

NAME PLAY

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At one time or another, everybody is asked to sign an autograph book, a school yearbook, a wedding book, or a retirement book with some conventional pearl of wisdom about the specific rite of passage. It is the purpose of this article to suggest that a logologist can create a far more original message by exploiting the wordplay potential of the recipient's name. To illustrate, I draw from my own experience over the past twenty years. I hasten to add that the examples below were not thought up on the spur of the moment, but during odd moments over a period of several days. Obviously, anagramming has been my favorite technique, but I have used other methods - word squares, use of the letters in the name with unlimited repetition allowed, and the like - if anagramming proved infeasible.

JOHNSON - PIOTROWSKI

Some Wedding Advice: HOW KISS? JOIN PRONTO!

NAOMI BOGRAD ROBBINS

Some Advice Concerning the Demeanor of the Guest of Honor
at a Farewell Luncheon, and the Optimum Number of Guests

GRIN, OR SOB; I'D BAN A MOB

ED KRAUTH

In 46 years of Labs work
No task did ED KRAUTH ever shirk
A career yet finer
Is in Asia Minor
For there he could aim for HEAD TURK.

As a canoeist, Ed never gets wet
Out skiing, he's seldom upset
With mechanical cunning
He keeps ancient cars running
And when playing violin - HARK! DUET.

ALEXIS LUNDSTROM

A Telstar Fable

One MUST END AXIS ROLL
By plugging the hole;
SMALL ROUND EXITS are bad,

Too expensive to pad;
By budgets I'm vexed;
I SUM DOLLARS NEXT.

JACK NADLER

Have you watched ten ice-cream sodas
Made by a busy drugstore clerk?
When Jack's processing AT&T data,
We all cry: this LAD CAN JERK!

Waving aloft the broken bottle,
Jack cried "I LACK JAR END!"
With such a lethal weapon,
Can one a JACKAL REND?

ROBERT MARSHALL

When retiring from Bell
Take a cruise and all that,
But don't get on the boat
If you SMELL HARBOR RAT!

MARTIN WILK

a TRIM INK LAW
(says MARTIN WILK)
as a reward
should WIN RAT MILK.

PHILIP CATO

A POP? CHILL IT
Ginger ales in cans are nice,
But Cokes are best when served on ice.

HAIL, CLIP-TOP
Long hair is hard to comb, and itches;
Crew cuts are best for Navy hitches.

OPTICAL PHIL
Horn-rimmed glasses help one view
The snoozers in the rearmost pew.

JACK COOK J A C K
 E B O N
 S L O E
 T Y K E

PAUL HAUPT

Some Retirement Advice for Festive Occasions (Drink with a
Friend) or Solemn Ones (No Pets Allowed)

Luaus? Hula?	A Papal hall?
Haul pal up path;	Halt pup, Pa;
Pull tall tap!	Put hat at lap!

MARVIN EPSTEIN

Marv INVERTS PI? AMEN to that,
 For now he dons another hat;
 As editor he'll serve a stint -
 His message now? SAVE ME IN PRINT.
 Don't play for blood upon the court;
 The TENNIS VAMPIRE spoils the sport.

WILHELM VON AULOCK

Send me exotic soil
 Encased in plastic foil -
 I HALLOW NOVEL MUCK.
 In vain at desk I toil
 And burn the midnight oil -
 NO OHM LAW? EVIL LUCK!

MARTIN - ROACH

HARMONIC ART

Can an insect wed a bird?
 Of such a union I've not heard.
 But mix the letters of this pair,
 And you will get an auspice fair.

COLONIAL AMERICAN ENGLISH

In the August 1983 Word Ways, Richard Lederer asked for help in defining 39 words and phrases that he had found while searching documents of colonial America (1608-1783): patents, deeds, laws, newspapers, letters, memoirs, diaries, songs, plays, and public records. Possible explanations for a quarter of these were subsequently supplied by a couple of readers. His researches are now embodied in a handsomely-printed Verbatim book with the above title, containing short definitions and citations for approximately 3000 words more or less commonly-encountered in colonial times but now little-known. Although many of these words can still be found with obsolete labels in contemporary dictionaries, Lederer has performed a valuable service in sorting them out for easy look-up ("so that modern readers can better understand and enjoy writing of Colonial times"). The book is available clothbound from Verbatim, Box 668, Essex CT 06426 for \$17.95.