

Jacques Barzun

Quotes

*Art, Men, Writing, Education, May, Artist, Race, Philosophy, School, Expression,
Ideas, Past, Passion, People, Age, Form, Reading, Mind, Simple, Self*

Of course, clothing fashions have always been impractical, except in Tahiti.

~Jacques Barzun

If it were possible to talk to the unborn, one could never explain to them how it feels to be alive, for life is washed in the speechless real.

~Jacques Barzun

The danger that may really threaten (crime fiction) is that soon there will be more writers than readers

~Jacques Barzun

Political correctness does not legislate tolerance; it only organizes hatred.

~Jacques Barzun

Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition.

~Jacques Barzun

In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years.

~Jacques Barzun

The truth is, when all is said and done, one does not teach a subject, one teaches a student how to learn it.

~Jacques Barzun

If civilization has risen from the Stone Age, it can rise again from the Wastepaper Age.

~Jacques Barzun

Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball, the rules and realities of the game - and do it by watching first some high school or small-town teams.

~Jacques Barzun

Universities incline wits to sophistry and affectation.

~Jacques Barzun

Music is intended and designed for sentient beings that have hopes and purposes and emotions.

~Jacques Barzun

The test and the use of man's education is that he finds pleasure in the exercise of his mind.

~Jacques Barzun

Finding oneself was a misnomer; a self is not found but made.

~Jacques Barzun

Time and rest are needed for absorption. Psychologists confirm that it is really in the summer that our muscles learn to skate and in the winter, how to swim.

~Jacques Barzun

The one thing that unifies men in a given age is not their individual philosophies but the dominant problem that these philosophies are designed to solve.

~Jacques Barzun

Except among those whose education has been in the minimalist style, it is understood that hasty moral judgments about the past are a form of injustice.

~Jacques Barzun

A man who has both feet planted firmly in the air can be safely called a liberal as opposed to the conservative, who has both feet firmly planted in his mouth.

~Jacques Barzun

Since it is seldom clear whether intellectual activity denotes a superior mode of being or a vital deficiency, opinion swings between considering intellect a privilege and seeing it as a handicap

~Jacques Barzun

Bad writing, it is easily verified, has never kept scholarship from being published.

~Jacques Barzun

It seems a long time since the morning mail could be called correspondence.

~Jacques Barzun

The mind tends to run along the groove of one's intention and overlook the actual expression.

~Jacques Barzun

Great cultural changes begin in affectation and end in routine.

~Jacques Barzun

By the time I was 9, I had the conviction that everybody in the world was an artist except plumbers or people who delivered groceries.

~Jacques Barzun

In any assembly the simplest way to stop transacting business and split the ranks is to appeal to a principle.

~Jacques Barzun

The intellectuals' chief cause of anguish are one another's works.

~Jacques Barzun

In producers, loafing is productive; and no creator, of whatever

magnitude, has ever been able to skip that stage, any more than a mother can skip gestation.

~Jacques Barzun

Science is, in the best and strictest sense, glorious entertainment

~Jacques Barzun

For the educated, the authority of science rested on the strictness of its methods; for the mass, it rested on the powers of explanation.

~Jacques Barzun

Idealism springs from deep feelings, but feelings are nothing without the formulated idea that keeps them whole.

~Jacques Barzun

Simple English is no one's mother tongue. It has to be worked for.

~Jacques Barzun

To delve into history entails, besides the grievance of hard work, the danger that in the depths one may lose one's scapegoats.

~Jacques Barzun

Only a great mind that is overthrown yields tragedy

~Jacques Barzun

Tennis belongs to the individualistic past - a hero, or at most a pair of friends or lovers, against the world.

~Jacques Barzun

We may complain and cavil at the anarchy which is the amateurs natural element, but in soberness we must agree that if the amateur did not exist it would be necessary to invent him.

~Jacques Barzun

Vanity is a static thing. It puts its faith in what it has, and is easily wounded. Pride is active, and satisfied only with what it can do, hence accustomed not to feel small stings.

~Jacques Barzun

Americans began by loving youth, and now, out of adult self-pity, they worship it.

~Jacques Barzun

To watch a football game is to be in a prolonged neurotic doubt as to what you're seeing. It's more like an emergency happening at a distance than a game. I don't wonder the spectators take to drink.

~Jacques Barzun

I'll read, and then I'll take naps. When I feel sleep coming on, I give in and don't fight it.

