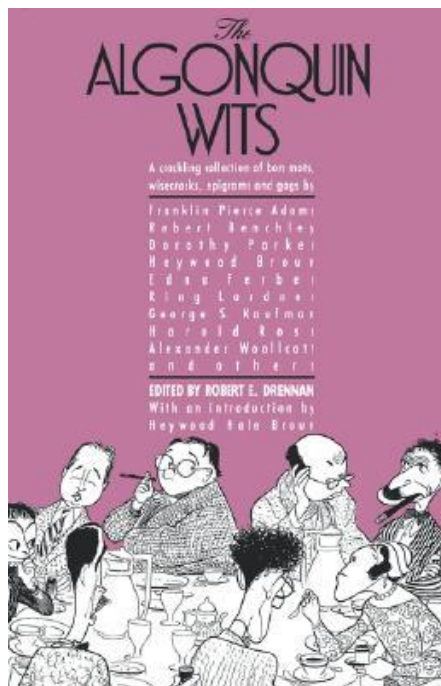




The Algonquin Wits

Robert E. Drennan (Editor) , Dorothy Parker , Alexander Woollcott , Ring Lardner , Robert Benchley , Franklin P. Adams , Edna Ferber , Robert E. Drennen

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Algonquin Wits

Robert E. Drennan (Editor) , Dorothy Parker , Alexander Woollcott , Ring Lardner , Robert Benchley , Franklin P. Adams , Edna Ferber , Robert E. Drennen

The Algonquin Wits Robert E. Drennan (Editor) , Dorothy Parker , Alexander Woollcott , Ring Lardner , Robert Benchley , Franklin P. Adams , Edna Ferber , Robert E. Drennen
A collection of quips of the members of the renowned Algonquin Round Table, including those of Dorothy Parker, Alexander Woollcott, Robert Benchley and other sparkling wits.

The Algonquin Wits Details

Date : Published January 1st 2002 by Citadel (first published January 1st 1968)

ISBN : 9780806509471

Author : Robert E. Drennan (Editor) , Dorothy Parker , Alexander Woollcott , Ring Lardner , Robert Benchley , Franklin P. Adams , Edna Ferber , Robert E. Drennen

Format : Paperback 180 pages

Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Reference

 [Download The Algonquin Wits ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Algonquin Wits ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Algonquin Wits Robert E. Drennan (Editor) , Dorothy Parker , Alexander Woollcott , Ring Lardner , Robert Benchley , Franklin P. Adams , Edna Ferber , Robert E. Drennen

From Reader Review The Algonquin Wits for online ebook

John G. says

Super fast read. Enjoyed the brief historical bios of all the wits and of the Algonquin itself. I've seen a lot of these quotes before in other joke books or collections of wit, insults, and so forth. Well worth your time! Gotta say, Dorothy Parker towered over all the others at the Algonquin Round Table, or more to their liking, The Vicious Circle!

Megan Barnes says

In a book of this nature, the best way to review it is to write my favorite anecdotes.

One day, Aleck Woollcott made a remark which George Kaufman felt was anti-Semitic. Kaufman got up and said "I am now walking away from this table, out of this dining room, and out of this hotel." Then spotting Dorothy Parker-who was of both Jewish and Gentile parentage, he added, "And I hope Mrs. Parker will walk out with me-half way."

Harold Ross asked Ring Lardner how he wrote his short stories, and he said, "I write a few widely separated words or phrases on a piece of paper and then go back and fill in the spaces."

At a Hamilton College reunion, Aleck Woollcott was approached by a man who said to him, "Hello Alex! You remember me, don't you?"

"I can't remember your name," Woollcott said, "But don't tell me."

And of course, my very favorite Dorothy Parker-Mrs. Parker once collided with Clare Booth Luce in a doorway. "Age before beauty," cracked Luce.

"Pearls before swine," said Mrs. Parker, gliding through the door.

Wayne says

Too Clever for Words!!!

Is THAT a bon mot????????????????

Or a Mangled Circuituity ????

This is such an easy and enjoyable read!!!

Generally...whoops!!

(Here is the Big Nose of Mr Qualification to totally disparage

"an easy and enjoyable read".)

