

MORE BAILEYISMS

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Al Shapiro's article in the May issue "Bailey's Hexameters" cited some of Nat. Bailey's definitions in the 1730 folio edition *Dictionarium Britannicum*. Here are some other Baileyisms that might be of interest to WW readers. (I've set off by asterisks terms italicized by Bailey, who capitalized nouns capriciously and mainly for late-alphabet entries.)

REBUS. A Name, Device; a pictured Representation, with Words added to it; yet neither the one nor the other can make out any Sense alonr; the Words or Motto explaining the Picture and the Picture making up the Defect of the Motto: As on a Sun-Dial, the Words **we must**, alluding to the Dial, **die all**; or as the Paramour in **Cambden**, who, to express his Love to his Sweet-Heart **Rose Hill**, had in the Border of his Gown painted a Rose, a Hill, an Eye, a Loaf, and a Well, which in the **Rebus** Language reads **Rose Hill, I love well**. [Webster cribs the latter in his own def of REBUS in the 1828 dictionary, but credits "Encyc." rather than Bailey].

PALINDROME. A Verse or Sentence which runs the same being read either forwards or backwards, as, **Roma tibi subito motibus ibit amor**.

ANAGRAM. An ingenious and witty Interpretation of a Name or Title, &c. by transposing the Letters of it, in order to set forth something to the Praise of the Person.

ACROSTICK. A Piece of Poetry ordered so, that the first Letters of every Verse may contain some particular Name, Title, Motto or Sentence.

ENIGMATIST. A maker or proposer of **Enigma's** [sic!] or riddles.

to BAFFLE. To confound by Reasons, to put to a Nonplus; also to disappoint or balk; to fool, to sham.

to NON **Plus**, to stop a Person's Mouth, so that he has nothing more to say; to puzzle, to perplex.

CRYPTOLOGY. A speaking or discoursing in secret; a whispering privately.

CIPHER [with a **single Key**] is one in which the same character is constantly used to express the same word or letter.

CIPHER [with a **double Key**] is one in which the alphabet or key is changed in each line or each word, and wherein are inserted characters of no significance to amuse or perplex the meaning.

DEVICE is either a representation, an emblem or an hieroglyphick, expressing something that is to be kept in mind, such as the *Egyptians* used instead of writing, which of late have a motto added to them, to explain the signification, which otherwise would be dark or unintelligible; as king *Lewis* XIV. of *France* had for his device, the sun in his glory, with the motto, *nec pluribus impar*, intimating, that he was able to cope with many enemies.

A POEM

MARTIN GARDNER
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This is an excerpt from Gardner's 1969 book *Never Make Fun Of A Turtle, My Son* (Simon and Schuster, illustrated by John Alcorn).

Pretending

On a cold winter day when his Mom was away,
And the snow tumbled down from the sky,
Tommy said with a smile,
"I'll pretend for a while
It's a warm afternoon in July."

So without any wrap or galoshes or cap,
Thomas Owen ran outside to play.
"How funny," he said,
"To feel snow on my head
On this beautiful sunshiny day."

But soon he was shaking and quaking and aching.
Numb grew his fingers and toes.
He started to freeze,
To wheeze and to sneeze,
While an icicle formed on his nose.

"In this weather," said he, "I'm beginning to see
That it's hard to imagine it's hot.
And how foolish," he cried
As he rushed back inside,
"To pretend that it is when it's *not*!"