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## On These Walls: Inscriptions Quotations in the Library of Congress

*John Cole*

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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Misleading Book Title By Sarah P Recently, I visited the Library of Congress and enjoyed reading and pondering all the quotations and inscriptions on the walls of the Thomas Jefferson Building. I bought this book, thinking it would contain those quotations and inscriptions. It does contain a few, but not many at all. Most of the book (including the photographs) explains the art work (paintings, sculptures, murals, etc.) of the building rather than the quotations and inscriptions (which is what I expected given the title...). There is a fair amount of photographs of famous individuals names and discussion of whose names are in that area of the library, so perhaps that is what the author meant by inscriptions, but definitely not what I expected. The book is well done for a general overview on the artwork throughout the building, but not well done at all for the reflection on the actual quotations and inscriptions within the Thomas Jefferson Building (the main building). So, beware of buying this book if what you actually want are photographs and further insight into the quotations and inscriptions. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. On These Walls: Inscriptions Quotations in the Library of Congress By Maine Lady This

book is an excellent overview of the history of the Library of Congress. It is full of color pictures of the interior, the accompanying narrative provides all of the quotations and inscriptions on the walls. I purchased this after a dinner meeting at the Library. I was overwhelmed by the sheer beauty and complexity of the place, with no time to explore. The book has been an excellent supplement. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great buy at a great price  
By Houseman  
My wife saw this book at the Library of Congress and wanted a copy for our library for Christmas. Great buy at a great price.

Offers a unique perspective on one of the most celebrated and visited library collections in the world All new photography of the inscriptions and the fabulous art that adorn the Library's walls and ceilings Of interest to all visitors to the Library of Congress and to scholars of art and architecture The three imposing buildings of the Library of Congress - the Thomas Jefferson Building, the John Adams Building, and the James Madison Memorial Building - are feats of architecture that hold the nation's knowledge on their shelves and in their drawers. But they are also shrines to the written word, as seen in the wealth of inscriptions on their elaborately decorated walls and ceilings. This beautifully illustrated book, featuring all new photography by distinguished photographer Carol M. Highsmith, offers readers a guide to these literary inscriptions and explains their significance. Ranging from quotations by great figures in American history, such as Jefferson and Madison, to the words of poets and philosophers from Shakespeare to Emerson, all glorify knowledge and pay debt to the book, which imparts its treasures to man. For those who have already walked the halls of the Library of Congress, as well as those who are touring them for the first time in these pages, *On These Walls* is a showcase of literature and art, an extraordinary portrait of an institution whose very ceilings, staircases, and doors fulfill its mission to collect and share the wisdom of all civilizations. John Y. Cole is founding director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. He has published widely about books and libraries in society, as well as about the history of the Library of Congress. Carol M. Highsmith, a distinguished and widely published American photographer, has generously donated much of her work to the Library of Congress.

About the Author  
John Y. Cole is founding director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and a 33-year Library of Congress veteran. He has published widely about books and libraries in society as well as about the history of the Library of Congress.