

6200 WISECRACKS, WITTY REMARKS EPIGRAMS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

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In part at least, the program offered one of the most exquisitely memorable ballet offerings that I have ever seen. I should begin with that sequence as it was the first ballet of the three on the bill, but I hope readers would bear with me as I feel the company erred in the ordering of its program. I will save best things for last, and truthfully, I wish Houston Ballet had done the same. Allow me then to describe the program in reverse order of presentation. A half century later Kenneth MacMillan proposed choreographing the piece for The Royal Ballet, but finally had his opportunity to do so with the Stuttgart Ballet in That is the work with which Houston Ballet is closing this current three-part program. In this case we have the impressive talents of mezzo-soprano, Susanne Mentzer, and tenor, Russell Thomas. All danced superbly with wonderful support from the fine ballet company Repetiteur: Also problematic are the essentially bare stage and colorless costumes consisting of dance rehearsal tights and T-shirts for the men and basic tunics for the women, and all this in a work that runs more than an hour. The experience of tedium will be a possibility for some viewers. Upon leaving the theatre, a delightful elderly couple joined my guest and I in the parking lot elevator. Perhaps that was why an enormous portion of the audience stood up rudely during the curtain call and headed for the exits. Katherine Burkwall-Ciscon was pianist. Amitava Sarkar Amid the soft lighting design of Jennifer Tipton recreated here by Nicole Pearce , and with the airy and colorful costumes of designer, Anthony Dowell, all danced divinely. Finally, in the view of this critic, the piece de resistance for the evening was the marvelous ballet, Les Patineurs, choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton, to the music of Giacomo Meyerbeer, with the original Constant Lambert arrangements and orchestrations conducted here for the Houston Ballet Orchestra by Ermanno Florio. The charming scenic and colorful costume designs of William Chappell, the gay lighting designs of Christina R. Amitava Sarkar The resulting vision made this a picture perfect offering that will linger long in memory, and I would suggest the ballet become a holiday perennial right alongside The Nutcracker. Better still was the exquisite dancing of the members of this large cast in a ballet that depicts them all as ice skaters gliding on the pond. Joseph Walsh beamed with playful joy and a commanding talent in the central role of the skating Boy in Blue. As a very convincing onstage snowstorm concluded the piece, the audience appeared to be beaming with joy as much as the talented performers. This was the big finishâ€” or it should have been! Tickets are also available at [www](http://www.houstonballet.com).

4: Staff View: A thousand & one epigrams :

