

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In a letter of 5 February 1676, to Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton proclaimed, “If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Newton meant this as a tribute to his scientific forebears, but his words themselves stood on the shoulders of earlier writings, going back to Bernard of Chartres in the twelfth century (“We are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants”). The progress of Bernard’s aphorism through the centuries is entertainingly traced by Robert K. Merton in his literary-historical-sociological-scientific tour de force, *On the Shoulders of Giants*.

Quotations are the backbone of much of literature, and of the transmission of art and thought more generally. Texts refer to other texts. Today the World Wide Web links documents through hypertext connections, but such connections have always been pivotal to human discourse. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “By necessity, by proclivity, and by delight, we all quote.” The delight is our natural response to the monuments of creativity and wisdom, kept alive by quotations, a communal bond uniting us with past culture and with other lovers of words and ideas in our own time. This historical and contemporary conversation is exemplified by the tale of Bernard of Chartres, Isaac Newton, and Robert Merton.

A dictionary of quotations supports the communal bond. And yet it need not merely present and document familiar words from

the times, for instance, of Bernard of Chartres and Newton. In this light, *The Yale Book of Quotations* is the first major book of quotations geared to the needs of the modern reader. Like other standard reference works in the field, it includes the best-known quotations from older literary and historical sources, but it emphasizes modern and American materials, fully representing such areas as popular culture, children’s literature, sports, computers, politics, law, and the social sciences. In *The Yale Book of Quotations*, readers will find hundreds of very famous and popular quotations that are omitted from other quotation dictionaries.

This is also the first quotation book to be compiled using state-of-the-art research methods to seek out quotations and to trace quotation sources to their true origins or earliest discoverable usages. Essentially, the approach used is the same as that of historical dictionaries, such as *The Oxford English Dictionary*, which try to trace words back to their earliest findable usage. Thus *The Yale Book of Quotations* may be viewed as a true historical dictionary of quotations.

The Art and Science of Compiling a Quotation Dictionary

Both art and science come in to play in compiling a quotation dictionary. The art requires the dictionary compiler to be sufficiently

attuned to the intensity and the impact of words so that he (or she) “knows” a great quotation “when he sees it,” to paraphrase Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart on pornography. Like Emily Dickinson recognizing poetry, the quotation anthologist responds to the verbal quarry with the sense that “it makes my body so cold no fire can ever warm me. . . . I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off.”

The ideal quotation should sparkle, like Anatole France’s comment on the “majestic equality of the law, which forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.” In that respect it might resemble the people who, according to Jack Kerouac, “never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars.” Or it should be famous enough that it is part of the “conversation” of arts and ideas in a culture, like Gertrude Stein’s observation about Oakland, California: “There is no there there.”

The science of compiling a quotation dictionary consists in comprehensively identifying the most famous quotations, tracing them to their original sources as far as possible, and recording those sources precisely and accurately. For this book, novel techniques were used in pursuit of these standards, highlighted by extensive computer-aided research. An enormous number of historical texts are now available in electronic form. By searching online databases one can often find earlier or more precise information about famous quotations. For instance, the very well-known quotation “lies, damned lies, and statistics” is cited in *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* as coming from Mark Twain’s 1924 *Autobiography*. Twain ascribed the saying

to Benjamin Disraeli, but many commentators have doubted this attribution because it was the only known evidence pointing to that British prime minister. A search in the Times Digital Archive, however, retrieves an occurrence in the *Times* (London) of 27 July 1895 specifically crediting Disraeli, and Newspaperarchive.com yields an attribution to the prime minister in the *Perry* (Iowa) *Daily Chief* of 27 December 1896. Even earlier evidence of this quotation (without attribution to an individual) is found by searching the JSTOR electronic journal archive, which reveals an article by Robert Giffen in the *Economic Journal* of June 1892 stating, “There are lies, there are outrageous lies, and there are statistics.”

