

KICKSHAWS

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~ WWW.PALINDROMIST.ORG

A few years ago, Mark Saltveit started up a magazine devoted to palindromes, letter-unit ("Madam, I'm Adam), word-unit ("You can cage a swallow, can't you, but you can't cage a swallow, can you."), vertical ("IVY MOUTH WAX"), even calculator words (71077345 upside down = "SHELL OIL").

Mark's magazine offers an abundance of those forms, provides a forum for experimentation, and covers the news. He also has worked to resuscitate the nearly forgotten "charade," (e.g. "amiable together" becoming "Am I able to get her?"), which he has renamed the "redivider."

Now www.palindromist.org continues on line in a new website (as well as in print; issue #8 is just out.) I urge you to check out the website. It is beautiful. The stories are often about people you know. Howard Bergerson, one of the giants in the wordplay world, is featured in the current issue.

Also, a most mysterious story making the news is discussed. His name, Barry Duncan; his claim, first Master Palindromist of the World. First Master What? Where are the dromes? The question: "Is he legitimate, a hoax, or a nut?" The mystery thickens just as red rum, sir, is murder.

Finally, the mag discusses the upcoming first World Palindrome Championship, organized by Puzzlemaster Will Shortz this March 16th in Brooklyn. (Jon Agee, Saltveit and John Connett are among the competitors; Barry Duncan has ignored several invitations.) As the "Iron Chef" is to cooking, so the WPC is to wordplay.

Most importantly, if you like palindromes, you'll love the Palindromist.

~ KICKSHAWS FROM DOWN UNDER

"Here are some additional kickshaws I promised in email Ks5," Anil writes. "As well, there's Ks 1&2 I sent earlier. You didn't seem to like Shakespeare's Muse but those two I thought you'd use in May. Did they get lost, forgotten, rejected or put on your waiting list? In case they got lost, I'll reiterate them before giving the new ones. The first one is less topical that when I first sent it (in that returned snail mail I'm repeating here) but still timely." Here are some of Anil's kickshaws.

- There's an outstanding ambigram in your *Dictionary of Wordplay* that's timely enough to recall:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Your rules clone atomic nightmares.

It's no longer an ambigram is it? At least in Japan.

Remind readers that an ambigram is an anagram ambiguously apposite or opposite (*op. cit.*). (*Op. cit.* is an alternative spelling of opposite.)

- Here's a curtailment with a message, paraphrasing Dorothy Parker's "Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses."

Pimpleless. Pimples?

(Men seldom make dimples in girls who wear pimples.)

A timely rebus:

Eee! (answer: Tripoli!)

(Here's one I got from the paper.)

- You are to deduce the next number in this random looking sequence:

3 3 2 6 3 4 6 2 4 6 7 answer: 8 (It's the number of letters in the instruction.)

- A funeral insurance ad on my TV offers a Free Will Kit. I always suspected that free will was a commodity or gimmick of some sort.

- Roger Federer, the "Fed Express", has fallen from grace lately to become tennis world number 3 (but still my favourite), making one wonder if this four-placard composite sign I saw in the audience at the Australian Open was a boobo or a lament: FED|EX|EX|PRESS.

- Here's a new(?) constraint to play with. All words must end in the same letter. E would probly be easiest, but I chose Y, in honour of Mary, to cast the first stone. As often happens in these affairs, her little lamb got transmogrified into another creature, this time a donkey.

MARY'S FUNKY DONKEY PARODY

Mary say, tiny ivory donkey obey.

Mary journey, donkey journey.

Mary scholarly, donkey followy. (Oy! Nay! Noway!)

Schoolboy-schoollady bevy play, say “Donkey funny!”

If you disapprove of non-words, omit “noway” and change “followy” to “falsely scholarly” or any term of your choosing.

- a message for our readers from *Kath and Kim* (Oz TV show):

“May you have a long and preposterous life.”

- a new kind of wordplay loop (word 1 – definition – cryptic redefinition – anagram – word 1):

eggs = the heart of sex = eff soul = soufflé = eggs

Biologically eggs are at the heart of sex. Eff is a common euphemism for fuck. EFF SOUL is an anagram of SOUFFLÉ. QED—a soufflé is fucked eggs!

- **palindromists:** “St. Simo Rd. N. I lap.”
(St. Simo Road North I lap and in the end come back to St. Simo Road South. Saint Simo is the patron saint of palindromists, ie of similarity by virtue of reversal.)

- **Homework Essay** By A Stute Dent

Oslo was in Czechoslovakia until it split into two countries, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Then oslo had to go out and find a new home and landed in Norway. If you think Oslo was in Norway all along, you have been the victim of a massive Norwegian conspiracy to plant ante-dated memories in your minds by the highly secret technology of “smart” viruses.

