

Final words of more than 3500 noteworthy people  
throughout history organized in an easy-to-use reference

Alcott • Alexander • Alger • Altgeld • Anthony • Arnold • Astor • Audubon • Baer  
Balzac • Barkley • Beethoven • Bismarck • Black Elk • Blanc • Bogart • Bonaparte  
Borgia • Buddha • Caesar • Carver • Casanova • Churchill • Cleopatra • Cleveland  
Cochise • Columbus • Confucius • Copernicus • Costello • Custer • Davis • de Gaulle  
De Molay • Defoe • De Witt • Desha • Dostoevsky • Dumas • Eastman • Edison  
Douglass • Drake • DuBois • DuBois • DuPont • Eastman • Edison  
Eichmann • Eisenhower • Epicurus • Faulkner • Fillmore  
Fitzgerald • Floyd • Flynn • Foster • Frankfurter • Franklin • Freud • Frost • Fuller  
Gacy • Galilei • Gandhi • Gauguin • Gehrig • Gershwin • Goethe • Gompers • Grable  
Grant • Greene • Grieg • Guevara • Hale • Hamilton • Hannibal • Harding • Haydn  
Heine • Henry • Hitler • Holst • Hoover • Hugo • Humphrey • Ibsen • Irving  
James • Jolson • Joyce • Jung • Kafka • Kant • Keats • Kennedy • Kidd • Kierkegaard  
King • Kipling • Knox • Kropotkin • LaGuardia • Landon • Lansky • Lee  
Laurel • Lawrence • Lenin • Lewis • Li'uokalani • Lincoln • Liszt • Lloyd • Lodge  
Lombardi • Luther • MacArthur • Mahatma • Mao • Marx • Maximilian  
Medici • Mendelssohn • Michelangelo • Monroe • Montfort • Mozart  
Mussolini • Napoleon • Nelson • Nietzsche • Nixon • Nobel • Nostradamus  
O'Neill • Offenbach • Oswald • Paganini • Paine • Pascal • Pasteur • Patton • Pavlova  
Penn • Pericles • Peter • Phoenix • Picasso • Pinza • Poe • Presley • Proust • Puccini  
Pulitzer • Pushkin • Quisling • Rabelais • Rachmaninoff • Raphael • Reed • Renoir  
Ribbentrop • Ripley • Rockwell • Rodin • Rogers • Roosevelt • Rousseau • Sadat  
Saladin • Samson • Sandburg • Shakespeare • Shakespeare • Sibelius • Sitting Bull  
Socrates • Squanto • Steinmetz • Steinmetz • Taft • Tamerlane • Tatum  
Taylor • Tchaikovsky • Tecumseh • Teller • Toler • Tolstoy • Trotsky  
Tubman • Tweed • Valentino • Vanderbilt • Vaughan • Victoria • Villa • Voltaire  
Wallenda • Waller • Warren • Washington • Webster • Whitman • Wilde • Willkie  
Wilson • Wittgenstein • Wolf • Wood • Woolf • Wright • Yamashita • Yeats • Young  
Zaharias • Zeppelin • Ziegfeld • Zola . . . and many more!

# Last Words of Notable People

Compiled By

**William B. Brahms**

## Ground-breaking First in Last Words

*Last Words of Notable People* is the largest, best documented collection of Last Words ever assembled! Ten years in the making! More than 3,500 entries drawn from thousands of the best print and on-line reference material available!

While numerous compilations of Last Words have appeared in print and on-line over the years, many almost invariably:

- target novelty, humor, and other entertainment market niches.
- do not cite original sources for the vast majority of the quotes.
- do not place Sources with the quotes.
- contain many reputed Last Words that are dubious, often misquoted or contrived.
- limit their scope of entries, variations and alternatives by subject matter.

*Last Words of Notable People* is the first comprehensive reference work on Last Words that offers *all* the following features:

- A concise, easy-to-find dictionary format.
- Brief biographies for more than 3,500 individuals including essential information (nationality, occupation, birth and death years).
- “Last Words” and “Source” labels in every entry.
- When a person has two or more quotations they are identified as “Different Last Words.” If the quotes are similar, they are labeled “Variations.”
- Dubious quotes are identified as “Doubtful.” An explanation and source are given.
- Each Source contains author, city and year of publication and relationship or connection to the notable person if known.
- A select annotated bibliography and a name index are provided.