Like this example, many famous and interesting quotations have no definite original source. Other quotation dictionaries may give vague citations such as “Remark” for such quotations; *The Yale Book of Quotations*, however, tries to give the earliest findable occurrence. Usually the citation takes the form “Quoted in,” followed by the oldest book or article or other source in which the words in question appear:

Is that a gun in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?

Quoted in *Wit and Wisdom of Mae West*, ed. Joseph Weintraub (1967) [listed in this book under *Mae West*]

If there is substantial reason to doubt the validity of the attribution by the oldest source, the form “Attributed in” is used:

640K [of computer memory] ought to be enough for anybody.

Attributed in *Computer Language*, Apr. 1993 [listed in this book under *Bill Gates*]

Pathbreaking online and other research methods make it possible to trace quota-

tions to the most accurate sources. Some notable examples of quotations misattributed by earlier quotation dictionaries include the following: “The opera ain’t over until the fat lady sings” (Ralph Carpenter, not Dan Cook); “When someone walks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, he’s a duck” (James Carey, not Walter Reuther); “Put all your eggs in one basket, and then watch that basket” (Andrew Carnegie, not Mark Twain); “Go West, young man” (Horace Greeley, not John B. L. Soule); “War is hell” (Napoleon, not William Tecumseh Sherman); “Murphy’s Law” (George Orwell, not Edward A. Murphy, Jr.); “[I] cried all the way to the bank” (Walter Winchell, not Liberace).

The following were some of the most helpful of the electronic tools, presenting images and searchable text of important publications, that were searched regularly to help determine quotation sources, wording, and frequency:

- JSTOR (short for “journal storage,” covering scholarly journals in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences dating back to 1665)
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers and American Periodical Series (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal*, and other newspapers back to the inception of the papers, as well as many pre-1940 U.S. journals)
- Times Digital Archive (the *Times* of London from 1785 to 1985)
- LexisNexis (newspapers, magazines, and legal sources from recent decades and earlier)
- Newspaperarchive.com (small-town newspapers from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries)

- Questia (academic and other books from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries)
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (books published in Britain and the United States during the 1700s)
- Literature Online (works of English and American poetry, drama, and prose)

Extensive use was also made of the Stumpers network of reference librarians, an Internet mailing list that brought together some one thousand researchers from around the world to answer tough reference questions. Inquiries submitted to the Stumpers list elicited extraordinary help with finding difficult quotation origins and verifying specific citations. Similar use was made, on a more modest scale, of the American Dialect Society electronic mailing list. Finally, traditional methods of library research, utilizing the resources of the Yale University Library as well as interlibrary borrowing from many other institutions, were pursued to verify quotations and to find the origins of sayings.

The research efforts outlined above were devoted not only to tracing and verifying quotation origins, but also to ensuring that all of the most famous quotations were included in this book. As a result, many important quotations not found in prior quotation dictionaries appear here, such as Willard Motley’s 1947 suggestion to “Live fast, die young, and leave a good-looking corpse”; the famous sentence from Lou Gehrig’s farewell speech at Yankee Stadium in 1939, “Today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth”; and Friedrich Nietzsche’s 1888 epigram, “Whatever does not kill me makes me stronger.” More than a thousand previous quotation collections and other types of anthologies were canvassed; the alt.quotations news group and other Internet resources were perused; on-

line databases were searched for references to phrases like “famous quotation,” “famous line,” and “well-known saying”; and experts in specific authors and types of literature were consulted.

What This Book Includes

This book takes a broad view of what constitutes a quotation, from passages of writing or speech that range in length from a sentence to a paragraph or longer; to lines or stanzas of poetry; to short phrases, slogans, and proverbs.

Most of the quotations were selected because they are “famous,” that is, they are often quoted or anthologized. Online search engines and databases such as Google and Lexis-Nexis were regularly utilized to determine frequency of use. In some instances, fame was defined in terms of a specialized area; for example, scientific quotations that are not familiar to the general public are included because of their familiarity to scientists.

