Pledges and Oaths Throughout History and their Impact

by

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Origins of the Words

OATH

From the Old Saxon \( \ddot{a}\ddot{a} \)
A statement of fact or promise
A ritual act or speech act
Origins of the Words

PLEDGE
Latin *plebium*
A gage or security
Old High German *pflegan*
To look after or care for
Often used in a personal sense
EARLY OATHS AND PLEDGES

Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty (13\textsuperscript{th} Century BC)
Hippocratic Oath (4\textsuperscript{th} Century BC)
Roman Sacramentum (4\textsuperscript{th} Century BC)
Christian Church (3\textsuperscript{rd} Century)
Islam (9\textsuperscript{th} Century)
Bodhisattva Precepts (4\textsuperscript{th} Century)
English Oath Books (9\textsuperscript{th} Century)
Feudal Oaths (10\textsuperscript{th} Century)
OATHS AND PLEDGES TODAY

Presidential and Other Political Oaths
English Coronation Oath
Oath of Citizenship
Oaths in Legal Proceedings
Military Service Oath
Magician’s Oath
Secret Society Oaths
Hippocratic Oath
HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Oldest Greek version 245 AD

I will soothe the pain of anyone who needs my art, and if I don’t know how, I will seek the counsel of my teachers.

I will offer those who suffer all my attention, my science and my love. Never will I betray them or risk their well-being to satisfy my vanity. I will not hurt my fellow or put a knife to his flesh if I don’t know how, or give him an herb to soothe his pain, even if he begs for it in anguish, if it might take away his breath.
SOME UNUSUAL EXAMPLES

West Saxon
Gospel Oaths
SOME UNUSUAL EXAMPLES

Warriors Swearing on Their Sword
SOME UNUSUAL EXAMPLES

Germanic Skull Oaths
SOME UNUSUAL EXAMPLES

Bodleian Library, Oxford
IMPACT

Ancient Times: Pledged Fealty to King
Early Church: Required for Membership
Medieval Europe: Feudal System
Modern: Mutual Defense Treaties
WHY ANNE AND I CHOSE “PLEDGE”

Oaths were often religious in nature
Oaths seemed mandatory
Pledge had the feel of a voluntary act
RESEARCH BASIS FOR THE PLEDGES

Conceptual Learning

- Warren Colburn
- Daniel Adams
- Benjamin Greenleaf
- Joseph Ray
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- Warren Colburn
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- Joseph Ray
- Edward Brooks
- Paul Foerster
- Richard Skemp
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Brain Research

Sheila Tobias
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Carol Dweck
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Educational Leadership

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