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Barnes climbed down from the freight train in Orange, N. As he made his way from the railroad tracks to Thomas A. He heard himself asking Mr. It was not a wish! The desire was not new when he approached Edison. In the beginning, when the desire first appeared in his mind, it may have been, probably was, only a wish, but it was no mere wish when he appeared before Edison with it. A few years later, Edwin C. Barnes again stood before Edison, in the same office where he first met the inventor. He was in business with Edison. Today, people who know Barnes envy him, because of the "break"life yielded him. They see him in the days of his triumph, without taking the trouble to investigate the cause of his success. Barnes succeeded because he chose a definite goal, placed all his energy, all his will power, all his effort, everything back of that goal. He did not become the partner of Edison the day he arrived. He was content to start in the most menial work, as long as it provided an opportunity to take even one step toward his cherished goal. Five years passed before the chance he had been seeking made its appearance. Barnes won his goal, because he wanted to be a business associate of Mr. Edison, more than he wanted anything else. He created a plan by which to attain that purpose. When he went to Orange, he did not say to himself, "I will try to induce Edison to give me a job of some soft. He did not say, "I will work there for a few months, and if I get no encouragement, I will quit and get a job somewhere else. I will do anything Edison tells me to do, but before I am through, I will be his associate. He had to win or perish! That is all there is to the Barnes story of success! A long while ago, a great warrior faced a situation which made it necessary for him to make a decision which insured his success on the battlefield. He was about to send his armies against a powerful foe, whose men outnumbered his own. Addressing his men before the first battle, he said, "You see the boats going up in smoke. That means that we cannot leave these shores alive unless we win! We now have no choice-we win or we perish! Every person who wins in any undertaking must be willing to burn his ships and cut all sources of retreat. The morning after the great Chicago fire, a group of merchants stood on State Street, looking at the smoking remains of what had been their stores. They went into a conference to decide if they would try to rebuild, or leave Chicago and start over in a more promising section of the country. They reached a decision all except one-to leave Chicago. The store was built. The easy thing for Marshal Field to have done, would have been exactly what his fellow merchants did. When the going was hard, and the future looked dismal, they pulled up and went where the going seemed easier. Mark well this difference between Marshal Field and the other merchants, because it is the same difference which distinguishes Edwin C. Barnes from thousands of other young men who have worked in the Edison organization. It is the same difference which distinguishes practically all who succeed from those who fail. Every human being who reaches the age of understanding of the purpose of money, wishes for it. Wishing will not bring riches. But desiring riches with a state of mind that becomes an obsession, then planning definite ways and means to acquire riches, and backing those plans with persistence which does not recognize failure, will bring riches. The method by which DESIRE for riches can be transmuted into its financial equivalent, consists of six definite, practical steps, viz: Fix in your mind the exact amount of money you desire. It is not sufficient merely to say "I want plenty of money. There is a psychological reason for definiteness which will be described in a subsequent chapter. Determine exactly what you intend to give in return for the money you desire. There is no such reality as "something for nothing. Establish a definite date when you intend to possess the money you desire. Create a definite plan for carrying out your desire, and begin at once, whether you are ready or not, to put this plan into action. Write out a clear, concise statement of the amount of money you intend to acquire, name the time limit for its acquisition, state what you intend to give in return for the money, and describe clearly the plan through which you intend to accumulate it. Read your written statement aloud, twice daily, once just before retiring at night, and once after arising in the

morning. It is important that you follow the instructions described in these six steps. It is especially important that you observe, and follow the instructions in the sixth paragraph. You may complain that it is impossible for you to "see yourself in possession of money" before you actually have it. If you truly DESIRE money so keenly that your desire is an obsession, you will have no difficulty in convincing yourself that you will acquire it. Only those who become "money conscious" ever accumulate great riches. To the uninitiated, who has not been schooled in the working principles of the human mind, these instructions may appear impractical. It may be helpful, to all who fail to recognize the soundness of the six steps, to know that the information they convey, was received from Andrew Carnegie, who began as an ordinary laborer in the steel mills, but managed, despite his humble beginning, to make these principles yield him a fortune of considerably more than one hundred million dollars. It may be of further help to know that the six steps here recommended were carefully scrutinized by the late Thomas A. Edison, who placed his stamp of approval upon them as being, not only the steps essential for the accumulation of money, but necessary for the attainment of any definite goal. The steps call for no "hard labor. They do not require one to become ridiculous, or credulous. To apply them calls for no great amount of education. But the successful application of these six steps does call for sufficient imagination to enable one to see, and to understand, that accumulation of money cannot be left to chance, good fortune, and luck. You may as well know, also that every great leader, from the dawn of civilization down to the present, was a dreamer. Christianity is the greatest potential power in the world today, because its founder was an intense dreamer who had the vision and the imagination to see realities in their mental and spiritual form before they had been transmuted into physical form. If you do not see great riches in your imagination, you will never see them in your bank balance. Never, in the history of America has there been so great an opportunity for practical dreamers as now exists. The six year economic collapse has reduced all men, substantially, to the same level. A new race is about to be run. The stakes represent huge fortunes which will be accumulated within the next ten years. The rules of the race have changed, because we now live in a CHANGED WORLD that definitely favors the masses, those who had but little or no opportunity to win under the conditions existing during the depression, when fear paralyzed growth and development. We who are in this race for riches, should be encouraged to know that this changed world in which we live is demanding new ideas, new ways of doing things, new leaders, new inventions, new methods of teaching, new methods of marketing, new books, new literature, new features for the radio, new ideas for moving pictures. The business depression marked the death of one age, and the birth of another. This changed world requires practical dreamers who can, and will put their dreams into action. The practical dreamers have always been, and always will be the pattern-makers of civilization. We who desire to accumulate riches, should remember the real leaders of the world always have been men who harnessed, and put into practical use, the intangible, unseen forces of unborn opportunity, and have converted those forces, [or impulses of thought], into sky-scrapers, cities, factories, airplanes, automobiles, and every form of convenience that makes life more pleasant. Tolerance, and an open mind are practical necessities of the dreamer of today. Those who are afraid of new ideas are doomed before they start. Never has there been a time more favorable to pioneers than the present. True, there is no wild and woolly west to be conquered, as in the days of the Covered Wagon; but there is a vast business, financial, and industrial world to be remoulded and redirected along new and better lines. In planning to acquire your share of the riches, let no one influence you to scorn the dreamer. To win the big stakes in this changed world, you must catch the spirit of the great pioneers of the past, whose dreams have given to civilization all that it has of value, the spirit which serves as the life-blood of our own country your opportunity and mine, to develop and market our talents. Let us not forget, Columbus dreamed of an Unknown world, staked his life on the existence of such a world, and discovered it! Copernicus, the great astronomer, dreamed of a multiplicity of worlds, and revealed them! No one denounced him as "impractical" after he had triumphed. Henry Ford, poor and uneducated, dreamed of a horseless carriage, went to work with what tools he possessed, without waiting for opportunity to favor him, and now evidence of his dream belts the entire earth. He has put more wheels into operation than any man who ever lived, because he was not afraid to back

