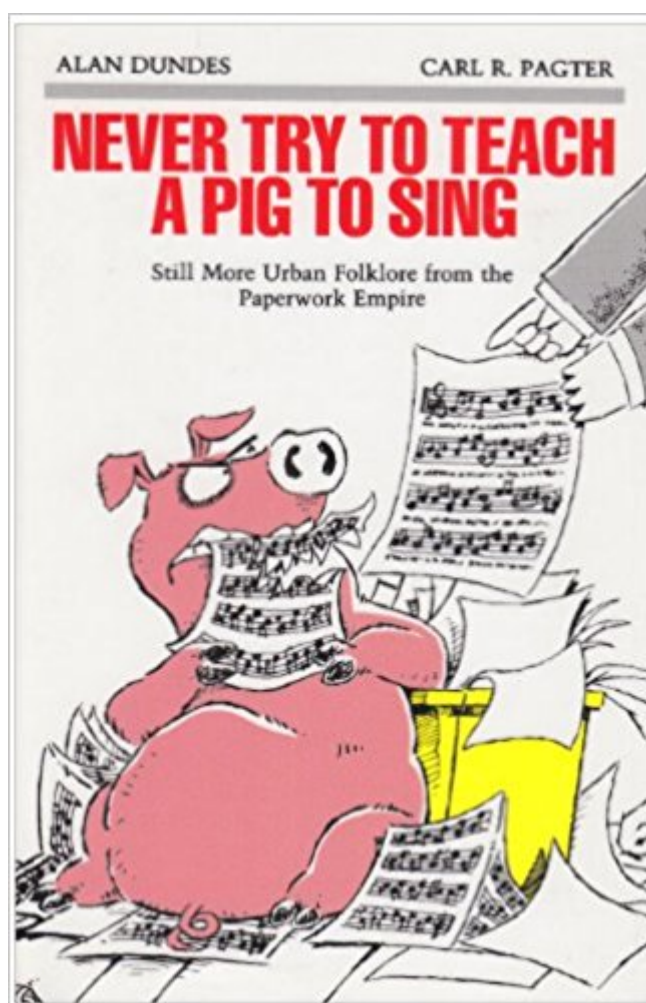


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# Never Try To Teach A Pig To Sing: Still More Urban Folklore From The Paperwork Empire (Humor In Life And Letters Series)



## Synopsis

Never Try to Teach a Pig to Sing documents the thriving folklore tradition that circulates in the workplace. Alan Dundes and Carl Pagter have collected more than two hundred and fifty "signs of the times"-the office memoranda, parodies, cartoons, and poems that daily make their way through copy machines, interoffice mail systems, and fax machines and are affixed to bulletin boards and water coolers. The rich vein of urban folklore tapped by this imaginative volume constitutes a great testament to one of the world's most prolific authors-anonymous. The popularity of the items featured in this timely book is apparent by their reproduction in mass or popular cultural form-as greeting cards, plaques, and bumper stickers-reminding us of the inevitable interplay between folklore and mass culture. Dundes and Pagter clearly demonstrate the existence of folklore in the modern urban technological world and refute the notion that folklore reflects only the past.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Never Try to Teach a Pig to Sing documents the thriving folklore tradition that circulates in the workplace.

Alan Dundes is a professor of anthropology and folklore at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University. Carl R. Pagter is presently counsel and consultant for a large corporation in California.

An amusing book gathering up lots of sayings, poems, and cartoons developed by everyday people in work environments and circulated by means of office fax machines and email. Includes the semi-famous and hilarious cartoon of the two men on the elephant, which I'd seen a couple of decades ago and was unable to locate again until I found it in this book. Much "Dilbert" like mockery of the absurdities of office politics and policies.

This is a hilarious book that I highly recommend.

Exactly as described.

Great fun, and a fascinating look at urban legend and myth. Copiers gave the joke new life, as bits of popular wisdom spread through offices and then around the country. Not unlike the funny-forwards epidemic on today's eMail networks, this book captures the growth of folk humor in a thoroughly enjoyable way! Complete with behavioral annotations that peek just below the laughter. Highly recommended!

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