~Jacques Barzun

Convince yourself that you are working in clay, not marble, on paper not eternal bronze: Let that first sentence be as stupid as it wishes.

~Jacques Barzun

Boredom and fatigue are great historical forces.

~Jacques Barzun

When people accept futility and the absurd as normal, the culture is decadent.

~Jacques Barzun

It is always some illusion that creates disillusion, especially in the young, for whom the only alternative to perfection is cynicism.

~Jacques Barzun

No one has ever used historical examples, near or remote, with the

detail, precision, and directness to be found in every page of Shaw.

~Jacques Barzun

Science is an all-pervasive energy, for it is at once a mode of thought, a source of strong emotion, and a faith as fanatical as any in history.

~Jacques Barzun

The reason teaching has to go on is that children are not born human; they are made so.

~Jacques Barzun

Old age is like learning a new profession. And not one of your own choosing.

~Jacques Barzun

Above all, do not talk yourself out of good ideas by trying to expound them at haphazard meetings.

~Jacques Barzun

Intellect has nothing to do with equality except to respect it as a sublime convention.

~Jacques Barzun

We cannot appreciate the art of any age without first acquiring an equivalent of the experience it depicts.

~Jacques Barzun

Above all, the ability to feel the force of an argument apart from the substance it deals with is the strongest weapon against prejudice.

~Jacques Barzun

To denounce does not free the self from what it hates, any more than ignoring the past shuts off its influence.

~Jacques Barzun

It is only in the shadows, when some fresh wave, truly original, truly creative, breaks upon the shore, that there will be a rediscovery of the West.

~Jacques Barzun

Grab a pen and put down some words - your name even - and a title: something to see, to revise, to carve, to do over in the opposite way

~Jacques Barzun

Look for all fancy wordings and get rid of them. Avoid all terms and expressions, old or new, that embody affectation.

~Jacques Barzun

After being boxed in by man and his constructions in Europe and the East, the release into space is exhilarating. The horizon is a huge remote circle, and no hills intervene.

~Jacques Barzun

Writing, at least a craft and at its best an art, aspiring to the unique, is the most difficult to learn.

~Jacques Barzun

An artist has every right - one may even say a duty - to exhibit his productions as prominently as he can.

~Jacques Barzun

The book, like the bicycle, is a perfect form.

~Jacques Barzun

Speech, after all, is in some measure an expression of character, and flexibility in its use is a good way to tell your friends from the robots.

~Jacques Barzun

[T]hat is the triumph of history - truth absolute is not at hand; the

original with which to match the copy does not exist.

~Jacques Barzun

Life is given us as a passion.

~Jacques Barzun

Take a portion of wit, And fashion it fit, Like a needle, with point and with eye: A point that can wound, An eye to look round, And at folly or vice let it fly

~Jacques Barzun

The history of creation is but a succession of battles between amateurs of genius-inspired heretics- and orthodox professionals.

~Jacques Barzun

Music, not being made up of objects nor referring to objects, is intangible and ineffable; it can only be as it were inhaled by the spirit: the rest is silence.

~Jacques Barzun

I once worked as a salesman and was very independent. I took orders from no one.

~Jacques Barzun

You never step in the same river of thought twice, because neither you nor it are the same.

~Jacques Barzun

Strangers who have seen Shaw face to face are wont to report their surprise at his gentleness and consideration, his willingness to listen and his complete lack of pose.

~Jacques Barzun

Art distills sensation and embodies it with enhanced meaning in a

memorable form - or else it is not art.

~Jacques Barzun

Bernard Shaw remains the only model we have of what the citizen of a democracy should be: an informed participant in all things we deem important to the society and the individual.

~Jacques Barzun

Highly-adaptive, informal networks move diagonally and elliptically, skipping entire functions to get things done.

~Jacques Barzun

The ascetic is often a sensualist who has reached the limit of his capacity.

~Jacques Barzun

I have always been - I think any student of history almost inevitably is - a cheerful pessimist.

~Jacques Barzun

The educated man had throughout the ages found a way to covert passionate activity into silent and motionless pleasure. He can sit still in a room and not perish.

~Jacques Barzun

Baseball is a kind of collective chess with arms and legs in full play under sunlight.

~Jacques Barzun

no subject of study is more important than reading - all other intellectual powers depend on it.

~Jacques Barzun

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