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JENNIFER SPEAKE

Oxford Dictionary Of Proverbs

L.A. Simpson (ed)



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Thomas Alva Edison Abigail Adams and Ralph Waldo Emerson to name but a few offered in this fascinating collection Who wouldn't want to know the origin of the proverb 'It ain't over till the fat lady sings' This uniquely American proverb and many more are gathered together in *A Dictionary of American Proverbs* A great resource for students and scholars of literature psychology folklore linguistics anthropology and cultural history this endlessly intriguing volume is also a delightful companion for anyone with an interest in American culture

"Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words" Wolfgang Mieder, 2008 The ten chapters of *Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words* present a composite picture of the richness of proverbs as significant expressions of folk wisdom as is manifest from their appearance in art culture folklore history literature and the mass media The first chapter surveys the multifaceted aspects of paremiology the study of proverbs with the second chapter illustrating the paremiological work by the American folklorist Alan Dundes The next two chapters look at the effective role that proverbs play in the mass media where they are cited in their traditional wording or as innovative anti proverbs The fifth chapter discusses proverbs as expressions of the worldview of New England This is followed by two chapters on the proverbial prowess of American presidents to wit the proverbial style in the correspondence between John and Abigail Adams and a discussion of Abraham Lincoln's apocryphal proverb 'Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream' The eighth chapter traces the tradition of proverb iconography from medieval woodcuts to Pieter Bruegel the Elder and on to modern caricatures cartoons and comic strips The last two chapters deal with the origin and history of the proverbial expression 'to tilt at windmills' as an allusion to Cervantes' Don Quixote and the many proverbial utterances in Mozart's letters The book draws attention to the fact that proverbs as metaphorical signs continue to play an important role in oral and written communication Proverbs as so-called *monumenta humana* are omnipresent in all facets of life and while they are neither sacrosanct nor saccharine they usually offer much common sense or wisdom based on recurrent experiences and observations

Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs William George SMITH (Collector of Proverbs.), 1970 A collection of proverbs followed by quotations illustrating the various forms the proverb has taken from its first recorded use until the present

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