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Common Phrases: And Where They Come From

Myron Korach

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Myron Korach : Common Phrases: And Where They Come From before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Common Phrases: And Where They Come From:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wasn't what I expectedBy G-manWan't what I expected. Not wordy enough in some cases. I like explanations that are short and too the point; but the majority of these leave me wanting more.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not so great.By Doctor G.It wasn't that great. It contradicted some other sources and didn't have the best selection of things that I wanted.0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. In a few words...By Kenneth Myron Bonnell I'm prejudiced regarding words...in crosswords, acrostics, cryptograms, where they came from, how their meaning changes with history, etc., etc., etc. Ergo, (that's just one word I like, and use), this book suits me just fine!

Ever wondered where the phrase raining cats and dogs came from? In a Teutonic myth, the wind was a huge dog, chief attendant to Odin, the god of wisdom, war, and the cosmos. When it rained hard, Odin's dog was chasing a cat, in the form of rain. So when it poured, Odin dropped "cats and dogs" from the sky. Learn the stories behind such phrases as: A la carte Coast is clear Dog days of summer Flash in the pan In hot water Lame duck Pay through the nose Run amok Apple of my eye Cock-and-bull story Cut and dried Face the music Fly off the handle Kick the bucket Lion's share Pull strings And many more...

From Publishers Weekly Clichés, maxims, idioms what are the origins of the countless sayings we repeat? Somebody somewhere said "fly off the handle" for the first time. In *Common Phrases and Where They Come From*, Myron Korach and John Mordock research the often metaphorical, often image-driven and always taken-for-granted phrases that infuse our daily speech. "Gone haywire," for instance, comes from farmers baling hay using, of course, hay wire, which often tangled, broke, got wrapped around cows or somehow misbehaved. "Feather in your cap" can be traced to various tribal rituals; in early Hungary, it was decreed that "none might wear a feather but he who has slain a Turk." The phrase "cock and bull story," coined by Luther's first followers in "the aftermath of the Reformation," refers to papal bulls, which were stamped with an image of St. Peter and a cock. Wordsmiths everywhere will be delighted. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *School Library Journal* Attorney Korach has spent a lifetime researching the origins of phrases while sifting through old journals and books in libraries and archives. He did not, however, keep records of his sources. Later, when he began preparing this word history, he and coeditor Mordock were able to verify many, but not all, of these sources in general reference works. In the introduction, the editors show how much our culture relies on idiomatic speech to enliven discourse, a point further demonstrated by the more than 150 well-known phrases whose interesting histories they have provided. The arrangement of phrases is loosely thematic, with one to several paragraphs devoted to each. Comparing some of these phrases with their counterparts in *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins* (Facts on File, 2000) shows how difficult it is to pin down etymology definitively; the explanations for "spill the beans," "take with a grain of salt," and "let the cat out of the bag" all reflect some disagreement. Entertaining and enlightening, this would be a useful addition to word history collections, but libraries with limited budgets might make better use of the more extensive and still affordable paperback edition of the *Facts On File* encyclopedia. Katie Sasser, Bowdoin Coll. Lib., Brunswick, ME Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Attorney Korach has spent a lifetime researching the origins of phrases while sifting through old journals and books in libraries and archives. He did not, however, keep records of his sources. Later, when he began preparing this word history, he and coeditor Mordock were able to verify many, but not all, of these sources in general reference works. In the introduction, the editors show how much our culture relies on idiomatic speech to enliven discourse, a point further demonstrated by the more than 150 well-known phrases whose interesting histories they have provided. The arrangement of phrases is loosely thematic, with one to several paragraphs devoted to each. Comparing some of these phrases with their counterparts in *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins* (Facts on File, 2000) shows how difficult it is to pin down etymology definitively; the explanations for "spill the beans," "take with a grain of salt," and "let the cat out of the bag" all reflect some disagreement. Entertaining and enlightening, this would be a useful addition to word history collections, but libraries with limited budgets might make better use of the more extensive and still affordable paperback edition of the *Facts On File* encyclopedia. Katie Sasser, Bowdoin Coll. Lib., Brunswick, ME Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.