- Jeff’s recent daring revelations of some of the filth in Jonathan Green’s *The Cassell Dictionary of Slang* opens the door for another select group therefrom, aided by Green’s categorised slang compilation *Slang Down the Ages* (London: Kyle Cathie, 1993). The following, among many others, all mean masturbation: Onan’s Olympics (punishable by death! Genesis 38:8-10); one-legged race; paint the ceiling; choke the chook; bequeath one’s genes; and my favourite, kill some babies. To which I would add, in a similar vein, do your bit for ZPG.

- **O Door!**

Con yoo rood thos sontonco? Ot’s got oll tho vowols roplocod woth o’s. O bot yoo coold wroto o whool novol thos woy ond ot woold bo protto ooso to rood.

Stotos: Oowo, Goorgoo, Oondoono, Ollonoos, Moono, Monnosoto, Looosoono, Wostorn Oostroloo.

Foor scoro ond sovon yoors ogo, oor forofothors brooght forth....

Mo hoort loops op whon O bohold o roonbow on the sko...

So who do wo bothor hovong fovo ond ono half vowols? Somo longoogos don't hovo ono.

Sonco rolo,

Onol

(Sorro, Dovo, ot's o hord hobot to brook onco yoo got goong.)

~ HOW TO DOUBLE THE MEANING OF LIFE: REVIEW REVIEW

One out of ten people recommends this book. This statement is on the title page of Anil's magnum opus. If you have a copy, and you go to a party in which there are, say, 20 people. Do as I did. Bring Anil's book. Go up to each person and say, very politely, "Excuse me. Do you recommend this book?" The reply most of the time is "No." But inevitably, in the first ten people, you'll get this answer. "Yes." One out of ten. "Yes, that is the state of Anil's book today." One friend of mine was looking at it, laughing, and amazed at his wit. She replied, "I'd recommend this book." I said, "I would too."

Jasmine Jordan's drawings capture the spirit of Anil's work to a T. and an I, C, K, L, E, and S. Yes, the work tickles the funnybone, and the the drawings show visually why your funnybone should be tickled. Funny-bone tickling is an art that writers and artists need in their work. Jasmine and Anal blend the two together in a tasty steaming hot WET STEW of WORDPLAY.

This is a book like no other book, and booklovers should love it like no other book. Anil's askew view of the world brings out the twists and turns one sometimes views in the dictionary. That's what this book is all about—defining words, using them anew, and laughing at them all the was across the page. The presentation of the material is very reader-friendly. My girlfriend read many parts of it aloud, and we both laughed many times just as loud. That certainly proves what I said in the first paragraph: *Two out of two people recommend this book.*

Anil modestly quoted on one person on the back cover. And yet, the fact that he was so understated made the idea of "advance praise" funny. Here's the quote:

“Wonderful!”—Dave Morice, Kickshaws editor, poet and wordplay authority

I’d forgotten that I’d come up with such an incisive, intricate statement. In fact, I wonder if Anil left out 100 words and just cut to the chase. The photo of Anil on the back cover shows he’s a bit of a linguistic sprite combined with a bit of the printer’s devil.

The book is divided into 5 acts:

Act I. PUN FUN (cornycopia, confusions say)

Act II. PANDORA’S DICTIONARY (coinages, satire)

ACT III. SOUNDS ALIKE FUN (ear puns, rhymes)

ACT IV. LETTER RIP (anagrams, palindromes, etc)

ACT V. PROSE AND CONS (one-liners, jokes)

Act I, FUN

I was especially delighted to see that this master of wild language included a quote that I don’t even remember saying: “On occasion, a pun can seem humorous to others, too.”

“There are three rules to comedy: 1. No puns. 2. No puns. 3. No puns.”

—John Cleese, Monty Python’s Flying Circus

“Of puns it has been said that those who most dislike them are those who are least able to utter them.”

—Edgar Allan Poe (to which Anil replies, “Yay! A fight between Poe and Cleese!!)”)

LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT A FEW ENTRIES IN PANDORA’S DICTIONARY

Act II, PANDORA’S DICTIONARY

ub anatomically correct spellin of up; opposite of **qown**

hemidemisemiquaffer a very very very lite drinker

rest on your laurels a good way to puncture your butt

capital punishment bankruptcy

ventriloquium a conference where dummies speak for themselves

whodidit a grammatically correct murder mystery

sperm head opposite of egghead

Theosaurus a recently discovered ancient stone book listing all the dinosaurs God excluded from Noah's ark

pubic holiday a day without sex

fair game an animal that doesn't cheat the hunter out of a kill

demigoddammit a mild oath

weekling a seven-day-old baby unable to lift heavy weights

comfart relief that's worth apologising for

nerve gas \$4 a gallon—of all the nerve!

keeping her legs crossed opposite of keeping her fingers crossed

HOW TO ORDER ANIL'S BOOK

Here's the info for buying this 300-page work. The paper it was printed on is made of funny molecules, humorous atoms, daffy electrons, wacky protons, hilarious neutrons, and other things that we speak of mainly in science labs, but we leave out the most important thing, and that's what Anil leaves in: The Humor Molecule. If you don't get a joke, rip out the page, chew it up, digest it, and you will find that you've just partaken of the Humor Molecule. You'll start laughing, and you'll never stop. Except to breathe. And eat. And laugh again!

