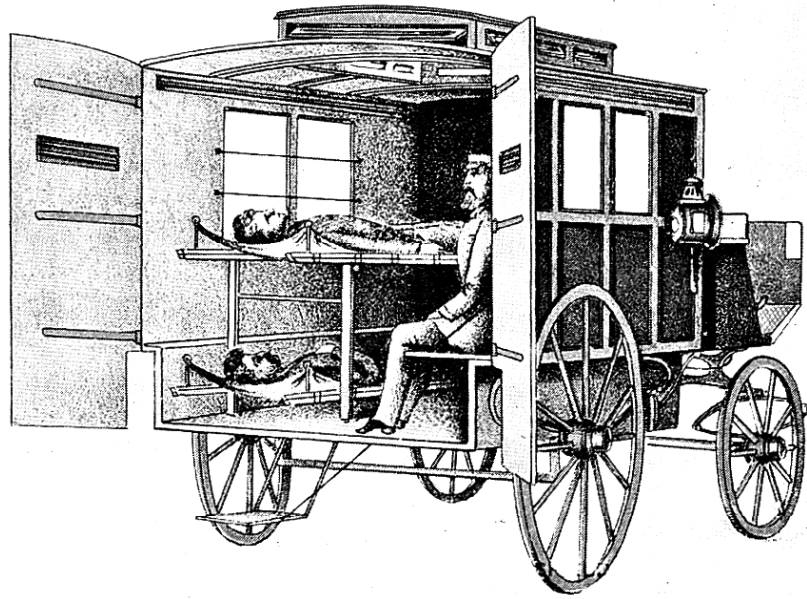


operate lathes, drove the buses, became bricklayers, were taught how to repair aeroplanes, qualified as doctors, engineers or mechanics. In other words, they kept the wheels of society turning, both literally and metaphorically, and consequently caused a major rethink about who should do what in the workplace.

The result of this social change is that many of the trades and occupations mentioned in the following pages are now open to men and women alike, whereas at one time they would have been the preserve of either men or women, but not both. Who would have thought, for instance, just a few decades ago that in twenty-first-century Britain the term ‘front-line soldier’ would one day apply equally to a woman as to a man? And who, furthermore, would have imagined that in 2017 a woman stood just as good a chance of becoming Commissioner of London’s Metropolitan Police as any of her male colleagues? Perhaps the Greek philosopher Heraclitus (*c.* 535–*c.* 457 BCE) hit the nail on the head when he said ‘everything flows; nothing stands still’.



the word itself goes all the way back to the Latin verb *ambulare*, ‘to walk’, ‘to be mobile’, but an ‘ambulance case’ is a person who is too ill to walk and is possibly ‘immobile’. The explanation for this apparent contradiction in terms is as follows.

In the seventeenth century the French came up with *hôpital ambulante*, ‘mobile hospital’, a term which became increasingly popular, so that by the time of the Crimean War (1853–56) it was being used in both a military and a civilian context. It was about this time also that the derivative form ‘ambulance’ was first recorded.

In 1897 another related term was coined: ‘ambulance chaser’. This was (and still is) a derogatory term for predatory lawyers who persuaded people who had been injured through no fault of their own to allow them to act on their behalf when lodging a claim for substantial damages. And, of course, their services command a large fee.

Baker

Bakers have been baking bread of one sort or another since the dawn of time; the linguistic roots of the English term stretch back over the millennia as far as Ancient Greece and even earlier. The Ancient Greek verb *phōgein* meant ‘to roast’ and is etymologically related to the Old High German *bahhan* and the Old English *bacan*, verbs which produced the Old English term for the man we now refer to as a ‘baker’, *bæcere*. The female equivalent, a woman baker, was a *bekstere*, which eventually gave us the surname Baxter.

But there is also a very odd cognate here. The Indo-European root that produced all of these words (**bheg*) also produced the word ‘bath’. The explanation is quite straightforward, if a little surprising; from an etymological point of view, ‘bath’ was originally associated with heating, not with immersion. The English spa town of Bath took its name from the ‘hot’ springs in the area, not the springs themselves.

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a few years later, but his brother went on to become king of Kent and to found a dynasty which ruled the county and gave it its unique character among the other counties of Britain. Even today, Kent is known as the ‘Invicta’ county because it was never beaten into submission, but arrived at an understanding with William of Normandy in 1066, when the rest of the country was subdued by force.

I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men and German to my horse.

CHARLES V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500–1558), attr.

