For all sorts of reasons, many authors have wanted to conceal their true identities from the public, and have written under the guise of assumed names, or pseudonyms. Famous authors indulging in this practice include Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as MARK TWAIN; William Sydney Porter, masquerading as O. HENRY; and the Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, disguised as LEWIS CARROLL.

Some pseudonyms have logological significance. One of the most interesting pseudonyms was that used by Francois Rabelais, who rearranged his real name into ALCOFRIBAS NASIER, but anagrams are another story that we don't want to go into at this time. Darryl Francis and Dave Silverman have both noted that the English poet Sydney Thompson Dobell used the palindromic nom de plume of SYDNEY YENDYS.

Women have been just as shy as men about revealing themselves to the world. How knowledgeable are you when it comes to identifying authoresses and their nomes de plume? Assembled below are 25 pen names of women authors, in alphabetical order. How many of the corresponding real names do you know offhand, or can you find with a little checking?

Actually, this is a three-part quiz. First, try to identify the real names concealed by the pseudonyms. Second, establish the complete name of the author as opposed to the popular form usually quoted. (Example: the 28th President of the United States, popularly known as Woodrow Wilson, was actually Thomas Woodrow Wilson.) Third, prove that each authoress was sincerely interested in women by citing one of her works the title of which includes a feminine word or name.

Answers are given in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. Bell, Acton (1820-1849)
2. Bell, Currer (1816-1855)
3. Corelli, Marie (1855-1924)
4. Crowfield, Christopher (1811-1896)
5. Dane, Clemence (1888-1965)
6. Delafield, E. M. (1890-1943)
7. Eliot, George (1819-1880)
8. Graham, Ennis (1839-1921)
9. Gréville, Henry (1842-1902)
10. Gyp (1850-1932)
11. Hamilton, Gall (1833-1896)
12. Herring, Geilles (1861-1949)
13. Iron, Ralph (1855-1920)
14. Lyall, Edna (1857-1903)
15. Mansfield, Katherine (1888-1923)
16. Mistral, Gabriela (1889-1957)
17. Ouida (1839-1908)
18. Richardson, Henry Handel (1870-1946)
19. Ross, Martin (1862-1915)
20. Sand, George (s) (1804-1876)
21. Stretton, Hesba (1832-1911)
22. Sylva, Carmen (1843-1916)
23. Tytler, Sarah (1827-1914)
24. West, Dame Rebecca (1892- )
25. Wetherell, Elizabeth (1819-1885)