To order this book, contact:

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www.xlibris.com.au

~ **THE INDETERMINATE NUMBERS**

ZILLION, meaning “an indeterminately large number,” is the alphabetically last number name. The dictionary provides an example of usage: “zillions of mosquitoes.” It isn’t a part of the real number system. It is equal to JILLION, which also means “an indeterminately large number.” In fact, it is equal to other members of the indeterminate number system, such as BAJILLION, BAZILLION, GAZILLION, and UMPTILLION. It is much larger than UMPTEEN, however, which means “very many; indefinitely numerous.”

The first indeterminate numbers were created in the twentieth century to fulfill a need: People couldn’t count everything with the old numbers. According to Webster’s 10th, UMPTEEN appeared in 1918, ZILLION in 1934, and JILLION in 1942. Since they have no specific numeric value, they are easy to use and always correct. Now there is an answer to the question, How many stars are in the sky? A jillion, of course. Or a bajillion gazillion. Or umpteen umptillion. All of those answers are correct.

The concept of -ILLION is so well known that BRAZILIAN, meaning “from Brasil,” is used in a joke to represent a huge number. Does anyone know the joke? There is also a GODZILLION, which refers to the Japanese cinema monster. And GORILLIAN, from “gorilla.” And my current favorite, UNCOUNTABILLION. Can you come up with any intriguing –ILLIONS?

~ **TWENTY NINE NEW GOOGOL NUMBERS**

I have always admired the man who invented the numbers GOOGOL and GOOGOLPLEX, and the boy who named them. I don’t remember their names, but I do know their numbers. Naming the numbers has been a human preoccupation since day one. One favorite subject of many number namers is the Big Number. The first Big Number is MILLION, the number that, with a little AIRE at the end, has traditionally meant a very wealthy person—not a HUNDREDAIRE or a THOUSANDAIRE, but a MILLIONAIRE. (Because of inflation, BILLIONAIRE is more frequently coming to mean a very wealthy person.) Beyond that, there are the indefinite numbers, discussed in the previous entry.

In the dictionary, many of the counting numbers are based on Latin. BI-, TRI-, QUADR-, etc., for BILLION, TRILLION, QUADRILLION... but upon reaching the extremely large VIGINTILLION, there isn't another number name until reaching the extremely larger CENTILLION.

In *Word Ways* a few years ago, John Candelaria created a system that extends the ONE / CENTILLION system found in various dictionaries. One of Candelaria's Numbers is MILLILLION.

Another twentieth-century system for naming monstrously long numbers has a mere two numbers in it—an irony unparalleled in mathematics since Euclid's failure to prove that parallel lines never meet. In 1938, American mathematician Edward Kassner came up with the first of these new numbers, which equals 10 to the 100th power, which equals 1 followed by 100 zeros. What to name it? His 9-year-old nephew Milton Sirotta called it a GOOGOL, and the legendary number with a Dr. Seuss-like name was born. Kassner followed it up with a much larger number, the GOOGOLPLEX, which equals 10 to the GOOGOL power, which equals 10 to the 10 to the 100th power, which equals 1 followed by a GOOGOL of zeros. And there the system ends, only one step after it has begun, but why stop there?

The time has come to googolize the GOOGOL system to dizzying heights. To form new Googol numbers, the following rules have been applied in order to make a total of 31 names for numbers:

1. The new number name is made by attaching one or more of the three syllables in GOOGOLPLEX to the base number name.
2. Each number x is followed by the number that is equal to 10 to the x power.
3. No number name has more than ten of the same suffix. When a name reaches ten, it uses a new suffix instead.
4. New suffixes occur in reverse order. PLEX appears first in the number names, followed by GOL and GOO.

Here are the first eleven Google Numbers.

GOOGOL is 10 to the 100th power (or 10 followed by 100 zeros).

GOOGOLPLEX is 10 to the GOOGOL power (10 followed by GOOGOL zeros).

GOOGOLPLEXPLEX is 10 to the GOOGOLPLEX POWER (or ... etc.)

GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEX

GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX
GOOGOLPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEXPLEX

On reaching the number name that would end in the occurrence of PLEX ten times, the number name ends in GOL instead, and PLEX is removed. Thus the next ten number names are:

GOOGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL
GOOGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOLGOL

On reaching the number name that would end in the occurrence of GOL ten times, the number name ends in GOO instead. As with ten PLEX giving way to one GOL, so ten GOL give way to one GOO, and the next ten number names are:

GOOGOLGOO
GOOGOLGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGO
GOOGOLGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGOOGO

There it is, a number that is unimaginably biggest. I believe it means the number of thoughts that everyone in the entire universe and all the multiple universes have had, and will have had, from the beginning of time to the end.

