INTRODUCTION. Some years ago, in a second-hand bookstore in Bigfork, Montana, I bought a 1913 edition of Theodore Winthrop’s 1863 book The Canoe and the Saddle. The editor, John H. Williams, had added an appendix with several essays by people who had known Winthrop during his time in the Northwest. One of these essays, entitled ‘Colonel E. Jay Allen’s Reminiscences’ (pp. 326-331), contains the following passage about Chinook Jargon (329-30):

‘I knew George Gibbs well. He was a likeable man and a learned student. I was with him while he was compiling his Chinook jargon dictionary. He made it quite complete, but it was less expressive than would have been one gotten together by illiterate Michael Simons of Tumwater. With some one to write out the difficult Indian pronunciations, Simons would have given the jargon just as it was actually used. The scholarly Gibbs, I think, could not refrain from treating it as if it had tense, whereas it had none, and the meaning of a word was decided by emphasis. This is very apparent in the word “si-ah,” for example. This negligently uttered has a different meaning from the emphatic pronunciation of the word, with the last syllable prolonged. Then, too, the distinct French, Spanish and English words in the jargon would, in scholarly hands, insist on a meaning closely allied to their originals; whereas with the greater vulgarism of an illiterate people, having no written records, the root meanings “of the best usage” became greatly corrupted. Gibbs did not sufficiently consider this. The men like Mike Simons, who were innocent of all knowledge of tenses and cases, and entirely untrammelled, and who used Chinook as a necessity of their daily life, gave it as the Indians rendered it. For my coming volume, “The Oregon Trail,” I have in manuscript perhaps the fullest vocabulary of the jargon yet offered. It is compiled from all the vocabularies to which I could get access, together with the pronunciations as I knew them. It is likely that in different localities these pronunciations differed slightly, though not anywhere to my knowledge in what now constitutes Washington,—the territory which in 1852, at the Convention of Monticello, we petitioned Congress to call “Columbia.”

‘A Chinook vocabulary was published by the Columbian, edited by McElroy and Wiley, the earliest paper, I believe, issued north of the Columbia. Others were published later. There were several sources from which Winthrop might have secured his vocabulary. Certainly he could have got it at Fort Vancouver.’

I was studying Chinook Jargon structure and vocabulary at the time I found this reference, and I had never heard of a vocabulary compiled by Allen, so I was eager to find it, if it existed.

Edward Jay Allen is described by the editor as ‘the young engineer and contractor at the head of the road builders in whose camp on the Greenwater Winthrop spent the night of August 26, 1853; he is now a highly respected citizen of Pittsburg, Pa.’ When I returned to Pittsburgh, I looked in local libraries for references to a published version of Allen’s ‘coming volume The Oregon Trail.’ No luck. But a search under his name turned up a small volume of poetry with a title in Chinook Jargon (Allen 1900), and the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine indicated that he was a colonel who commanded the 155 Pennsylvania Volunteers regiment (vol. 11:263, 1928), a contractor, and the great-grandfather of the novelist Hervey Allen (vol. 28:66, 1945). My next step was to find out if by any chance the University of Pittsburgh’s Special Collections Department had, in its Hervey Allen Collection, any unpublished writings by Hervey Allen’s literary great-grandfather. Charles Aston, Jr., Coordinator of the Special Collections Department, quickly found among Hervey Allen’s papers a handwritten diary kept by Edward Jay Allen before he left for the Northwest; but there was no Oregon Trail manuscript, and no Chinook Jargon material. He said that he would also check an old trunk of Hervey Allen’s that was kept in dead storage in the Special Collections Department, but that he thought the trunk was empty. Several months later, to his surprise and mine, he found in that trunk Edward Jay Allen’s manuscript The Oregon Trail.
entire manuscript is a carbon copy of 355 double-spaced typed legal-size pages—typed, apparently, to judge by a note on the package, by Hervey Allen (Charles Aston, personal communication, 1982). The copy includes eleven legal-sized pages of Chinook Jargon words and an additional single sheet headed 'Sentences'.

This, then, is the “new” Chinook Jargon word list of my title. Clearly, whatever Edward Jay Allen's original intentions were, it is not 'the fullest vocabulary of the jargon yet offered' (as of 1913), and much of it is, as he says, drawn from other written sources. Nevertheless, it provides a considerable amount of Chinook Jargon material—400 lexical entries and 19 sentences—and should be of interest to any scholars concerned with Chinook Jargon (CJ) and its lexicon.