Familiarity or fame was not the sole criterion for inclusion, however. Some items are included because of their wit, eloquence, or insight, others because of their historical importance. F. Scott Fitzgerald, for instance, writes eloquently in *Tender Is the Night*, of “scars healed, a loose parallel to the pathology of the skin, but there is no such thing in the life of an individual. There are open wounds, shrunk sometimes to the size of a pin-prick but wounds still. The marks of suffering are more comparable to the loss of a finger, or of the sight of an eye. We may not miss them, either, for one minute in a year, but if we should there is nothing to be done about it.” And Abraham Lincoln added his words to history in the Emancipation Proclamation of

1863: “I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and part of States, are, and henceforward shall be free.”

Special attention has been paid to certain modern giants of quotability; in this book, Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Winston Churchill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, George Orwell, and Dorothy Parker loom as large as names like John Milton, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Lord Byron, Alexander Pope, and John Keats do in traditional quotation compilations. Furthermore, readers will find authors here—such as Harry Belafonte, Helen Gurley Brown, Dave Eggers, Annie Lennox, and Maurice Sendak—who do not appear at all in previous collections.

Quotations are drawn from poetry, drama, essays, and fiction; from philosophical, historical, and social-scientific writings, as well as the literature of mathematics and the natural sciences; from commentaries on music, the visual arts, the business world, and military affairs. Quotations from the Bible, which provides more quotations than any other source after William Shakespeare, are supplemented by other Christian sources such as the Book of Common Prayer and non-Christian scriptures and religious texts such as the Koran, the Talmud, and the Bhagavadgita.

Many well-known or historically important lines from politicians’ speeches and other remarks are found in this book, especially emphasizing U.S. politics and history, from Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld. The U.S. political heritage is also represented by important legal quotations, from landmark judicial opinions, the U.S. Constitution, and various commentaries on the law.

This book also gathers an abundance of memorable lines from song lyrics and motion pictures. Famous film lines are listed in a special section; however, true to this book's emphasis on presenting the earliest sources, those lines that can be traced to earlier books or plays are listed there. Thus, for instance, readers will find "There is no place like home" under L. Frank Baum because this line appeared first in his 1900 book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* rather than in the 1939 movie.

Women and African Americans, groups long denied full participation in the cultural and public realms, have nonetheless contributed a wealth of eloquence and insight in their writings, songs, and political discourse. Great effort has been made to allow them ample representation in this book.

A particularly prominent special class of quotation is the proverb, defined by John Simpson in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* as "a traditional saying which offers advice or presents a moral in a short and pithy manner." In most cases proverbs have no known originator, and no amount of research is likely to uncover one. Reference works deal with this anonymity in several ways. Proverbs may be listed under the names of the earliest known user, or they may be listed with a reference to the century of origin. They may also be listed with detailed references to the earliest known use. The research behind these first uses, however, has been limited, based as it was on haphazard reading programs. Now, however, online searching of vast collections of historical texts makes it possible to research proverb origins systematically for the first time. This book presents evidence close to the true first appearance in print for many proverbs, resulting in a more accurate picture of their histories.

Proverb dictionaries include very few proverbs that originated in the twentieth century, leaving the user to conclude that proverbs are purely antiquarian sayings that are no longer coined in modern times. But nothing could be further from the truth. Modern proverbs proliferate constantly and are among our most colorful and popular expressions. In *The Yale Book of Quotations*, a special section of "Modern Proverbs" includes such familiar items as "Shit happens," "It takes a village to raise a child," "Never criticize anybody until you have walked a mile in his shoes," "The customer is always right," and "Different strokes for different folks." This section also provides extensively researched citations of earliest discovered appearance. In some instances, such as "God is in the details," research for this book took the expression out of the category of being an "anonymous proverb" by discovering the originator (in this case Aby Warburg) and documenting the specifics of first use. Another example is "Murphy's Law"—"If anything can go wrong, it will"—which was found to have been essentially introduced by George Orwell, invalidating much popular mythology about the Law's invention.

