



Here's an excerpt from: "What Made Them Say That?"

Here's a motto that all teachers should embrace!

"Who dares to teach must never cease to learn."

John Cotton Dana (1912)



This official motto of Kean College in Newark, New Jersey was originally the declaration of librarian John Cotton Dana in 1912. Dana, who had upgraded the library system in Newark, was asked to find a Latin quote that would be suitable as an inscription for a new building at the college. Unable to find one that he felt was appropriate, Dana created his own.

Arriving in Newark in 1902, Dana found the city to be a perfect place to experiment with his new ideas on improving the library system. Newark had several colleges, as well as a diverse population of immigrants and established businessmen. He wanted to make a library that would be useful to all of the people in the city, regardless of their particular needs.

To reach his goal, Dana helped institute the concept of open stacks, where a library user was free to browse the material on their own. He also brought in an immense amount of foreign language materials to cater the high immigrant population. On top of that, Dana helped create a specialized business library branch—one of the first to be dedicated solely to one field of research.

Basically, John Cotton Dana spent his whole life helping people seek out the knowledge they needed to better their lives. And for that, Kean College couldn't have chosen a better man to draft its motto.

Excerpt from:

Bache, Ben. *What Made Them Say That?* Greenville, SC: Homecourt Publishers, 2003.