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Brewers Dictionary of Phrase and Fable Edition

Brewers

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Brewers : Brewers Dictionary of Phrase and Fable Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brewers Dictionary of Phrase and Fable Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ever wonder...By Mary Chrapliwy / Reviewer's DiaryHave you ever wondered what some of your grandparent's and parents phrases meant? This book not only covers words and places but also covers those odd sayings we all grew up with and were never sure exactly what they meant or where they came from. For example, ever wonder what "Hoi Polloi", "Wreck of the Hesperus", "the cowl doesn't make the monk", and many, many other phrases mean. There are also single words ou can look up to find he history of the word origin.What I enjoyed most about this book is that you can open it to any page and be fascinated and entertained by it. My copy is worn from many enjoyable reads. Definitely a worthy book for your bookshelf - it is a keeper on mine.

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable - sometimes referred to simply as Brewer's - is a reference work containing definitions and explanations of many famous phrases, allusions and figures, whether historical or mythical. Originally published in 1870 by the Reverend E. Cobham Brewer, it was aimed at the growing number of people who did not have a university education, but wanted to understand the origins of phrases and historical or literary allusions. The 'phrase' part of the title refers mainly to the explanation of various idioms and proverbs, while the 'fable' part might more accurately be labelled 'folklore' and ranges from classical mythology to relatively recent literature. On top of this,

Brewer added notes on important historical figures and events, and other things which he thought would be of interest, such as Roman numerals. Although intended as a comprehensive reference work, early editions of Brewer's are highly idiosyncratic, with certain editorial decisions highly suggestive of the author's personal bias. For instance, a list under the entry for John purported to show the bad luck associated with that name, ending "Certainly a disastrous list of Popes" despite several being described merely as "nonentities." Some entries seem so trivial as to be hardly worth including, and others are almost definitely apocryphal. Despite this inconsistency, however, the book was a huge success, providing information often not included in more traditional dictionaries and encyclopedias. A revised and updated edition was published in 1896, shortly before Brewer died.