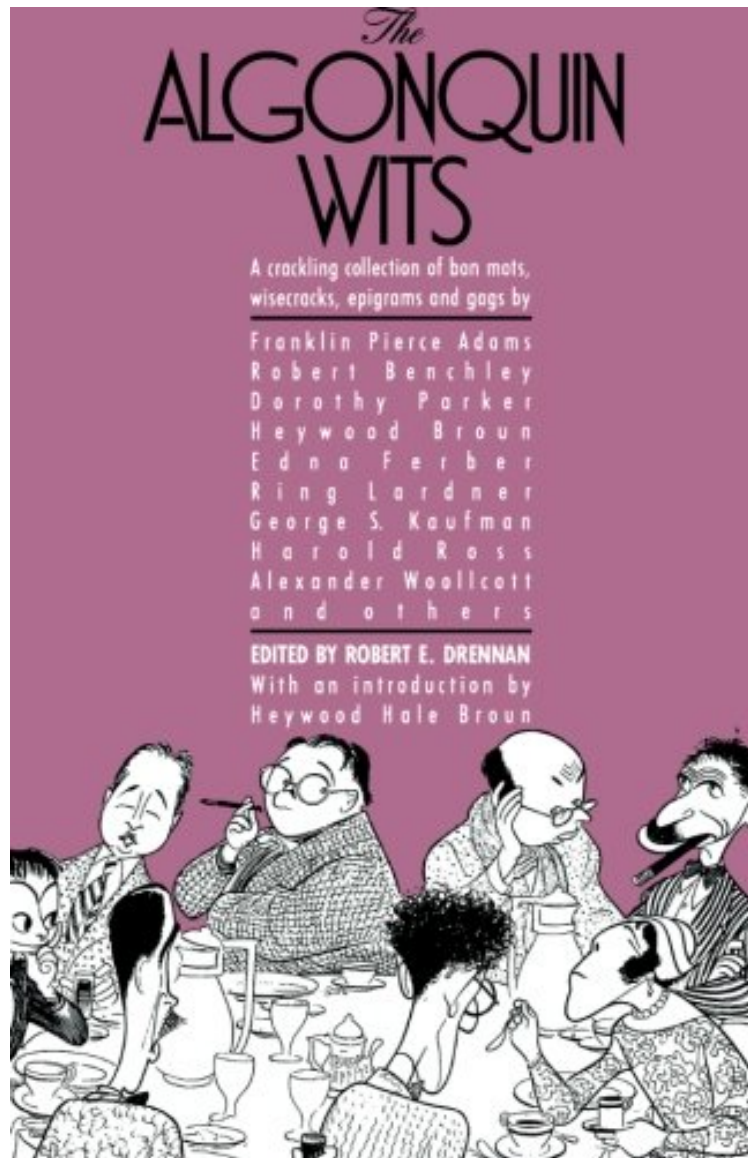


## The Algonquin Wits: Bon Mots, Wisecracks, Epigrams and Gags

From Robert E Drennen

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From Robert E Drennen : The Algonquin Wits: Bon Mots, Wisecracks, Epigrams and Gags before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Algonquin Wits: Bon Mots, Wisecracks, Epigrams and Gags:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Not quite what i expected By jachorn I was hoping for something a

little more substantial from the description of this book, which turned out to be a slim volume at best. I was searching for some compendium of the Algonquin wits, and this was I'm afraid, about it! It is not without some merit, however dissappointing the selections are (small snippets - more anecdotal than anything else - representing the range of most of the members of the Round Table). It does offer a decent over-view of the prime members of the club with some literary tastes of their various and varying works. The playwrights are not that well represented, but some of the lesser know news reporters are. An appetizer waiting for a delicious feast to be compiled someday.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not what I was expecting.By Myra OThe quotes aren't very well chosen, in my opinion; I have comprehensive books of Dorothy Parker's and Robert Benchley's writings and the selections from them in this book are pretty weak tea. They also used a lot of quotes with references to shows, books, and personalities that didn't stand the test of time, so the sense of what makes them funny/clever is lost.12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully witty!By Keith ConnesIf you are acquainted with the writings and personalities of Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Alexander Woolcott and other distinguished wits who lunched in the '30s and early '40s at their special table in New York's Algonquin Hotel, you will especially relish this small but golden collection of their sophisticated one-liners - mostly barbed put-downs. But even if those names are unfamiliar to you, I think you'll enjoy this book if you appreciate sophisticated repartee. Incidentally, one member of the select group was Harpo Marx, who never uttered a word while performing as the zaniest of the Marx Brothers. A couple of Harpo's sallies are included in this delightful compilation.

The wit at the poker table tended to be less sophisticated than the luncheon banter - one can't consider the possibilities of a three card flush and simultaneously create nifties - but it was at the poker table that the Round Tablers revealed, in their firehouse funnies, their substantially small town origins. Every one of them came from the hinterlands except my father.