

THE
NEW SHORTER
OXFORD ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

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ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

EDITED BY
J. LEITCH

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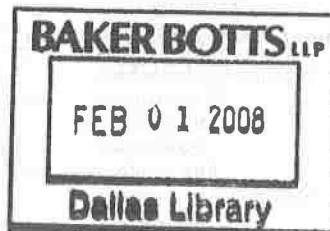


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dependence, confidence, trust. E17. 2 A person or thing on which one relies or depends. L18.

1 TENNYSON Those in whom he had reliance. Sold him unto shame. R. L. STEVENSON I give these two versions as I got them. But I place little reliance on either. 2 E. K. KANE Dogs, the indispensable reliance of the party.

reliant /rɪˈlaɪənt/ a. M19. [f. as prec. + -ANT.] Having reliance (on).

relic /ˈrɛlɪk/ n. & a. Also †**relique**. ME. [(O)Fr. *relique* (orig. pl.) f. L. *RELIQUIAE*.] A n. 1 A part of the body, clothing, or belongings of a saint, martyr, or other deceased holy person which is carefully preserved as an object of veneration, esp. in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. ME. b Something kept as a remembrance or souvenir of a person, thing, or place; a memento. E17. 2 (A part of) the body of a deceased person, a person's remains. Usu. in pl. ME. b An old person. Usu. w. *old* or similar adj. *colloq.* M19. 3 Something which remains or is left behind, esp. after destruction or decay; a fragment, remnant, or residue of something. Usu. in pl. ME. 4 Something surviving as a memorial of an event, period, people, etc.; a surviving trace of some practice, idea, quality, etc. L15. b *Biol.* A relict species. M20. c *Ling.* A relict form. M20. 5 Any object interesting because of its antiquity or associations with the past. L15.

1 N. MONSARRAT The relic was a minuscule fragment of bone from the forearm of the blessed Saint. b *Classical Quarterly* Before she was to be sacrificed she gave her mother locks of hair as a relic. 2 SHELLEY All round the mouldering relics of my kindred lay. 3 QUILLER-COUCH The relics of supper lay on the table. R. FRAMB Beneath the temple may lie relics of an earlier pagan religious site. 4 C. HARE Titles and peerages are interesting relics of the past. JO GRIMOND A hundred or so dairy farms, relics of the wars when the services needed milk. 5 SHAKES. *Twel. N.* What's to do? Shall we go see the reliques of this town?

Comb. **relic area** *Ling.* a region noted for the survival of relict forms; **Relic Sunday** (*obs. exc. Hist.*) the third Sunday after Midsummer, on which the relics preserved in a church were specially venerated.

B attrib. or as adj. Chiefly *Biol., Geol., Ling., etc.* = RELICT a. 2. L19.

relicary n. see RELIQUARY.

relict /ˈrɛlɪkt/ n. LME. [L *relictus* pa. pple of *relinquere* RELINQUISH.] 1 The widow of a man; a widow. Now *arch. & Anglo-Ir.* LME. †2 A reliquary. Sc. E16-L17. 3 = RELIC n. 1, 2. Now *rare* or *obs.* M16. 4 = RELIC n. 3, 4, 5. Now *rare* exc. as below. M16. 5a Chiefly *Biol. & Geol.* A species, structure, etc., surviving from a previous age or in changed circumstances after the disappearance of related species, structures, etc. E20. b *Ling.* A dialect, word, etc., that is a survival of otherwise archaic or old forms. M20.

1 E. LONGFORD Mollie was now venerated as Erskine's relict. 5a *Nature* Rare plant species are often relicts surviving in restricted ecological niches.

relict /ˈrɛlɪkt/ a. LME. [f. as the n.; in recent use prob. attrib. use of the n.] †1 Left behind, remaining; left by death, surviving; (of land) uncultivated, deserted. LME-L17. 2 Chiefly *Biol., Geol., & Ling.* That is a relict; surviving from a previous age or in changed circumstances after the disappearance of related forms. L19.

