

MARTIN LEWIS

Producer • Humorist • Marketing Strategist • Polymath



Now In His

ANEC-Dotage!

www.MartinLewis.com

anecdote (*noun*) \ 'a-nik-,dōt \
A short, interesting or funny story about a real person or a past event

dotage (*noun*) \ 'dō-tij \
Literal definition: The state of old age - especially when marked by a loss of mental acuity.
Colloquial meaning: Self-deprecating reference by older people to their senior years eg "I'm now in my dotage" - without any implication of senility.

anec-dotage (*noun*) \ 'a-nik-'dō-tij \
A humorous portmanteau (blended word) pun - combining *anecdote* and *dotage*.
The period of later life characterized by a tendency to tell reminiscent stories,
First said about Voltaire in 1765 – by John Wilkes. Then used by Benjamin Disraeli in 1870, Frederic Raphael in 2001, Eli Wallach in 2005, Martin Lewis ever since he heard it...

To be in one’s ‘anecdotage’

The word is a pun attributed to many including Benjamin Disraeli and Frederic Raphael

But the word was first coined and deployed in 1765!

Here is a note on the origin of ‘anec-dotage’



Tuesday June 23 2020



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STORIES IN OLD AGE

Sir: “Anecdotage” was coined before 1890 (letter, Jun 22). The journalist and politician John Wilkes, as part of a laudation of the septuagenarian Voltaire, whom he had visited at Ferney, used it in a letter of August 6, 1765.

“His memory is very wonderful, and the anecdotes it furnishes are so various and interesting, that he is the only exception I know of a man above seventy not being sunk into his anecdotage.”

The letter is recorded in RA Davenport’s *New elegant extracts from the most eminent Prose and Epistolary Writers, Part IX: Letters*.

Eugene Suggett
Dorking, Surrey