Horologist

Early civilizations used the heavens to account for the passage of the hours; the modern English ‘moon’ is derived from the Indo-European root **me-* (the same root that gave us ‘measure’), and the earliest known sundial, dating back to 1500 BCE, was discovered in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. When we then turned to more terrestrial means of time measurement we devised various contraptions including water clocks, hour- (or sand-) glasses (remember the ‘sands of time?’), adapted oil lamps and even calibrated candles.

Mechanical clocks made their appearance in Europe in the early fourteenth century; although they were not very accurate and rather cumbersome, they probably marked the beginning of clockmaking as we know it

artisans simply refused to enter into any agreement at all and offered their services, wherever and to whomsoever, they wished. Many preferred the freedom of working for, and being paid by, the day – and this leads us to the derivation of the word. The Old French word *journée* (from *jour*, ‘day’) meant ‘amount accomplished in a day’, ‘a day’s work’, and this, combined with ‘man’, found its way into English in the fourteenth century as ‘journeyman’.

The reason for the confusion with travel is quite simple. We now think of a ‘journey’ as a distance covered by travel, irrespective of the time taken to complete it. The original meaning, however, was ‘the distance covered in a day’.

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day’s journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, *Up-Hill* (1861)

Judge

Most of us probably think of a judge as the man wearing a large, anachronistic wig, sitting behind an enormous desk and surveying an assembly of people in a court of law. And his responsibility, of course, is to preside over the proceedings, making sure that they conform to the law of the land and that whoever stands in the dock is given a fair trial.

Words for ‘miller’ in different European languages are strikingly similar. Notice how the following begin with virtually the same letters, although slightly modified in some cases.

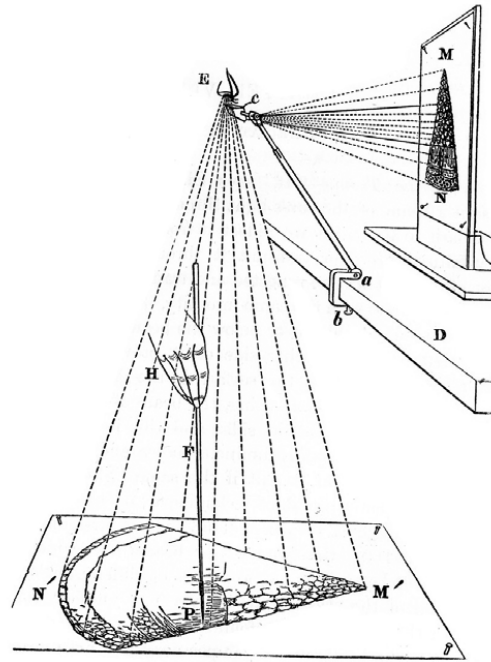
Bulgarian	<i>melnichar</i>
Danish	<i>miller</i>
Dutch	<i>molenaar</i>
Estonian	<i>mölder</i>
German	<i>Müller</i>
Hungarian	<i>molnár</i>
Icelandic	<i>miller</i>
Irish	<i>muilneoir</i>
Russian	<i>mel'nik</i>
Spanish	<i>molinero</i>
Italian	<i>molinaro</i>
Greek	<i>milónás</i>
Welsh	<i>melinydd</i>

quern (from the Old English *cweorn*, ‘hand mill’) was hard, physically demanding work, which is why we still talk about ‘the daily grind’. And there are other metaphorical expressions we have derived from the millers of the past: ‘it’s all grist to the mill’, ‘a millstone around our necks’ and ‘to put someone through the mill’.

The Old English for ‘to mill’ was *mylen*, a verb based on the Latin words *mola*, ‘grindstone’, and *molere*, ‘to grind’, which etymologists trace back to the Indo-European root **mele*, meaning ‘to crush’. And such a provenance has meant that we now have many words in English which are cognate with the descendants of the same root: ‘molar’,

Photographer

The person we have to thank for the terms ‘photographer’ and ‘photography’ is Sir John Herschel (1792–1871), a Victorian chemist, mathematician and all-round polymath, who was fascinated by what others had done in the early stages of what came to be known as photography.



Cameras of varying degrees of sophistication had been known for centuries; the Ancient Greeks, Chinese and Arabs (among others) were aware of the ‘pin-hole’ camera effect, and Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) observed that an upside-down image could be projected onto a piece of paper by light from the sun shining through a chink in a cave wall. The problem, however, was one of retaining the projected image so that it survived on the paper after the source of the light had disappeared. And this is where the early-nineteenth-century ‘photographers’ came into their own.

On 14 March 1839 Herschel delivered a paper to an august gathering of the Royal Society, during which he used the term ‘photography’ for the first time. Honouring the custom of the day among the scientific community, he borrowed Greek roots to define the newly emerging