.

The *Latinitatis medii aevi Lexicon Bohemorum* (LB) is a dictionary dedicated to Medieval Latin as it was used in the 'Czech lands' (Bohemia, Moravia, and Czech Silesia). Begun in 1934 under the supervision of prof. Bohumil Ryba and further developed by the Department of Medieval Lexicography at the Czech Academy of Sciences, the lexicon is based on written material dating from about 1000 AD to 1500 AD. The first fascicle appeared in 1977 and work continues up to this day. At this moment, three volumes (i.e. half the envisaged length of the dictionary) have been published: I (A-C), II (D-H), III (I-M); fascicle 24 (N) is in preparation. The *DLD* contains a digitized version of fascicles 1-14 (*a – hytonicus*).