How to Use This Book

Arrangement of Quotations

Quotations are ordered alphabetically by author (or speaker) name. Where the author is best known by a pseudonym, such as Mark Twain, he or she is listed under the pseudonymous name, with the birth name in parentheses. A few collective works, such as the Bible, the Koran, and the Constitution of the United States, are listed alphabetically among the author entries. In addition, several spe-

cial sections that highlight specific categories of quotations are also placed in alphabetical order among the author entries:

Advertising Slogans

Anonymous (quotations that have known origins but unknown or corporate authors and that do not fit into other well-defined categories)

Anonymous (Latin)

Ballads

Film Lines

Folk and Anonymous Songs

Modern Proverbs

Nursery Rhymes

Political Slogans

Proverbs

Radio Catchphrases

Sayings (expressions that are not strictly proverbs but that resemble proverbs in that their authorship is probably impossible to trace)

Television Catchphrases

Within each author section, quotations are arranged chronologically, and alphabetically by source title within the same year. Quotations with a source beginning “Quoted in,” “Reported in,” or “Attributed in” are listed at the end, in that order. “Attributed in” is used where there is substantial reason to doubt that the author actually wrote or said the item in question.

Quotations within the special sections, which share the attributes of having anonymous or collective authorship or presenting difficulties in tracing authorship, are listed by first keyword, title, product name, television or radio program name, or other description, rather than by author.

Authors

Author names are followed by the author’s nationality, occupation, and birth and death dates. If exact dates are not known, the abbreviation “ca.” (*circa*) indicates approximate dates; “fl.” (*floruit*) is included if all that is known is the year or years in which an author worked (or “flourished”). In some instances, an author annotation explains additional information about the author’s identity or works, the assignment of quotations to that author, or cross-references to related author entries. A few author entries are joint entries, such as Mick Jagger and Keith Richards; where the pairing is less established, quotations with multiple authors are listed under the more prominent author, with a note crediting coauthors.

Quotations from song lyrics are listed under the lyricist’s name. Lines from motion pictures are listed in the section “Film Lines” under the name of the movie, with additional identification of the character uttering the line, the actor playing the character, and the screenwriter or screenwriters. (Exceptions are made for Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, W. C. Fields, George Lucas, Groucho Marx, Monty Python’s Flying Circus, Mario Puzo, and Mae West, whose film lines are collected under their own names as authors.) Quotations from politicians’ speeches are credited to the politician rather than to speechwriters, whose identity is often impossible to verify. Similarly, no attempt has been made to trace television and radio catchphrases to individual writers.

Texts of Quotations

The texts of the quotations have been taken verbatim from the original sources or, for

many of the older items, from standard editions. For items that are “Quoted in,” “Reported in,” or “Attributed in,” unless otherwise noted, the text given is exactly that found in the secondary source referred to. Quotations are capitalized at the beginning and end with a period even if they begin or end in the middle of a sentence. Omissions in the middle of a quotation are indicated by an ellipsis. Spellings and capitalization of older quotations have been modernized, with some exceptions, such as Geoffrey Chaucer, where custom retains the original form. A few British spelling conventions, such as words ending in “-our,” have been Americanized. Complex indentation of poetry has generally been simplified to a left-justified format.

Quotations from foreign languages have been translated into English. Where the quotation is somewhat familiar to English speakers in the original language (usually from Latin and French sources), the original is included in italics before the translation.

Sources of Quotations

Even the most scholarly prior quotation dictionaries include many vague source references, such as “Remark” or “Last words.” *The Yale Book of Quotations*, however, provides precise sources; even those quotations whose exact provenance is untraceable are identified as “Quoted in” or “Attributed in” followed by a precise secondary source.

