

# Overdue Book Returned After 233 Years

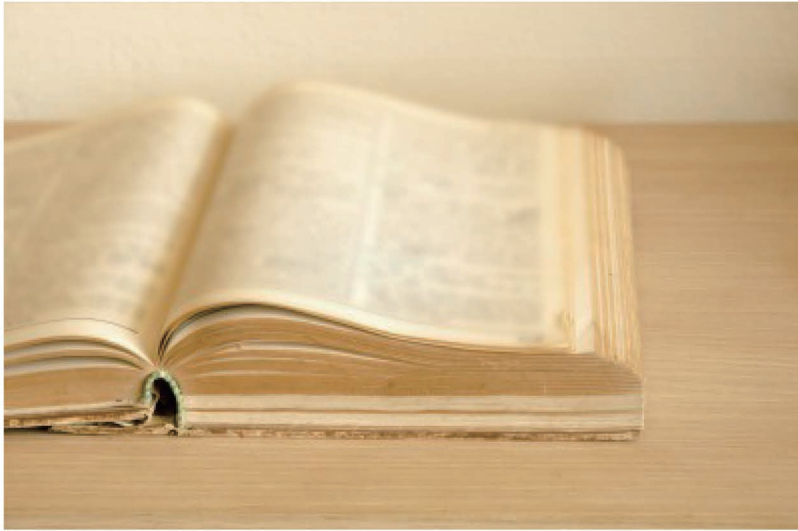


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## Reading

A long-overdue library book that returned to Harvard after 233 years made national and international headlines this past week. The volume was one of 144 books that were checked out of the Harvard College Library at the time of the 1764 fire, which destroyed the first Harvard Hall and most of the Library's 5,000-volume collection. Some of the borrowed books were eventually returned, but many were believed to be lost forever, including the third volume of Bishop White Kennett's Complete History of England (1706).

This spring, a Cambridge bookseller approached Harvard with the find, and -- thanks to an anonymous donor -- the book is now shelved in Houghton Library. Harvard does not know where the leather-bound tome has been all these years. (Shortly after the fire, Harvard's great benefactor Thomas Hollis presented another three-volume set, noted Roger Stoddard, curator of rare books in the Harvard College Library. The copies, well worn by student use, remain in the library to this day.)

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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