

CHEATER'S PALINDROMES: PART 4

WALTER FRETLOW

David Jennings Morice is the fourth of the Kickshavian school of Cheater's palindromists and, essentially, the pioneer of the concept of utilizing obscure terminology in this form of creative construction. David is the Cheater's playwright and all quotes are from his short-short-lived play which was first performed in Iowa City in 1990.

BLUE RUM, SIR, IS MUREULB
MORE RUM! MURE ROM

Iowans have their own language, a combination of English, Spanish and Dutch Dutch ('double Dutch', as it is often called, is the inspirational tongue of Afrikaans concrete poetry, allusions to which occur with great regularity in Morice's masterpiece). MUREULB is the comparative of ULB, an Iowan word which roughly translates as 'damn good'. MURE ROM is merely 'more rum' in pure Iowa. Iowans are addicted to their blue rum which is similar to Elban nir dew in both taste and properties. A popular local sport is smuggling rom across state lines, inviting the highway patrol to participate in a car chase and shoot-out. It is said Iowan speech owes more to rom than to its mother languages.

"DROWATONSI" IS NOT A WORD
MEANS "I LOVE YOU". OY! EVOL IS NAEM

This snatch of conversation is between the hero and heroine as they flirt over the Scrabble board. DROWATONSI is from the double Dutch whilst the remaining Iowan terms are English. OY is the standard interjection which has varying shades of meaning according to the passion with which it is expressed. EVOL is 'wickedness' and NAEM is the negative of EM (sex) and hence it means 'non-sex' - typical concrete poetry.

TO MY GOOD DOOG, YMOT!
AND MY TACT CAT, YMDNA!

Another hero/heroine love scene, this time they are toasting each other in rom in a local dog hotel and cattery. DOOGS have weird names in Iowa; YMOT is a typical one which has no direct translation into alcohol-free English. TACT CATS are polite felines and they, too, have personal names with the archaic Y-prefix.

START A BELCH, CLEB AT RATS

This pure Iowan expression has defeated not only me but my esteemed colleagues, Pat May Yamtap and A. Ross Sora. If any reader can supply a translation we would be eternally grateful. Replies, please, to the Elcrick Circle, Nola's Salon, New Bybwen.