The usual source citations take the following forms:

Books: Title, chapter number, year of publication.

Plays: Title, act/scene number, year of publication or first performance.

Poems: Title, beginning line number or (for

longer poems) stanza number, year of publication in book form.

Short Stories, Essays, Articles: Title, year of publication. For literary authors, usually only the title of the story or essay is given; for other authors, the book or periodical in which the publication was included may be given if helpful.

Speeches: Description of speech, place of delivery, date of delivery (place of delivery is not indicated for broadcast speeches).

Annotations and Cross-References

In many instances, annotations after the quotation source help clarify the meaning, context, significance, or history of the quotation. They range in length from a few words to mini-articles on key quotations such as the “Serenity Prayer” or “There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch.” In other entries, clarifying information is provided in brackets before the text of the quotation.

Often a quotation was inspired by or refers to an earlier one, and sometimes the same thought is expressed by two or more authors, each of whose versions is memorable and merits quotation. These connections are brought to the reader’s attention through cross-references that identify author name and quotation number. For example, Yogi Berra’s comment “It ain’t over ’til it’s over” is linked to Ralph Carpenter’s analogous “The opera ain’t over till the fat lady sings.” Interested readers will find that some of the cross-references constitute important discoveries about the precursors of famous quotations.

Keyword Index

The Keyword Index is an important means of access to partially remembered quotations or quotations about a particular topic and

serves as a form of subject index. Significant words from a quotation are listed in the index. A reader wanting to find quotations about money, for instance, will be able to do so by looking up “money” in the Keyword Index. Keywords and context excerpts (in which the keyword is abbreviated, such as “m.” for “money”) are listed alphabetically. Plural nouns are treated as separate keywords from the corresponding singular nouns; for example, “computer” and “computers” are listed separately. As with cross-references, the Key-

word Index points the reader to the indexed quotation by identifying the author name and quotation number within that author section.

To help improve future editions of *The Yale Book of Quotations*, suggestions from readers are most welcome. These could be new quotations or corrections of information in this first edition. Please submit such contributions to fred.shapiro@yale.edu or www.quotationdictionary.com.

Paul Lewis

U.S. literary scholar, 1949–

- 1 Ever since Mary Shelley's baron rolled his improved human out of the lab, scientists have been bringing just such good things to life. If they want to sell us Frankenfood, perhaps it's time to gather the villagers, light some torches, and head to the castle.

Letter to the editor, *N.Y. Times*, 16 June 1992

Richard Lewis

U.S. comedian, 1947–

- 1 [*Self-description*.] Comedian from hell. Quoted in *Chicago Tribune*, 20 Apr. 1986. Earliest documented example of the expression "from hell" referring to a person.

Sam M. Lewis

U.S. songwriter, 1885–1959

- 1 How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm (After They've Seen Paree)?
Title of song (1919). Cowritten with Joe Young.
- 2 Five foot two, eyes of blue,
But oh! what those five feet could do,
Has anybody seen my girl?
"Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" (song) (1925). Co-written with Joe Young.

Sinclair Lewis

U.S. novelist, 1885–1951

- 1 Main Street.
Title of book (1920)
- 2 His name was George F. Babbitt. He was 46 years old now, in April 1920, and he made nothing in particular, neither butter nor shoes nor poetry, but he was nimble in the calling of selling houses for more than people could afford to pay.
Babbitt ch. 1 (1922)
- 3 Every compulsion is put upon writers to become safe, polite, obedient, and sterile. In protest I declined election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters some years ago, and now I must decline the Pulitzer Prize.
Letter declining Pulitzer Prize in fiction (1926)

- 4 Our American professors like their literature clear and cold and pure and very dead.
Nobel Prize address, Stockholm, 12 Dec. 1930

- 5 It Can't Happen Here.
Title of book (1935)