his dreams. Thomas Edison dreamed of a lamp that could be operated by electricity, began where he stood to put his dream into action, and despite more than ten thousand failures, he stood by that dream until he made it a physical reality. Whelan dreamed of a chain of cigar stores, transformed his dream into action, and now the United Cigar Stores occupy the best corners in America. Lincoln dreamed of freedom for the black slaves, put his dream into action, and barely missed living to see a united North and South translate his dream into reality. The Wright brothers dreamed of a machine that would fly through the air. Now one may see evidence all over the world, that they dreamed soundly. Marconi dreamed of a system for harnessing the intangible forces of the ether. Evidence that he did not dream in vain, may be found in every wireless and radio in the world. It made the people of every nation on earth back-door neighbors. It gave the President of the United States a medium by which he may talk to all the people of America at one time, and on short notice. The dreamers of today fare better. The world has become accustomed to new discoveries.

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The Turning Point of All Achievement A Broadcasting and Receiving Station for Thought The Door to the Temple of Wisdom The secret was brought to my attention by Andrew Carnegie, more than a quarter of a century ago. The canny, lovable old Scotsman carelessly tossed it into my mind, when I was but a boy. When he saw that I had grasped the idea, he asked if I would be willing to spend twenty years or more, preparing myself to take it to the world, to men and women who, without the secret, might go through life as failures. I said I would, and with Mr. This book contains the secret, after having been put to a practical test by thousands of people, in almost every walk of life. He believed the formula should be taught in all public schools and colleges, and expressed the opinion that if it were properly taught it would so revolutionize the entire educational system that the time spent in school could be reduced to less than half. His experience with Charles M. Schwab, and other young men of Mr. Carnegie that much of that which is taught in the schools is of no value whatsoever in connection with the business of earning a living or accumulating riches. He had arrived at this decision, because he had taken into his business one young man after another, many of them with but little schooling, and by coaching them in the use of this formula, developed in them rare leadership. Moreover, his coaching made fortunes for everyone of them who followed his instructions. In the chapter on Faith, you will read the astounding story of the organization of the giant United States Steel Corporation, as it was conceived and carried out by one of the young men through whom Mr. This single application of the secret, by that young man-Charles M. Roughly speaking, this particular application of the formula was worth six hundred million dollars. These facts-and they are facts well known to almost everyone who knew Mr. Carnegie planned that they should. Some have made fortunes with it. Others have used it successfully in creating harmony in their homes. The business came to life and made a fortune for its owners. It is still thriving, although Mr. He was ready for it-so ready that he gave up his profession and studied law. That story is told too. I gave the secret to Jennings Randolph, the day he graduated from College, and he has used it so successfully that he is now serving his third term as a Member of Congress, with an excellent opportunity to keep on using it until it carries him to the White House. Chapline, President of the University, use the formula so effectively that he has since made the LaSalle one of the great extension schools of the country. The secret to which I refer has been mentioned no fewer than a hundred times, throughout this book. That is why Mr. He used the information so effectively that he went directly into a responsible position at a beginning salary greater than the average man ever earns. When you read it, perhaps you will dismiss any feeling you may have had, at the beginning of the book, that it promised too much. It was passed on to every soldier who fought in the war, carefully wrapped in the training received before going to the front. President Wilson told me it was a strong factor in raising the funds needed for the war. More than twenty years ago, Hon. Quezon then Resident Commissioner of the Philippine Islands, was inspired by the secret to gain freedom for his people. If you doubt this, study the names of those who have used it, wherever they have been mentioned, check their records for yourself, and be convinced. The secret to which I refer cannot be had without a price, although the price is far less than its value. It cannot be had at any price by those who are not intentionally searching for it. It cannot be given away, it cannot be purchased for money, for the reason that it comes in two parts. One part is already in possession of those who are ready for it. The secret serves equally well, all who are ready for it. Long before I was born, the secret had found its way into the possession of Thomas A. The secret was passed on to a business associate of Mr. It should convince you that riches are not beyond your reach, that you can still be what you wish to be, that money, fame, recognition and happiness can be had by all who are ready and determined to have these blessings. How do I know these things? While I was performing the twenty year task of research, which I had undertaken at Mr. I have never known anyone who was inspired to use the secret,

