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/p rtdz lmnk/, /p rtdz lmnk/, /p rtdz lmnk/, /p rtdz lmnk/ /pr rtrdz lmnk/, /pr rtrdz lmnk/, /pr rtrdz lmnk/, /pr rtrdz lmnk/ jump to other results a book published each year in the US between 1733 and 1758. It was written by Benjamin Franklin under the name of Richard Saunders. It contained useful information on important dates, anniversaries, etc., as well as wise advice in the form of short sayings and verses. Many of these are still repeated, such as A penny saved is a penny earned, and: Early to bed and early to riseMakes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. Jump to ratings and reviewsA faithful reproduction of the original Peter Pauper Press edition of Poor Richard's Almanack, circa 1950, the current version contains the same colorful woodcuts and 18th century design of the original.GenresHistoryPhilosophyClassicsNonfictionSelf HelpBiographyBusiness 740 people are currently readingBenjamin Franklin was a writer, a philosopher, a scientist, a politician, a patriot, a Founding Father, an inventor, and publisher. He helped with the founding of the United States of America and changed the world with his discoveries about electricity. His writings such as Poor Richards' Almanac have provided wisdom for 17 years to the colonies.Displaying 1 - 30 of 231 reviewsNovember 24, 2025Poor Richard and his Almanack are with us always. We all know that Benjamin Franklin published at Philadelphia an almanac that appeared every year from 1732 to 1758 or, to put it another way, from Franklins 26th through his 52nd year. We are all aware that Franklin filled his almanac, a best-seller of its time, with pithy aphorisms of advice regarding how to live a prudent, industrious, and successful life. And this Peter Pauper Press edition of Poor Richards Almanack, widely available at sites like the museum shop of the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, provides a quick, fun, accessible way to enjoy the old sayings for which Franklin is known and loved. Using the alias of Richard Saunders or Poor Richard, Franklin included in his almanac all the characteristic features that almanac readers of his time would have expected. The cover of his 1739 edition of Poor Richards Almanack, for example, tells the reader that the almanac will include the Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions and Mutual Aspects, Sun and Moons Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Fasts, Courts, and Observable Days. In a nod to his hometown, Franklin adds that his almanac is Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees [Philadelphias latitude], and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, though he helpfully notes, for the benefit of colonial readers up and down the east coast of North America, that his almanac may, without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South-Carolina. But readers do not turn to Poor Richards Almanack today for information about East Coast eclipses, or recipes for a prototype of the cheesesteak, or Delaware River high tides from 300 years ago; they look to it for the Poor Richard proverbs. And indeed, it is great fun reading 77 pages' worth of Benjamin Franklin's maxims for industry, thrift, humility, and optimistic good cheer -- proverbs that can be said to have done much to form our collective sense of the American character. I like this edition of Poor Richard's Almanack, with its old-style typeface (much like what one sees in many of the documents for sale at shops in Colonial Williamsburg), its woodcut illustrations, the durable light-brown paper of the pages; it all does much to give one a nostalgic sense of stepping back into history, walking the streets of 18th-century Philadelphia in Franklin's entertaining company.The familiar proverbs are all here, and they emphasize well the impact that Franklin had on American and world culture through his almanac. No gains without pains (p. 28) has its modern echoes in every gym or health club where the words No Pain, No Gain are prominently displayed on one or more of the walls. God helps them that help themselves (p. 54) embodies well Franklins philosophy of prudent, industrious self-reliance, and would certainly make any list of Poor Richards greatest hits. And a characteristically Franklinian warning that ruin always awaits the careless can be found in Poor Richards warning that For want of a Nail, the Shoe is lost; for want of a Shoe, the Horse is lost; for want of a Horse, the Rider is lost (p. 55).Where a maxim or poem is accompanied by a red-tinted woodcut, the effect is particularly endearing. One such woodcut shows a pair of young lovers under a tree. A home in the distance, with smoke rising from a chimney, emphasizes the lovers isolation. Three birds fly in the sky overhead; a dog sits loyally close by. And Cupid hovers in the sky overhead, with an arrow from his bow pointed directly at the lovers. The accompanying poem reads:My love and I for kisses playd,She would keep stakes, I was content,But when I won, she would be paid,This made me ask her what she meant:Quoth she, since you are in this wrangling veinHere take your kisses, give me mine again. (p. 25)The way this little poetic vignette captures the joy of young love made me think of Shakespeares Romeo and Juliet, a play that the inveterate reader Franklin no doubt knew well and specifically of the dialogue when these two young people, struck with love at first sight, savour their first kiss:[Romeo] Then move not while my prayers effect I take.Thus from my lips, by thine my sin is purged. [Kisses her.][Juliet] Then have my lips the sin that they have took.