Well, it was good while it lasted...all one line of it .

And now it's History!!!

....and THAT is exactly where for me this book often failed.

Some of the humour depended on knowing who the wits, or what event or which place or whatever it was they were referring to, they were referring to.

MMMmmm...I'm beginning to sound like...I wish I had the gall to say "like Dorothy Parker", since she was the one whose humour I enjoyed most because it seems to have survived more than 80 years without History dating it. But generally History has well and truly intervened even a little and will continue to do so. All I can say to you is : DEFY HISTORY !!!

I was (and still am) going to transcribe one Witty Whatever from the Main Members of the Algonquin Group. A Whatever that I understood, that is. And I did understand most and recognise the Member, perhaps because I've watched a lot of old films. Here goes:

"Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory."
- Franklin Pierce Adams

"Coming out of a midtown restaurant, Benchley spotted a uniformed man at the door." "Would you get us a taxi, please," he asked the man. "I'm sorry," the man said coldly, "I happen to be a rear admiral in the United States Navy." "All right, then," said Benchley, "get us a battleship."
- Robert Benchley

Feeling guilty about his occasional hobby of fishing, Broun once wrote, "It is not fair that that I should thwart and crush great eagerness for existence for the sake of the extremely mild diversion which I get from fishing. They told me that fish care very little and that they were cold-blooded and felt no pain. But they were not fish who told me."
- Heywood Broun

"Kaufman once visited the office of Jed Harris, the theatre producer, and was received by the unpredictable tycoon stark naked. Accustomed to Harris' flights of pretentious fancy, Kaufman addressed him calmly: "Mr Harris, your fly is open."
- George S. Kaufman

Seated at the bar in a theatre district nightclub, Ring was approached by an ostentatious actor-type with a wild flowing mane. Lardner asked the man, "How do you look when I'm sober?"
- Ring Lardner.

Reporting on a Yale prom, Mrs Parker said, "If all those sweet, young things present were laid end to end, I wouldn't be at all surprised."
- Dorothy Parker

Harpo Marx once arrived at Woolcott's Lake Bomoseen home in a broken-down Model-T Ford. "What do you call that?" Woolcott exclaimed as he regarded the automobile.
"This is my town car," Harpo explained.
"What was the town?" asked Woolcott. "Pompeii?"
- Alexander Woollocott

Kitty Jay says

For one reason or another, the Algonquin Table has always fascinated me, particularly the often vicious quips of Dorothy Parker. The idea of so many brilliant minds gathering in one place enthralled me; you don't see the kind of sharp wit today that was so apparently on display in the 1920s.

For its part, this book is a collection of the famous quips of Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Franklin Pierce Adams, Alexander Woollcott, George Kaufman, and others. All of the quips were gems, but it was also interesting to see the style of each, from Kaufman's love of puns to the drawling wit of Ring Lardner.

Most of the quips were fairly well-known, with only a few that I hadn't heard of before thrown in, so if you're pretty familiar with the Vicious Circle, there might not be much that is new in this collection. It's also *only* the quips - these are given in short, three-sentence-at-most bursts, with no background or detail other than what might be absolutely necessary to explain the joke.

As a collection of one-liners, zingers, and bon mots, it's great, but as anything more than that, not so much.

Keith Davis says

Many people remember Dorothy Parker, and if you are a Marx Brothers fan you may remember George S. Kaufman, but few remember the likes of Robert Benchley or Heywood Broun. This book does a fine job of reminding readers of the writers and wits who frequented the Algonquin Hotel in the 1920's.

Kasa Cotugno says

Like a rich box of bonbons, or, if you will, bon-mots. Tasty.

Beth says

The best quotes in this collection belong to Dorothy Parker, and you could easily skip this volume and just look up some of her quotes. But this collection does give some background on the famous Algonquin Round Table, aka the "Vicious Circle", and introduces its lesser known characters.

Bob Kaufman says

Many very funny quips.

KC says

Fun to read, though about a quarter of the content was probably more humorous in its day. Book includes a short bio of the major "Wits" and includes humorous anecdotes from some "sideliners" as well. Chances are, if you enjoy old black and white movies with witty, caustic humor, you'll enjoy reading this book.
