

1000 Years of Laughter

An Anthology of Classic Comic Prose

Written and compiled by **David Timson**

Introduced by **Griff Rhys Jones**

With **Carole Boyd • Jonathan Keeble • John Moffatt**

Cathy Sara • Benjamin Soames • David Timson

Laughter is unique to man. This delightful anthology presents some of the funniest extracts in English literature. It opens with Anglo-Saxon riddles – ‘they couldn’t keep themselves warm on a diet of Beowulf’ – and continues with medieval memories, Tudor comic turns and Restoration buffoonery. The rise of the novel in the 18th century brought classic humour from Swift, Sterne and Smollett, the mantle then passing to Charles Dickens in the 19th. Included here are rarities from the antiquarian’s cupboard. Children’s literature produced unforgettable images from *Wind in the Willows* and *Alice in Wonderland*, while in the first half of the 20th century emerged unforgettable comic writers as diverse as Dorothy Parker and P.G. Wodehouse. Entertaining from start to finish.

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