**An essential addition to any reference  
or research collection!**

# **Last Words**

of

# **Notable People**

**Final Words of More Than 3500  
Noteworthy People Throughout History**

Compiled by  
**William B. Brahms**



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Haddonfield, New Jersey

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**Names**  
All names are listed in a concise, easy-to-find dictionary format. The names are also listed in the Index.

Source: *Hans Christian Andersen: A Biography* by Robert Nisbet Bain (New York, 1895).

**Anderson, Violette Neatley**  
(1882-1937) English-born American lawyer, activist, businesswoman. First black woman assistant city prosecutor in Chicago. First black woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. As national president of her college sorority Zeta Phi Beta she lobbied and eventually got Congress to pass the Bankhead-Iones Bill designed to help poor black tenant farmers and sharecroppers. Died at age 54 of cancer in Chicago while preparing to preside at her sorority's annual convocation on the University of Chicago campus.

Last Words: "Tell the girls to keep on going ahead. Put over the boulevards with a bang. Don't let my passing throw the slightest shadow of gloom. The organization has a grand mission before it." Spoken to Claude Barnett.

Source: "Violette Neatley Anderson" in *Notable Black American Women*, Book II (Farmington Hills, MI, 1996).

**André, John**  
(1751?-1780) British military officer, spy. Major in American Revolution. Sent by the British to negotiate with Benedict Arnold to betray the fortress on the Hudson River. Captured in New York trying to escape with information. Hanged as a spy at about age 29 in Tappan, New York. He wanted to die a soldier's death by firing squad rather than by hanging but his request was denied.

Different Last Words:  
(1) "Must I die in this manner?"  
Source: *The Literary Magazine and British Review*, Vol. 2, 1789.  
(2) "It will be but a momentary pang." At the moment he was to die, he was asked if he wished to say more. He replied: "Nothing, but to request that you will witness to the world that I die like a brave man."

Source: *Pictorial History of America From the Earliest Times to the Close of the Mexican War, Embracing the Most Remarkable Events Which have Transpired Since the Discovery of America* by John Frost (Philadelphia, 1853).

Variation: "I pray you to bear me witness that I meet my fate like a brave man."

Source: *American History Stories*, Vol. II, by Mara L. Pratt (Chapel Hill, NC, 2007).

Variation: "All I request of you, gentleman, is that you will bear witness to the world that I die like a brave man." A moment later he said in a near whisper: "It will be but a momentary pang."

Source: "The execution of Major Andre." Letter dated March 20, 1834, from Benjamin Russell to Dr. James Thacker (*The New-England Magazine*, Vol. 6, 1834).

Variation (doubtful): "Remember that I die as becomes a British officer, while the manner of my death must reflect disgrace on your commander."

Source: *London General Evening Post*, November 14, 1780.

**Biographies**  
Mini biographies have essential data that tie the Last Words quotation uniquely to the notable person.

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Source: *Notable Black American Women*, Book II (Farmington Hills, MI, 1996).

**Andrew the Apostle, Saint**  
(d. 70?) Biblical figure, holy man. First Disciple of Jesus; brother of St. Peter. Said to have been crucified while preaching in Greece.

Different Last Words:  
(1) "O cross, most welcome and long looked for; with a willing mind joyfully and desirously I come to thee, being the scholar of Him which did hang on thee; because I have been always thy lover, and have coveted to embrace thee."

Source: *Book of Martyrs and the Acts and Moniments of the Church* by John Fox (or Foxe). First published 1563, ed. by John Cumming (London, 1851).

(2) "Do thou, Jesu Christ, whom I have seen, whom I hold, whom I love, in whom I am and shall be, receive me in peace into thine everlasting tabernacles, that by my going out there may be an entering in unto

Never! For 'He reigns.'" Barth was quoting the Last Words of J. C. Blumhardt.

Source: *The Great Passion* by Eberhard Busch, Durrell L. Guder, Geoffrey W. Bromiley and Judith J. Guder (Grand Rapids, MI, 2004).

#### Barthou, Jean-Louis

(1862-1934) French politician, lawyer, statesman. Minister of foreign affairs. Prime minister of France. Primary figure behind the 1935 Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance. Member of the French Academy. Killed at age 72 in Marseille when he tried to prevent the assassination of King Alexander I of Yugoslavia.

