



The Concise Columbia Dictionary of Quotations

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Love and marriage, death and religion, food and drunkenness: all the eternal concerns are here- as well as a host of issues more particular to our time. As varied as the topics they comment on are the people the editor has found as his sources- from Aristotle to Mae West, from St. Augustine to Oscar Wilde, from Budha to Virginia Woolf.

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The Concise Columbia Dictionary of Quotations From Columbia University Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4708936 in Books
- Published on: 1989-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.32" h x 1.19" w x 6.33" l, 1.46 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 343 pages

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Editorial Review

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From the compiler of *The Concise Columbia Dictionary of Quotations* comes this collection of 18,000 quotations. They are arranged by fairly narrow subject headings (*Love; Love, Ended; Love, First; Lovers*), so generally there are not long lists of quotations under a subject. Within each heading, entries are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person being quoted rather than chronologically. Birth and death dates and a descriptive tag identify each author, and a citation to a printed source is given for all quotations. There is an index of personal names but no keyword or subject index.

Columbia is about the same size as *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* and a little smaller than *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*. *Oxford* is arranged alphabetically by author with a keyword index, *Bartlett's* chronologically by author with keyword and author indexes. The compiler of *Columbia* claims that 11,000 of these quotations have never appeared in a quotation book before. This would appear to be the case: about half the sources cited are not found in *Bartlett's* or *Oxford*. For example, quotations from Marlon Brando, Paul Gauguin, Desmond Tutu, Camille Paglia, and Maya Angelou are found only in *Columbia*. Even when a source is found in all three books, there is often a different selection of quotations. For example, there are six quotations from American novelist Nelson Algren in *Columbia*; one of them is found in both *Bartlett's* and *Oxford*, the others are unique. *Columbia* quotes more late-twentieth-century sources than either of those two books, for example, hostage Terry Anderson, Eric Ambler, Shana Alexander, Donald Trump, and Ross Perot.

Because it lacks a keyword index, *Columbia* won't be the first place to look to try to identify a specific quotation. But if *Bartlett's* or *Oxford* or Stevenson's *Home Book of Quotations* don't turn up a source for a quotation, *Columbia* is the next place to try, especially for contemporary quotations with obvious subjects. Its topical arrangement will make it useful for those looking for something to quote, too *Sandy Whiteley*

Review

The wittiest, most whimsical, and yet readable book of quotations you will find...Buy it, browse and enjoy!
Very highly recommended.

(*SSC Booknews*)

About the Author

Robert Andrews: a writer and a journalist living in Bristol, England, has been a collector of quotations for many years. Andrews is also co-author of *The Real Guide to Sicily* and is a contributor of travel pieces to numerous newspapers, magazines, and travel books.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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