

“Wrong. ‘Limin,’ as in ‘limit’ or ‘threshold,’ not ‘lumin,’ as in ... “

“Whoops! Keep that under your hat, please.”

“ ‘Below the threshold of consciousness.’ But it’s still true: we don’t say, ‘in the mind’s ear.’ ”

“Thank you. Or ‘tongue.’ ”

“ ‘A hit. A palpable hit.’ “

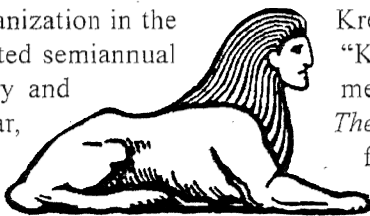
“Touché.”

From *WORLD OF ANAGRAMS* by Zorn Radisavljevic zoradis@eunet.rs

NATIONAL PUZZLER’S LEAGUE

You probably noticed that some authors of anagrams use pseudonyms. Most of them are members of the National Puzzlers League (NPL), an American non-profit organization focused on puzzling, primarily in the realm of word play and word games. Founded in 1883, NPL is the oldest puzzlers’ organization in the world. It originally hosted semiannual conventions in February and September of each year, but conventions are now held annually, in July.

Each NPL member generally chooses a “nom” upon joining, an often cryptic pen name which serves as a nickname when communicating with fellow members. The use of pseu-



donyms, also commonly practiced by the compilers of cryptic crosswords, originally helped “to break down barriers of occupation or social class”. It is also an opportunity for wordplay and self-description. NPL members are known collectively as “the Krewe” and individually as “Krewepersons”, “Krewemembers”, or “NPLers”.

The Enigma, the NPL’s official publication, is distributed monthly to its members. It provides a medium for members to share their original word puzzles for fellow members to enjoy. *The Enigma* also contains articles and announcements of interest to its members.