~ **ALL THINGS THREE** (Fittingly presented in three parts.)

Ray Love is “intrigued by the number three. It is the all-purpose number. It is ubiquitous and omnipresent. It seems to be everywhere a number is needed. Ones and twos are nice, but you can always count on a three. No other number is involved in so many ways, in so many triple plays, like red, white and blue. It is the chosen number, the perfect grouping. It is the starter number : "One, two, three, go!" It is prolific. Threes must grow on trees. Here is a poem about threes, shaken from my tree.”

WHAT IS THREE?

Three is a number,
One more than two.
Three is colors:
Red, white and blue.
Three is little pigs
Found in a rhyme.
Three is what's left,
Seven from a dime.
Three is not even
Three is odd.
Three is fishermen,
Wynken, Blynken, Nod.
Three is the vote
That breaks a tie.
Three are my names:
Me, myself and I.
Three is strikes
In a game.
Three is triplets,
All the same.
Three is blind mice,
Men in a tub.
Three is wishes
From a bottle you rub

Three is feet
In a yard.
Three is the trey,
A playing card.
Three is a tricycle,
A triple play.
Three is meals
Eaten each day.
When all is said
And all is done,
No other number
Has so much fun!

The number "three" is found at the beginning of many common phrases or compound names that are in a three-word format, albeit most of these have hyphenated adjectives. No other number does such noble duty. No other number is so versatile, so triumphant. Here is a sampling of these threesomes. Hopefully, there are no repeats or threpeats.

AS EASY AS ONE, TWO...

Three-ring circus
Three-piece suit
Three-star general
Three Blind Mice
Three Mile Island
Three-toed sloth
Three Wise Men
Three-point landing
Three-legged stool
Three-speed bicycle
Three Dog Night
Three square meals
Three-quarter sleeve
Three-base hit
Three-point line
Three-point shot
Three-point play
Three-hole punch
Three-egg omelet

Three-way bulb
Three Little Kittens
Three French hens
Three-stage rocket
Three-dollar bill (as phony as a)
Three-cornered hat
Three-masted ship
Three-day sale
Three-line octave
Three-part harmony
Three-quarter time
Three-mile limit
Three Little Pigs
Three-D movie
Three Penny Opera
Three-martini lunch
Three-decker sandwich
Three-fifths compromise
Three-hole notebook
Three-time loser
Three-quarter binding
Three-handed bridge
Three-ball match
Three-phase cycle
Three-day pass
Three-bean soup
Three-day weekend
Three-card monte
Three-gaited horse
Three-legged race
Three little words
Three-gun salute
Three-finger salute

THREE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
THREE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
THREE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW...
(Which nobody can deny)

33 more threes:

Three on a match
Three sheets to the wind (not percale or muslin)
Three strikes and you're out
Three of a kind
Three of hearts, diamonds, clubs, spades
(The) Three Musketeers
(The) Three Stooges
Three Amigos
Three's Company
Three Days of the Condor
(The) Three Faces of Eve
Three Sisters
Three times a charm
Three Times a Lady
Three Coins in the Fountain
Three men in a tub
Three feet in a yard
Three R's
Three cheers
Threescore
Threefold
Threepence
Three-bagger
Three-color
Three-pointer
Three-wheeler
Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead
Goldilocks & The Three Bears
I Saw Three Ships
(We) three kings of orient are...
And he called for his fiddlers three
...three to get ready and four to go
Fish and visitors stink in three days.

~ **DEFINITELY**

Ray also sends along these definitions:

GENE POOL: Autry, Barry, Kelly, Rayburn, Roddenberry, Simmons, Siskel, Wilder

UNITED STATES: Back East, out West - except for Alaska and Hawaii, that about covers it.

~ IRENE IS IRONIC

“Irene (Greek: peace) seems a particularly ironic name for a hurricane,” Jeff Grant writes. “From a logological angle however, the IRE of the storm battering some NE regions of the United States makes IRENE appropriate.

~ TURNABOUT IS PAIR FLAY

Jeff discovered a clever bit of word juggling in Chambers Dictionary, which has this entry under “under”: “under-and-over see over-and-under under over”.

It reminds me of a definition I found in one of the Merriam-Webster dictionaries, an entry made entirely of conjunctions. Listed under “and/or” you’ll find “either *and* or *or*.”

~ LIAM FLAHIVE

Jeff sent a Scrabble mystery. “This may be of interest for Kickshaws. You can read the original newspaper article by googling ‘Liam Flahive’ scrabble”. Perhaps they should have asked 'Word Ways' readers about the anagrams.”

Can Scrabble solve the mystery?

