

NEW ORLEANS NOSTALGIA

Remembering New Orleans History, Culture and Traditions

By Ned Hémard

Quotable New Orleans

Here are but a few noteworthy quotes on that indomitable municipality nestled in the river's crescent:

New Orleans was the first city to offer indoor absinthe faucets, and indeed has always played a cosmopolitan and libertine ragtime beneath America's generally dull Sousa march of rural piety.
- JOHN HODGMAN

There is on the Globe one single spot, the possessor of which is our natural and habitual enemy. It is New Orleans, through which the produce of three-eighths of our territory must pass to market.
- THOMAS JEFFERSON

I'm not sure, but I think all music came from New Orleans.
- ERNIE K-DOE

The nation that controls New Orleans and the mouth of the Mississippi will control the destiny of North America.
- NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

New Orleans is blessed with an aura that is indefinable and probably indescribable. It is, one senses, that of a woman of a certain mature age, experience, bemused, her youthful blush slightly faded, but her sensuality, her attraction undiminished.
- JAMES KILPATRICK

But the people cannot have wells, and so they take rain-water. Neither can they conveniently have cellars or graves, the town being built upon "made ground"; so they do without both, and few of the living complain, and none of the others.
- MARK TWAIN: *Life on the Mississippi*

Leaving New Orleans also frightened me considerably. Outside of the city limits the heart of darkness, the true wasteland begins.
- JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE: *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Clean living keeps me in shape. Righteous thoughts are my secret. And New Orleans home cooking.
- FATS DOMINO

People in Louisiana live to eat, they don't eat to live.
- EMERIL LAGASSE

New Orleans resembles Genoa or Marseilles or Beirut or the Egyptian Alexandria more than it does New York, although all seaports resemble one another more than they can any place in the interior. Like Havana and Port-au-Prince, New Orleans is within the orbit of a Hellenistic world that never touched the North Atlantic.
- A. J. LIEBLING: *The Earl of Louisiana*

New Orleans worships leisure time with a religious fervor.
- ANGUS LIND

A sensuous city, alive with new sounds and sights and sensations ... resonant with music and redolent with a mixture of tantalizing aromas ... alive with possibilities and a feeling of adventure. A banquet for all the senses.
- SHERWOOD ANDERSON

The first time Taylor brought me to New Orleans all I could say was, 'I'm going to die here.' Like Venice. And that same decadent, romantic, slow sweetness comes over me every time I return. It's one of the few places that's not precious to the nth degree; it doesn't look as though its history has been cleaned up by Disney. It's funky and untidy. It's my contact with Europe in America.

- HELEN MIRREN: *Architectural Digest*

In other cities, as Old World cultures broke down, people became Americans. In New Orleans, as Old World cultures broke down, people became New Orleanians.

- JOE LOGSDON

I doubt if there is a city in the world where the resident population has been so intermixed and yet divided in its origin, or where there is such variety of tastes ... habits and moral codes among its citizens.

- FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Carnival is a butterfly of winter, whose last mad flight of Mardi Gras forever ends his glory. Another season is the glory of another butterfly, and the tattered, scattered fragments of rainbow wings are in turn the record of his day.

- PERRY YOUNG: *The Mystick Krewe; Chronicles of Comus and His Kin*

Let's face it, I can't sing like Fats Domino can. I know that.

- ELVIS PRESLEY

Throw my baby out the window, Let those joints burn down.

- AL "CARNIVAL TIME" JOHNSON

I think that I may say that an American has not seen the United States until he has seen Mardi-Gras in New Orleans.

- MARK TWAIN

Without New Orleans, there would be no America.

-KEITH FRAZIER of the REBIRTH BRASS BAND

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