

## Citation metadata

Author: Michael Shinagel  
Date: June 2009  
From: Harvard Review(Issue 36)  
Publisher: Harvard Review  
Document Type: Book review  
Length: 411 words

## Main content

Article Preview :

THE NEW OXFORD BOOK OF LITERARY ANECDOTES edited by John Gross

Oxford University Press/2006/\$31.99 CLOTH/ISBN 9780192804686

The appeal and success of an anthology ultimately depend upon the judgment and experience of the editor. The New Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes is edited by John Gross, whose career as a writer, journalist, reviewer, and editor include stints at the Times Literary Supplement, New York Times, and Sunday Telegraph, as well as editor of previous Oxford anthologies of Aphorisms, Essays, Comic Verse, and English Prose over a fifteen-year span.

In his introduction, he defines the anecdote, according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, as "a...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

## Source Citation

### Source Citation

Shinagel, Michael. "The New Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes." *Harvard Review*, no. 36, 2009, p. 233+. Accessed 14 Nov. 2020.

**Gale Document Number:** GALE|A204427342

## Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

## Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

This book starts with Chaucer assaulting a friar in Fleet Street and ends with JK Rowling winning a high court injunction. The latter is less an anecdote (defined by Dr Johnson as "something yet unpublished; secret history") than an item from the Telegraph, which only highlights John Gross's dilemma. To update the old-fashioned literary anecdote he has had to broaden his criteria to include "anecdotal material". Often the modern authors (McEwan, Amis, Winterson) have penned the anecdote themselves, presumably because libel laws prevented anything meatier. There's Items related to The Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes. The Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes. ISBN 13: 9780198121398. The Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes. 3.71 avg rating • ( 34 ratings by Goodreads ). Hardcover. ISBN 10: 0198121393 ISBN 13: 9780198121398. About the Editor: James Sutherland, formerly Lord Northcliffe Professor Modern Literature at London University, is the editor of The Oxford Book of English Talk and the author of numerous books about literature. Synopsis: Comic, poignant, and revealing stories by or about almost every famous figure in English literature, and a host of minor ones. A heavenly

book...'\_\_\_ The Times . "About this title" may belong to another edition of this title. Buy New Learn more about this copy. £ 88.55. Convert currency. Start by marking "The New Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. The dictionary defines an anecdote as "a short account of an entertaining or interesting incident," and the anecdotes in this collection more than live up to that description. Many of them offer revealing insights into writers' personalities, their frailties and insecurities. Some of the anecdotes are funny, often explosively so, while others are touching, sinister, or dow The dictionary defines an anecdote as "a short account of an entertaining or interesting incident," and the anecdotes in this collection more than live up to that description. Many of them offer reve 2006. The New Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Mieder, Wolfgang (main ed.), Stewart A. Kingsbury, and Kelsie E. Harder. A Dictionary of American Proverbs. (Paperback) New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Rescher, Nicholas. A Journey through Philosophy in 101 Anecdotes. Pittsburgh, PA: Pittsburgh University Press, 2015. Section. Set. User's Guide & Disclaimer © 1996–2019, Tormod Kinnes, MPhil [Email]. John Gross. An unrivalled collection of literary gossip and intimate sidelights on the lives of the authors. The dictionary defines an anecdote as 'a short account of an entertaining or interesting incident', and the anecdotes in this collection more than live up to that description. Many of them are funny, often explosively so. Others are touching, outrageous, sinister, inspiring, or downright weird. They show writers in the English-speaking world from Chaucer to the present acting both unpredictably, and deeply in character. The range is wide - this is a book which finds room for M