In the last *Forwards* we read about the August 1, 2007 collapse of the I-35W Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which resulted in 13 deaths. Recently, the monument in a remembrance garden was defaced just two days after it opened, with vandals stealing some of the stainless steel letters used to name the victims.

The theft set off a minor puzzle-solving frenzy after the *Star-Tribune* newspaper published a list of the 22 missing letters, which some people believe were not prised off at random.

Using tiles from a borrowed Scrabble set, design student Liam Flahive came up with the only remotely plausible solution. He believes it shows criticism of the monument itself.

Note that the stolen letters were all lowercase, which may not be significant as the thief was probably not worried about capitalisation. Nevertheless, a dot above an 'i' and a comma were also taken. Why? Liam thinks W.W could be the thief's initials, but the missing dot is strange.

Damn your metal signage, W.W

This is a good example of how long anagrams can be used to suggest almost anything. Assuming the letter theft was not random, and the perpetrator was probably young, male and from the area, here are some alternative theories based on transposition of the missing letters plus the comma and dot.

1. The perp is a member of a fundamentalist church who disapproves of such public monuments and wants prayers for the victims only on Sunday.

We want Sunday memorial, G.G*

(* God's Greetings, online slang)

2. There is a gang connection. Someone wants attention, recognition, or something.

Dwayne Wuts' gang memorial.
Wayne Lumaro, Midwest gang.
Manuel Stower, Midway gang.
Samuel Towner, Midway gang.

The Mexican-American Sureno gang is active in Minneapolis-St. Paul, but it is unlikely they were responsible for this crime.

W. Midway Metal, Sureno gang.

3. Midway and West Midway are areas in St. Paul (capital of Minnesota), which adjoins Minneapolis. Perhaps someone from there is the letter thief.

Manuel Grogan, West Midway.
Manuel G. Rogan, West Midway

4. A local Harry Potter fan did it! He calls himself:

Wayward Muggle, Minnesota.

~ TRANSPOSABLE PEOPLE

Jeff recalls “A Checklist of Transposable People’ (Word Ways, August 1998) records the names of real people whose first name transposes into their surname, such as GARY GRAY and COLIN NICOL. I recently came across an eight-letter example to add to the list: REGINALD DEARLING is a resident of Hammond, Indiana, US (www.whitepages.com).

~ YEH, NO CON HEY!

“It delights me,” says Mike Morton, “that one Daniel Klein’s resume shows that he worked at “Palindrome Consulting, Inc”. If they used him in their promotions, it would be the DANIEL KLEIN AD.

~ HELP WANTED ON BIRTHDAY CARD

Mike Morton’s in an interesting dilemma: “My brother was born in 1961, a rare invertible year. I want to write a higgledy-piggledy about this for his 50th birthday. While “invertible birth year” is the correct meter, I also need a *single* six-syllable word for one line to meet hig-pig rules.

The closest I can find are:

- *polysymmetrical* (which it ain’t, but I could make that point)
- *axisymmetrical* (ditto)
- *hemisymmetrical* (ditto)
- *symmetricality* (which may not be a word, but best I can do so far)

Anything better you can think of?

~ HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY CHALLENGE

Mike wrote the Higgledy-piggledy poem below. It's not quite complete. Mike offers this challenge: "Can anyone rewrite the second stanza to also have three six-syllable words?"

Higgledy-piggledy
Megachiropteran:
Classificational
Name for a bat

~ UPSIDE-DOWN EQUATIONS

The symbols 0 1 6 8 9 () + - X / look the same when read upside down (using a sans serif typeface). There are at least two alphabetical / mathematical problems worthy of consideration. (1) What is the best equation that can be made using each symbol more than once, without requiring that the equation be mathematically correct. Answers using all but one symbol are easy to find. For instance:

$$1 + 8 / (-9) = 0$$

$$0 = (6 - 9) / 8 + 1$$

Using using all the symbols in a single equation, using each one once, may be impossible. (2) What is the best equation that is mathematically correct, allowing the symbols to be used as many times as needed? How would "best" be defined in this case? Are there any answers?

~ THY THAI THIGH

Those three words do a little trick. Each word begins with "TH" but pronounced differently, and each word ends with an "I" sound, but spelled differently. Howard Bergerson figured that out.. At lunch today, I wrote a limerick for Mary Jo and her friend, and it uses those three words. We were at a Thai restaurant.

LIMERICK FOR LUNCH?

The restaurant served spicy Thai.
We ate and drank lunch, my and thy!
It didn't seem rude
To eat in the nude
Till I spilled some hot soup on your thigh.

Louis Phillips' Dictionary

1. Pedestrian – a person who walks down the street listening to his or her Ipod.
2. Vaccinema – films devoted to plagues and the spread of disease e.g. *Contagion*)
3. Rebustibles – falsies
4. Premisses – Female embroyos
5. Prethinking – thinking before one really thinks
6. KvetIching – Complaiong about one's fortune as foretold by the casting of Chinese coins.
7. Hambrosia – overly sweet pig meat
8. Golfling – making love at night on a golf course
9. Palindrama – a play that makes as much sense if staged from the final act to the first, or the first act to the last,
10. Fastenating –obsessed with zippers and buttons

SOCRATES AMONG THE ATHENIANS

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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~ NOODLES BY LOUIS

“Did I ever send you the following noodles?” Louis muses.

