

ALPHAMETISH CABELL

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The Virginia writer James Branch Cabell, author of the novel *Jurgen* (1919), was the target of an obscenity trial by John Sumner of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. The story is told in the following poem, written in Alphametish: in each line, the letters can be replaced by digits to form a valid sum, as illustrated by SEND MORE MONEY to $9567 + 1085 = 10652$. In fact, each line can be so decoded in only one way (given in Answers and Solutions); this is called Formal Alphametish, in distinction to Colloquial Alphametish, in which each line is allowed to have more than one solution.

THE JAMES B. CABELL ESTATE

He writes at night, serene.
No one, it seems, warms
To his tales of ideal
Love and valor and chance.

As in times past he rearms
Again his genius: *Jurgen* ensues.

At first, no one sees; no one writes
Of his book or of his risks.
Then Mr. Sumner hisses
"Obscene!", and scene by scene bedecks
Cabell's classic tale with witless
Remarks and asinine fanfare.

There is a trial; fairly easily
Is the case won. As the news echoes within
The land the tale sells and sells ... and taunts
Its author with odious
Fervor for ever and ever. So fame, snarer
Of souls, takes its fitful
Victim again, as slings
And arrows ever attend reason.