

CHEATER'S PALINDROMES: PART 2

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In the November 1993 issue of *Word Ways*, I discussed the tantalizing palindromic skill of Jeff Grant. This time I wish to spotlight the second of the four 1990 Kickshaws compilers of Cheater's Palindromes, Peter Newby.

ESNE'S SEKA, MY LURT, TRULY MAKES SENSE The seka is a small antelope of the central and southern African woodlands. A graceful creature, it has the remarkable ability to mimic the human voice. One famous seka was owned by the eminent Victorian authoress and traveller, Esne Weepy, and (unlike Faith Begorrah's famed talking hen) it spoke sensibly and on a wide range of subjects. Such was the interest aroused in this pet antelope that His Magnificent Highness, the Mgwami of Mgwampoo, sent for Esne and her seka and despatched one of his lurts (lords of the royal chamberpot) to bring them before him. Arriving at their bungalow, the lurt spoke first to Esne's husband, it being beneath his dignity to speak to a woman who was a stranger. The Rev. Ben R.T. Weepy confirmed the abilities of the beast in the palindromic expression handed down to us.

TO ORACLE, JANUS REPLIED "DEIL PERSUN A JEL CAROOT" Neither of the two faces of Janus spoke particularly good Greek, and his pidgin English left much to be desired. His famed reply to the oracle at Delphi can be roughly transliterated as "Each person is to be given a carrot jelly". As both faces said the same thing simultaneously, one legend has him the father of Echo.

"LAC IT AMMAR GNUS" IS UNGRAMMATICAL Ammar gnus are large antelopes which range throughout Asia Minor. The females produce a particularly rich milk which was famed in classical times and said to be the basis of Olympian ambrosia. Janus was especially fond of this dish, eating twice as much as any other god, much to the annoyance of Zeus. One day, so the legend has it, Janus was milking the Olympian herd of ammar gnus when they all mysteriously dried up and left him with an empty milking pail. Angrily, he yelled at them in pidgin to lactate, and Zeus, overhearing him, delivered the classical rebuff in palindromic fashion so that both faces would understand.