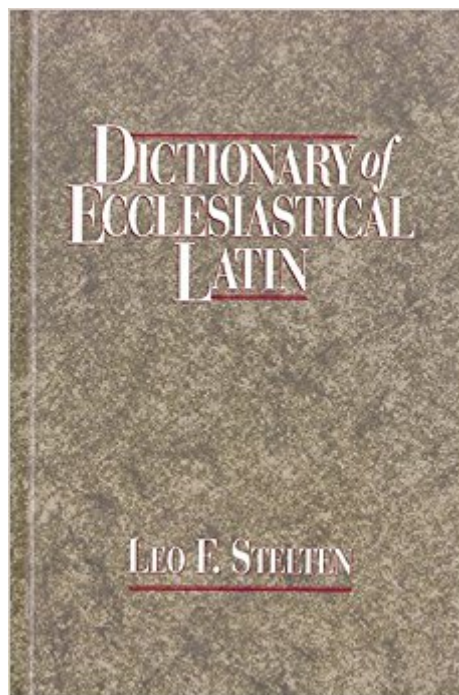




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Dictionary Of Ecclesiastical Latin: With An Appendix Of Latin Expressions Defined And Clarified



Synopsis

Leo Stelten has put to use his years of experience teaching Latin in compiling this concise reference book. The "Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin" includes approximately 17,000 words with the common meanings of the Latin terms found in church writings. Entries cover Scripture, Canon Law, the Liturgy, Vatican II, the early church fathers, and theological terms. This volume will prove to be an invaluable resource for theological students, as well as for those seeking to improve their knowledge of ecclesiastical Latin. An appendix also provides descriptions of ecclesiastical structures and explains technical terms from ecclesiastical law. The "Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin" has already been widely praised for its serviceability and indispensability in both academic and Church settings.

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Customer Reviews

"For seminarians studying for the priesthood, the "Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin" by Leo F. Stelten will be helpful for examining Vatican documents in the original language, papal encyclicals and allocutions, publications on church liturgy, and Cannon Law volumes. This product of years of teaching, now updated, will be a happy resource in chanceries as well. The format is easy to follow and the vocabulary of some 17,000 words and phrases is quite adequate."--Reverend Joseph F. Downey, S. J., Editorial Director, Loyola University Press, Chicago, Illinois

"A working knowledge of Latin is important for anyone who wishes to study the nearly two thousand years of living tradition of the Catholic Church. It is essential for those who wish to study seriously the sacred sciences of philosophy, theology, and cannon law. Father Leo Stelten, drawing upon his long experiences in

teaching Latin to students for the priesthood, has developed in his "Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin" a most helpful tool both for those who are beginning their study of the church's lingua materna, as well as for those who are working to renew and improve their knowledge of church Latin."--Monsignor Raymond L. Burke, *Supremum Signaturae Apostolicae Tribunal*, Vatican City, Rome

This is a specialized work, and the student of classical Latin won't have much use for it. But it's very useful for reading the Vulgate, liturgical Latin, and in fact I find it my first look-up tool for much medieval Latin, since much medieval Latin which isn't strictly speaking ecclesiastical was nevertheless written by churchmen whose Latin was heavily influenced by ecclesiastical works. The book is physically well produced and priced more reasonably than such specialist works usually are. People who read much Latin of the sorts I've mentioned will find this book worth having.

I bought this book in order that I might find explanations of common expressions in Latin, which litter modern writing in theology, law, and medicine. I was disappointed. The first time I looked something up, it simply was not there, because it was an idiomatic usage, and not formal grammatical Latin. I have bought other dictionaries of specialized dialects of languages, such as a dictionary of Homeric (heroic) Greek, which is necessary if you have any intention of reading *The Iliad* in Greek. Probably because I studied Greek, but never studied Latin, the Greek dictionary did its job, but the Latin one did not. This Latin dictionary also lacks principle parts of verbs and a lot of other "conveniences" you may find in "full" lexicons. As other reviewers have noted, this is, indeed, a Lexicon, which means it only goes from Latin to English, but why you would want to go from English to medieval, rather than classical, Latin, I do not know. This is a book for translators of Anselm, Abelard, Ockham, and Aquinas. If you just need Latin phrases, look to the *Oxford Dictionary of Latin Words and Phrases*.

I agree with Ryan R. Grant's review below. It will be easier to use by someone with some familiarity with Latin. On the positive side, it is sturdily bound and neatly formatted with clear print on eye-ease paper--very convenient to use. But one thing that no one has mentioned so far is the accents. Following the practice of ecclesiastical latin, this dictionary uses acute accents to indicate the stressed syllable of each Latin word. This will be a minor annoyance for the user who tries to determine the stress on some verb forms. For example, the present tense of the verb "invēnio" appears with the stress on the "e"; But there is no indication of how to determine where the stress falls on the second-person and third-person forms of that verb. On the other hand, in a classical

dictionary where long vowels are marked by macrons; the lack of a macron written over the "e" in the verb "invenio" conveniently indicates that the "e" is short and that the stress must recede to the first syllable on those forms "Ā- nvenis" and "Ā- nvenit." Ultimately, the user of this dictionary will need to refer to a classical dictionary for this information. A minor inconvenience is that I-stem nouns are not marked. There are about fifty of them in use; and although they can now be found on line with a little digging; it would have been convenient to have I-stem nouns indicated in this dictionary. A third inconvenience is the lack of information regarding the valence of verbs. Not all Latin verbs take accusative objects. Some verbs take dative objects, and other verbs take genitive or ablative objects. This is important information, and in order to find it, a reader must search in a second dictionary.

This is a reading aid rather than a research tool; it is perfect for quickly looking up words while reading but does not offer any extra linguistic information. The entries are concise, giving you the translation of the word without having to sort through extraneous data. No etymologies or examples are given, and vowels are not marked as long as short. This makes it extremely easy to read as the text is large and clear, while keeping the volume itself slim. The accents are marked, which makes the words instantly readable. Anyone with a basic knowledge of how Latin vowels and accents work should be able to look at the word and know how to pronounce it, despite the lack of vowel markings. The book is solidly built, if quite plain, with nice, heavier paper. This is all substance over style; after the three page preface then the rest is all definitions, with a short appendix at the end which explains some of the terms in more detail. Completely utilitarian, it is perfect as a quick reading aid.

I bought this dictionary solely for reading the Latin Vulgate, for the on-line Vulgate reading group that I run. Although I have some knowledge of Greek, I wanted a good and easy-to-use resource that provides the Latin translations. This dictionary succeeds admirably, although you should have a decent basic Latin dictionary like Cassell's also. I have never found a word in the Vulgate that was not defined in either Cassell's or this dictionary. Even "problem words" (usually directly transliterated into Latin from Greek) are there - for example, "telonium". In addition to good word coverage, it also explains idiomatic usages of words, especially with prepositions. Look at the example pages and you'll see some examples of idiomatic uses of words with the preposition "ad".

This is not a general Latin dictionary. If you are learning Latin, you are better served by the Collins

Gem Latin Dictionary. However, if you already know Latin and want a reference specifically for Latin as used in Ecclesiastical documents, this is a good reference. Remember that it is a specialized subset. Think of it like a "Dictionary of Medical Terms". You would not use that dictionary to learn English, and you would not use this dictionary to learn Latin. You need a general Latin dictionary to compliment this one.

Great Latin dictionary and works with other Latin texts likeÂ The Latin Vulgate of Saint Jerome, a Parsed Interlinear Text: Verse Aligned to the World English Bible, The Book of Matthew (New Testament Series 1)

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