[Romeo] Sin from my lips? O, trespass sweetly urged!Give me my sin again. [Kisses her.][Juliet] You kiss by the book.This volume of sayings from Poor Richards Almanack ends with Franklins well-known list of Thirteen Virtues: Temperance, Silence, Order, Resolution, Frugality, Industry, Sincerity, Justice, Moderation, Cleanliness, Tranquility, Chastity, and Humility. Readers of Franklins Autobiography will remember the gently self-mocking way in which Franklin looks back at his younger self trying to achieve a Program of Moral Perfection. Not all readers have appreciated Franklins list of virtues: D.H. Lawrence, for instance, responded to Franklins advice that humility-minded readers Imitate Jesus and Socrates by dryly adding, And mind you dont out-do them!It is important always to keep in mind that, when glancing through this fun volume, one is not really reading Poor Richard's Almanack as it was originally published. The original Almanack was, well, an almanac. Like the almanacs of today, Franklin's 1732-58 Almanack contained weather forecasts, legal and medical information, snatches of poetry, inspirational literature, recipes, games -- in short, many of the same things that almanacs contain nowadays. The aphorisms for which Poor Richard is best known nowadays appeared, quite literally, in the margins; the ever-enterprising Franklin squeezed maxims in wherever there was space, and the rest is history. This edition of Poor Richard's Almanack is introduced by a brief preface that acknowledges Franklin's debts to earlier writers; commentator Paul Leicester Ford reminds the Courteous Reader of both what Franklin drew from others and how he created something original in the process:It is hardly Necessary to state, that Franklin did not originate all the Sayings of Poor Richard. He himself tells us, that they were the Wisdom of many Ages and Nations. Any One, familiar with Bacon, Rochefoucauld, and Rabelais, as well as Others, will recognize old Friends in some of these Sayings.Yet, with but few Exceptions, these Maxims and Aphorisms had been filterd through Franklins Brain, and were tingd with that Mother Wit, which so strongly and individually marks so Much that he said and wrote. Overall, this is a highly pleasant and enjoyable presentation of Franklin's "Poor Richard" aphorisms, just as long as one does not think one is getting the entirety of Poor Richard's Almanack. "Forewarn'd, forearm'd" (p. 50).And it seems appropriate here to let Dr. Franklin get the last word, as he bids us farewell in his own inimitable way: Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, no example sway thee, no persuasion move thee, to do any thing which thou knowest to be evil; so shalt thou always live jollily; for a good conscience is a continual Christmas. Adieu (p. 77).Now there is good advice indeed, on which we can all agree. Farewell and adieu, Dr. Franklin, and many thanks for the opportunity you have given us to visit with you and Poor Richard.September 12, 2017This is a wonderful collection of Benjamin Franklin's philosophies and values, in which his writing proves concise, sound and still relatable today. The maxims this details concern a variety of topics from humility to morality. I thoroughly enjoyed the brief introduction, by Andrew S. Trees, which this begun with. It provided a cursory biography of the life of the great once-humble-tradesman-turned-founding-father, and framed the anthology nicely.adult-books-read anthological-astuteness classic-captivaton February 29, 20242024: Benjamin Franklin emphasizes not wasting time, being industrious, frugal, diligent and seeking knowledge - a superb role model. For instance daily reminders:Make haste slowly. Drive thy business, or it will drive thee. If you have time, dont wait for time.2022-07-18; Choicest morsels of wisdom, a favorite. Wake up early, get chores done.Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. (Discipline, time management)Since thou art not sure of a Minute, throw not away an Hour. (Time)You may delay, but time will not. (Time)Have you somewhat to do tomorrow, do it today. (Time)Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for thats the stuff life is made of. (Time)Beware of little expenses: a small leak will sink a great ship.Drive thy business, or it will drive thee.Necessity never made a good bargain.Make haste slowly.Diligence is the mother of luck.All things are easy to Industry, all things difficult to Sloth.Would you live with ease, do what you ought, and not what you please.No gains without pains.Learn of the skillful: he that teaches himself, hath a fool for his master.For age and want save while you may; no morning sun lasts a whole day.Humility: imitate Jesus and Socrates.classic-old-books classics-2020 favorites June 1, 2021A collection of wise sayings assembled by the great man. One to dip into from time to time. Wisdom, humour and recipes for smiling. Delightfully presented. Highly quotable...