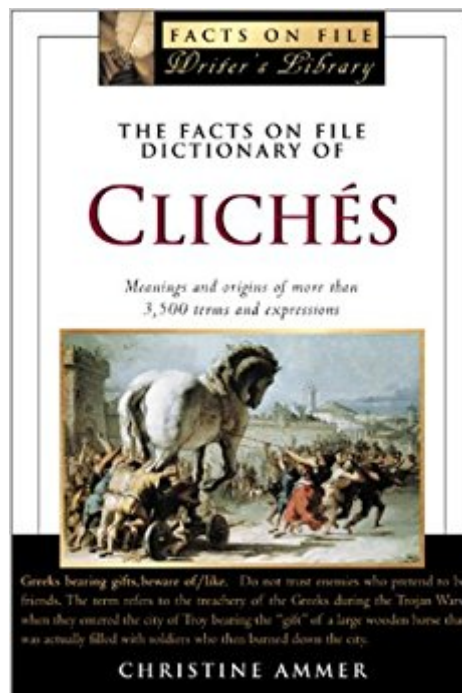




The book was found

The Facts On File Dictionary Of Clichés (The Facts On File Writer's Library)



Synopsis

From "beware of Greeks bearing gifts" to "sink or swim", this dictionary of cliches explains the meanings and origins of more than 3000 cliches and common expressions. Drawing from a wide range of sources, including the Bible, Shakespeare, and other works of literature, this book details the meaning of the cliché or expression, its source, early uses, the history of the phrase over time, and its level of use in contemporary English. Sample entries include: "been there done that" - a phrase from the mid-eighties to express world-weariness, boredom, or empathy; "get a life" - a contemporary way of telling someone to find their own interests, social life, or concerns; and "in your face" - a rude confrontational expression of extreme contempt that originated in 1970s basketball.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lexicographer Ammer (American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms) here offers a revised edition of her *Have a Nice Day No Problem: A Dictionary of Cliches* (LJ 1/92). The update, which includes about 500 more entries, offers the meanings and origins of some 3500 expressions along with sources, histories of usage over time, and levels of use today. The volume includes such recent additions as "get a life," "been there, done that," and "push the envelope" as well as old favorites like the recently resurrected "united we stand," which the author traces back to Chaucer. The index is helpful in locating entries for expressions subsumed under similar sayings, and cross references are found in the text as well. While several resources on cliches are currently available (e.g., Nigel Rees's

Cassell's Dictionary of Cliches, LJ 5/15/97), this one stands apart for the large number of citations. Given the speed with which language develops, newer publications of this sort are always welcome. Recommended for academic and public libraries. Denise J. Stankovics, Rockville P.L., Vernon, CT
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This is another fine reference from the Facts on File Writer's Library, and is a terrific resource for writers, readers, students and teachers. Phrases are listed alphabetically, though alphabetizing phrases can be tricky, and if you can't find a phrase, check out the index at the back of the book. Each entry includes an explanation of its meaning, and most discuss the phrase's origin. The print is clean and I was able to find most of the phrases in which I was interested. Very nice reference.

Okay, a comprehensive look at cliches would probably be larger than the OED. However, while there are great items in here, there are certainly some missing that I'd consider in common usage. Still a great book that's always next to my chair for a quick glance at every now and then.

Very interesting reference guide. Entries I never would have thought cliché are and a couple clichés I thought should have been included weren't. Over all, it's detailed and defines the clichés.

This book is a great give for anyone who loves words and the history of the English language. I bought this book on a lark, but now I can hardly put it down. I have always loved words and how they are put together to make sayings and phrases and this book give a brief history of some time old clichés.

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