who did not achieve noteworthy success in his chosen calling. I have never known any person to distinguish himself, or to accumulate riches of any consequence, without possession of the secret. This has been answered in full detail. As far as schooling is concerned, many of these men had very little. I am not attempting to minimize the value of schooling, but I am trying to express my earnest belief that those who master and apply the secret will reach high stations, accumulate riches, and bargain with life on their own terms, even if their schooling has been meager. When it appears, you will recognize it. We pass now, to Chapter One, and to the story of my very dear friend, who has generously acknowledged having seen the mystic sign, and whose business achievements are evidence enough that he turned down a glass. As you read his story, and the others, remember that they deal with the important problems of life, such as all men experience. If you are ready for the secret, you already possess one half of it, therefore, you will readily recognize the other half the moment it reaches your mind. A little more than thirty years ago, Edwin C. Barnes discovered the secret. His discovery did not come about at one sitting. He wanted to work with Edison, not for him. Observe, carefully, the description of how he went about translating his DESIRE into reality, and you will have a better understanding of the thirteen principles which lead to riches. He did not know Mr. Edison, and he did not have enough money to pay his railroad fare to Orange, New Jersey. But his was no ordinary desire! To the uninitiated, this means that he went to East Orange on a freight train. He presented himself at Mr. Edison's office. I had learned, from years of experience with men, that when a man really DESIRES a thing so deeply that he is willing to stake his entire future on a single turn of the wheel in order to get it, he is sure to win. I gave him the opportunity he asked for, because I saw he had made up his mind to stand by until he succeeded. Subsequent events proved that no mistake was made. Edison on that occasion was far less important than that which he thought. Edison, himself, said so! Maybe young Barnes did not know it at the time, but his bulldog determination, his persistence in standing back of a single DESIRE, was destined to mow down all opposition, and bring him the opportunity he was seeking. When the opportunity came, it appeared in a different form, and from a different direction than Barnes had expected. That is one of the tricks of opportunity. It has a sly habit of slipping in by the back door, and often it comes disguised in the form of misfortune, or temporary defeat. Perhaps this is why so many fail to recognize opportunity. His salesmen were not enthusiastic over the machine. They did not believe it could be sold without great effort. Barnes saw his opportunity. It had crawled in quietly, hidden in a queer looking machine which interested no one but Barnes and the inventor. He suggested this to Edison, and promptly got his chance. He did sell the machine. In fact, he sold it so successfully that Edison gave him a contract to distribute and market it all over the nation. Barnes literally thought himself into a partnership with the great Edison! He thought himself into a fortune. He had no money to begin with. He had but little education. But he did have initiative, faith, and the will to win. With these intangible forces he made himself number one man with the greatest inventor who ever lived. Now, let us look at a different situation, and study a man who had plenty of tangible evidence of riches, but lost it, because he stopped three feet short of the goal he was seeking. Every person is guilty of this mistake at one time or another. An uncle of R. He had never heard that more gold has been mined from the brains of men than has ever been taken from the earth. He staked a claim and went to work with pick and shovel. After weeks of labor, he was rewarded by the discovery of the shining ore. He needed machinery to bring the ore to the surface. The uncle and Darby went back to work the mine. The returns proved they had one of the richest mines in Colorado! A few more cars of that ore would clear the debts. Down went the drills! Up went the hopes of Darby and Uncle!