(sorry in advance!):One good Husband is worth two Wives; for the scarcer things are, the more theyre valued.Fish and Visitors stink after three days.0There are three faithful friends an old wife, an old dog, and ready money.Speak with contempt of none, from slave to king,The meanest Bee hath, and will use, a sting.A lawyer being sick, and extream ill,Was moved by his friends to make his will,Which soon he did, gave all the wealth he had,To frantic persons, lunatick and mad.And to his friends this reason did reveal,(That they might see with equity hed deal,)From madmens hands I did my wealth receive,Therefore that wealth to madmens hands I leave.Good sense is a Thing all need, few have, and none think they want. A false Friend and a Shadow attend only while the Sun shines.Epitaph on a Scolding Wife by her Husband:Here my poor Bridgets Corps do lie, she isat rest, - and so am I.history non-fiction philosophy March 24, 2012Peruse the bookshelves at the museum shop of the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, and you will no doubt see this edition of Poor Richard's Almanack. It is great fun reading 77 pages' worth of Benjamin Franklin's maxims for industry, thrift, humility, and cheerfulness -- maxims that can be said to have done much to form our collective sense of the American character. This Peter Pauper Press edition of Poor Richard's Almanack, with its old-style typeface (much like what one sees in many of the documents for sale at shops in Colonial Williamsburg), its woodcut illustrations, the durable light-brown paper of the pages, does much to give one a nostalgic sense of stepping back into history, walking the streets of 18th-century Philadelphia in Franklin's entertaining company. At the same time, it is important to reflect that, when glancing through this fun volume, one is not really reading Poor Richard's Almanack as it was originally published. The original Almanack was, well, an almanac. Like the almanacs of today, Franklin's 1732-58 Almanack contained weather forecasts, legal and medical information, snatches of poetry, inspirational literature, recipes, games -- in short, many of the same things that almanacs contain nowadays. The aphorisms for which Poor Richard is best known nowadays appeared, quite literally, in the margins; the ever-enterprising Franklin squeezed maxims in wherever there was space, and the rest is history. This edition of Poor Richard's Almanack gives one only the maxims, including Franklin's List of Virtues from his Autobiography, and framed by a brief preface that acknowledges Franklin's debts to earlier writers. Overall, this is a highly pleasant and enjoyable presentation of Franklin's "Poor Richard" aphorisms, just as long as one does not think one is getting the entire Poor Richard's Almanack. "Forewarn'd, forearm'd."pennsylvania philadelphiaSeptember 6, 2016Franklin wrote a yearly almanack with quotes and stories for each month under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders. Almanacks were popular in colonial America. They offered weather forecasts, advice for running a household, puzzles and witticisms. Franklin's almanacks are a funny satire on life in the 18th century and were famous for his wordplays. Many famous sayings we still know were penned by Franklin in his almanac. Here are a few:Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead. Lost Time is never found again.Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Faults.for the rest of my review cut and paste the following link to my blog post: 22, 2023 . .November 22, 2022I've heard this book referenced a lot in history classes, ever since I was in elementary school. I'm in college now and I got to read it....man am I not impressed. I thought it was supposed to be some great collection of advice for the colonial period. It's just a proverb collection! And many of them are repeated....which got on my nerves as I was reading it. Yeah, it was a quick read but seriously? I feel disappointed that that's all it was. Just a bunch of quotes in a list. No commentary on them or anything. I feel ripped.adult american-literature classics June 12, 2021The book's principles have aged surprisingly well, Human fallacies/heuristics probably will remain the same despite any technological leaps. July 23, 2021I've got a thing for wisdom teachings, and in our twittering, flighty, foolish age, there's a real countercultural pleasure in principles that ground human action in a wry practicality.Franklin's legendary collection of sayings, aphorisms, and poems? It floats my boat. It's not just that these pithy little bits of Sophia are grounding. They're also still...with some inevitable exceptions...surprisingly relevant to contemporary existence. Good stuff.September 20, 2014Pretty good. Filled with many of the classic aphorisms we've heard a million times (such as "early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy wealthy and wise" and "three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.")Franklin seems a little too preoccupied with gluttony (there are many warnings against eating too much) and sloth and drunkenness.There are some questionable morsels of wisdom: "Love well, whip well." ???? And "Ne'er take a wife til thou hast a house (and a fire) to put her in." And a fire?!And this one is just plain bitter: "Where there's marriage without love, there will be love without marriage."It's safe to say there are a bunch of worse evils than drunkenness, but Franklin writes this: "Drunkenness, that worst of evils, makes some men fools, some beasts, some devils."And these edicts on eating: "Three good meals a day is bad living.""A full belly makes a dull brain.""He that never eats too much will never be lazy.""Eat few suppers and you'll need few medicines.""To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals."* * *The almanac would've been better off if it were organized by vice. As it is, all the varying topics were thrown together, and some witticisms were repeated almost verbatim or reiterated with only slight alteration a few pages apart from each other.