

Preface to the Second Edition

No man reads a book of science from pure inclination.

Samuel Johnson
The Life of Samuel Johnson, 1791 (p. 399)

Recently, in a library, I took a book from a shelf which, not to my surprise, I found had been opened only a few times. My wife remarked that it was a shame that this book, which had been at the library since 2002, had been so rarely used and how unfortunate it is that so many of the students of today do not take the time to read the wealth of wisdom available in libraries.

It is now three years since *Gaither's Dictionary of Scientific Quotations* was first published. The 18,000 quotations in the first edition may seem like an embarrassment of riches, but we were amazed at the wealth of language and insight still to be uncovered. This second edition has been updated with the addition of 9,000 new quotations, which increases the depth and breadth of the various thematic categories. Additionally, we have restructured and expanded the thematic categories, helping readers to find a quotation of interest more quickly.

Among the new quotations are a number that have been culled from early, difficult-to-find books and journals. Also included are a selection of quotations that are documented as “author undetermined.” These and all of the other new quotations add material to the quality and depth of the collection.

Since the publication of the first edition, we received many comments asking us why a quotation was entered under a specific theme. Our answer is that all classifications are imperfect, and another subject area may have been as good a choice as ours. If the quotation is not placed where you would have placed it, we are not implying that it could not have gone elsewhere. Additionally, the themes are labeled because we thought that each label provided the best example of what type of quotations would be found there. Fortunately, there is also an author index and, in the e-book version, a more direct means of searching for a relevant quotation. We hope that you will find the perfect quotation to connect your class lecture, paper presentation, or essay to a larger context. Just browsing the entries makes for a fascinating journey through science and culture.

Killeen, TX, USA

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Gaither's Dictionary of Scientific Quotations

A Collection of Approximately 27,000 Quotations

Pertaining to Archaeology, Architecture, Astronomy,

Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Cosmology, Darwinism,

Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Medicine, Nature,

Nursing, Paleontology, Philosophy, Physics, Probability,

Science, Statistics, Technology, Theory, Universe, and

Zoology

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