1. The fifth word is fourth in this sentence.
2. If BACKWARDS is written backwards is it still backwards?
3. EVEN contains an even number of letters. Is that odd?
4. Why is UNLIMITED limited to only 9 letters?
5. Have you noticed that when UPSIDE DOWN is spelled out it is usually not upside down.
6. If MISSPELLED is spelled incorrectly does it remain misspelled?

~ OPS HOPS

Louis explains the inspiration for the poem below.

**YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THIS VERSE MUCH BETTER
IF YOU KNOW THAT OPS IS THE NAME OF SATURN'S WIFE**

Up, Ops!
Ops hops up.
Ops drops
Mops.
Oops, Ops!

~ SHE WAS ONLY

Bill Brandt likes “she was only” lines. He provides some of the classics:

She was only a moonshiner’s daughter, but I loved her still.
She was only a poet’s daughter, but I have seen verse.
She was only a taxi driver’s daughter, but you auto meter.

“The following lines I came up with,” he continues, may not qualify as classics, but I hope you will enjoy them.

She Was Only Revisited

She was only an astronomer’s daughter, but things were looking up.
She was only a baker’s daughter, but she was one smart cookie.
She was only a boxer’s daughter, but she didn’t pull her punches.
She was only a chicken farmer’s daughter, but she was often in a fowl mood.
She was only a chiropractor’s daughter, but sometimes she could be a real pain in the neck.
She was only a dentist’s daughter, but she often looked down in the mouth.
She was only a doctor’s daughter, but she knew how to nurse a grudge.
She was only a dry cleaner’s daughter, but she was usually pressed for time.
She was only an engineer’s daughter, but she had a one track mind.
She was only an entomologist’s daughter, but she didn’t hesitate to tell people when to bug off.
She was only a farmer’s daughter, but she could give you a harrowing experience.
She was only a fisherman’s daughter, but she went out just for the halibut.
She was only a gambler’s daughter, but she always laid all her cards on the table.
She was only a gold prospector’s daughter, but she was no flash in the pan.
She was only a golfer’s daughter, but she often got teed off.
She was only an innkeeper’s daughter, but she never lodged a complaint.
She was only a jockey’s daughter, but she didn’t like to horse around.
She was only a lumberjack’s daughter, but she frequently had me stumped.

She was only a masseuse's daughter, but she often rubbed people the wrong way.

She was only a pilot's daughter, but she didn't want to have a fly by night relationship.

She was only a shoemaker's daughter, but she gave all the heels the boot.

She was only a shot putter's daughter, but she often threw a tantrum.

She was only a surveyor's daughter, but she was always on the level with me.

She was only a tailor's daughter, but she knew how to patch up a quarrel.

She was only a ventriloquist's daughter, but she was no dummy.

She was only a watchmaker's daughter, but she always seemed to have time on her hands.

She was only a window cleaner's daughter, but sometimes she could be a pane.

She was only a zookeeper's daughter, but pleasing her was aardvark.

~ **MISSING KICKSHAWS**

Bill explains his wordplay mood swing: "When I read the August issue of Word Ways and saw that Kickshaws was not included, I was feeling a little down. To try and cheer myself up I created a story using as many variations of 'down' as I could. There are not as many uses of 'down' as there were of 'up', but I felt down right up to the task. If you like it, please consider it as another submission to Kickshaws. (If so, would you consider running it next to 'What's Up?')"

~ **DOWN BUT NOT OUT**

"Since I have some downtime and I am sitting down, down home, downtown downing a cup of coffee I thought I would write this down," Bill writes.

"The downturn in this down economy was a real downer. I was feeling down, down hearted, downbeat, and down in the mouth. I was down on investing and wondering what to do next. Then I met this button down fellow. I thought he was down to earth, but later he turned out to be someone who was down at the heels and down and out. He wanted me to plunk down a down payment on a gold mine down under. He said it was a down right good investment. Down the line that Australian mine turned out to be a run down mine that had been down for years, so all that money ended up downhill and down the drain.

Pipe down and simmer down, you don't need to put me down or give me a dressing down. I know time is running out and it is getting down to the wire, so now it is time for me to buckle down and get down to brass tacks. Despite the downsize in my bankroll, I am not feeling down on my luck. The countdown has begun. I am going to organize a knock down, fall down, down and dirty genuine hoedown for next month. Can I put you down for two tickets? The authorities have been clamping down and there has been a crack down on loud music, so we will have to hold it down a bit otherwise they will tell us to close down. Downstairs I plan to serve food so folks can chow down. Of course if they dance too much they may not be able to keep it down.

