

Plan and Preface to a Dictionary of English

Samuel Johnson

LibriVox

Plan and Preface to a Dictionary of English By Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

The published dictionary was a huge book: with pages nearly 1½ feet tall and 20 inches wide, it contained 42,773 words; it also sold for the huge price of £4/10s. (\$400?). It would be years before “Johnson’s Dictionary,” as it came to be known, would ever turn a profit; authors’ royalties being unknown at that time, Johnson, once his contract to deliver the book was fulfilled, received no further monies connected to the book.

Johnson, once again a freelance writer, albeit now a famous one, faced a grim hand-to-mouth existence; however, in July 1762, the twenty-four year old King George III granted Johnson an annual pension of £300. While not making Johnson rich, it allowed him a modest yet comfortable independence for the remaining thirty years of his life.

Read by Denny Sayers. Total Running Time: 02:22:26.

This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org.

Cover picture by *David Singleton (2005)*. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:So_many_words.jpg. Author picture by *Evert A. Duycknick (1873)*. Copyright expired in US, Canada, EU, and all countries with author’s life + 70 yrs laws. Cover design by Janette Brown. This design is in the public domain.

Plan and Preface to a Dictionary of English

Plan and Preface to a Dictionary of English

