

Re: observable language change – "off of" makes it to the NY Times

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- *From:* Harlan Messinger <hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Aug 2008 09:00:18 -0400
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analyst41@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Aug 12, 3:05 pm, Adam Funk <a24...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 2008-08-12, Harlan Messinger wrote:

For crying out loud, do you think he made this up? From the OED:
?c1450 in G. Müller Aus mittelengl. Medizintexten (1929)
116 Take a
sponfull of {th}e licour..of of {th}e fyir and sette it in good
place
tyl {th}at it be ny colde, soo as {th}ou mayst suffryn to
holdyn
{th}er-in {th}in hand. a1616 SHAKESPEARE Henry VI,
Pt. 2 (1623) II. i.
98 A fall off of [1594 Falling off on] a Tree. 1667 A.
MARVELL Corr. in
Wks. (1875) II. 224 The Lords and we cannot yet get off of
the
difficultyes risen betwixt us. 1678 J. BUNYAN Pilgrim's
Progress 49
About a furlong off of the Porters Lodge. 1712 R. STEELE
Spectator No.
306 {page}6, I could not keep my Eyes off of her.

I had no idea the expression had such a respectable pedigree. Maybe I'll start using it in formal writing after all. :-)

Wiily S was only doing dialect when he used "off of".

Really? Would you care to provide evidence for this assertion? Or are you just decreeing this to be so because it doesn't fit your theory?

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I suspect that every use of "off of" will be found to be associated with ignorance/lack of education/lack of cultivation.

Since your suspicions are wrong such an inordinately large portion of the time, this is of no interest. It's high time you learned to mistrust your own suspicions and started feeling your own motivation to test them out rather than waiting every single time for others to challenge you to test them.

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