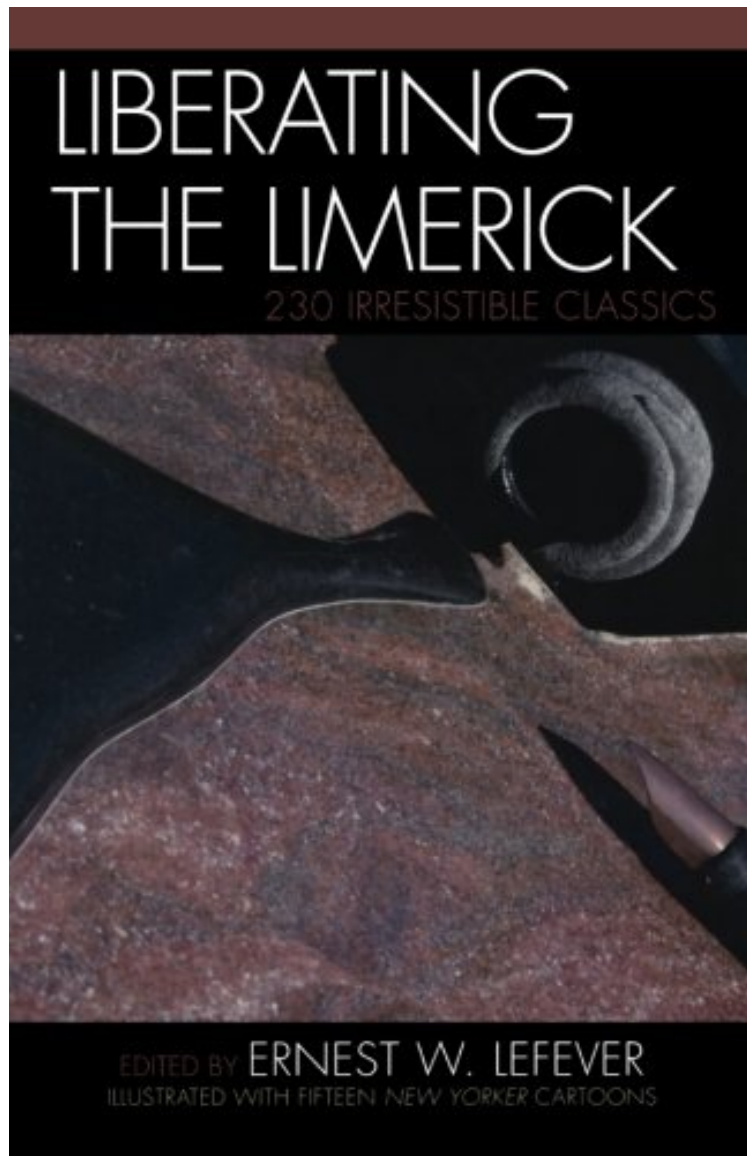


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Liberating the Limerick: 230 Irresistible Classics

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8 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Don't waste your money unless you are a right wingerBy BabouThis book is a 100 page disapointment. I love limericks, but this attempt to sanitize them makes them largely dull and corny. Most of the limericks are quite humorless. There are few beauties and some well-worn ones. Some of

them are right-wing jabs at gun control, Freud, the ban on prayer in the schools, public education, rock, NEA art grants, George Bernard Shaw, ethnic prefixes to names - such as "Afro", the poverty-crime connection, criminal defense lawyers, Walter Cronkite, reverends Jackson Sharpton - you get the drift. There are none of the opposite persuasion. Though I share some of the author's obvious politics, it seems tasteless to inject them into a book about limericks. Most of the best are anonymous and non-political. Save your money.

In his introduction to *Liberating the Limerick*, Ernest Lefever, founding president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, says that many of the 230 "irresistible classics" in the book "reflect facets of truth and virtue wrapped in the garments of irony and caricature." Contrary to the widespread myth, these verses lay bare "the foibles of the human drama with wit and irony" and without slithering into the gutter. The book is enriched by fifteen New Yorker cartoons. Read the recent *Washington Times* review.

A tireless man named Lefever With limericks did beaver and beaver, Producing a tome You'll want in your home It's delicious and deucedly cleever.... (Christopher Buckley) In an often uncharming era, Ernest Lefever has graciously revived one of the most charming word plays. (Georgie Anne Geyer, author of *Where Cats Reigned Like Kings*) At last, a book that not only resurrects the limerick, but will give anyone fond of politics and social commentary something to laugh about again. (Anne Applebaum, author of *The Gulag: A History*) Reading these limericks will soon have you laughing out loud, and begging your friends, 'listen to this one!' (Michael Novak, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, 1994 Templeton laureate) Amazingly, Ernest Lefever proves that clean limericks can be funny. (Charles Murray, co-author of *The Bell Curve*) Startlingly wholesome and full of fun. (Ben Stein) A tireless man named Lefever With limericks did beaver and beaver, Producing a tome You'll want in your home It's delicious and deucedly cleever. (Christopher Buckley) A playful form with a naughty history is here served up for (mostly) innocent fun. (Richard John Neuhaus, The Institute on Religion and Public Life; Editor, *FIRST THINGS*) This nifty little book is proof positive that English, the rollicking language of laughter, is one of the Great Wonders of the World. (George Weigel) Though the book is conservative in its approach, it will likely resonate across partisan and ideological boundaries. Because of the sheer fun and smarts of Mr. Lefever's selections, readers will return to the volume again and again... This is a book that most certainly contributes to our appreciation of serious literature. (Carol Herman, *The Washington Times*) My interest in limericks stems from my childhood when I ran about the house reciting Lear and making up verses of my own. While researching a book about limericks, I read more than 9,000 verses. The overwhelming majority embraced the seamy stereotype, but a small minority were wise, hilarious and often sexy without being obscene. Their authors addressed the range of human experience - from psychology and politics, to science and religion, to culture and the arts - with humor and wisdom. It became clear that limericks can transcend the naughty and serve as a vehicle for self-understanding, political wisdom and insight into religion, science and the arts. (Ernest W. Lefever *Los Angeles Times*) About the Author Ernest W. Lefever is an accomplished author and is the founding president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.