2. EDWARD JAY ALLEN’S CHINOOK JARGON LEXICAL LIST, ANNOTATED. In the list below, each item begins with Allen's CJ entry and gloss, both in boldface. I have retained Edward (or Hervey) Allen’s spelling and punctuation, though apparent typographical errors are indicated in the annotations. In some cases someone—presumably either Edward or Hervey Allen—has inserted hand-written emendations in the entries; in these cases I have used the corrected spelling. The annotations, in plain type, include correction of apparent typographical errors, no doubt an incomplete list, in parentheses after Allen’s entry; a phonemic representation of the CJ word or phrase; the gloss of the CJ word or phrase, where it differs significantly from Allen’s gloss; the original source language of the word or phrase; and a characterization of the word's distribution in other CJ sources.

The phonemic CJ representations are based on Terrence Kaufman's system (1968). They are relatively transparent—for instance, a sequence /kw/ or /qw/ represents a labialized stop—except that /h/ represents a velar fricative and /x/ a uvular fricative. Stress is on the initial syllable unless otherwise marked. The original source of the word—generally Chinook. Nootka, Salishan (specific language unspecified here), French, English, Algonquian, onomatopoeia, or '?' for words whose origin is not given in any reliable source I’ve checked—is followed by a question mark in cases where the source language is provided only by non-linguist sources. The distributional characterizations are as follows: 1+ = very widely attested (upwards of 30 sources); 1 = widely attested (20 or more sources); 2 = well attested (ca. 8-19 sources); 3 = sparsely attested (fewer than 8 sources); 4+ = almost unique (I’ve found the word only in one or two sources that Allen apparently used, so there are no independent attestations); and 4 = unique (I haven’t found the word in any other CJ sources). These designations are based on the sources I have checked systematically; I haven’t checked all available sources, so the figures are on the low side. They should therefore be taken as a rough guide to the frequency with which the word appears in CJ materials, not as a claim about overall attestation. Distributional indicators in entries for phrases refer to the phrase as a whole, not to its separate parts (even when the separate words don’t appear elsewhere in Allen’s list). Etymologies for the separate words in a phrase are given under the phrase entry only if one or more words in the phrase do not also appear separately in the list.

Because of the length of Allen’s list (and space limitations), I have omitted other information here that might be of interest to Chinook Jargon fans. Further comments on word forms, distribution, and etymologies, comparisons of Allen’s words with forms found in other sources (especially Swan 1857 and Winthrop 1863), and most cross-references to other entries in Allen’s list are all omitted, but are included in a longer version of the paper that I will be happy to send to anyone who asks for it (write to Sarah Thomason, Department of Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA, after September 1st, or send email to sally@isp.pitt.edu). In the longer version of the paper, 'attested at all periods' means that the word appears in several sources well into the 20th century as well as in 19th-century and very early 20th-century sources. Some of the bibliographical references are cited only in the longer version but have been retained in the shorter version.
Abbe. Well, then, if that is the case. CJ /aba/. 3.
1.
AttIe. To be pleased. CJ /kwH/ ‘proud’. Salishan. 3.
B
Hrowket. Stubborn.
Determined. CJ /xaqwéla/. 'unable, impossible'. Chinook. 2.

I

Ikta. One.
Ikt. A tree. 'one tree'. Chinook. English. 4.

Illehe. Land.

Ipseet. Secret.

Iskum. Take.

Issick. Paddle.

IsseI. Corn.

Ituel. Victuals.

Ituel. Victuals.

Kabbage. Cabbage.

Kaw kaw. Crow.

Kamox. Dog.

Kapo. Coat.

Kanim. Canoe.

Kalidon. Lead.

Tenaskaliden. Shot.

Hiyas, Kaliden. Bullets.

Kalock. Swan.

Kallapooa. Mean Indian.

Kawhap. A hole.

Kawqua. The same.

Kapsuallo. To steal.

Kapo. A relation.

Kar. Where.

Kettle. Bet.

Kamsack. Beads.

Kataw. Why, wherefore.

Katsuck. Between, mid-way.

Kapo. Coat.

Kanim. Canoe.

Kalidon. Lead.

Tenaskaliden. Shot.

Hiyas, Kaliden. Bullets.

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Kawqua. The same.

Kapsuallo. To steal.

Kapo. A relation.

Kar. Where.

Kettle. Bet.

Kamsack. Beads.

Kataw. Why, wherefore.

Katsuck. Between, mid-way.

