

YOU WILL, OSCAR, YOU WILL

BERT N. WEEPY

The November 1990 Word Ways carried an article entitled The Shaming of the True by one Peter Newby - whoever he may be. His premise, supported by a series of non-anagrams, was to the effect that the film Kiss Me Kate was written by the actor whom he misspelt as James 'Stuart'. This is nonsense.

The man who wrote Kiss Me Kate is the same man who wrote its sequel entitled An Ideal Husband. Most readers will know him as Oscar Wilde. But, that is a nomdeplume: the real author chose in a vain attempt to influence The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Who is that real author, the man who wrote both works? This I can reveal by the same cryptanalytical method as that espoused by Newby. And, unlike Newby's monograph, this analysis will prove strictly accurate letter-for-letter.

First, I reiterate the method. An apt passage is taken from an author's work and transposed such that the author's identity is revealed. Consider the vexed question as to who wrote the classic play The Tempest. In the 30 November 1901 issue of Notes and Queries, the final two lines of The Epilogue of The Tempest

As you for crimes would pardon'd be,
Let your indulgences set me free.

were given as the anagram of the statement

'Tempest' of Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam,
Do ye ne'er divulge me, ye words!

Unfortunately, a letter A was added to the statement; but the fact that Bacon was not created Lord Verulam until some eight years after The Tempest was probably written is somewhat disturbing.

Now to the real author of Kiss Me Kate and An Ideal Husband. Take an epigram from Act Three of the sequel

In married life affection comes when
people thoroughly dislike each other

Apart from being a perfect summary of Kiss Me Kate, this is also true of the author's own matrimonial situation which he satirized in both of his works. Strictly transposed letter-by-letter and devoid of any possibility of a posthumous error such as Bacon's, it reads

I, William Shakespeare, penned the colorful
comedy of friction. I got her. He! He!

I am now attempting to discover the real author of Pears Word Games.