

AUTHOR! AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

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Once upon a time we had presidents named John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, William Howard Taft, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Also in the world of politics were the likes of William Lloyd Garrison, William Jennings Bryan, and Margaret Chase Smith.

Not long ago there were thinkers named John Stuart Mill, Mary Baker Eddy, Alfred North Whitehead, Harry Emerson Fosdick, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and scientists named John James Audubon, Alexander Graham Bell, and Thomas Alva Edison.

In the arts we had Francis Scott Key, John Philip Sousa, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Singer Sargent, James McNeill Whistler, Cornelia Otis Skinner, and Frank Lloyd Wright, and in the business world John Jacob Astor and William Randolph Hearst.

What do all these luminaries have in common? They are all trinomials; that is, they were best known by three names.

How many trinomials do you read about in today's news? Very few, I suspect. Sure, a handful of living triple plays springs to mind - Jack Kent Cooke, Sandra Day O'Connor, Helen Gurley Brown, Norman Vincent Peale, Alan Jay Lerner, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Penn Warren, and John Gregory Dunne.

But this small band of exceptions only serves to remind us of an age gone by when to be known by three names was not considered stuffy or affected. To gain a glimpse into the decades when trinomials were more in fashion, try a little game. Below I have listed the middle names of writers who were best known by three names. In each case, supply the full name. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Allan | 13. Clarke | 25. Lee | 37. Savage |
| 2. Anne | 14. Conan | 26. Louis | 38. Taylor |
| 3. Arlington | 15. Crowe | 27. Makepeace | 39. Vincent |
| 4. Babington | 16. David | 28. Manley | 40. Wadsworth |
| 5. Barrett | 17. Dean | 29. May | 41. Waldo |
| 6. Beecher | 18. Fenimore | 30. Millington | 42. Ward |
| 7. Bernard | 19. Gabriel | 31. Neale | 43. Wendell |
| 8. Booth | 20. Greenleaf | 32. Orne | 44. Whitcomb |
| 9. Butler | 21. Ingalls | 33. Peter | 45. Wing |
| 10. Bysshe | 22. Kinnan | 34. Rice | |
| 11. Carlos | 23. Laurence | 35. Russell | |
| 12. Chandler | 24. Laurence | 36. St. Vincent | |