Last Words: "I suffer terribly. I am thirsty. I whispered just before he died."

Source: *The Turning Point: The Assassination of Barthou and King Alexander I of Yugoslavia* by Roberts (New York, 1970).

#### Bartók, Béla Viktor János

(1881-1945) Hungarian-born American musician, composer, pianist, ethnomusicologist, educator. Left Europe in 1940, during World War II. Settled in U.S. Became American citizen in 1945. Notable works: *Miraculous Mandarin* (opera, orchestra); *Kossuth Symphony*; concertos; sonatas; string quartets; orchestral suites. Published many Hungarian, Romanian and Middle Eastern folk-songs. Died at age 64 of leukemia in New York City. Body returned to Hungary in 1988 when the Cold War ended.

Last Words: "I am only sad that I have to leave with a full trunk."

Source: *The Naked Face of Genius: Béla Bartók's American Years* by Agatha Fassett (Boston, 1958). Book focuses on the last years of Bartók's life. The author was a friend of Bartók and his wife.

#### Barton, Clarissa Harlow ("Clara")

(1821-1912) American nurse, humanitarian, teacher. Aided battlefield casualties in U.S. Civil War. After the war, she helped identify many victims of Andersonville Prison. Founder and first president of the American Red Cross. Died at age 90 in Glen Echo, Maryland.

Last Words: "Let me go! Let me go!"

Source: *Clara Barton: Daughter of Destiny* by Blanche Colton Williams (Philadelphia, 1941).

#### Bartow, Francis Stebbins

(1816-1861) American lawyer, politician,

Last Words of Notable People

military officer. Representative to Georgia's Secession Convention and to Confederate Congress. Confederate brigadier general in U.S. Civil War. Killed at age 44 in Manassas, Virginia at the First Battle of Bull Run; one of first high-ranking Confederate casualties. Monument inscribed with his Last

#### Source

Every Source gives the full title of the book or periodical that provided the quote, author, date and city of publication. Relationship or connection of the notable person to the author of the Source is given if known.

22, 1861).

Variation: "My God, boys, they have got me, but never give up the field."

Source: "Joel S. Yarborough, Co. F, 8<sup>th</sup> Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Autobiography" on file in Georgia Department of Archives (unpublished, 1861).

Variation: "Boys, they have killed me, but never give up the field."

Source: *The History of Bartow County; Formerly Cass* by Lucy Josephine Cunyus (Cartersville, GA, 1933).

Variation: "They have killed me boys! Never give up the field."

Source: "Biographical Portrait of Francis S. Bartow, and Bartow Monument and Battle of First Manassas" by Robert E.L. Krick, courtesy of Manassas National Park.

Variation: "They have killed me, but boys, never give it up!"

Source: *First Blood: Fort Sumter to Bull Run* by William C. David, et al. (New York, 1983).

#### Basedow, Johann Bernhard

(1723-1790) German educator, educational reformer, writer. Designed complete system of elementary education intended to develop intelligence of students in contact with realities, not only with mere words. Established a model school for children in Dessau. Notable work: *Elementarwerk*. Died at age 66 in Magdeburg, Germany.

Last Words: "Rich will seicret sein zum Besten meiner Mitmenschen." (tr. "I desire to be dissected for the benefit of my fellow men.")

an Analytical Summary of American History and Biography, Containing also the Complete Indexes of the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography by George Derby (New York, 1906).

(3) "Going out into life—that is dying."

Source: *Last Words of Saints and Sinners: 700 Final Quotes from the Famous, the Infamous, and the Inspiring Figures in History* by Herbert Lockyer (Grand Rapids, MI, 1969).

(4) "You were saying that I could not recover."

Source: *The Most Famous Man in America* by Debby Applegate (New York, 2006).

### Beecher, Lyman

(1775-1863) American clergyman, theologian, educator. Presbyterian. First president of Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati. His moderate approach to Calvinism was criticized by old school Presbyterians, causing him to be charged with heresy in 1835. The case lasted three years then was withdrawn. Beecher was a temperance movement leader. His temperance sermons were published and distributed widely in the United States and Great Britain. Father of 13 children, including Catharine, Harriet and Henry Ward. Died at age 87 in Brooklyn, New York.

