OPUSOPUSCULE

ROBERT FUNT
Brooklyn, New York

This article contains excerpts from "Opusopuscula", a logological commonplace book (see Word Ways February 1978 for another example of this genre) containing a mixture of book, newspaper and magazine quotations, song lyrics (including advertising jingles), proverbs, odd signs in public places (including palindromic business names), jokes and anecdotes, and original snippets of wordplay. Examples of the latter are given in this article, with editorial commentary provided in italics.

The greatest part of "Opusopuscula" is devoted to palindromes, many no doubt original or at least discovered independently of other palindromists. Robert Funt is especially devoted to the short (25 letters or less) palindromic phrase, particularly one incorporating a proper name. Old chestnuts like race car, I moan Naomi and goddam mad dog have been omitted from the examples below.

Lana Cabot in a Manitoba canal
We .. flat, urban .. a brutal few
Burn, Ruby, burn! Rub!
Rot a gill, alligator
Suppository rot: I scop pus
Ottoman Empire: "Rip Men" (a motto)
Set a rime: bar all Arab emirates
Let's! O, more, Zero Mostel!
Sun - a rumor from Uranus
No? O, rot, coon .. no octofoon
Rot! I, Defoe, wan, in awe of editor
Revue name: "We Maneuver"
Yell up, "No! No ton on pulley!"
Nod: nab Adam's mad abandon
Taster, eh? Where it's at
"Seton Hall", Allah notes
Names Ron a Norseman
No lynxes' sex: nylon
Madeline's senile dam
Man, a plane (venal Pan Am)
A lob, a rap .. a parabola
Draw, oh Rover (Trevor Howard)
One lucite reticule, no?
Laminated a cadet animal
Swap, stack cat's-paws
Latin ego: genital
A suicide? Medici, U.S.A.
"Yell!" - eh, Shelley?

O, Dido!
Is Aeneas I?
Ammion? No, in Ma
See referees
So I tap patios
No omen: one moon
Airy Syria
Sinai, Cain is
Cain: "Am I maniac?"
Lebanon on Abel
Pepsi is pep
Smug popguns
Or rub a burro?
Swept pews
Gift fig
Pets nip instep
Not less, Elton?
Viva! Let's, Tel Aviv!
Yen? O. money
Name, Pa? Ape man
No parts - strap on
All ebb, Bella
Some memos
Lear's Israel
Nail a tin Italian
Red loss: solder
A war at Tarawa
See bees

Some palindromes as party games

No Stetson
Redeyeder (Reward dra
Noise lesion
Tao banana
Red roe reo
Retsina can
Recluse's u
A flu's on;
Tal.. ah, Lion rock c
Semitic Time
Stole coyote
A Kanaka (Lonely Tyle
Tube debut
And how abou

Abba
Ada
Aga
Anna

His sex of fox

Sex of foxes
Sex of li
Sex of wary
Sex of dumb
Sex of live
Sex of turf
Sex of pale
Sex of sore
Sex of damn
Sex of red
Sex of gold

In the November a longer pal
examples to se
Some palindromes come with wry explanations. These might be used as party-game puzzles - find the palindrome from the clue.

- No Stetson (bare-headed cowboy)
- Redeyeder (more exhausted)
- Reward drawer (possible hiding place for reward money)
- Noise lesion (sore on ear, caused by loud sounds)
- Tao banana boat (mystical Central American freighter)
- Red roe reorder (call for more caviar)
- Retsina canister (jug for Greek wine)
- Recluse's ulcer (stomach disorder common among hermits)
- A flu's on; no sulfa (medical emergency)
- Taft ... an, that fat! (most obese president)
- Lion rock corn oil (obscure brand of cooking oil)
- Semite Times (obscure Jerusalem newspaper)
- Stole coyote toy, ocelots? (animal thievery)
- A Kanaka (a native of Hawaii)
- Lonely Tylenol (a kind of aspirin for heartache)
- Tube debut (television premiere)

