

# Edmond de Goncourt

## Quotes

*Art, Men, Firsts, Beauty, Past, Eye, Museums, Artist, Mind, Missing, Thinking, Novelists, Facts, Talent, Two, Ordinary, Crooked, Infinity, Children, Honest*

If there is a God, atheism must seem to Him as less of an insult than religion.

~Edmond de Goncourt

A painting in a museum hears more ridiculous opinions than anything else in the world.

~Edmond de Goncourt

I feel sure that coups d'État would go much better if there were seats, boxes, and stalls so that one could see what was happening and not miss anything.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Debauchery is perhaps an act of despair in the face of infinity.

~Edmond de Goncourt

A poet is a man who puts up a ladder to a star and climbs it while playing a violin.

~Edmond de Goncourt

People don't like the true and simple; they like fairy tales and humbug.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Historians tell the story of the past, novelists the story of the present.

~Edmond de Goncourt

As a general truth, it is safe to say that any picture that produces a moral impression is a bad picture.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Barbarism is needed every four or five hundred years to bring the world back to life. Otherwise it would die of civilization.

~Edmond de Goncourt

There are only two great currents in the history of mankind: the baseness which makes conservatives and the envy which makes revolutionaries.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Surely nothing has to listen to so many stupid remarks as a painting in a museum.

~Edmond de Goncourt

There have been many definitions of beauty in art. What is it? Beauty is what the untrained eyes consider abominable.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Man is a mind betrayed, not served, by his organs.

~Edmond de Goncourt

The English are crooked as a nation and honest as individuals. The contrary is true of the French, who are honest as a nation and crooked as individuals.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Laughter is the mind's intonation. There are ways of laughing which have the sound of counterfeit coins.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Statistics is the first of the inexact sciences.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Sickness sensitizes man for observation, like a photographic plate.

~Edmond de Goncourt

The facts: nothing matters but the facts: worship of the facts leads to everything, to happiness first of all and then to wealth.

~Edmond de Goncourt

History is a novel that has been lived, a novel is history that could have been.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Genius is the talent of a person who is dead.

~Edmond de Goncourt

She is unable to dream, think or love. In a woman, poetry never comes naturally, but always as the result of education. Only the woman of the world is a woman; the rest are simply females.

~Edmond de Goncourt

I have always derived indescribable pleasure from leading a decent woman to the edge of sin and leaving her there to live between the temptation and the fear of that sin.

~Edmond de Goncourt

Princes enjoy themselves like children in the company of ordinary human beings.

~Edmond de Goncourt

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