Last Words: "I have fought, I have not the faith; I will give up—no more." Lyman Beecher was his author

### Doubtful

Indicates the quotation is probably bogus. An explanation is given as well as a Source.

### Beerbohm, Sir Henry Maximilian ("Max")

(1872-1956) British writer, caricaturist, satirist, humorist, critic. Half brother of actor-producer Herbert Beerbohm Tree. Drama critic for *Saturday Review*. Noted caricaturist. Several books of his drawings have been published. Knighted in 1939. Spent his last 45 years in Rapallo, Italy, where he died at age 83.

Last Words: "Thank you for everything." His response to his secretary-companion when asked if he slept well. He had married her secretly shortly before he died.

Source: *Time* magazine, May 28, 1956.

### Beesley or Bisley, Blessed George

(d. 1591) English clergyman, martyr. Ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1587. Captured in 1590 and tortured until he was reduced to a skeleton. He would not betray his fellow Catholics. He was one of the 85 Martyrs of England and Wales beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1987.

Last Words: "Absit mihi gloriari nisi in Cruce Domini Nostri Jesu Christi" and after a pause, "Good people, I beseech God to send all felicity."

Source: "Ven. George Beesley" by B. Camm in *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (New York, 1907).

### Beethoven, Ludwig van

(1770-1827) German musician, composer, pianist, conductor. Moved to Vienna in 1792. Spent the rest of his life there. Notable works: symphonics, concertos, sonatas, chamber, choral and orchestral music. Hearing loss began in his 20s. He did not tell others about his increasing deafness until in his 30s when he could no longer conceal it. Also had a debilitating disease for many years. Died at age 57 in Vienna.

Different Last Words:

(1) "Schade! Schade! Zu spaet!" (tr. "Too bad! Too bad! It's too late!") Sometimes translated as "It's a pity, a pity. Too late!") He was referring to two bottles of wine from Mainz that were brought to his bedside by a servant. Beethoven felt he was too ill to drink it. This occurred at about 12:45 p.m. and was recorded by Anton Schindler who said Beethoven became delirious almost immediately afterward and fell into a coma. Beethoven died the next day during a thunderstorm which may account for some reports that he shook his fist at the sky as his final words.

Sources: *Life of Beethoven* by Louis Nohl, tr. John J. Lalor (Chicago, 1881); *Beethoven* by Solomon Maynard (London, 1977) and other major biographies.

(2) (doubtful): "Plaudite amici, comedia finita est!" (tr. "Applaud my friends. The comedy is ended.") Lines traditionally spoken at the end of commedia dell'arte performances. Beethoven said this to his friends Anton Schindler and Stephen von Breuning. However, these were not his Last Words.

Beethoven subsequently discussed business matters with Schindler: He wanted Schindler to write to the Philharmonic Society and thank them for the wine they had sent him. The letter was written as Beethoven had requested and it provides detailed information about Beethoven's last days. It identifies "Schade! Schade! Zu spaet!" as his Last Words.

Sources: *Beethoven's Letters: A Critical Edition with Explanatory Notes*, Vol. II by [unclear] with preface by J. S. Shedlock (*Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, Maitland (Philadelphia, 1925).

(3) (doubtful): "I shall hear in heaven." Reported in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century source reprinted in later quotations. Witnesses present at the time, but no record of Beethoven saying this.

Source: *The Last Words (Real and Traditional) of Distinguished Men and Women Collected from Various Sources* by Frederic Rowland Marvin (New York, 1901).

(4) (doubtful): "Do you hear the bell? The scene is being shifted." This was a reference to the practice employed between scenes in Viennese theatre. The quote was reported by the celebrated singer Luigi Lablache, who claimed he was present at Beethoven's death. There is no record to indicate Lablache was a witness to his death. However, he was one of the torch bearers at Beethoven's funeral.

Source: "Beethoven—An Art Study" by Wilhelm von Lenz tr. J.B. Bridgeman (*The Musical World*, August 9, 1856).

(5) (doubtful): "Is it not true, Hummel, that I have some talent after all?" Spoken to fellow composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel. Although Hummel had visited Beethoven not long before his death, he was not present when he died. Hummel was one of Beethoven's pallbearers.

