

# ‘Such Friends’

‘...and say my glory was I had such friends.’

—W B Yeats

## Dorothy Parker and the Algonquin Round Table For further reading

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Robert E. Drennan, ed. *The Algonquin Wits*. New York: Citadel Press, 1968. Mostly just a collection of Parker’s quips and those of her friends, without much context. Use it to entertain your friends at parties.

Kevin C. Fitzpatrick. *The Algonquin Round Table New York: A Historical Guide*. Guildford, CT: Lyons Press, 2015. Excellent. Lots of pictures and details, and an expanded cast of characters.

Kevin C. Fitzpatrick. *A Journey into Dorothy Parker’s New York*. Berkeley, CA: Roaring Forties Press, 2013. This is the guy who runs the Dorothy Parker Society and does Manhattan walking tours, so really knows his stuff.

Kevin C. Fitzpatrick. *Under the Table: A Dorothy Parker Cocktail Guide*. Guildford, CT: Lyons Press, 2013. “I love a martini—But two at the most. Three, I’m under the table; Four, I’m under the host.” Who wants to use this to throw a post-coronavirus party?! I’m in...

James R. Gaines. *Wit’s End: Days and Nights of the Algonquin Round Table*, New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1977. One of the few books really about the whole group. Good pictures.

Brendan Gill. *Here at The New Yorker*. New York: Random House. 1975. An excellent reminiscence, starting with the early days, by one who came along a bit later.

Marion Meade. *Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin: Writers Running Wild in the Twenties*. New York: Doubleday, 2004. Year by year group bio of Edna Ferber, Zelda Fitzgerald, Dorothy Parker, and Edna St. Vincent Millay. Meade made good use of her research for her excellent Parker biography.

Marion Meade. *Dorothy Parker: What Fresh Hell Is This?* New York: Penguin Books, 1989. The best. Excellent biography and the basis for the film, *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* as well as the A&E *Biography* program.

Dorothy Parker. *The Portable Dorothy Parker*. With an introduction by Brendan Gill. New York: Penguin Books, 1976. The original she arranged in 1944 is all here, plus additions since. Keep it next to your bed for when you’re sleeping alone.

## Other Resources

The Algonquin Hotel, is still at 59 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street [<https://www.algonquinhotel.com/>], having been refurbished many times. Each new owner has pledged to retain its literary history. The last time I was there, we had a lovely lunch, right next to the round table. The latest Algonquin cat, Hamlet, has his own Facebook page, but hasn't been very active lately.

The documentary, *The Ten-Year Lunch* (1987) has interviews with people from the time and is narrated by former CBS sportscaster Heywood Hale Broun. A bit dated, but fun.

The Facebook group, The Dorothy Parker Society, [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorothyparkersociety/>], is the best and Kevin Fitzpatrick who runs it is a true fan. Next time you're in New York, try one of his walking tours. He has also been doing talks online during the lockdown.

The film, *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* (1994), starring Jennifer Jason Leigh and Scott Campbell, directed by Alan Rudolph, is quite good. It captures the time, the look and their relationships. There are numerous clips on YouTube.

And, of course, please follow my blog, [www.suchfriends.wordpress.com](http://www.suchfriends.wordpress.com), where I am currently chronicling, "100 Years Ago: The Literary 1920s." Hopefully, soon to be a book...