On a less serious note, here is a hand me down saying from my Grandmother: 'If you can't get down from an elephant you can always get down from a duck.'

Now it's time for me to go, so with this coffee it's salute and down the hatch."

SUSAN'S THORPE'S WORLD TOUR

In the Marshall Islands, I met ISLA and HAL

And in Nepal I was joined by an old school PAL.

I encountered a GENT in Argentina,

Then bumped into HELEN in St. Helena.

In Macedonia, he led me a dance did DON

And later, in Micronesia, I encountered RON.

It was in Barbados I found the first BAR

Whilst, in Nicaragua, I rented a CAR.

Also in Barbados, there was much ADO

When I heard from Cyprus, from sister PRU.

In Czechoslovakia, I heard a loud ECHO

And, in the Faroës, I guzzled too much ROE.

That led me to have some PAIN in Spain

All followed by buckets of RAIN in the Ukraine.

Onto Anguilla where once again I was ILL

And, in the Seychelles, this bordered on HELL.

In Botswana, I still felt rather WAN.

Until, in Germany, I met a MAN!

STAN surfaced again in Pakistan

And then, in Jordan, I came across DAN

More and more MEN, in Yemen and Armenia

And yet still another one in Romania.

In Singapore, aunt INGA saw me – heavens above!

Then, in Slovenia, I found my one true LOVE.

A honeymoon, after we WED in Sweden

A gardener's delight is my husband EDEN.

~ LONG TRANSPOSITIONS

In 1990 Jeff Gramt wrote to the *Guinness Book of World Records* about the possibility of including the 19-letter transpositions **representationalism/misrepresentational** in their Language section. They accepted the evidence provided and the pair appeared in the 1991 edition of the Guinness book under Longest Anagrams (non-scientific). Recently I realised that this record can be extended to 22-letter words with the pair below:

nonrepresentationalism/nonmisrepresentational

The first term is listed in *Random House Dictionary*, 2nd Edition, 1986, and the second appears in a nice piece of legalese in the transcript of a court case recorded on the Net.

“To argue in effect, because there are **nonmisrepresentational** forms of conduct that can in effect constitute illegal procurement irrespective of whether there is a misrepresentation.”

[www.oyez.org/cases, *Kungys v. United States* (1986) - Oral Reargument, Transcript]

~ ANONYMOUS ANAGRAM

From Xxxxxx Xxx, who wants to remain anonymous, this evocative, seductive, anatomical measurement is brought to light in a single German word.

Zeitgeist = Tit size, e.g.

~ ANIL ASKS ABOUT THE 10,000-PAGE BOOK

“I’ve just got a new computer which allows me to type long emails, unlike that piece of junk I was using before, so here goes!

I enjoyed and was quite impressed by your constrained poems in the May issue.

I heard about a bygone poet laureate type who wrote a mile or kilometer long poem centuries ago. No real competition to your summa magnum opus, I calculate, which should outstretch it by 10-50 miles, depending on lines per page. Have you calculated the ‘length’ of it?”

Anil is referring to the 10,000-page poem that I wrote in the summer of 2010 at the UI Library and other public places. The book’s measurement, when closed and set so its back cover rests on a table, is 8.5” x 11” x 2’, and it weighs 56 pounds. Excluding the cover, the poem was actually 10,119 pages long. It was perfect-bound by Bill Voss, a binder/conservator at the UI Main Library. He spent 24 hours over a period of 4 days working on it, and he had to construct a special shelf on which to hold the book. It is housed in the UI Special Collections on the third floor of the Main Library. If you come to Iowa City, you’re welcome to visit the book. It’s inside a sturdy box built to hold it. Visitors to the library can request a viewing. It’s size makes it a rather risky volume of poetry. Bill said that the binding should last unless it is dropped to the ground, and then there might be damage requiring detailed restoration. In answer to Anil’s question, if the pages were removed from the book and laid end-to-end, with the 8.5” top and bottom sides of the pages connected, the sheets number of inches would equal 11” x 10,119 sheets = 111,309”, which divided by 12 would equal 9275.75 feet, divided by 5,280 = 1.75677 miles. If Anil is referring to the number of lines of text placed in a single line, the length would be much greater, and it might total 10-50 miles. In terms of numbers of words, the one hundred 100-page volumes contain 895,477 words by the time I’d reached the final day. Titled “Poetry City Marathon,” this really long work lasted from the Fourth of July to Halloween, which combines state and church.