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Two of my best friends got married, and I toasted them. I got married, and I spoke at engagement parties, in the ceremony itself, and in a toast to my bride at the reception. I roasted a colleague at a swank party for a watershed birthday, and I eulogized a dear family friend at a quiet memorial service. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. Through my work directing, writing viii Introduction about, and teaching him, I knew his canon pretty well cold. Shakespeare, I was relieved and delighted to discover, is pitch-perfect for all occasions. For my best friend and his bride, whose love for one another struck me as uncommonly deep, I talked about this line from As You Like It: Golden lads and girls all must, As chimney-sweepers, come to dust. Is there a good Shakespeare quote you can send my way? I have to make a presentation in front of the whole company at a product launch next week. Got any Shakespeare for me? Baz, I went out with a really great girl last night and I totally fell for her. I want to send her an e-mail asking her out on another date. I had a great time answering every request. Shakespeare for the Occasion of a Wedding? Try Sonnet , the x Introduction nuptial classic: Lots of great choices. Shakespeare for the Occasion of Seeking a Second Date? They, like Hamlet, routinely took note of epigrams and aphorisms, memorable turns of phrase, and other useful bits and bobs of knowledge encountered in their reading or their lives. The English Renaissance, a period when the classical profundities of the sage ancients were revered as the highest possible cultural values, was the heyday of these books. Many Commonplace Books from the period survive. They share a conspicuous and striking feature: Even in his own day, the Bard was recognized as the leading author of language that renders pithily all the immense size and scope and feeling and sweep of the human experience. When the stakes are as high as they ever get, the emotions as turbulent, and the psychic strain as immense—when we learn that our uncle murdered our father, say—no normal utterance, no mere quotidian language, can express our state. And his, a literary technique and writerly skill that can condense all this into a few lines. Shakespeare for All Occasions is my contribution to the Commonplace Book tradition. A few words about how Bardisms: Shakespeare for All Occasions is organized, and how it might be useful. Bardisms is designed for ease of use. Next is the heart of the book: Shakespearean passages about dozens of life occasions, explicated. The book sticks to the practical Shakespeare, a writer who talks about the regular things that make up daily life. It eschews, for the most part, the ruminative Shake- Introduction x i i i speare, the poetical thinker about broad or abstract concepts. Quotations are presented in rough chronological life order, as organized by the categories in one of the most famous of all Shakespearean speeches: Each excerpted passage is accompanied by a commentary made up of some combination of three discrete sections. This section sometimes also recommends ways to frame a given excerpt with brief introductory remarks, and in many cases suggests how to use it elegantly in written communication. In short, this part of the commentary delves into the sublime and the ridiculous in Shakespeare: Introduction xv Two indexes make both the Shakespearean excerpts and the commentary easy to search for subjects and occasions of interest. All the Bard in this book is taken from The Norton Shakespeare, Stephen Greenblatt, editor, which I regard as the best single-volume edition of the plays and poems now in print. The Norton Shakespeare is based in large part on The Oxford Shakespeare, a cutting-edge and quite controversial edition of the Complete Works. I discovered that the word diaper appears exactly once in Shakespeare, in the rarely performed prologue to The Taming of the Shrew. So she must have new sexual partners. Standing over my sweet, innocent babe at 3: Introduction xvii quoting the nefarious Iago? One of the ways Shakespeare manages to speak to all occasions is by virtue of having survived long enough to address them. In every new generation and every new cultural circumstance, he slips the surly bonds of dramatic context and morphs into new shapes he never could have imagined. Stewart described an experience he had recently, as he walked alone before dusk near his rural village in Oxfordshire. It was a long walk. And I should know: I teach them there! Here, then, the Seven Steps to Shipshape