And how about a list of palindromic first names and nicknames?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abba</th>
<th>Ara</th>
<th>Bub</th>
<th>Hannah</th>
<th>Madam</th>
<th>Pip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ada</td>
<td>Asa</td>
<td>Dad</td>
<td>Idi</td>
<td>Mom</td>
<td>Pop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aga</td>
<td>Ava</td>
<td>Ebbe</td>
<td>Kook</td>
<td>Nan</td>
<td>Sis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana</td>
<td>Bab</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Lil</td>
<td>Otto</td>
<td>Ulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Gig</td>
<td>Mim</td>
<td>Pap</td>
<td>Viv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

His sex of foxes palindrome contains a variety of centers.

- Sex of foxes
- Sex of li'l foxes
- Sex of wary, raw foxes
- Sex of dumb mud-foxes
- Sex of live devil foxes
- Sex of turf-rut foxes
- Sex of pale lap-foxes
- Sex of sore hero's foxes
- Sex of damned, den-mad foxes
- Sex of red net's tender foxes
- Sex of gold log foxes

In the November 1977 issue of *Word Ways*, Robert Funt presented a longer palindrome poem, "Jittery Reverie". Here are three more examples to savor.
FAREWELL SPEECH, CARTHAGE

Ostia, wait ..
(St amor here bit.)
O to go!
'Tis Äneas - 1, O Dido!
Is Äneas it?
O go to Tiber, eh?
Roma, Ostia waits, O ..

DIALECTICAL
Meet,
seek college,
Hegel,
Locke
esteem ..

GIDDY OLIO
Die neat, or as a rat.
Stradivaris are Boston's -
A wren rams All's net.
(Silo re-peels mermaid.)
O Cecilia, sew! O gab, Otto (hot ogre).
Say "Nolo contendere or face polio."
Murmur, dog, no crisis. A yogi made Tad "OM".
Moccasin is laced, no set:
1 best ester, 1 flavor all odd onion omelets.
Nod, row, dastard astronaut!
(Name: "Tailable Beryl".)
Red Leg: a Rose; Boston: a Yaz.
Zip guns?
No, Yalta. meet a name-tag: Amiable Elba.
I'm a gate, manatee.
Mat, lay on snug pizza, ya!
Not so? Be so, rag-elderly rebel.
Bali ate Mantuan orts, ad-rat.
(Sad word on stele: "Mono".
1 nod, dollar.)
Oval-fire tse-tse bites on decal:
"Sin is accommodated." Am I Goya?
(Si, sir, congo-drum rum.)
Oil, OPEC? A froe, Red; net no colony:
As, ergo, to hot Tobago we sail!
Ice-cod, I am REM sleeper.
O listen, Silas Marner was not sober ..
A sir, avid art star! -
As a rat Äneas.

Charade sentences - sentence-pairs preserving letter order but not word spacings, such as a manslaughter / a man's laughter here - are also popular in "Opusopusculae".

Verrazano encounters a hostile tribe in the New World:
The Narrows
Then arrows

Sea grams vow, "Hi, sky!"
Seagrams V.O. Whisky

O gleam, O leg, (ogle a mob)
Ant is India
Anti-sin dial
A crony ..
Acronym, an

Hoboken: sir

Hobo, Kensing charming!

Poker, Under

Ordeal

Draw in

Ago, this tribe -

"Elba! Gladly"
Nacre sofa on Swerve, dico
Those very
There - story

A Goth I stand
Seven south-
"Red ward," "Vedic epic
Everything
tOne facet -

Some charade

Eating amern
Normal come 
What a bore

In a variat
ies which is

Honey sweep
Pin the tal
The row on Allah gate
Lye fizz red

Then there's
Arafat was for

That man
So, a giant
Be a drum
Oh, wary ..
O our Arab
O gleam, O Broadway!
(ogle a mob roadway)
Ant is India tribe
Anti-sin diatribe
A crony .. many, one
Acronym, anyone?
Hoboken: sing to nine asters or a real lilac. Kiss a lad at each arming
Hobo, Kensington in Easter! So rare! All I lack is Salada tea; charming!
Poker, Under Much Stress
Ordeal!
Or deal..
Draw not of ace.
Drawn! O, to face..

