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Write It Right: A Little Blacklist of Literary Faults

Ambrose Bierce

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Ambrose Bierce : Write It Right: A Little Blacklist of Literary Faults before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Write It Right: A Little Blacklist of Literary Faults:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent - From a More Literate PastBy WILLIAM S. GRAYAn entertaining and thought provoking book. I never realized that to "climb down" was a contradiction, and many more. Unfortunately I believe grammar purists have already lost the logic battle. American speech train has long since left the depot. If we are to communicate today, then we must conform. Let us say that Bierce is being prescriptive, not

descriptive.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Caught Up with an Old FriendBy Ian ElliottWhen I was a young man I lived awhile with my stepgrandfather in San Diego, California. I remember he had a slim red volume called 'Write It Right', by Ambrose Bierce. It must have been a first edition, from around 1911, when he was around 21. He had penciled into the flyleaf, "He is at variance with Webster on several points." Gramps prided himself on good grammar and liked working crosswords and the Kingsley Double-Crostics that were published weekly at the back of the 'Saturday Review'. I enjoyed leafing through the Bierce, and noting with interest his preference for treating the noun 'the United States' as a plural. This, it seemed to me, reflected a conservative outlook that preceded, and resisted, federal efforts at promoting a strong sense of national unity. And that is where I place the value of this little volume, as an interesting historical relic of the English language as it was once spoken. Its standards are a lot tighter than our own, and for that reason I recommend it as a guide to the thought patterns of our ancestors living in that now remote time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy J J FA good reference book - It reads like a dictionary, but certainly has its charms.

The author's main purpose in this book is to teach precision in writing; and of good writing (which, essentially, is clear thinking made visible) precision is the point of capital concern. It is attained by choice of the word that accurately and adequately expresses what the writer has in mind, and by exclusion of that which either denotes or connotes something else. As Quintilian puts it, the writer should so write that his reader not only may, but must, understand.

About the AuthorAmbrose Bierce was an American editorialist, journalist, short story writer, fabulist, and satirist.