Shakespeare. Actors preparing a Shakespearean role sit with dictionaries and scholarly editions and work through their lines word by word to make certain they know what everything means. To achieve this, they might need to spell out certain concepts that Shakespeare leaves veiled, or even to rearrange things ever so slightly. Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. Stressing any other words would result in nonsense: The very idea being expressed depends upon "is built upon" the contrast between two opposites: What your country can do for you versus what you can do for your country. The only way to make this extraordinary sentence comprehensible is to stress the contrasts between the ideas xx i i

Seven Steps to Shipshape Shakespeare not remember and never forget, and between what we say and what they did. At Gettysburg, opposition communicates meaning. Rhetoricians call the juxtaposition of strongly contrasting ideas within a balanced grammatical structure antithesis. Shakespeare is addicted to it: To be or not to be, that is the question. Two loves I have, of comfort and despair. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings. Now is the winter of our discontent Made glorious summer by this son of York. That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. Seven Steps to Shipshape Shakespeare xx i ii excerpts above. Every antithesis requires its speaker to emphasize the juxtaposed ideas. The Changing Height of Language: The air bites shrewdly. It is very cold. The second of these two sentences requires no paraphrase. It imagines the air as a living being of some sort, complete with a mouth and teeth. This biting air is tactical, strategic: The adverb shrewdly acquires its meaning from the shrew, a tiny rodent with a long snout that allows it to insinuate itself into even tightly closed places. The answer is about the changing height of his language. None of the four interpretations I posited above is right, nor is any wrong. The key point about all of them is that they arise from a close reading of the text that reveals that one half of the line is heightened, and the other is not. Always, always hit the verbs. And use them in whatever form they appear: The most important meter for anyone working on Shakespeare is the famous iambic pentameter. It sounds like this: New York is iambic: Trained Shakespearean actors bang through the stressed and unstressed syllables in their scripts like so many Tito Puentes drumming away at a very literate set of timbales: Most of us would ignore that little word, but Cassius deliberately stresses it both times he uses it. That special pronunciation might require you to emphasize a given syllable in a surprising way, as in this antithesis-crammed line from *Much Ado About Nothing*: Now, Antony, our hopes are answered. Although technically correct, this is instinctively wrong. It sounds bizarre, herky-jerky, shouty. Its natural rhythm is far more nuanced Seven Steps to Shipshape Shakespeare xx i x and interesting. Shakespeare regards iambic pentameter as more of a guide than a prescription; a map, not a destination. The best actors know that scansion can provide important, often surprising, information about the words in the lines, but that this information is only useful insofar as it helps clarify what the line is trying to say. Phrasing with the Verse Line: Now could I drink hot blood, And do such bitter business as the day Would quake to look on. Now to my mother. Now I could guzzle hot blood, and do the kind of terrible things that daylight itself would shudder to behold. Lines 1 and 3 are marked with commas, and line 5 ends with a period.

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