



FAN (Financial Awareness News) **Letter** December 2011

December 2011 LOSFA Loop

<http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/LOSFALoopDecember2011.pdf>

39 Frugal Tips for Saving Money at Christmas

<http://www.betterbudgeting.com/articles/holidays/saveatchristmas.htm>

Kroger Offers Money Saving Tips for the Holidays

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/kroger-offers-money-saving-tips-160500240.html>

Save Money at Christmas - Money Saving Christmas Tips

<http://britishfood.about.com/od/christmas/a/savemnyxmas.htm>

Holiday Money Saving Tips for Your Family

<http://parentingteens.about.com/od/holidaysspecialoccasions/a/Holiday-Money-Saving-Tips-For-Your-Family.htm>

Money Saving Tips for the Holidays

<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/personal-finance/money-saving-tips-for-the-holidays-1.aspx>

18 Tips to Save on Holiday Shopping

<http://money.msn.com/saving-money-tips/post.aspx?post=814c9997-cd93-4756-a7c9-bcffe70f7ec3>

Quote of the Day

"A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes."

-T. H. Huxley

Thomas Henry Huxley was a self-taught 19th-century biologist, known mostly for being an early and effective champion of evolution when the theory was still controversial. This line comes from a book of Huxley's aphorisms, in which responsibility is a recurring theme: "Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not. It is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and, however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly."

Fun Fact of the Day

"Taking something "with a grain of salt" originally referred to curing poisons."

Pliny's *Naturalis Historia* tells a story of Pompey the Great discovering an antidote for poison that required two dried walnuts, two figs, 20 common rue leaves and a grain of salt. In a second account of the same incident, the salt isn't actually part of the antidote, merely an additive to assist Pompey in swallowing it. It's also possible that Pliny interpreted "a grain of salt" as a metaphor for skepticism; either way, the phrase didn't enter the English language until many centuries later.

Cultural Literacy Tidbits

From "The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy[™]: What Every American Needs to Know", Third Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002.

Proverbs – Let them eat cake – A saying that shows insensitivity to or incomprehension of the realities of life for the unfortunate. Rousseau, in his *Confessions*, tells of a great princess who, on being informed that the country people had no bread, replied, "Let them eat cake." This statement is often, and incorrectly, attributed to Marie Antoinette.

World Literature, Philosophy and Religion – Socrates – An ancient Greek philosopher who was the teacher of Plato. Socrates said that an oracle of the gods had pronounced him the wisest of all people, because he knew how little he knew. The Socratic method of teaching proceeds by question and answer as opposed to lecture. When Socrates was an old man, the citizens of Athens condemned him to death, alleging that he denied the reality of the gods and corrupted the youth of Athens. Socrates calmly drank the poison he was given – hemlock – and died a noble death.

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