Source: "Last Moments of Beethoven" (*The Guardian—A Monthly Magazine for Young Men and Ladies*, Vol. XXVIII, ed. by Rev. B. Bausman, D.D., 1877). Reprint of a story that appeared *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in 1854. This version is repeated in several sources.

#### **Béhaine, Pierre Joseph-Georges Pigneau de**

(1741-1799) French prelate, educator.

Bishop. Left France in 1765 to establish a seminary in Vietnam (Cochinchina). Appointed bishop 1771. Created vicar apostolic of Cochin 1799. Died at age 57 in Vietnam.

Last Words: "Here I am finally. Here I am at the end of the tumultuous career that, whatever my repugnance, I have kept to for so long. My troubles will soon be over and my true happiness is coming, since I have all confidence in the mercy of my God. I will go to a better world where I have been so long. I regret that I have had public adoration, that I regret all these honours, they add up to vanity and

*Mgr Pierre-Joseph-Georges Pigneau de Béhaine*

*XVI, général en chef des armées annamites, négociateur et signataire du traité de 1787 entre la France et la Cochinchine* by M. l'abbé J. Jardinier Vervins (Paris, 1866).

### Different Last Words

Listings that have two or more Last Words quotations are labeled with this term and are enumerated.

#### **Behan, Brendan Francis**

(1923-1964) Irish writer, playwright, journalist, song writer. Member of the Irish Republican Army. Wrote books and songs in Gaelic and English. Gained fame with *Borstal Boy* (1958), his account of three years in Borstal Prison after his arrest by the British while on a sabotage mission. Died at age 41 at Meath Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.

Different Last Words:

(1) "Bless you, Sister. May all your sons be bishops." Spoken to the nurse who was near his hospital bed taking his pulse.

Source: "A Dying Art: The Classy Exit Line" (*Time* magazine, January 16, 1984).

(2) "You made one mistake. You married me." Spoken to his wife.

Source: *Brendan* by Ulick O'Conner (Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1970).

#### **Belasco, David**

(1853-1931) American playwright, impresario, director, theatrical producer. Wrote, directed, or produced more than 100 Broadway plays. Notable plays: *Hearts of Oak*, *The Heart of Maryland*; *Du Barry*. During his professional career, he was known as the most powerful person in the New York theater. Died at age 77 in New York City. The

**Rabelais, François**

(1494?-1553?) French writer, humorist, satirist. Had been a Franciscan novice and later a Benedictine, but left the clergy. Studied medicine. Considered by many to be one of the greatest Renaissance writers. Notable works: *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* (satires). Died at about age 59 in Paris.

Different Last Words:

(1) (doubtful): “Je m’en vais chercher un grand peut-être.” (tr. “I go to seek a great Perhaps.” or “I am going to the Great Perhaps.”)

Sources: *Life of Rabelais* by Peter Anthony Motteux (ed. and tr. 1693-1708); *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford, England, 1953).

Variation (doubtful): “Je vais quérir un grand peut-être.” (tr. “I am going in search of a great maybe.”)

Source: *Oeuvres de François Rabelais: contenant la vie de Gargantua et celle de Pantagruel, augmentées de plusieurs fragmens et de deux chapitres du Ve livre restitués d’après un manuscrit de la Bibliothèque impériale, précédées d’une notice historique sur la vie et les ouvrages de Rabelais, augmentée de nouveaux documents par P. L. Jacob* by François Rabelais, Gustave Doré, Jacob Le Duchat, M. de L’Aulnay and P. L. Jacob (Paris, 1857).

(2) (doubtful): “Tirez le rideau. La farce est jouée.” (tr. “Bring down the curtain, the farce is played out.”)

Variations:

“Let down the curtain, the farce is over.”

“Draw the curtain: the farce is ended.”

“Ring down the curtain, the farce is over.”

Sources: *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* by E. Cobham Brewer (Philadelphia, 1898); *Titans of Literature, from Homer to the Present*, by Burton Rascoe (New York, 1932); *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford, England, 1953).

(3) (doubtful): “Even going my journey, they have greased my boots already.” Spoken on his deathbed after receiving Extreme Unction (Last Rites of dying Christians).

Sources: *Apothegms Old and New* by Francis Bacon (1624); *Joe Miller’s Jests: Or the Wits Vade-Mecum* (London, 1739).