2 H. C. DARBY Another example of relict names is found on Dunsmore Heath. *Scientific American* Relict populations of salmon survive in lakes landlocked for thousands of years.

relief /rɪˈliːf/ n.¹ ME. [AN *relief*, (O)Fr. *relief*, f. *relevare* RELIEVE.] 1 *Law.* A payment made to the overlord by the heir of a feudal tenant on taking up possession of the vacant estate. (*obs. exc. Sc.*) ME. 2 The alleviation of or deliverance from pain, distress, anxiety, monotony, etc.; the feeling accompanying this; mental relaxation. Also, an instance of this. LME. b A thing providing such alleviation; a feature which breaks up visual or other monotony. E18. 3 Assistance given to a person or persons in circumstances of need, danger, war, famine, or other difficulty; aid, help, succour; *spec.* financial and other assistance given to the poor from

State or local community funds. LME. b Reinforcement or military support to those besieged or threatened; *esp.* the raising of a siege of a besieged town etc. M16. †c A fresh supply of some article of food or drink. L16-E18. †4 *Hunting.* The seeking of food by a hare or deer. LME-M17. 5 *Law.* Release from or remission of an obligation or imposition; *spec.* (Sc.) a right to reimbursement of the expenses incurred by some obligation. L15. 6 Release from some occupation or post; *spec.* the replacement of a person or persons on duty by another or others. E16. b A person or body of people relieving another or others in this way; *esp.* a soldier or body of soldiers relieving another soldier or company on guard. E18. c A dish succeeding another. Now *rare*. L18. d A thing supplementing another in providing a service; *esp.* a train, bus, etc., providing an extra service at peak times. Usu. *attrib.* L19. 7 Alleviation of some pain, burden, etc., *esp.* taxation; *spec.* (a) remission of income tax due on a proportion of earned income. E16. 8 (R-) A Scottish Presbyterian Church founded in 1761 in protest against the General Assembly and later amalgamated in the United Presbyterian Church. Chiefly as *Relief Church, Church of Relief obs. exc. Hist.* M18.

2 L. M. MONTGOMERY It would be a relief to sit down and have a good cry. R. DAHL Mrs Pratchett was alive! The relief was tremendous. J. BRIGGS To her great relief she had not been sent back to school. R. DINNAGE Some just hoped for relief from misery. b H. MARTINEAU A clump of beeches were a relief to the eye. *comic relief*: see COMIC a. 3 SHAKES. *Hen. V* To relief of lazars and weak age. A hundred alms-houses. GOLDSMITH Prudence once more comes to my relief. A. LEWIS He got the dole and then parish relief. *Sunday Telegraph* School-children are to be asked to contribute money for famine relief. *relief agency, organization, work, worker.* on **relief** (chiefly US) receiving State assistance because of (financial) need. b GIBBON *Stilicho* advanced to the relief of the faithful city. P. WARNER He built two temporary wooden forts to cut off the castle from any external relief. 6 in **relief** *Baseball* as relief pitcher. b P. MATTHIESSEN My relief on bow watch failed to appear. d D. LODGE The coach had broken down and a relief vehicle had taken an hour to arrive. *Railway Magazine* The 6.59 p.m. operated as a relief to the 7.10 p.m. from Hastings. 7 P. O'DONNELL If it's a phony charity account they probably get tax relief. *Money & Family Wealth* Make full use of reliefs and allowances at current income tax rates.

Comb. **Relief Church**: see sense 8 above; **relief pitcher** *Baseball*: who relieves another pitcher, *spec.* the opening pitcher, in a match; **relief road**: designed to divert traffic from congested areas; **relief roll** US a list of people receiving State relief; **relief valve**: serving to relieve excess pressure in a system; **relief well**: drilled to intersect an oil or gas well so as to provide a route for water or mud to stop a fire or blow-out.

reliever n. a person receiving financial relief M20. **reliefless** a. E18.

relief /rɪˈliːf/ n.² E17. [Fr. f. It. *rilievo*, †*rilevo*, f. *relevare* raise, ult. f. L. *relevare* RELIEVE v. Cf. RELIEVO n.¹] 1 A method of moulding, carving, stamping, etc., in which the design stands out from a plane surface so as to have a natural and solid appearance; the degree to which a design projects in this way. E17. b A composition or design executed by such a method. L17. 2 The appearance of solidity or detachment given to a design or composition on a plane surface by the arrangement and disposition of the lines, colours, shades, etc.; distinctness of outline due to this; *fig.* vividness, distinctness, or prominence due to contrast or artistic presentation. L18. 3 (The extent of) variation in elevation of an area, geographical feature, etc.; difference in height from the surrounding terrain. M19.

1 A. URE The face of the block is carved in relief. **half-relief**: in which figures etc. project to the extent of half their true proportions. **high (or low) relief**: in which the projections of the design correspond more (or less) closely to those of the object depicted. **middle-relief** = *half-relief* above. b M. BERGMANN In the Vatican Museum he comes across a relief of a young beauty lifting her hemline. 2 W. IRVING A church with its dark spire in strong relief against the

sky. E. WHARTON The return to town threw into stronger relief the charms of the life she was leaving. 3 *Nature* These lavas form a faulted dissected plateau of considerable relief.

