

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$500 Bounty for English “Vampire”

A journal editor is offering \$500 to anyone who can find the earliest use of the word *vampire* in English.

Anthony Hogg, president of the Vampire Studies Association and editor of the *Journal of Vampire Studies*, announced the competition in the latest volume of the journal dubbing it “The *Daily Post-Boy* Challenge.”

“I believe the earliest use of *vampire*—or *vampyre* as it was then written—in English was a reference to a Serbian vampire epidemic in a news item titled ‘Extract of Another Letter from Vienna’ in the March 10, 1732 issue of *The Daily Post-Boy*,” said Hogg. His find is discussed in “The *Oxford English Dictionary*’s Earliest Evidence for *Vampire*,” an article published in the same volume.

Hogg serendipitously found the news item while researching a different news item in a database accessed through the National Library of Australia’s website. “I was cross-referencing a keyword, ‘Hadnagi’ [*sic*, ‘Hardnagi’] used in the same story published in the *London Journal*’s March 11, 1732 issue. At the time, I thought the *London Journal* item contained the word’s earliest English use. The keyword search happened to yield the earlier result,” he said.

His find predates two examples cited by the *Oxford English Dictionary*: a definition of vampires in John Swinton’s *The Travels of Three English Gentlemen, from Venice to Hamburgh, Being the Grand Tour of Germany, in the Year 1734*, published in 1745; and Charles Forman’s metaphorical reference to “Vampires of the Publick, and Riflers of the Kingdom” in *Some Queries and Observations Upon the Revolution in 1688, and Its Consequences*, published in 1741.

Submitting the find to the dictionary on January 5, 2025, Hogg said: “I hope the *OED* recognises my find. However, if someone finds an earlier example, I’d be happy giving them recognition too. After all, the purpose of the prize is to challenge existing notions and encourage further research for accuracy’s sake.”

The competition’s terms and conditions of “The *Daily Post-Boy* Challenge” are outlined in *Journal of Vampire Studies*, volume 5, available through various online retailers.

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ABOUT

The Vampire Studies Association is a not-for-profit organisation founded at City Library, Melbourne, Australia, on October 31, 2018, “to establish vampire studies as a multidisciplinary field by promoting, disseminating and publishing contributions to vampire scholarship.” It publishes the *Journal of Vampire Studies* as a platform for vampire scholars to share their research. For more information about the association, visit <https://vampirestudies.org/about>.

RELEVANT LINKS

“The *Daily Post-Boy* Challenge,” *Journal of Vampire Studies* 5 (2025): 121–22, <https://www.academia.edu/164867545/>.

Anthony Hogg, “The *Oxford English Dictionary*’s Earliest Evidence of *Vampire*,” *Journal of Vampire* 5 (2025): 37–71, <https://www.academia.edu/164867092/>.

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. “vampire,” accessed February 27, 2026, https://www.oed.com/dictionary/vampire_n.