

A•verage, *sb.*¹ 1489. [In OF. *average*, med. L. *averagium*, app. = *avera* in Domesday Book, 'one day's work which the King's tenants gave to the sheriff' (Spelman), In *Sc.* worn down to *arriage*. Orig. unkn.. Referred to OF. *ovre*, *oeuvre*; also to *aver* (Skene), and Danish *hoveri* (Wedgwood).] *Old Law*. Some kind of service due by tenants to the feudal superior. Explained in Law Dicts., since Sir J. Skene. as 'service done by the tenant with his beasts of burden'.

Average, *sb.*² 1491. [Formed after *primage*, etc. The orig. meaning is *duty* charged on goods; deriv.. uncertain. ?f. It. *avere*, OF, *aveir*, goods.] *Maritime. †**1. orig.** A duty charged upon goods; a customs-duty or the like -1760. **2.** Any charge over and above the freight incurred in the shipment of goods, and payable by their owner. (Still in *petty average*.) 1491. **3. spec.** The expense or loss to owners, arising from damage at sea to the ship or cargo 1622. **4.** The incidence of any such charge, expense, or loss; *esp.* the equitable distribution of such expense or loss among all the parties interested 1598. **Transf. **5.** The

determination or statement of an arithmetical mean; a medial estimate. (Now only in *at*, *on*, *an a.*) 1735. **6.** The arithmetical mean so obtained; the medium amount, the ruling quantity, rate, or degree; the 'common run' 1755.

4. Particular average is the incidence of the partial loss or damage of ship, cargo, or freight, through *unavoidable accident*, upon the individual owners (or insurers) of the interests affected. *General a. is* apportionment of loss caused by *intentional* damage to ship or sacrifice of cargo, etc., and of expense incurred, to secure the general safety of ship and cargo; in which case contribution is made by the owners, etc. in proportion to the value of their respective interests. **5.** Earthquake-shocks occur, on an a., about three times a week HUXLEY. **6.** The month's a. of wrecks has been.. three a day MAURY, The hotel is above the a. 1867.

Comb.: **a-adjuster**, **-stater**, one whose profession it is to adjust claims and liabilities in a case of General Average, and to make up an **a.-statement** showing the same. Hence A•verager, an a.-adjuster.

†**Average**, *sb.*³ 1537. [Cf. ARRISH.]. The pasturage of arable land after harvest.

Average, *a.* 1770. [attrib. use of AVERAGE *sb.*², in sense 5.] **1.** Estimated by average. **2.** Equal to

what would be the result of taking an average; medium, ordinary; of the usual standard 1803

1. The a. price of corn 1770. 2. A modern drawing of a. merit Ruskin. Hence A•veragely *adv.*

Average, *v.* 1821. [f. AVERAGE *sb.*² in sense 5; cf. to *square*, etc.] **1. trans.** To estimate, by dividing the aggregate of a series by the number of its units (*at*); to form an opinion as to the prevailing standard of 1831. **2. ellipt.** for: To average itself at; to be on an average 1821. **3. ellipt.** for: To do, take, etc., on an average 1822.

2. The sale of the book.. averaged a thousand copies a year MASSON. **3.** So much this surgeon averaged upon each day for about twenty years DE QUINCY.