Synopsis

"This Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (fourth edition) has been enlarged and amended with 13,000 new entries. It is the only authorized paperback edition of the famous Hans Wehr Arabic-English Dictionary, edited by J. Milton Cowan. This new edition has thousands of new entries include numerous additions and corrections to the material and presents the results in a single handsome volume. The author provides a useful introduction in which he discusses, clearly and precisely, the present state of the Arabic language. He points out the situations in which written and spoken varieties of Arabic are used, and remarks on the forces that influenced the development of the lexicon of Modern Arabic. He discusses both the purist movement with its normative tradition, and what might be called the laissez-faire actual usage of writers and journalists under the influence of Western modes of expression, of their everyday colloquial, or both. He then moves on to the problem of local terminology, especially for public institutions, offices, administrative matters, titles, and foods. Although such terms are included for most of the Arab countries, the list is not complete, as indeed the author recognizes (viii); readers of Arabic material characterized by a distinct regional coloring are advised to refer to dialect dictionaries and glossaries."

Book Information

Paperback: 1301 pages
Publisher: Spoken Language Services; 4th edition (May 1, 1993)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0879500034
Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.2 x 1.3 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (186 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #14,964 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses #82 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages #117 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference

Customer Reviews

[Please note the note at the end of the review that I have added to this 2004 review] First, I must say this is the only Modern Written Arabic (MWA) - English dictionary that the student of Arabic has to have. Others, Al-Mawrid, for example, are useful as supplements, and contain new vocabulary, and
there is a more recent German edition (5th edition) of Wehr published by Harrassowitz, but this book has a standard of scholarship unrivalled by any other MWA-English dictionary. Middle Eastern published MWA-English dictionaries like Mawrid, for example, don't give the grammatical information learners of Arabic need, such as broken plurals, verbal vowelling, verbal nouns (masdars), let alone how verbs are used with prepositions, all of which Wehr tells the user. Words are in root order, so maktaba (desk) [mktbh] and kaatib (writer) [k'tb] both are found under the verb kataba (to write) [ktb]. This really is the most useful way of ordering Arabic dictionaries for someone who's mastered the basics of Arabic grammar, though an alphabetic order dictionary is a help when you're starting and occasionally even when you're expert. This dictionary is NOT a dictionary of Classical Arabic (although Beeston in his anthology of Bassar bin Burd reckoned that Wehr covered the vast majority of the vocabulary of this poet of the 8th Century AD). For Classical Arabic, Lane (perhaps supplemented by Hava’s much more affordable al-Fara’id) is essential. But Lane is useless for modern Arabic. And if you’re reading mediaeval Arabic, you will find Wehr fills in some of the gaps in Lane. This dictionary is NOT a dialect dictionary, though it contains many dialect words that have found their way into the written Arabic of Egypt, Iraq, etc.

I am a former Army Arabic linguist, and a graduate of DLI/FLC Monterey. This dictionary is the primary one we used, both at DLI and later on the job. An old Army buddy, I have a deep abiding affection for this thing, it being a true linguistic masterpiece and longtime companion. Hans Wehr was professor at University of Munster from the fifties thru the seventies. This dictionary was first published in 1952 in German as "Arabisches Worterbuch fur die Schriftsprache der Gegenwart" - a mouthful of a title if there ever was one. We just called it the Hans Wehr. To my knowledge, it is the only dictionary that’s organized to properly exploit Arabic morphology, which is to say the consonal root system. Any other approach makes a hash out of the Arab language. Straightforward alphabetical ordering is ill suited to Arabic. The only traditionally alphabetically organized Arabic dictionary that I've seen (and I've seen quite a few) which is any good at all is the Lebanese Al-Mawrid. But I use it only as an occasional adjunct to Hans. Once you get a hang of Hans, and your vocabulary and sense of Arabic grows, the Mawrid will only be very occasionally useful from Arabic to English. It may not seem possible to a beginner (it certainly didn’t to me,) but the Hans Wehr will come to make much more sense, and become much more accessible, than any other Arabic to English dictionary. So if you are new to this game, suck it up and use Hans as much as possible. One sole caveat: for Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) the Hans Wehr is incomparable & indespensible. MSA is the modern universally written form of Arabic, and the pan-national lingua
franca spoken in formal settings- on TV, in courts, etc., by educated Arabs.

Download to continue reading...

Arabic-English Dictionary: The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic Conversaciones con
Hans Ulrich Obrist / Conversaciones with Hans Ulrich Obrist (Conversaciones / Conversations)
(Spanish Edition) The Translation of the Meanings of Sahih Al-Bukhari: Arabic-English (English and
Arabic Edition) Talk English: The Secret To Speak English Like A Native In 6 Months For Busy
People (Including 1 Lesson With Free Audio & Video) (Spoken English, listen English, Speak
English, English Pronunciation) Nahuatl as Written: Lessons in Older Written Nahuatl, with Copious
Examples and Texts (Contraversions Jews and Other Differences (Paperback)) Berlitz Arabic
Phrase Book & Dictionary (Arabic Edition) Koran in Arabic in chronological order: Koufi, Normal and
Koranic orthographies with modern punctuation, references to variations, abrogations and ... and
Chinese speaking teenage and adult students of English (Oxford Picture Dictionary 2E) Oxford