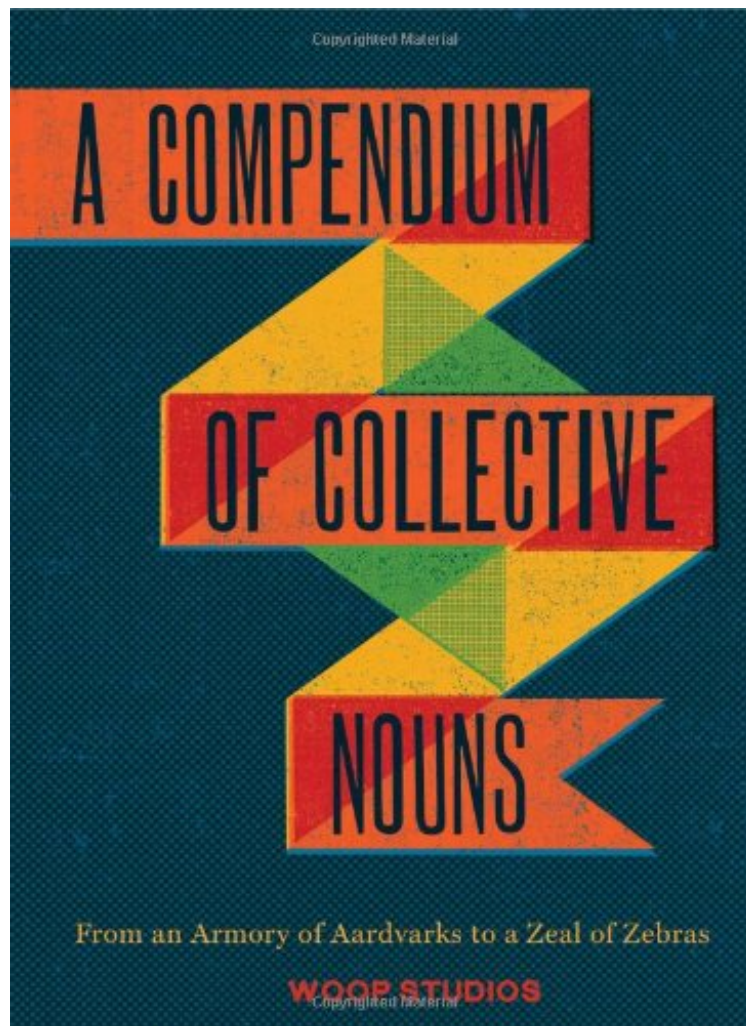


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A Compendium of Collective Nouns: From an Armory of Aardvarks to a Zeal of Zebras

Woop Studios, Jay Sacher

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Woop Studios, Jay Sacher : A Compendium of Collective Nouns: From an Armory of Aardvarks to a Zeal of Zebras before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Compendium of Collective Nouns: From an Armory of Aardvarks to a Zeal of Zebras:

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully Illustrated Book for the Eclectic Reader and Word-Lover! By Happy Reader I bought my copy of "A Compendium of Collective Nouns" in a bookstore, and almost didn't. The cover of it makes it look like a plain old dictionary, and I already have a surfeit of varying dictionaries. But I chanced on opening the book to peruse, and was and am delighted by the artwork. This really is more of an art-book

than a dictionary in the usual sense. I counted 84 full-page full-color prints and 62 smaller 2-tone graphics sprinkled throughout the entries. As well as visual appeal, this book is so much fun to read! From the beginning, the authors admit that "some of the terms we like best are of a newer, and on occasion more dubious, vintage, than the original terms of vengery.... We make no apologies for being eclectic and hope that as you read this book you will have fun with the words." And, in case you're wondering about "vengery", as I was, "The practice of vengery concerns pursuit.... In the old books [15th century], it referred exclusively to hunting." That's why many of the oldest collective, or company, nouns have to do with animals. (It was only later that vengery was more associated with sexual pursuit.) Most entries are accompanied by a dictionary definition or by a paragraph enlightening you. A "wince of dentists" may have no ancient etymology, but I was surprised, repeatedly, at the provenance of some terms. From whence, for example, could you possibly get "a fondness of stag beetles"? Answer (possibly apocryphal): JBS Haldane (1982-1964), British geneticist, was asked by theologians if "there were anything we could glean of the character of God by the scientific study of creation." Haldane is reported to reply that the Creator has "an inordinate fondness of beetles". (At the time beetles were half of the known insect species.) Full indexes are a great help. If you know that "dule" is the collective of some bird, but don't remember which bird, an index helps you find "dove". If you know that JBS Haldane is etymologically involved in some collective, but you can't remember which one, you can find him quickly, too. The authors/artists are Woop Studios, a British firm. It has a website where you can buy high-quality prints as well as notecards and housewares such as a coffee mug with the illustration for "a murder of crows". Though it has a .com extension (rather than co.com), prices are in pounds. A totally charming and highly recommended book! I've already ordered a second copy to give as a gift. Happy Reader 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book and James Lipton's An Exultation of Larks are my favorites. I use them regularly. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An interesting and fun book with great illustrations. By Pat Hoffman I liked the illustrations and the quirkiness of this book. Fun for kids to look at too. The cover certainly doesn't give away what is inside. If you like the diversity of the English language then you will enjoy this book.

This illustrated guide compiles over 2,000 collective nouns and brings them to life in stunningly colorful, graphic artwork from the design dynamos at Woop Studios. Chock-full of treasures of the English language, the diversity of terms collected here covers topics from plants and animals (a parade of elephants, an embarrassment of pandas) to people and things (a pomposity of professors, an exultation of fireworks) and range from the familiar (a pride of lions) to the downright obscure (an ooze of amoebas). Pronunciations, definitions, etymologies, and historical anecdotes make this beautiful book an entertaining read, a standout reference, and a visual treat. Language lovers and art appreciators alike will be captivated by this gem, rich in word and image.

About the Author London-based Woop Studios is Miraphora Mina, Eduardo Lima, Harriet Logan, and Mark Faulkner. Mira and Eduardo spent the last decade working as graphic designers on the Harry Potter movies. They joined with Harriet and Mark to visually celebrate a love of collective nouns.