



The New American Roget's College Thesaurus

Philip d. Morehead

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Peter Mark Roget was an English physician who was born in 1779 and died in 1869. As a hobby he liked to make lists of words and group them together when they were related to one another. Some were related because they were synonyms, such as illegal and unlawful; some because they were antonyms, such as peaceful and warlike; some because they were reminders of one another, such as father and mother. Altogether Mr. Roget made a thousand different groups, or categories, of related words. Every word he knew or could find in the dictionaries that he had was classified in one or more of these categories. In 1852 Mr. Roget's list of words was published. He called the book a thesaurus, or treasury, of words. There were not many words in the first Roget's Thesaurus, compared to the number in a volume like this, but his book was the first collection of synonyms, antonyms, and other related words. Not only writers but many others found it invaluable. Dozens of editors, beginning with Mr. Roget's son, have revised the original Thesaurus, added to it, and brought it up to date (for many of the words in the original Roget list are low obsolete and many common words of today were unknown in his time); but every edition is still called Roget's Thesaurus in honor of the man who first had the idea. This new revised edition contains thousands of new entries and categories to help the user find even more quickly exactly the right word for which he is searching. Up-to-date colloquial and slang terms and phrases have been added, making this indispensable reference tool uniquely valuable for today's world. -Philip D. Morehead, Boston, 1977.

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