Kapo. Coat.
Kochen. A Pig. CJ /kosoj./ French. 2.
Kultus he he. Dance. CJ /kaltas hihij. 4+.
L
Le breed. Bridle. CJ /labríd/. French. 3.
Le, gum stick. Pine. CJ /lagóm stik/ 'pitch tree'. French, English. 3.
Lejób. The Devil. CJ /litsab/. See Dable above.
Lekl. Spotted. CJ /likáy/ 'piebald (horse)'. French. 2.
Leprats. The priest. CJ /liplét/ 'clergyman'. French. 2.
Leplole. The hen. CJ /lipul/. French. 2.
Lapola. Ribbons. CJ /lipubá/. French. 3.
Lapel. Spade. CJ /lapél/. French. 3.
Laperige. Trap or snare. CJ /lipiés/. French. 3.
Lepole. The hen. CJ /lipul/. French. 2.
Lamute. Sleep. ('Sheep') CJ /limútó/ 'sheep'. French. 2.
Lesito. Spurs. CJ /lisiprél/. French. 3.
Lesway. Silk. CJ /lasuéy/. French. 2.
Le karrot. Carrot. CJ /lakarát/. French. 3.
Lesap. An egg. CJ /lisép/. French. 3.
Lesonion. An onion. CJ /lisoyó/. French. 3.
Lake. A Lake. CJ /leyk/. English. 3.
Lachaise. Chair. CJ /lašé/. French. 3.
Lay. Tired. Slow. (Lazy) CJ /leys/. English. 3.
Lag A saw. CJ /lakuin, likufn/. French. 3.
Lapusha. Saddle blanket. CJ /ldp;smo/. French article, Algonquian stem. 4+.
Lalame. A (file) CJ /lallm/ 'a file; sharp'. French. 2.
Makook Buy or Sell. CJ /makukj. Nootka. 1.
Mauk. Duck. CJ /leys/. English. 3.
Memeloose. Kill. CJ /mimlust/. French. 3.
Mercie. Thanks. CJ /masi/. French. 3.
Midlight. Sit down. Put down. Rest. CJ /mataty/ 'sit (down); stay'. Chinook. 1+.
Mika. You. CJ /mayka/ 'you (sg.)'. Chinook. 1+.
Molally. Towards the land. CJ /malxwali/ 'shoreward (on water), inland (on land)'. Chinook. 1.
Moolack. A moose. CJ /mulak/ 'elk'. Chinook. 2.
N
Nesika. We. CJ /nsaykaj. Chinook. 1.
Ninamox. Otter. CJ /nanamuks/ 'river otter'. Chinook. 2.
Nowwha. How is it. CJ /nihwa/ 'let it be that....' Chinook. 2.
O
O why ee Sandwich, Islander. CJ /(u)w váyi/ 'Hawaiian'. Etymology: Hawai i. 3.
Okoke. This or that. CJ /ukuk/. Chinook? 1.
Oleman. Old man or woman. CJ /ulman/. English. 1.
Opsič. Back. (vulgar) See Opoeltch above.
Owhy he. Sandwich Islander. See O why ee above.
Oree Brother. See Ou above.
Ohelut. Road. CJ /uñat/. Chinook. 2.
P


Patlum. Drunk. CJ /palam/ = /pal/ (Chinook), /lam/ (see Lum above). 3.


Pelle. Tom. CJ /pete/. Chinook. 2.


Poeh. Shoot. (Pooh) CJ /pu/ ‘sound of a gun, gunshot’. Nootka and/or onomatopoeia. 2.


Q

Quance What. CJ /quansi(x)/ ‘how many’. See Konsock above.

Quannice. Whale. CJ /kwansi/. Salishan & Chinook. 3.


Quahaddy. Rabbit. CJ /kwitsadi/. Salishan. 3.


R


Sharty. Sing. CJ /skant/. French. 2.


Skin shoes. Moccasins. CJ /skin as/ ‘skin shoes’. English. 3.


Sil. Cloth. See Sale above.


Sittum sun. Midday. CJ /sittum san/ ‘noon’ (lit. ‘half day’). 3.


Soole. House. (‘mouse’). CJ /sul/. French. 3.


T

Talpas. Wolf. CJ /talap'as/ 'coyote; a sneak'. Chinook. 2.
Toltoosh. Milk. CJ /tutush/ 'suck; woman’s breast; milk'. Algonquian. 2.

U

Utescut. Short. CJ /yutsqat/. Chinook. 3.