Ago, this truth I sang:
"Elba! Gladys evens out her
Nacre sofa cover (Edwardian).
Swerve, dice! Pick! Now sin, Diane —
Those very thin (gin duet, 1 mean) dice.
There — stone face to fat man.

A Goth I strut: his angel bag lady,
Seven southern acres of a cove.
"Red ward," I answer,
"Vedic epic knows Indian ethos:
Everything in due time and ice the rest."
(One facet of atman.)

Some charade phrases or sentences are phonetically rendered.
Eating amenities / Idi Amin I tease
Normal comics / Nor Malcolm X
What a bore is Carl Orff / What? A Boris Karloff?

In a variation of this, Robert Funt lists a nonsensical word series which is phonetically equivalent to a well-known phrase.

Honey sweet Molly pants
Pin the tale on the dawn, Key
The row on walled-in pond
Allah gate terse end Cracow dials
Lye fizz reel lie fez ear nest

Then there's anagrams. One, PLO lop pol, was written long before Arafat was forced out of Lebanon in late 1983.

That manna, Manhattan
So, a giant Santiago
Be a drum, Bermuda
Oh, wary land (Andy Warhol)
O our Arab Israel (aurora borealis)
STEPHEN FOSTER
POEM OF THE PELICAN
1. SADE

So fret
Or fest?
For serf?
Softer
Faster,
Forest
Of rest ...

Pin lace
In place -
Can pile,
Pelican,

As die
Aides'

Ideas
Sea id

Is ade,
Sad (i.e.,

Aside)

1, Sade!

One essay in "Opus opusculum" lauds Howard Bergerson's November 1975 automynorgram "The Raven" (a literary work repeated in the initial letters of its words, as "Blue Lovebirds Under Evening's Large Orb Vow Eternal Byronic Imprinting ... ").

I very much applaud Mr. Bergerson's choice of "The Raven" as a fitting poem to be refashioned into an automynorgrams. Only a poem of this kind - so marked by obsessiveness - seems properly suited to the infinite and wholly unmanageable thirst for verbal which is, of course, one of the most striking aspects of this new recreational genre. The raven's stubbornly laconic trisyllable word stands in peculiar contrast to the thousands upon thousands of words which would be necessary to automynorgrammatically magnify even a poem as brief as Poe's original. (The first six lines of "The Raven", for instance, contain no less than 260 separate letters. If nothing else, this intriguing new form may make us more sharply aware of the truly formidable literary abundance to be found in the shortest prose paragraphs and sentences.) To go on, the taunting - yet inherently necessary - incompleteness of automynorgrams is itself suggestive of some powerfully infinite act of writing, a poetic composition which, as long as it was well begun by its temporal author, we might choose to imagine as being endlessly continued on some other, more Platonic level of existence.

If Poe's despairing narrator asks, "Is there balm in Gilead?" we might inquire, with scarcely less passion, can an automynorgram ever truly attain a state of completion? Such a thought is perhaps extravagant enough to bear a religious meaning of some kind, for a completed automynorgram would surely be revealed only on Judgment Day.

As a final flourish, listen to three of Robert Funt's mesmerizing chants of near-soundalikes.

bar / barb / barbell / barber / Berber / barberry / Babar / Barbaria / barbaric / barbarian ...
lavish tippers / little nippers / Big Dippers / swim flippers / stuck zippers / Jack the Rippers / witty quippers / bourbon sippers / aging strippers / smoked kippers / day trippers / glass slippers

The letter-are common e Vaticanary (can Z E N)

A. ROSS ECKLE
Morristown, Ne

A tetragram word, as ETR to take four of these in a bridged diction for four such

The solution is trivial (1) the identity of suitable list of tetragr

Appendix D in Techniques St Laboratory at Bethesda, under is largely ac

There may into tetragram omits some word in Webster fruitless to each

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