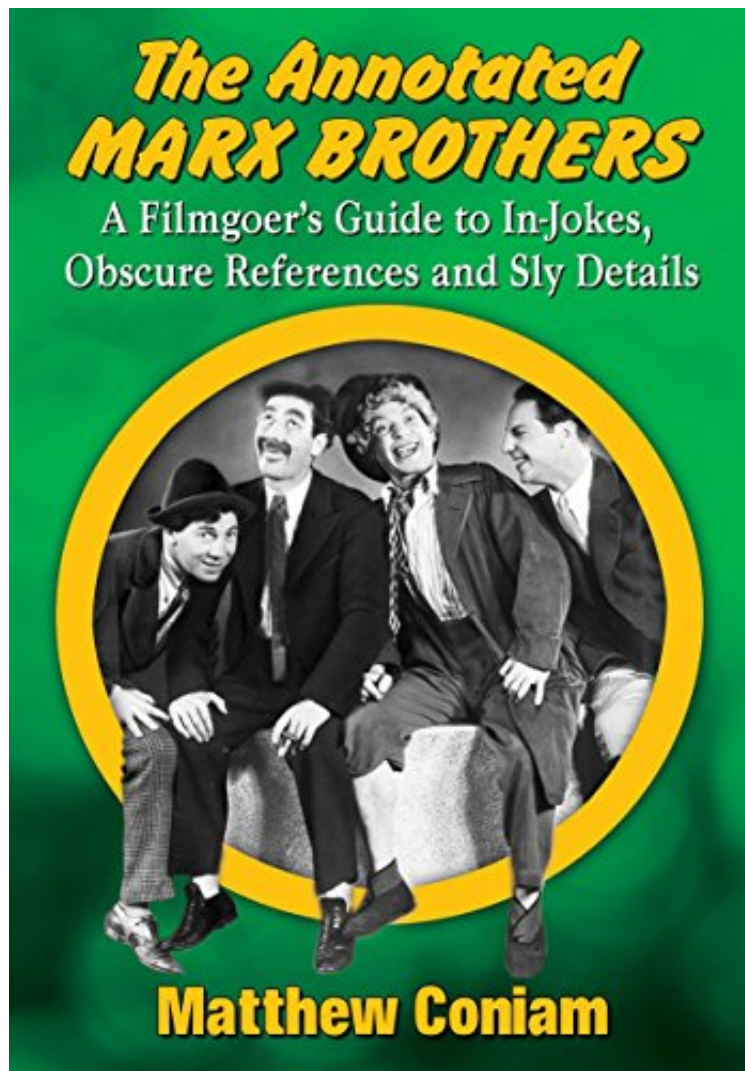


(Read and download) The Annotated Marx Brothers: A Filmgoer's Guide to In-Jokes, Obscure References and Sly Details

The Annotated Marx Brothers: A Filmgoer's Guide to In-Jokes, Obscure References and Sly Details

Matthew Coniam

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#724481 in Books 2015-02-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .90 x 6.90l, .0 #File Name: 078649705X316 pages | File size: 40.Mb

Matthew Coniam : The Annotated Marx Brothers: A Filmgoer's Guide to In-Jokes, Obscure References and Sly Details before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Annotated Marx Brothers: A Filmgoer's Guide to In-Jokes, Obscure References and Sly Details:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on the Marx Brothers I've readBy Alan BeggerowThe movies of The Marx Brothers are classics in the sense that much of their humor still plays well today.

