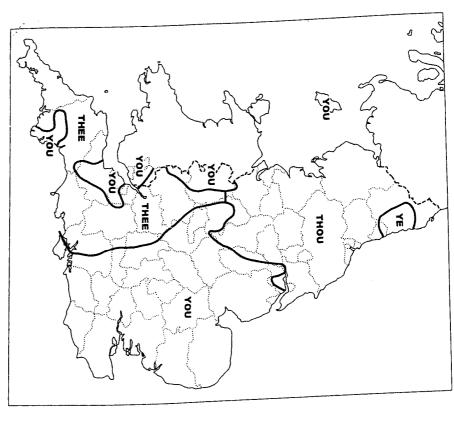
**YOU** 



the impersonal pronoun ONE. other pronouns of this system, THEE, THOU, and YE, and it is now challenging system. Over the centuries, however, you has succeeded in supplanting the model, linguists often call such an arrangement a tu-vous, or simply a T-V, (or familiar) and plural (or respectful) pronouns: using the French system as a present-day French and many other modern languages, with separate singular story. Earlier forms of English had a system closely resembling that found in The history of the second person personal pronoun you is a remarkable success

lish Grammar (para. 317). phrases that to be found in Baugh and Cable, History of the English Language second-person personal pronoun system. The following description para-(para. 182), with extra information from Joseph and Elizabeth Wright's  ${\it New Eng}$ Many commentators have described the evolution of the present-day English

surviving standard pronouns were frequently pronounced yuh, and like nonand they were of course used by some non-standard speakers also. These two the standard pronouns applying to everyone, singular and plural, high and low, standard dialects and in the speech of egalitarian Quakers. YE and YOU were left as gradually disappeared from standard speech, although they survived in the noncreasingly unpopular, probably because of their connotations of disrespect, and and THEE had become interchangeable for many speakers. They also became instandard THOU and THEE they too came increasingly to be used interchangeably. respect. By the sixteenth century the singular subject and object pronouns THOU tively used for the singular and plural object pronouns. In the thirteenth century gular and YE for the plural subject pronouns, while THEE and YOU were respecplied to familiars, children, and inferiors, while plural y-forms were used to show the French T-V system came to be copied in English, singular  $\emph{th}$ -forms being ap-In very early English there was a simple distinction between THOU for the sin-

for particular pronouns in different areas of England. complicated history it is remarkable that there remain such definite preferences THOU, THEE, YE, Or YOU as subject pronouns as in this map, although given this Since the sixteenth century, therefore, it has been quite possible to encounter

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