

MARTIN GARDNER and GILBERT CHESTERTON

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In one of his last published books *The Fantastic Fiction of Gilbert Chesterton* Martin Gardner remarks:

GILBERT KEITH CHESTERON and Herbert George Wells, together with George Bernard Shaw, were the three most famous writers of Edwardian England. Chesterton became a devout Catholic. Wells became an equally devout atheist. Shaw was an agnostic with a Protestant background. In spite of vast differences in their fundamental beliefs, the three men were friends. Chesterton wrote an entire book about Shaw which Shaw himself reviewed at length in *The Nation*. In his utopia novel *Men Like Gods*, Wells caricatured Chesterton as Father Amerton, a simple-minded Catholic priest.

I greatly admire all three men, especially Wells and Chesterton. Elsewhere I have written that if you can understand how it is possible for me to relish the books of both G.K. and H.G. you will begin to understand my idiosyncratic brand of theism.

A more recent book, *The Universe According to G. K. Chesterton*, edited by Dale Ahlquist, Dover, 2011, is a dictionary of "Mad, Mundane and Metaphysical" definitions attributed to Chesterton. We suspect that Gardner would have immensely enjoyed this collection of "Chesternitions".

To illustrate a few of our favorite of these definitions we offer this crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1 Inform on
- 5 "the great mass of mankind"("The Boyhood of Dickens," *Charles Dickens*)"
- 9 German river
- 10 Lincoln or Zumwalt
- 11 Princess Organa
- 12 Kind
- 13 "an acute artistic device for reviving in adults the pleasure which infancy has in the daily comedy of things. (*Daily News*, Sept. 9, 1911)"
- 15 Amin
- 16 "that frame of mind in which all men admit, with a half-humorous and half-magnanimous weakness, that they all possess the same secret, and have all made the same discovery; a conventional term of abuse to be applied to Catholicism. (*The Speaker*, July 27, 1901;

DOWN

- 1 ___-pity: "an evil that comes when a man thinks himself so very miserable a sinner that his misery is more important than his sin. (*Illustrated London News*, July 31, 1909)"
- 2 "something that a man can agree or disagree with. (*Illustrated in London News*, August 9, 1930)"
- 3 European denial
- 4 "happiness doubled by wonder. ("The Age of the Crusades", *A Short History of England*)"
- 5 "a modern irritation, an itch to torment the spirit; a debased and barbarous superstition, a denial of all value in existence of any kind; a renunciation of the universe as well as the world; the

- “The Hat and the Halo,” *The Thing*)”
 22 Baseball name
 23 Aha!
 24 German lyric
 25 Resorts
 26 Sometimes tall
 27 “the gossip of the gods. (“Man and Mythologies,” *The Everlasting Man*)

- belief in the failure of existence and the harmonious hostility of the stars. (*Illustrated London News*, October 20, 1923; June 10, 1922; *G.K. 's Weekly*, June 13, 1929; “The Optimism of Byron,” *Twelve Types*)”
 6 Northeastern Spanish town
 7 A king of Israel
 8 College gp.
 14 Indonesian island
 16 “a corrective; something which we cannot live on, but cannot live without. (*Illustrated London News*, Oct. 30, 1915)”
 17 “Essays of ____”
 18 Certain Coward
 19 Catch sight of
 20 Tidy
 21 Musician, TV host

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