Except for some exceptions. The movies have many references to the current events and people of the 1930's and 1940's, some of them rather obscure to modern ears. The author of this book has created a guide to these references and their meanings. For any Marx Brothers fan, this book will be most welcome. The brother's movies bear repeated viewing, for there is something the viewer may not have noticed before. There are a lot of things going on and especially with Groucho (and to a lesser extent Chico) a lot of things being said, with some of the choicest tidbits being an aside (often an adlib) to other action going on. And now with this book, those off the cuff remarks can be deciphered, and adds more enjoyment to the movies. It is plain that the author (who is English) is a devoted Marx Brothers fan. He writes very well and with humor, and some of his descriptions and explanations of American in-jokes and phenomena for the unknowing British audience are very good. Americans take it for granted that people know our culture and slang. Excellent book, recommended for the die-hard Marx Brothers fan as well as those who are interested in the history of early talking films and films of the 1940's.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
Essential Reading if you are Studying the Cinema of the Marx Brothers.
By Thomas Stamper
If any comedy team could use an annotated treatment it would be the Marx Brothers. I would lament that someone hadn't thought of it sooner, but I doubt they would have done as well with it as Matthew Coniam. To Start, his research is thorough. He explains jokes that I didn't even realize were jokes. There were references in movies I have seen 10 times that my mind ignores and he explains them. This is especially true in the earlier movies where there are more references and Coniam is more thorough. What makes this book unique among the plethora of books on the brothers is that it talks about the films themselves more so than the biographies of the players. You get both to some extent, but the lives have always gotten more discussion in books. Previous writers have failed to explore so many of the things that make them interesting on screen. It helps to know going in that Coniam is firmly in the camp of fans and critics that prefer the anarchist brothers from the Paramount films over the nary-do-well misfits from the later years. He goes in depth to explain how much Groucho's persona shifts by the time they make *At the Circus*, for instance. He doesn't see Groucho Marx as a performer making acting choices but as a character having choices forced upon him through the writers and directors. Keaton and Chaplin wrote their own material during the silent era so they did have the power of consistency or evolution the Marx Brothers lacked directly, but the brothers had the writers they liked even if the directors were a mixed bag. I personally like the variety of characterization within the characters. I really enjoyed was Coniam's appreciation of Chico Marx. Like Harpo and Groucho, there is no one else like Chico. I love Chico's con man word play as much as Groucho's puns and Harpo's antics. I can also appreciate that Chico made it possible for them to have a longer movie career with his connections and love of the work. Another service Coniam provides here is that he debunks some long held stories like Dumont didn't understand that jokes or that the brothers roasted potatoes in Thalberg's fireplace. These have been repeated and said so many times by other authors Coniam was first I know who looked at the logic of these statements instead of just repeating them. This book stands alone in several ways and it's essential reading if you plan to study the cinema of the Marx Brothers.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Enrich Your Marx-Viewing Experience
By Andrea Orlando
I'm not sure what I like more about Coniam's writing- the fact that his mind is capable of presenting intricate, detailed information in a fascinating way, or that his wit and charm in doing so seem so effortless! This book is an indispensable, constant companion to a Marx enthusiast and should be part of your collection if you consider yourself a fan. The best thing about it is that it will enrich your viewing experience of the entire Marx canon. Expertly written, it is an enjoyable read full of information on a subject that you can tell the author is passionate about. Plus, it is apparent that he had fun telling it. I can only imagine how much work went into fact-finding these items about a comedy team from almost 100 years ago, but if you are a fan of the beloved brothers, you will be thankful he was obsessive enough to do it. Excellent book. Highly recommended. Worthy of the Marx Brothers.

Have you ever watched a Marx Brothers film and wondered what "habeas Irish rose" is? What is the trial of Mary Dugan with sound? What is a college widow? When exactly did Don Ameche invent the telephone? Their films are full of such in-jokes and obscure theatrical, literary and topical references that can baffle modern audiences. In this viewer's guide to the Marx Brothers you will find the answer to such mysteries, along with an exhaustive compilation of background information, obscure trivia and even the occasional busted myth. Each of the Marx Brothers' 13 films is covered by a running commentary, with points in the film discussed as they appear. Each reference is listed by its running time, with time code given for both PAL and NTSC DVD. An introduction for neophytes and a resource for fanatics, this book is a travel guide to the rambling landscape of these remarkable comedies.

"Coniam has done a remarkable service for viewers of Marx Brothers films with this collection of answers to comedy ponderables...highly recommended" --Choice
"It's gold to a real Marx Brothers fan" --Communication Booknotes Quarterly
"Very interesting, entertaining, and enlightening...impressive...the quintessential look at the comedy team's films...indispensable" --Examiner
About the Author
Matthew Coniam/b has contributed to numerous books, magazines, journals and websites in Britain and America. He lives in Bath, England.