* * *Thanks Mr. Franklin, for writing a short book to help me reach my book goal.January 13, 2012A literary glimpse into colonial times, this almanac created by Benjamin Franklin is a priceless treasure for Americans. Franklin, under the pen name of Richard Saunders, displays his outright moral aptitude, and the wisdom of one of the founders of this prosperous nation. Seeing that the almanac was the second most popular book in colonial homes (after, hhhhm, the Holy Bible), it is fitting that a master of economic gain such as Franklin would have created one. Franklin, you live on in the hearts of many Americans, and many of your sayings are still in use these many years later!July 22, 2008June 30, 2024I have always had a soft spot for Mr. Franklin. Perhaps it was because I shopped at the Ben Franklin store in the small town where I grew up.This short but important book is well worth looking into. It encourages thrift, duty, hard work, and simplicity. Wow! Our country would do well if more people followed the advice in this book. January 10, 2017Brilliant, blissful and beautiful choice of words and phrases. Some are Benjamin Franklin's own and some are derived from Latin, Greek and other older sources. This almanac serves as a book of wisdom, enlightenment and success.Ben had a desire for educating the common people, having been raised into a lower middle class family, and had his own life-long rags to riches story. He started publishing these yearly almanacs, as a way of better the living conditions of people by words of wisdom, and in part, because he wanted some literary recognition. I will quote some, the most I connected deeply with:'He that can compose himself, is wiser than he that composes books''Write with the learned, pronounce with the vulgar''Thou hadst better eat salt with the Philosophers of Greece, than sugar with the Courtiers of Italy''A good example is the best sermon''Words may shew a man's Wit, but Actions his Meaning''It is not Leisure that is not used''He that best understands the World, least likes it''Fear not Death; for the sooner we die, the longer shall we be immortal'And of course, not to forget the ones that made me chuckle:'Doors and walls are fools paper''Fish and visitors stink in 3 days''Who knows a fool, must know his brother; For one will recommend another''Harry Smatter, has a mouth for every matter''Tim was so learned, that he could name a Horse in nine Languages; So ignorant, that he bought a Cow to ride on'As you read through the Poor Richard's manual, you will feel the comical and amiable energy Ben places in his work. He even sets up fictional absurd experiments just to toy with the reader's reason and logic.Poor Ben suffered obesity throughout his later life, and was a reason for his death. To this, we can understand his intensive interest in health and being in shape, for he writes the following adages:'To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals''Beware of meat twice boiled and an old foe reconciled''Eat few Suppers, and you'll need few Medicines''After Fish, Milk do not wish''Hold your Council before Dinner; the full Belly hates Thinking as well as Acting'He even goes on recommending some kind of physical work out for people to do:'Use now and then a little Exercise a quarter of an Hour before Meals, as to swing a Weight, or swing your Arms about with a small Weight in each Hand; to leap, or the like, for that stirs the Muscles of the Breast.'He is probably the earlier English writer to form the common modern phrasing we use to do;'No pain, no gain' in the form : 'No gains without pains'Another thing worth mentioning, is that he is fascinated by great thinkers and inventors, for he dedicated small paragraphs on their death and birth anniversaries, and thus educating his readers in general knowledge. He also teaches some of his inventions and methods of how to grow wine from grapes in the woods, and how to protect houses from thunder and lightening. One of the extremely few negative things I have seen in his work, is his ignorance of the difference between Turks as an ethnicity and Muslims as a religious group. To anyone who read up until here, and enjoyed some of the quotes and ideas mentioned, please do not hesitate to read the entire collection, for there are so many adages that I cannot possibly include or be able to fully grasp. So a person's interpretation and usage of a proverb may vary. american-literature personal-developmentFebruary 10, 2015Even though it's short, this is a better book to dip into than to read straight through -- the way to get value from it is to spend at least a little time pondering the maxims.But I'm not like that; I went from cover to cover. The result was to make me feel guilty: I should have been finishing my grading, not reading this book, and Franklin is happy to drive the point home... Well done is better than well said. Have you somewhat to do to-morrow, do it today. You may delay, but Time will not. ... as well as plenty of others.Mostly pleasant reading, with a scattering of disrespect for women passing as humor.Sam's wife provok'd him once; he broke her crown:The surgeon's bill amounted to five pounds;This blow (she brags) has cost my husband dear,He'll ne'er strike more: Sam chanc'd to overhear.Therefore, before his wife the bills he pays,And to the surgeon in her hearing says:Doctor, you charge five pound, here e'en take ten,My wife may chance to want your help again.May 19, 2019This is an interesting book and gives some insight into the kind of advice people were often given. While I was reading I realized there was apparently some serious paranoia about a few different things: doctors, women, and debt collectors. While it's already a given that certain unfortunate ideas held nowadays stem from earlier periods this book gives a pretty good idea of what some of them were and are, especially regarding women. Having said that, I'm not sure anyone is a big fan of being in debt but I can't help but think there were some different undertones to that sentiment back in the day.So, I can't say I always "enjoyed" this book but it is historically illuminating and I would recommend it on those merits. Probably my favorite piece of advice was "Men and melons are hard to know." This was not something I'd ever heard before and I found it quite amusing. I looked it up and it is actually a pretty good observation: both can be pretty thick.July 1, 2008Benjamin Franklin is able to put forth a comical series of almanacks, under a creative pseudonym for which a back history is created, all while engaging in a verbal battle with another almanack maker. A very small amount of his jokes are somewhat ribald, but nothing hardcore.June 6, 2011A bit outdated with quotes like "Marry your Son when you will, but your Daughter when you can" but still great relevance in some: "Whate'er's begun in anger ends in shame."January 1, 2013There is NO better book of witticisms and wisdom than this one.Totally tweetable, forever memorable. I guess that's what you call timeless. July 24, 2022Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power. But what thou hast no need of; and eer long thou shalt sell thy necessaries. I have never seen the philosophers stone that turns lead into gold, but I have known the pursuit of it then a mans gold into lead. No longer virtuous, no longer freeFriendship increases by visiting friends, but by visiting seldom. Old boys have their playthings as well as young ones; the difference is only in the price. He that best understands the world, least likes it.All things are cheap to the saving, dear to the wasteful. Drink water, put the money in your pocket, and leave the dry-bellyach in the punch-bowlNovember 21, 2021This collection of the Sayings of Poor Richard makes for a fun read! Here are some of my favorites:Who has deceivd thee so off as thy self? (6).How many observe Christs Birth-day; How few his Precepts! O, tis easier to keep Holidays than Commandments (12).When painful Colin in his grave was laid,His mournful wife this lamentation made:Ive lost, alas! (poor wretch, what must I do?)The best of friends and best of husbands too.Thus of all joy and happiness bereft:And with the charge of ten good children left;A greater grief no woman sure can know.Who (with ten children) who will have me now? (24).Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead (31).Eat to live; live not to eat (34).To lengthen thy life, lessen they meals (34).A fat kitchen, a lean will (38).Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards (50).Let thy Discontents be Secrets (59).January 31, 2025Much wisdom in this book, albeit not all of it is useful given his deistic view of God and relative truthfulness of all religion in general. Had he acted on the truths that he loved to hear his good friend George Whitfield preach, he may not have been such a scoundrel in his latter days. This book is a good example of common grace given to the human mind in being able to understand objective truths revealed through nature and reason (general revelation), while also showing that if that thought is separated from Scripture (special revelation) it will not produce the fruit of holiness which is, as his 13th virtue reads: Humility - emulate *Jesus* and Socrates.January 2, 2020This is a tiny book with fun old time pictures. Some of the quotes I need to write down and re-read often, others were a bit outdated, but this was still a fun book to read!January 10, 2020A good book much like meditations just less long winded. Has good saying and adds value to any life. I really enjoyed it a short read. Displaying 1 - 30 of 231 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design.Poor Richards Almanac was a yearly publication created by Benjamin Franklin, first published in 1732, that provided a mix of practical advice, weather forecasts, and witty sayings. The almanac became a significant cultural phenomenon in colonial America, reflecting the emerging American identity by promoting values such as hard work, frugality, and self-improvement through its pithy aphorisms and relatable anecdotes.Learn how to keep your holiday cacti thriving all winter long with the right light, humidity, and simple care tips.Common SenseEUR6.86EUR6.86The Great Crash 1929EUR10.64EUR10.64Loading... Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Poor Richards Almanac (or Amanack) was written by Benjamin Franklin, who published print runs of up to 10,000 copies annually from 1732 to 1758. Written under the pseudonym Poor Richard or Richard Saunders, the book contained a calendar, weather predictions, poems, and astronomical and astrological information. The most famous part of the Almanac are Franklins aphorisms and sayings. Many of these sayings have made their way into the common language of our day. Selections from Benjamin Franklins Poor Richards Almanac76. Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn....102. Creditors have better memories than debtors....124. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass....131. Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise....285. If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing....559. Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead....580.To be intimate with a foolish friend, is like going to bed with a razor....609. Well done is better than well said.Source: Poor Richards Almanack by Benjamin Franklin: Selections from the Apothegms and Proverbs, with a Brief Sketch of the Life of Benjamin Franklin (Waterloo IA: USC Publishing Co.), pp. 16, 18, 20, 32, 53, 55, 57. To view the full document go to . Selections from Ben Franklins Poor Richards Almanac76. Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn....102. Creditors have better memories than debtors....124. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass....131. Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise....285. If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing....559. Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead....580.To be intimate with a foolish friend, is like going to bed with a razor....609. Well done is better than well said.Source: Poor Richards Almanack by Benjamin Franklin: Selections from the Apothegms and Proverbs, with a Brief Sketch of the Life of Benjamin Franklin (Waterloo IA: USC Publishing Co.), pp. 16, 18, 20, 32, 53, 55, 57. To view the full document go to . Poor Richards Almanac (or Amanack) was written by Benjamin Franklin, who published print runs of up to 10,000 copies annually from 1732 to 1758. Written under the pseudonym Poor Richard or Richard Saunders, the book contained a calendar, weather predictions, poems, and astronomical and astrological information. The most famous part of the Almanac are Franklins aphorisms and sayings. Many of these sayings have made their way into the common language of our day. Transcript Selections from Benjamin Franklins Poor Richards Almanac76. Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn....102. Creditors have better memories than debtors....124. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass....131. Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise....285. If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing....559. Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead....580.To be intimate with a foolish friend, is like going to bed with a razor....609. Well done is better than well said.Source: Poor Richards Almanack by Benjamin Franklin: Selections from the Apothegms and Proverbs, with a Brief Sketch of the Life of Benjamin Franklin (Waterloo IA: USC Publishing Co.), pp. 16, 18, 20, 32, 53, 55, 57. To view the full document go to . Excerpt Selections from Ben Franklins Poor Richards Almanac76. Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn....102. Creditors have better memories than debtors....124. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass....131. Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise....285. If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing....559. Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead....580.To be intimate with a foolish friend, is like going to bed with a razor....609. Well done is better than well said.Source: Poor Richards Almanack by Benjamin Franklin: Selections from the Apothegms and Proverbs, with a Brief Sketch of the Life of Benjamin Franklin (Waterloo IA: USC Publishing Co.), pp. 16, 18, 20, 32, 53, 55, 57. To view the full document go to . A polymath and statesman who was a leading figure in science, literature, diplomacy, and governance On December 19, 1732, the first edition of Poor Richards Almanack was published. While the almanac was centuries old by this point, this version, written and printed by Benjamin Franklin, became one of the best-selling books in the American colonies. While primarily used as a calendar, Poor Richards Almanack introduced countless adages that have become common colloquialisms in American English. After 1732, Poor Richards Almanack was published yearly by Benjamin Franklin for 25 years. Franklin wrote under a pseudonym, Richard Saunders, or Poor Richard. Historians suggest that Franklin did so to better appeal to the common man. The almanac included the times of sunrises and sunsets, weather predictions, astrological charts, jokes, and aphorisms. Many of these aphorisms are commonly used today, including: Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. Fish and visitors stink in three days. God helps them that help themselves. To err is human, to repent divine, to persist devilish. No gains without pains. The publishing of the almanacs was one of Franklins greatest business successes. However, it was also an incredible vehicle for Franklin to spread his political beliefs and encourage revolutionary sentiments. He wrote, The Kings Cheese is half wasted in pairings; but no matter, tis made of the peoples milk. Learn more here: View all posts by InnerBrenner Poor Richards Almanack was a highly influential publication written and published by Benjamin Franklin from 1732 to 1758.Under the pseudonym Richard Saunders, Franklin created a work that combined practical advice, entertainment, and cultural commentary in an accessible format. It became one of colonial Americas most popular almanacs, with annual sales reaching up to 10,000 copies.Known for its wit, practicality, and moral lessons, Poor Richards Almanack remains one of Franklins most enduring contributions, reflecting his values and the spirit of early American society. This article explores its history, purpose, content, and impact.1739 Edition of Poor Richards AlmanackOrigins and PurposeThe publication of Poor Richards Almanack began on December 28, 1732, with Franklin announcing its release in The Pennsylvania Gazette. At the time, almanacs were widely popular across colonial America, providing essential information such as weather forecasts, astronomical data, and calendars, along with entertaining and educational content.Franklin, however, saw the potential to make the almanac a vehicle for conveying practical wisdom, moral advice, and social critique. Writing under the persona Richard Saunders, Franklin aimed to engage his readers through a relatable character whose advice combined humor, common sense, and wit.The pseudonym Richard Saunders itself was a nod to a fictional writer from the popular English publication Riders British Merlin. Franklins choice of name also reflected the influence of Jonathan Swifts fictional persona Isaac Bickerstaff, who had humorously predicted the deaths of real astrologers.Following this model, Franklin created a character that felt real and distinct from himself, enabling him to infuse Poor