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Obsolete Words Which Never Should Have Gone out of Style

In my reading and study I oftentimes come across some strange words or phrases in older books and journals. Sometimes I can figure out what they mean, at other times I have to go and do some more research. Here is a list of some archaic words I recently stumbled upon that you might find interesting.

Snoutfair: A person with a handsome countenance — *“The Word Museum: The Most Remarkable English Words Ever Forgotten”* by Jeffrey Kacirk

Anon: At once; immediately — *Forthright's Forsoothery* <http://phrontistery.info/archaic.html>

Wonder-wench: A sweetheart — *“The Word Museum: The Most Remarkable English Words Ever Forgotten”* by Jeffrey Kacirk

Lunting: Walking while smoking a pipe — *John Mactaggart's “Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopedia,”* 1824

California widow: A married woman whose husband is away from her for any extended period — *John Farmer's “Americanisms Old and New,”* 1889

Groak: To silently watch someone while they are eating, hoping to be invited to join them — www.ObsoleteWord.Blogspot.com

Jirble: To pour out (a liquid) with an unsteady hand: as, he jirbles out a dram — www.Wordnik.com

Curglaff: The shock felt in bathing when one first plunges into the cold water — *John Jamieson's Etymological Scottish Dictionary,* 1808

Spermologer: A picker-up of trivia, of current news, a gossip monger, what we would today call a columnist — *“The Word Museum: The Most Remarkable English Words Ever Forgotten”* by Jeffrey Kacirk

Tyromancy: The act of divining by interpreting the coagulation of cheese — *“The Word Museum: The Most Remarkable English Words Ever Forgotten”* by Jeffrey Kacirk

Beef-witted: Having an inactive brain, which was once thought to be caused by eating too much beef. — John Phin's *"Shakespeare Cyclopaedia and Glossary"*, 1902

Englishable: That which may be rendered into English — John Ogilvie's *"Comprehensive English Dictionary"*, 1865

Resistentialism: The seemingly spiteful behavior shown by inanimate objects — www.ObsoleteWord.Blogspot.com

Gardyloo: A warning cry or an alarm - *Forthright's Forsoothery* <http://phrontistery.info/archaic.html>

Bookwright: A writer of books; an author; a term of slight contempt — Daniel Lyons's *"Dictionary of the English Language"*, 1897

Soda-squirt: One who works at a soda fountain in New Mexico — Elsie Warnock's *"Dialect Speech in California and New Mexico"*, 1919

With squirrel: Pregnant — Vance Randolph's *"Down in the Holler: A Gallery of Ozark Folk Speech"*, 1953

Zafty: A person very easily imposed upon — Maj. B. Lowsley's *"A Glossary of Berkshire Words and Phrases"*, 1888

While it may be that such words go out of style or fashion after a season of use, there are some words that should never go out of style or fashion. Such words as Salvation, Grace, Forgiveness, Repentance, Baptism, Worship and many more are still current and very much needed in today's society. The problem is that they are being used less and less in today's society. To hear these words now, you almost have to be in a church or Sunday School class and even then there is no guarantee that the people there will be using these terms on a regular basis.

The words of God's redemption and of Jesus Christ's sacrifice are far too important to let them go the way of *Zafty* and *Curglaff*; but what are we doing to extend their use outside the doors of the sanctuary? The people who once talked about *soda-squirits* never considered that one day the term would be forgotten as an archaic part of the American dialect. As a Church, we need to make sure that these words remain a part of our vocabulary and the vocabulary of the next generations as well. To make this happen, we need to be using these words as a part of our everyday language. We need to talk about our faith and our beliefs with our family and our friends. We need to be following the directions of The Great Commission to go and be witnesses, teaching others about salvation and redemption. Yes, in order to keep the Church alive and relevant in this generation, that is what we need to do.

The question is: will you do it? Will you share your faith with others and keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ current in our society? Will you pass on the meanings and the practices of these words to your children and your grand children? Will you do your part to see to it that Christianity does not become another obsolete term of a bygone age? It is your responsibility as a disciple of Christ to tell others and teach them. Will you do it?

Soothly yours,

James