

# NYMO RHYMES

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In the February 9th entry of his entertaining book, An Almanac of Words at Play (Clarkson N. Potter, 1975), Willard Espy described his bafflement when his daughter brought home a slim book of French poetry, Mots d'Heures: Gousses, Rames. At least it looked French, but he could make neither head nor tail of the verses inside. Only when he tried reading them aloud did he realize that there was a familiar ring to them: Mother Goose Rhymes!

Mother Goose Rhymes can be paraphrased in other ways. Toronto is an international city; a recent press release wished its citizens Happy New Year in 64 different tongues. This diversity is portrayed in its telephone directory, 1604 pages of polyglot surnames out of which the following poems have been constructed (save for an occasional a, and or the). Just to show that the linguistic riches of this book are far from exhausted, I have constructed one poem in two different ways.

Ryder Cocke Hosse  
 Turban Berry Crosse  
 Tuzzi Affan Leddy  
 Oppinga Wye Torres  
 Rings Anna Fynn Gersh  
 Annabelle Sanna Towes  
 Furr Shi Shallouf Music  
 Ware Evert Shi Ghosh.

Barr Barre Black Shipp  
 Haff Yew Anney Wool  
 Yetts Herr, Yetts Herr  
 Three Baggs Voll  
 Wan Farr Durr Master  
 Won Forder Dame  
 An Wun Varder Littleboys  
 Watt Lief Sinne Allain.

Jack Spratt Codd Ita Knowe Fatte  
 Hitz Wyver Codd Ita Noll Ean  
 Anso Bett Wynn Ditto Offen  
 Thayer Lick Turr Platte Kleane.

Merrie Merry Quaint Caunt Ririe  
 Howe Dussiaulme Garden Groh  
 Witt Silver Belson Cockell Schells  
 and Pretty Mayes Allin Arro.

Jaques Aingell  
 Wenn Opper Hill  
 Topicha Paylor Watter  
 Jaques Fell Down  
 Ann Brooke Hiss Crown  
 Angell Kamm Tumber Linn Affe Tarr.

Singer Songer Sikka Spence  
 a Puckett Fuller Wry  
 Forrin Twinney Black Birze  
 Beckett Inner Pye  
 Wenner Pye Wass Opal  
 theBeers Spick Annis Singh  
 Nowe Wasson Datta Dainty Dische  
 Toussaint Bee Forder King?

Zinga Zunka Garson Spenst  
 Pock Effs Fowler Aye  
 Farrand Wenn Ablack Burss  
 Becki Tinney Pye  
 Wenther Pyne Watts Appin  
 Tee Busby Gann Tosh Ing  
 Noh Wax Sindall Adeney Ting  
 Tuzex Bee Ford Durkin?

Little Jack Horner  
 Hee Sattin Acorn Knerr  
 Eaton Niece Christmas Pye  
 When Heap Putt Innis Thumm  
 Anto Kautz Appel Lum  
 Ens Hedd Watte Good Boye Amm Ei.

Liddle Mæes Muffitt  
 Saa Tonner Tufford  
 Eaton Herr Corzon Waye  
 Winn Alongo Kammer Spyra  
 Unda Sathe Down Beese Eidher  
 Ann Frydmann Mies Murphy Taw Way.