Richards Almanack with both satirical humor and genuine advice. His use of a pseudonym also allowed Franklin to adopt a lighthearted, down-to-earth tone that resonated with colonial readers.Content and StructurePoor Richards Almanack offered a blend of content common to almanacs of the time, such as calendars, weather forecasts, lunar phases, and astrological predictions, with more unique elements that reflected Franklins diverse interests. Franklin included mathematical exercises, puzzles, and poetry, providing readers with both education and entertainment. One notable feature was the addition of demographic studies, an innovative inclusion at the time, with the 1750 almanac featuring an early example of such data.The most memorable aspect of Poor Richards Almanack, however, was Franklins collection of aphorisms and proverbs. Franklins proverbs encouraged virtues like thrift, hard work, frugality, and humility. Many of these maxims are now considered classic American sayings, such as A penny saved is a penny earned, Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise, and God helps those who help themselves. These sayings offered straightforward moral lessons on living wisely and became Franklins hallmark in the almanac, distinguishing it from other publications.In the spaces between calendar entries, Franklin would often insert proverbs that reflected his practical approach to life, influenced by thinkers like Lord Halifax, whose writings had questioned social norms and human motives.Some of Franklins proverbs carried a hint of skepticism, encouraging readers to question the motives behind common social behaviors. Franklins Almanack thus became a guide not only for daily life but also for critical reflection on society.The Way to WealthIn 1757, Franklin published The Way to Wealth, a preface to the almanac that compiled some of the best-known sayings from Poor Richards Almanack. Framed as an address by Father Abraham, an elderly character who speaks to an audience at an auction, The Way to Wealth became immensely popular in America and even reached audiences in England. This piece condensed Franklins philosophy of frugality, hard work, and wise management of resources into a single work that appealed to both the affluent and common readers.The Way to Wealth emphasized that success came from personal responsibility, diligence, and wise spending, values that deeply resonated in colonial America and would become cornerstones of American cultural identity. The pieces popularity helped solidify Franklins influence as a moral and practical guide for Americans and remains one of his most widely read works today.Humor, Satire, and the Poor Richard PersonaFranklin infused Poor Richards Almanack with humor and satire, using the persona of Richard Saunders to engage readers through comedic predictions, sarcastic commentary, and jokes. Early editions featured a running joke in which Saunders predicted the deaths of real astrologers, such as Titan Leeds, another almanac writer. Franklin humorously forecasted Leedss death in 1733, setting up an amusing rivalry that lasted years and kept readers entertained.Even when Leeds did not actually die as predicted, Franklin continued to publish as though he had, jokingly suggesting that any future publications by Leeds were the work of an imposter. This humorous approach not only captured readers attention but also showcased Franklins wit and creativity in his public persona, setting Poor Richards Almanack apart from more serious almanacs of the time.Over the years, the persona of Poor Richard became less prominent, with Franklin shifting the almanacs focus from character-driven satire to practical wisdom. By the late 1750s, Poor Richard was replaced by Father Abraham, who, rather than engaging in comedic rivalry, offered sincere advice on leading a responsible and productive life.Cultural Influence and CriticismsPoor Richards Almanack had a profound impact on colonial America, but it also received criticism from some notable authors. Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville, for instance, viewed the emphasis on thrift and pragmatism as promoting a narrowly practical worldview, overshadowing other aspects of human experience. James Russell Lowell, in a satirical reflection on Franklin, suggested that Franklins achievements were overly celebrated, downplaying other intellectual pursuits in favor of his focus on frugality and practicality.Additionally, historian Howard Zinn noted that the almanac reflected the social norms of its time, including restrictive views on social hierarchy and gender. One maxim, Let thy maidservant be faithful, strong, and homely, illustrated the eras limited social expectations for women. While Franklins almanac was not intended as a philosophical guide to liberty, it did reinforce certain societal values that were widely accepted in colonial America.International Reach and LegacyPoor Richards Almanack enjoyed immense popularity not only in America but also overseas. It was translated into Italian, French, and even Slovene by 1812, and Franklins sayings became well-known across Europe. In England, clergy distributed the almanac to parishioners to promote values of discipline and hard work. Franklins proverbs, advocating self-reliance and thrift, aligned with emerging capitalist ideals and spread widely in both England and America.One tangible example of Franklins influence abroad was the French ship Bonhomme Richard, gifted by Louis XVI to American naval captain John Paul Jones. The name, translating to Goodman Richard, was a direct nod to Franklins Poor Richard and symbolized transatlantic respect for Franklins wisdom.The almanac also influenced other American