W

Wake consick. Never. CJ /wik qansi(x)/. 2.
Warm illehe. Summer. CJ /wam ili/. English; Chinook. 2.
Waugh. To spill. CJ /wax/. Chinook. 2.
Weltch. Here. CJ /wiht, weht/. See Wicht above.
Whaah. Indeed. CJ /h.wa/ (an exclamation of surprise, admiration, earnestness). '?'. 3.
Y


Yaka. He CJ /yaka, yaxka/. Chinook. 1+

Yakwa. Here CJ /yakwá/. Chinook? 1

Yakallo. Eagle? (but see Kulla. kulla above). ? 4+

Yaksoot. Hair. CJ /yaqsuj. Chinook. 2

Yawa. There CJ /yawa/. Chinook. 1


Z

Zum. To paint. To write. CJ /ts'am/ 'marked'. Chinook? 2.

Zum zeahouse. To paint the face. CJ /ts'am siaxustj/. 4

NUMERALS

Ikt. One. CJ /iht/. Chinook. 1+

Mox. Two. CJ /makwstj/. Chinook. 1

Klone. Three. CJ /lun/. Chinook. 1

Locket. Four. CJ /lakát/. Chinook. 1

Quinem. Five. CJ /qw’dn’dmj. Chinook. 1


Sinamox. Seven. CJ /saamakwst/. Chinook. 2

Setkin. Right. ('eight') CJ /stuxtkin/. Chinook. 2

Quiies. Nine. CJ /kw(a)itstj/. Chinook. 1

Tatilum. Ten. CJ /tallam/. Chinook. 1

Tatilum pe ikt. Eleven. CJ /tallam pi iht/. 3

Tatilum pe mox. Twelve. CJ /tallam pi makwst/. 3

Tatilum tatilum. Takamonack. One Hundred. CJ /tallam pi makwst; tak'amúnak/. Chinook. 3; 2

Ikt hyas Takamonack. 1000 CJ /iht hayás tak’amúnak/ lit. 'one big hundred'. 4

3. EDWARD JAY ALLEN’S CHINOOK JARGON SENTENCES. Below are Allen’s nineteen CJ sentences. As with the lexical entries, Allen’s material is in boldface and his spelling and punctuation of the manuscript have been preserved. So, for instance, there is only one question mark in the ms.; otherwise, all questions end in a period, both in Allen’s CJ and in the English gloss. I’ve numbered the sentences to make cross-referencing easier (but cross-references appear only in the longer version of this paper). The only annotations in this short version are corrections of typos, literal glosses (where needed), and identifications of words not found in the word list above.

SENTENCES

1. Kar mika chaco. Where do you come from.
2. Kar mika clatawah. Where are you going to.
3. Kar mika illihe. Where is your home.
4. Klaw how yam shicks. How are you friend. CJ /laxaw’yam/ 'good-bye; pitiful'. Chinook. 1
5. Konsick siya copa mika illihe. How far to your home.
6. Kopet wawah. stop talking.
8. Konsick spose mika clatawah copa nika pe kanim. How much if you go with me with the canoe.
10. Iscum Lacuche. Bring me clams.
11. Mika cumtux. Do you understand.
12. Mika tikke mahkook issick. I want to buy a paddle. (Nika)
13. Nika tikke kuitan ikt day, konsick? How much for a horse for one day. Lit. 'I want horse one day, how much?'.
16. Pooey laporte. Shut the door.
17. Wake nika cumtux. I do not understand.
18. Wake nika tikke okuk ikta. I do not like that thing.

Footnotes

* Edward Jay Allen's Chinook Jargon material is published here with permission from the Special Collections Department of the University of Pittsburgh Library System. Anyone wishing to use this material should request permission from the Special Collections Department, 363 Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. I am most grateful to Charles Aston, Jr., for his help in locating this material and in making it available to me.

1 Allen says at the beginning of his essay that, some time after his meeting with Winthrop, he was secretary to Captain McClellan for several months, and that he, McClellan, and George Gibbs lived together in the same cabin in Olympia during that period; this is presumably when Gibbs was compiling his Chinook Jargon dictionary. The Michael Simmons he mentions in this passage is probably the Michael T. Simmons referred to in the 1845 entry in Munford's chronology (1973:9): 'Michael T. Simmons and party first American settlers on Puget Sound, at Tumwater'. The editor of the 1913 edition of The Canoe and the Saddle adds a footnote to Allen's comment about The Columbian, giving the date of the first number as September 11, 1852.
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