Ted Lewis

U.S. entertainer, 1891–1971

- 1 Is Everybody Happy?
Title of song (1927)

Wyndham Lewis

English writer and painter, 1882–1957

- 1 The earth has become one big village, with telephones laid on from one end to the other, and air transport, both speedy and safe.
America and Cosmic Man ch. 2 (1948)
See *McLuhan* 3; *McLuhan* 4; *McLuhan* 6

Robert Ley

German Nazi leader, 1890–1945

- 1 *Kraft durch Freude*.
Strength through joy.
Instruction for German Labor Front, 2 Dec. 1933

George Leybourne (Joe Saunders)

English entertainer, 1842–1884

- 1 He'd fly through the air with the greatest of ease,
A daring young man on the flying trapeze.
"The Flying Trapeze" (song) (1868)

Liberace (Wladziu Valentino Liberace)

U.S. entertainer, 1919–1987

- 1 Thank you for your very amusing review. After reading it, in fact, my brother George and I laughed all the way to the bank.
Quoted in *TV Guide*, 26 Feb.–4 Mar. 1954
- 2 He [Liberace] begins to belabor the critics announcing that *he* doesn't mind what they say but that poor George [his brother] "cried all the way to the bank."
Reported in *Collier's*, 17 Sept. 1954. An earlier version appeared in Walter Winchell's column in the *Waterloo* (Iowa) *Daily Courier*, 3 Sept. 1946: "Eddie

Walker perhaps is the wealthiest fight manager in the game. . . . The other night when his man Belloise lost, Eddie had the miseries. . . . He felt so terrible, he cried all the way to the bank!"

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

German scientist and satirist, 1742–1799

- 1 To do just the opposite is also a form of imitation.
Aphorisms (1775–1779) (translation by Franz H. Mautner and Henry Hatfield)
- 2 A book is a mirror: when a monkey looks in, no apostle can look out.
Aphorisms (1775–1779) (translation by Franz H. Mautner and Henry Hatfield)
- 3 Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together.
Aphorisms (1779–1788) (translation by Franz H. Mautner and Henry Hatfield)
- 4 A donkey appears to me like a horse translated into Dutch.
Aphorisms (1779–1788) (translation by Franz H. Mautner and Henry Hatfield)

A. J. Liebling

U.S. journalist, 1904–1963

- 1 Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one.
New Yorker, 14 May 1960

Gordon Lightfoot

Canadian folk singer and songwriter, 1938–

- 1 The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down
Of the big lake they call "Gitche Gume." Superior, they said, never gives up her dead
When the gales of November come early!
"The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" (song) (1976)

Lydia Kamekeha Liliuokalani

Hawaiian queen and songwriter, 1838–1917

- 1 Farewell to thee, farewell to thee . . .
Until we meet again.
"Aloha Oe" (song) (1878)

Beatrice Lillie

Canadian comedian, 1898–1989

- 1 Every Other Inch a Lady.
Title of book (1927)
See Woollcott 5
- 2 [To a waiter who had spilled soup on her dress:]
Never darken my Dior again.
Quoted in Lore and Maurice Cowan, *The Wit of Women* (1969)

Maya Lin

U.S. architect and sculptor, 1959–

- 1 I saw the Vietnam Veterans Memorial not as an object placed into the earth but as a cut in the earth that has then been polished, like a geode.
Quoted in *Smithsonian Magazine*, Aug. 1996

Abraham Lincoln

U.S. president, 1809–1865

- 1 There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law.
Address before the Young Men's Lyceum, Springfield, Ill., 27 Jan. 1838
- 2 I have now come to the conclusion never again to think of marrying; and for this reason; I can never be satisfied with any one who would be blockhead enough to have me.
Letter to Mrs. Orville H. Browning, 1 Apr. 1838
See Benchley 10; *Joe E. Lewis* 1; *Groucho Marx* 42; *Twain* 4
- 3 Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the *right* to rise up, and

