

The following abbreviations are used in the text.

- fw: immediate forerunner of a word, in the same or another language.
- rw: ultimate traceable word, from which 'root' meanings are derived.
- q.v.: see entry under word noted.
- C: followed by numeral, century (C19: nineteenth century).
- eC: first period (third) of a century.
- mC: middle period (third) of a century.
- lC: last period (third) of a century.
- c.: (before a date) approximately.
- AN: Anglo-Norman.
- mE: Middle English (c. 1100–1500).
- oE: Old English (to c. 1100).
- F: French.
- mF: Medieval French.
- oF: Old French.
- G: German.
- Gk: Classical Greek.
- It: Italian.
- L: Latin.
- lL: late Latin.
- mL: Medieval Latin.
- vL: Vulgar Latin.
- Rom: Romanic.
- Sp: Spanish.
- OED: *New English Dictionary on Historical Principles* (Oxford).

Quotations followed by a name and date only, or a date only, are from examples cited in OED. Other quotations are followed by specific sources. References to secondary works are by author's name, as entered in References and Select Bibliography.