Comb.: **relief map**: that indicates the relief of an area, either by the analogous form of its surface or by a system of colouring, shading, etc.; **relief printing** = *letterpress* (b) s.v. LETTER n.¹

relieve /rɪˈliːv/ v. ME. [(O)Fr. *relevare* f. L. *relevare* raise again, succour, alleviate, f. as RE- + *levare* raise, f. *levus* light.] 1 v.t. 1 Raise out of some trouble, difficulty, or danger; bring or provide aid or assistance to; deliver from something troublesome or oppressive. Now chiefly *spec.* (a) bring military support to (a besieged town etc.), free from siege; (b) supply (the poor) with money or other necessities. ME. †b Assist with munitions etc.; provide with fresh troops. LME-E17. †c Feed; supply with nourishment. LME-E17. d *Law.* Free from an obligation; give legal relief to. M16. 2 Ease or free from sorrow, fear, doubt, or other source of mental discomfort. Also, give relief from physical pain or discomfort. LME. b Ease (a device) by making slacker or wider. E19. c *refl.* Defecate; urinate. M20. 3 Ease or mitigate (what is painful or oppressive); make less grievous or burdensome. LME. b Make less tedious, monotonous, or disagreeable by the introduction of variety or of something striking or pleasing. L18. 4 a Set free, release. Chiefly Sc. Now *rare*. LME. b Release from a duty by acting as or providing a replacement. E17. c Set free from, ease of, any task, burden, or responsibility; *euphem.* dismiss from a position, deprive of membership etc., deprive of by stealing. L17. d Replace (a dish of food) by another. *rare*. M18. †5 Lift or raise up (again); bring into prominence, make clear; exalt. LME-M17. †6 Take up or hold (an estate) from a feudal superior (cf. RELIEF n.¹ 1). L15-E16. 7 Bring into relief; make (something) stand out. L18.

1 POPE Behold the hand Stretch'd to relieve the Poor. SIR W. SCOTT Neither trees nor bushes to relieve the eye from the russet of absolute sterility. D. FRASER The successes of convergent Allied Armies in North Africa would relieve Malta. **relieving officer** *Hist.* an official appointed by a parish or union to administer relief to the poor. 2 SHAKES. *Temp.* My ending is despair Unless I be relieved by prayer. R. GRAVES One smile relieves A heart that grieves. 3 J. RABAN Relieved his feelings by throwing a rock at a stray goat. D. ATHILL The explosion had done nothing to relieve the tension between us. V. BRAMWELL Painkillers help to relieve aches. **relieving arch** *Archit.*: formed in a wall to distribute the weight of the structure. **relieving tackle** *Naut.*: used to prevent a ship overturning when being careened, or to ease the strain on the tiller in rough weather. b M. MOORCOCK The paleness of his face was relieved by his slightly pinkish eyes. A. KENNY The hearing of confessions consists of hours of tedium occasionally relieved by embarrassment. 4b K. GRAHAMER Rat, whose turn it was to go on duty, went upstairs to relieve Badger. *relieve guard*: see GUARD n. c E. WAUGH A steady stream of imports relieved the Ishmaelites of the need to practise their few clumsy crafts. E. O'NEILL He relieves her of the pitcher and tumblers as she comes down the steps. 7 R. L. STEVENSON He may see a group of washerwomen relieved against the blue sea.

II v.i. †8 Rise again; return; rally in battle. LME-M16. 9 Stand out in relief. E19. 10 *Baseball.* Act as relief pitcher. M20.

relievable a. that may be relieved or assisted; able to receive (esp. legal) relief. L17. **reliever** n. (a) a person who or thing which relieves someone or something; (b) (*obs. exc. Hist.*) a member of the Relief Church; (c) *Baseball* a relief pitcher: LME.

relieved /rɪˈliːvd/ a. E19. [f. prec. + -ED.] That has been relieved; *esp.* eased or freed from anxiety or distress.

¶ Earlier (M16) in UNRELIEVED. **relievedly** /-vd-, -vd-/ adv. in a relieved manner, with relief from anxiety E20.

relievo /rɪˈliːvəʊ/ n.¹ Pl. -os. Also **rilievo** /rɪˈliːvəʊ/. E17. [It. *rilievo*: see RELIEF n.²] = RELIEF n.² 1, 2. *alto-relievo, basso-relievo, mezzo-relievo, etc.*

relievo /rɪˈliːvəʊ/ n.² L19. [Prob. f. RELIEVE v. + -O.] A children's seeking game in which a