



A Dictionary of American Proverbs

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Field work on the *Dictionary* was conducted over thirty years under the direction of the Committee on Proverbial Sayings of the American Dialect Society and resulted in 15,000 records of proverbial texts which have been edited for this collection. The result is an invaluable reference for general readers and students, as well as cultural historians, folklorists, linguists, anthropologists, sociologists, and scholars of literature.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This scholarly work lists U.S. and Canadian proverbs alphabetically by key word, cross-referencing for related proverbs. Although it draws strictly from oral sources, noting the recorded distribution, the book also lists each proverb's first citation in writing along with its inclusion in other collections. Especially valuable are the variants: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" also has "Absence makes the heart wander" and five other versions. Understandably, large sections are devoted to "man," "money," and "woman." This is an excellent, well-conceived document of a fast-changing and perhaps dying segment of our language.

Recommended for reference sections.

-Kitty Chen Dean, *Nassau Coll., Garden City, N.Y.*

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Review

"Sets new standards for understanding the oral tradition in America."--*Library Journal*

"This is an excellent, well-conceived document of a fast-changing and perhaps dying segment of our language. Recommended for reference sections."--*Library Journal*

"A very interesting work. Certainly, it will be of greatest use to researchers of language and folklore, but it lends itself to browsing as well."--*RBB/Booklist*

"Should be added to all public and academic library collections because of its unique sampling of spoken American proverbs."--*Choice*

"Fills an especially vital need in word study....A superb dictionary that should enhance the reference department of any general library. Recommended."--*Reference Book Review*

"Stands as an exemplary and indispensable reference work, an enjoyable and revealing cross-section of American 'folk wisdom'....Proverbs scholars throughout the world owe a debt of gratitude to its three editors, who have succeeded in bringing this mammoth undertaking to fruition."--*Proverbium*

"This is a mammoth, most comprehensive collection and is required reading for scholars of literature, psychology, folklore, linguistics, anthropology, and cultural history."--*Come-All-Ye*

"Amazing....Outstanding....This is a mammoth work which offers a variety of resources for students of literature, history, and rhetoric. It is a valuable text, carefully researched and documented."--*Review and Expositor*

About the Author

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Users Review

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Richard Poston:

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