Later I wrote a 26-volume Afterword. It was not a part of the marathon proper. I wrote from Halloween of 2010 to the 4th of July 2011. I wanted to pass the million mark, so I added these volumes. A count of the words for both body of the marathon and afterword quite a bit. I broke a million. Now I'm a millionaire of words. The final word count makes Poetry City Marathon twice as long in words as War and Piece. Here are the scores:

WAR AND PEACE	587,287	POETRY CITY	1,200,787
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Returning to Anil's question, if the words averaged out to ½ inch long, the marathon work would be about 600,393.5 inches long. Divide by 12 to get 50032.8 feet. Divide by 5280 to get 9.48 miles. Of course, that's using 12-point type. Switching to 72 point would result in 6 times that length, or about 56.88 miles. Anil's guess of 10-50 miles came pretty close to the 9.48-56.88 mile range.

~ BEHIND THE ART SCENE

Mary Jo Dane and I were making up conversations with famous artists. Here are four. There should be at least two more that we made up, but I can't remember what they were. Warhol for sure:

"Andy, you got any more of those cheap Marilyn portraits?"

*

"Jackson, I accidently spilled a bunch of paint on one of your paintings. What should I do with it?" Jackson Pollock's reply: "Spill some more."

*

"Vincent, I think you cut yourself while shaving." Vincent: "No, my lobe just itched, and I forgot to clip my fingernails before scratching my ears."

*

"Hey, Pablo, you just painted that woman with three eyes!" Picasso's reply: "She wears trifocals."

*

"Leonardo, does Mona like what you're painting her to look like?" da Vinci's reply: "If she did, do you think she'd smile that way?"

*

~ *THE RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM WITHOUT VOWELS*

Robert Fitzgerald translated the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam of Naishapur, and he used all the letters of the alphabet. I (DM) rewrote five of Fitzgerald's stanzas, called "rubai," with each stanza omitting one of the five vowels to see how difficult the transition would be in each case. Naturally E was the most difficult, and appeared the most times.

Rubai 1: With all vowels (including 9 A's)

Wake! For the Sun who scatter'd into flight
The Stars before him from the Field of Night,
Drives Night along with them from Heav'n, and strikes
The Sultan's Turret with a Shaft of Light.

Rubai 1: Without A

Up! For the Sun who sprinkled into flight
The Globes before him from the Field of Night,
Drives Night as well then from the Sky, and strikes
The Ruler's Turret with one String of Light.

Rubai 2: With all vowels (including 19 E's)

Before the phantom of False morning died,
Methought a Voice within the Tavern cried,
"When all the Temple is prepared within,
"Why nods the drowsy Worshipper outside?"

Rubai 2: Without E

As first that phantom of Hoax morning cast,
I thought a Sound within that bar, a blast,
"If all our Church is now so straight within,
Why nods that drowsy man who prays at last?"

Rubai 3: With all vowels (including 2 I's)

And, as the Cock crew, those who stood before
The Tavern shouted--"Open then the Door!

"You know how little while we have to stay,
"And, once departed, may return no more."

Rubai 3: Without I

And, as the Cock crew, those who stood before
The Tavern shouted--"Open then the Door!
"You know how short the hour we have to stay,
"And, once departed, may return no more."

Rubai 4: With all vowels (including 13 o's)

Now the New Year reviving old Desires.
The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires,
Where the White Hand Of Moses on the Bough
Puts ot, and Jesus from the Ground suspires.

Rubai 4: Without O

Thus the New Year revives ancient Desires.
The thinking Spirit by itself retires.
Where the White Hand that Muses by the Branch
Puts up, and Jesus by the Dust suspires.

Rubai 5: With all vowels (including 4 U's)

Iram indeed is gone with all his Rose,
And Jamshyd's Sev'n-ring'd Cup where no one knows;
But still a Ruby gushes from the Vine,
And many a Garden by the Water blows.

Rubai 5: Without U

Iram indeed has gone with all his Rose,
And Jamshyd's Sev'n-ring'd Goblet where none knows;
Yet still a Jewel of Red flows from the Vine,
And many a Garden by the Water blows.

~ **HOWLERS**

“Howlers,” Jim Puder points out—“are unintended misstatements in speech or writing which for some reason are quite funny—seem to me to come in two varieties. One is the ignorant howler, such as a schoolchild might innocently include in a composition, that results from incomplete or erroneous knowledge of a subject. The other variety is the careless howler, a funny misstatement by someone who knows better; it results from a simple lack of attention to what one is saying or writing.

A nice example of a careless howler may be found on p. 107 of the Sept. 20, 2010 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine. In a discussion of the allegedly innate human tendency to parodize, the writer avers that “...*These actions are not learned: in experiments with identical twins born in different cities (‘commuting twins’ studies), subjects exhibit strikingly similar behaviors.*” My initial reaction to this statement was to wonder, firstly, how on earth the researchers had managed to arrange the initial conditions for this experiment, and secondly, how much they had had to pay the expectant mothers to go along with their project.

What makes this particular howler especially interesting to me is that its proud author (nameless here) is identified by *The New Yorker* (p. 10) as a professor of English at Harvard University.

~ PUNCTUATION POEM

What kind of a poem is this? Try reading it aloud. See answers & solutions.

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