(4) (doubtful): “Hélas! oui, je le reconnais à sa monture.” (tr. “Alas! yes, I recognize him by his steed.”) His response when asked: “Voilà votre Sauveur et votre mailre, qui veut bien s’abaisser jusqu’à venir vous trouver; le reconnaissez-vous?” (tr. “There is your Saviour and Master, who is kind

enough to stoop to come and see you; do you recognize him?”) The author noted that the phrase is more accurately attributed to Pierre Bayle (1647-1706).

Source: *Famous Sayings and Their Authors: A Collection of Historical Sayings in English, French, German, Greek, Italian, and Latin* by Edward Latham (London, 1906). Latham gives (1), (2) and (4) as Rabelais’ Last Words.

Some sources for Rabelais’ Last Words cite Cardinal du Bellay; others cite Cardinal de Chatillon. Accounts include the Cardinal sending a page to inquire about his condition. In Michaud’s *Biographie universelle*, Rabelais is reported to have replied: “Dis à monseigneur l’état où tu me vois. Je m’en vais chercher un grand peut-être. Il est en nid de toi, tu rideau the st search the tre you’ll tain fa

Source: Michaud and Louis Gabriel Michaud (Paris, 1811-1862).

All the Last Words attributed to Rabelais are more legend than fact. Historians know very little about Rabelais after 1552. There is no authentic account of his death. Even his death date is uncertain. Although May 3, 1553, is traditionally named as the day he died, he may have died in 1554.

Source: *Exit Lines: Famous (and Not-So-Famous) Last Words* by Brian O’Kill (Essex, England, 1986).

Rabelais’ Last Words took on wider popularity and discussion when they were prominently used in John Green’s 2006 Printz Award-winning novel *Looking for Alaska*. Miles “Pudge” Halter, the protagonist, has an unusual interest in learning the Last Words of famous people. Of particular interest is his affinity for and interpretation of Rabelais’ comment: “I go to seek a Great Perhaps.” Pudge leaves home and goes to a boarding school in search of his own “Great Perhaps.”

Source: *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (New York, 2005).

**Rachel**, see **Félix, Rachel Éliisa**.

**Variations**  
Listings that have two or more similar Last Words quotations are labeled with this term.

would be the only witnesses to the decay he felt.

Last Words: "Contemplate the state in which I am fallen, and learn to die." Spoken to his son.

Source: *The General Biographical Dictionary: Containing an Historical and Critical Account of the Lives and Writings of the Most Eminent Persons in Every Nation, Particularly the British and Irish, from the Earliest Accounts to the Present Time* by Alexander Chalmers (London, 1812-1817).

#### Sacco, Nicola

(1891-1927) Italian-born American political activist. Convicted along with Bartolomeo Vanzetti for the murder of the paymaster and guard at a Massachusetts shoe factory during a robbery. Many prominent people protested the verdict, including Dorothy Parker, Upton Sinclair, George Bernard Shaw and Jane Addams, but Sacco and Vanzetti's convictions and sentences were upheld. Both were executed in 1927. Maxwell Anderson's plays *Gods of the Lightning* and *Winterset*, Upton Sinclair's novel *Boston*, Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem *Justice Denied in Massachusetts* among others, were based on the case. In 1977, Michael Dukakis, governor of Massachusetts, vindicated Sacco and Vanzetti by official proclamation. Last Words: "Viva Il Anarchismo! Farewell my wife and child and all my friends! Good evening gentlemen. Addio Mamma mia, addio Mamma mia."

Source: *I Killed for the Law, the Career of Robert Elliott and Other Executioners* by Leo W. Sheridan (New York, 1938).

#### Sadat, Mohammed Anwar Al

(1918-1981) Egyptian military officer, politician. Field marshal. President of Egypt from 1970 until his assassination. Killed at age 62 while watching an aerial display at a military parade. Assassins were part of an Egyptian Islamic Jihad organization that opposed his negotiations with Israel and the use of force a month earlier.

Last Words: "No." Reported by his wife who was sitting with her grandchildren in another box of the reviewing stand where he was shot. Sadat previously said he expected to be killed eventually and never wore a bulletproof vest.

Source: "Jihan Sadat Looks on Calmly at Rites for Her Husband" by Ann Crittenden (*New York Times*, October 11, 1981).

