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## Sicilian-English, English-Sicilian Hippocrene Concise Dictionary

*Marco Guarneri*

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#4842003 in Books 1996-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.00 x 4.00 x .50l, #File Name:  
0781804574148 pages | File size: 75.Mb

**Marco Guarneri : Sicilian-English, English-Sicilian Hippocrene Concise Dictionary** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sicilian-English, English-Sicilian Hippocrene Concise Dictionary:

52 of 53 people found the following review helpful. ruined by bad editingBy Sean BurkeSurprise surprise, Hippocrene Books comes out with ANOTHER dictionary that looks like it never once was looked at by anyone but the author. How they can honestly come out with a dictionary like this, that has an English entry for "eighteen" but not

"eight"? So, yes, coverage in the lexicon is weak. Moreover, the author's notion of phonetic notation is unintelligible (but could easily have been edited into shape). Gender is not noted for nouns, nor is it noted how they form the plural (as is not always predictable in Sicilian, as the author himself notes), which seriously detracts from the usefulness of the book. The notes on pronunciation (and morphology) are about as linguistically confused as three small pages can be. And the spelling isn't even consistent -- the author has a headword "libbru" (book), and elsewhere spells it "libru". If this reflects two possible pronunciations, then both should have been noted in the entry. The orthography, instead of transcribing Sicilian as a language in and of itself, too often decides to try to mangle the standard Italian writing system (which is rather insufficient to the task!) into conveying Sicilian pronunciation. This seems part of a general pattern of assuming the reader is fluent in standard Italian, which is about as useless as an assumption can be. I've no doubt that the author put great effort into this book, and it should have fallen to editors at Hippocrene Books to point out where changes should have been made, to make it a fine dictionary. But apparently they did nothing of the sort, and so the final product ends up looking like an unusable mess.

Language Notes Text: English, Italian