

(1) The shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!

(2) ... a sincere and ardent desire to ameliorate the condition of the subjects of the empire ... ; ... the formation of character and general amelioration of the lower orders . ("A New View of Society." 1813)

This Institution ... is intended to ... effect a complete and thorough improvement in the *internal* as well as *external* character of the whole village. ("An Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark." 1816) 下線筆者

(3) an improving party (*Hard Times*, 1854, bk.1, ch.2); improve their livelihood. Then, why don't they improve it, ma'am! (*Ibid.*, bk.2, ch.1); of improving dear Joe (*Great Expectations*, 1860-61, ch. XIX); a sagacious way of improving their minds (*Ibid.*, ch. XXIII); 'I ... have had time since then to improve.' (*Ibid.*, ch. XXXV) 'the elevation of their character, the improvement of their dwellings, their greater protection against disease and vice--' (*Letters*. vol.4, p.566) 下線筆者

(4) His motto might well have been 'excelsior!' if only he could have taught himself to look to heights that were really high. (*Three Clerks* I. xi.244. *OED* s.v. *Excelsior*)

(5) Also that it has had the honour of enrolling upon its list of donors and vice-presidents the great name of Longfellow. [Cheers] (K. J. Fielding, p.419)

(6) I am happy to say, around me, and they have a funded capital of almost £ 14.000. This is wonderful progress, but the aim must still be upwards, the motto always 'Excelsior' . [Cheers.] (K. J. Fielding, *The Speeches of Charles Dickens*. Hertfordshire: Harvester · Wheatsheaf, 1988, p.243)

(7) 1. Samuel Johnson, *A Dictionary of the English Language*. 1755. 収録項目 4 万
2. H. J. Todd, *A Dictionary of the English Language*. ("Todd's Johnson") 1818. 収録語数 5 万 8 千

3. Charles Richardson, *A New Dictionary of the English Language*. London: William Pickering, 1836-37, 2 vols.; 1839, 1 vol.

4. Noah Webster, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. New York: S. Converse, 1828, 2 vols. ウェブスター辞典初版、収録語数 7 万

1841	ノア・ウェブスター生前最後の改訂
1849	Chauncey A. Goodrich の改訂増補
1864	Noah Porter 主幹による改訂増補
	収録語数 1 1 万 4 千

5. John Ogilvie, *The Imperial Dictionary, English, Technological, and Scientific; applied to the present state of Literature, Science and Art; on the basis of Webster's* English

Dictionary. Glasgow: Blackie and Son, 1850, 2 vols.

* a.[L.] More lofty; more elevated.

6. Hyde Clarke, *A New and Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language; As Spoken and Written*. London: Bradbury and Evans, 1855.

* L. more lofty, higher; motto of New York.

7. Joseph E. Worcester, *A Dictionary of the English Language*. Boston: Hickling, Swan, and Brewer, 1860, 2 vols.; Boston: Brewer and Tileston, 1874, 1 vol.

* a. [L] More lofty. *Longfellow*.

8. William D. Whitney, *The Century Dictionary. An Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language*. New York: The Century Co., 1889-91, 6 vols. *The Century Cyclopaedia of Names* in 1894, the Atlas in 1897, *The Century Dictionary Supplement* 2 vols. in 1909. (A. G. Kennedy, *A Bibliography of Writings on the English Language* [1967]: 1889-91. 24 pts. in 6 vols.; [1895] 10 vols. ; [1906-9] 10 + 2 vols.) 以下は 1906 年版の定義

* excelsior, a. [<L.*excelsior*, masc. and fem. . . .] Loftier; more elevated; higher: the motto of New York State, hence sometimes called the *Excelsior State*. 以下に Longfellow の詩引用。

* excelsior, n. The trade-name of a fine quality of wood-shavings, used as stuffing for cushions, beds, etc., and as a packing material.

9. OED

分冊刊行で、'excelsior' は第 21 分冊、1894 年刊。

但し、OED の資料収集開始は 1858 年、第 1 分冊 (A-Ant) の

刊行は 1884 年 1 月、最終分冊 (Wise-Wyzen) は 1928 年 4 月

(OED Vol.1, pp.xxi, xxv-xxvi)。1933 年に補遺 3 巻を加え、収録語数は全 13 巻で 41 万 4825、内主要語 24 万 165

10. ウェブスター第二版 *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language*. 1934. 収録語数 55 万語

* excelsior, *adj.* [L., compar. of *excelsus* elevated, lofty, past part. of *excellere*. See *Excel.*] More lofty; still higher; ever upward; -- used as a motto, and [*cap.*] as the title of a poem (1841) by Longfellow.

* excelsior, *n.* 1. A material of curled shreds of wood used for stuffing upholstered furniture, for packing, etc. 2. *Print*. A small size of type (3 points), seldom used.

* Excelsior diamond. See *Diamond*, 1a.

11. ウェブスター第三版 *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*. 1961. 収録語数 45 万語。収録語数は第二版より減少 第三版の 'excelsior' の定義は

* *n-s* [L, higher, comparative of *excelsus*] : fine curled shavings of wood forming a resilient mass and used esp. for packing fragile items

のみで、他の名詞の用法や形容詞の用法の記載なし

(8)

1 『新英和大辞典』 研究社

岡倉由三郎 [編] 『新英和大辭典』 1 9 2 7、昭 2	初版
岡倉由三郎 [編] 『新英和大辭典』 訂正版、 1 9 2 8	
岡倉由三郎 [編] 『新英和大辭典』 増補訂正版、 1 9 3 3	
岡倉由三郎主幹 『新英和大辭典』 1 9 3 6	第二版
岡倉由三郎 [編] 『研究社新英和大辭典』 改訂増補 1 9 5 0	
研究社英和大辭典編集部編；市河三喜・岩崎民平・河村重次郎編集主幹 『新英和大辭典』 1 9 5 3	第三版
岩崎民平、河村重次郎編 『新英和大辭典』 改訂増補版、 1 9 6 0	第四版
小稻義男編集代表 『研究社新英和大辭典』 1 9 8 0、昭 5 5	第五版
竹林滋編者代表 『研究社新英和大辭典』 2 0 0 2、平 1 4	第六版

2 三省堂編輯所編 『三省堂英和大辭典』(1 9 2 8、昭 3)

3 市河三喜、岬柳都太郎、飯島廣三郎共著 『大英和辭典』(富山房、 1 9 3 1、昭 6)

4 齋藤秀三郎 『熟語本位英和中辭典』(1 9 1 5、大 4)(岩波書店、 1 9 3 3、昭 8；新增補版 1 9 3 6) excelsior 【形】(= still higher) 向上的 (米國 New York 州の警句)。(2 0 0 2 年現在購入可)