#### Saint-Edme, Bourg

(1785-1852) French political writer. Birth name Edme Théodore Bourg. Notable work: *Biographie des hommes du jour* (*Biography of Living Men*, 6 vol.) Committed suicide at age 66 in Paris.

Last Words (written): "At four o'clock or at 4:15 I will carry out my design, if everything goes right. I am not afraid of death, since I am seeking it, since I desire it! But prolonged suffering would be frightful. I walk; all ideas vanish. I think only of my children. The fire is dying out. What a silence all around. Four o'clock. I hear the chimes. Soon comes the moment of sacri-

#### Last Words

Every notable person's entry is tagged with one or more Last Words quotations.

in Mailard (Paris, 1901).

#### Saint-Evremond, Charles de Marguetel De Saint Denis, Seigneur de

(1610-1703) French poet, essayist, courtier, nobleman. Notable work: *Maxims*. Forced into exile in England. Died at age 93 in London. Buried in Westminster Abbey.

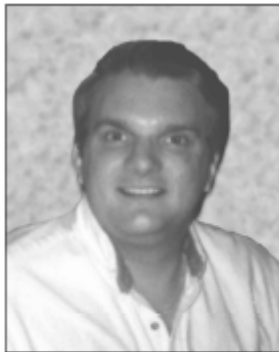
Last Words: "With all my heart; I would fain be reconciled to my stomach which no longer performs its usual functions." Spoken to a priest who has asked if he was reconciled with Christ.

Source: *The Wits and Beaux of Society* by Grace Wharton and Philip Wharton (London, 1871).

#### Saint-Gaudens, Augustus

(1848-1907) Irish-born American artist, sculptor. Notable works: Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.; double eagle coin, statues of Admiral Farragut, Lincoln, General Sherman. Diagnosed with cancer in 1900. Died at age 59 in Cornish, New Hampshire. Last Words: "It's very beautiful, but I want to go farther away." Spoken while he was watching a sunset.

Source: *Reminiscences of Augustus Saint-Gaudens*,



**William B. Brahms** graduated from Rutgers College in 1989 with a B.A. in Economics. At Rutgers, he garnered numerous honors and awards including the Dean's Award for Excellence, College Honors, Departmental Honors, Henry Rutgers Honors, Phi Beta Kappa and election to the Cap and Skull Society. He earned an M.L.S. at Rutgers in 1993, was awarded a Rutgers SCILS Alumni Association scholarship, and was selected for Beta Phi Mu.

After he graduated from Rutgers, he was Head of Reference at the Franklin Township Public Library in Somerset, New Jersey. While there, he served six years as Township Historian and received commendations from the Township Council for writing and publishing two books on Franklin Township history for the library. That work earned him a scholar's award from the Marconi Foundation in Somerset. A New Jersey state library grant enabled him to co-developed two major digital projects: an online historical photograph database and one of the first full-text and full-images searchable local newspaper archives in a public library in the country. His digital project work led to a position on the advisory committee to the New Jersey Digital Highway.

In 2004, he co-founded Reference Desk Press, Inc. to produce select reference books by librarians for librarians in an ecologically and economically responsible manner. He has written six books, including the core reference work *Notable Last Facts* (2005). He is listed in Marquis's *Who's Who in the World* and has been selected for *Who's Who in America* seven times.

Brahms is Chief Librarian/Manager at the Camden County Library System in Voorhees, New Jersey. He co-developed two major initiatives for the library: *Shelf Life* (retail model influenced satellite branch in a mall) and *The Corner* a progressive teen library center.

### Ecologically and Economically Mindful

William Brahms is mindful of the role of sound ecological practices in publishing. Working with Reference Desk Press, Inc., he is committed to producing only reference books from high-quality recycled paper that meets the Green Press Initiative standards and is Forest Stewardship Council certified through his printer, Thomson-Shore. He is also mindful of the economical issues of those hit hard with budget cut-backs. As organizations struggle with reduced budgets, reference book prices are a concern. Mr. Brahms and RDP have committed to retailing only reference books under \$99. *Last Words of Notable People* lists for \$95, with additional maximum discount offered.

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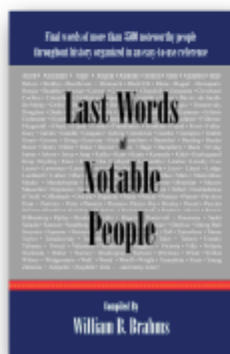
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