

# The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Program in Creative Writing  
Department of English  
436 English-Philosophy Building

(319) 353-4986

*file*



1847

Joe: You were closer than I thought, but it's no cigar. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word came into general usage in the early seventeenth century. But it took until 1850 till the fourth primary meaning, the concrete: "A person of celebrity; a celebrated person; a public character." In 1849 A Miss Mulock in Ogilvies inquired as follows: "Did you see any of those 'celebrities,' as you call them?" And by 1856 it had made its way to Emerson in New England. "One of the celebrities of wealth and fashion confessed that..." Etc.

We can doctor dates, but your best bet is to tell your better that he/she was too drunk to remember that you said and swore by the nineteenth century, not the ~~nig~~hteen hundreds. Poker is cheaper. Be well.

*[Handwritten signature]*

9/13