publications. American lexicographer Noah Webster and others drew inspiration from Franklins model, while the format and content of Poor Richards Almanack influenced publications like The Old Farmers Almanac, which has continued the tradition of blending practical advice with cultural insights. Since 1851, The Old Farmers Almanac has featured Franklins portrait on its cover, a testament to his lasting legacy.Economic and Sociological InfluenceSociologist Max Weber cited Poor Richards Almanack as embodying the spirit of capitalism in The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. For Weber, Franklins sayings reflected an ethos of discipline, personal responsibility, and economic self-sufficiency that paralleled the emerging capitalist mindset. Weber viewed Franklins proverbs as emblematic of a uniquely American attitude toward work and money, praising Franklins pragmatic, frugal approach as a model for economic success.The almanacs practical advice even impacted economic policy in Pennsylvania, influencing fiscal strategies related to foreign expenses. Franklins influence on economics and cultural values helped shape the emerging capitalist society in America, embedding his ideas in the nations developing identity.Continued Legacy and Modern RecognitionFranklins Poor Richards Almanack remains a symbol of early American values, particularly those of thrift, industriousness, and self-discipline. Its proverbs continue to be quoted and referenced in American culture, and the almanac itself is recognized as an essential document of colonial life and thought. Franklins legacy is further honored in American military history; in 1958, the U.S. Navy used Poor Richard as the code name for a naval operation responding to an attack on Vice President Richard Nixon in Venezuela, underscoring Franklins enduring cultural influence.Through his almanac, Franklin left an indelible mark on American culture and identity, providing practical wisdom that has continued to resonate across generations. By blending humor with moral advice, Franklin offered readers not just an almanac, but a guide to everyday life, capturing the aspirations and values of an emerging American society.Frequently Asked QuestionsFounding Father Benjamin FranklinWhen was the first edition of Poor Richards Almanack published, and under what pseudonym did Benjamin Franklin write it?The first edition was published on December 28, 1732, under the pseudonym Richard Saunders, Philomath.What type of content did Poor Richards Almanack include?It included calendars, weather forecasts, poems, wise sayings, astronomical and astrological insights, mathematical exercises, and an early demographic study.What values did Franklins proverbs in the Almanack promote?Franklins proverbs advocated thrift, hard work, and courtesy, values that have continued to influence American culture.Whose writings influenced Franklins maxims, and what was the nature of these sayings?Franklin borrowed from English writer Lord Halifax, whose skeptical proverbs questioned human motives and social norms.What is The Way to Wealth, and how was it significant?The Way to Wealth is a selection of Franklins sayings, framed as an address to auction attendees, which gained popularity in both America and England.How did Franklins use of the pseudonym Richard Saunders originate?The name was inspired by Riders British Merlin, a London almanac featuring a fictional writer named Richard Saunders.What humorous tactic did Franklin use in his almanac, involving Titan Leeds?Franklin humorously predicted Leeds death, sparking a playful feud that boosted Almanack sales.How did some authors critique Franklins Almanack?Writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville saw it as promoting a limited, pragmatic worldview focused mainly on thrift.How did Franklins Almanack influence other publications and thinkers?It inspired publications like The Old Farmers Almanac and influenced thinkers such as Noah Webster.How did sociologist Max Weber view Poor Richards Almanack in his work?Weber saw it as exemplifying the spirit of capitalism, citing its emphasis on frugality and industriousness as reflective of the American capitalist ethos. Everything About Fiction You Never Wanted to Know. About This WikiPurposeWhat are tropes?GoalsOther LanguagesAll The Tropes is a community-edited wiki website dedicated to discussing Creators, Works, and Tropes -- the people, projects and patterns of creative writing in all kinds of entertainment: television, literature, movies, video games, and more.And by all kinds of entertainment, we don't just mean English language content (especially just American English content), we want to cover and address all types of media from around the world and the tropes that media uses, as both tropes and the works that use them are universal.Tropes are tools of the trade for writers; They are devices and conventions that we the audience expect to see again and again. Whether tropes are cliche or just standard for the genre is largely a matter of writing quality and personal opinion. But tropes will always exist, as they often reflect life -- and we exist to document them, play with them, and generally have fun with them.This wiki is called All The Tropes because we want to accept discussion of patterns in all forms of media while keeping censorship to a minimum. We want to encourage creative thought, discuss new works, and welcome everyone to play around. This is not Wikipedia, this is a site for fans.We hope to educate and entertain -- to be both informal and informative. And we hope that you'll join us.So read, edit, have fun, and play nice!This wiki is an English specific wiki, and

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