

TWO DUAL CRYPTOGRAMS

Candice Hirst

This was prompted by Doug McIlroy's "Dual Cryptograms" (Word Ways, August 1997). A dual cryptogram is two texts, each of which results from enciphering the other using a substitution cipher. This means that occurrences of the same letter in the first text are replaced by occurrences of the same letter in the second; different letters in the first are replaced by different letters in the second. No letter may stay as itself. Spaces are preserved; punctuation may be added or removed at will, and the distinction between lower and upper case is ignored. Although Doug treated hyphens like spaces, I treat them like other punctuation, so that word-breaks all correspond to word-breaks.

Bitter Gammon

This uses the cipher that is (ai)(eo)(ds)(nr)(hw)(mt)(fl)(bg)(cp)(ykj) in cycle notation.

I feed. I'm seen at Wem, at Menna's deli. At Geno's gaff, food:
deer, a loin, gammon. Ina's Ibo bito. At Cosimo: snig, eel fins;
gars I fob off. I bit at ham, at genipap. Go lam a gob!

I binge as wino, me. I will go to bars (hint to faroff Abramo),
to winy lees, kir, Tias, gin, to bitter beer kegs, any rib. I'm
to Delmor, to Geno, to Lomas!

(A gourmand in the Shropshire town of Wem tells of places where he eats and drinks. Tia = Tia Maria.)

A. Loos: (at door) I'm hot, I'm torrid.
(sofa) I'm bored, Bill Lees; soon I fear bitter, arid age game.
I'm pedate, drab. Oof! Lard! Bind a leg, Ell, a gam. I'm wit; I'm
boracic. Be fit, I beg!

A Garbo, I'd hare to a haff. Be me! Gin'd warm me, Linell, ignite
me. Hark: food! Jan (maid), bar me gammon. Goon job'd irk, nag at
me, soften me, bore me fetid.

(Anita Loos contemplates old age; her legs are not as good-looking and shapely as they were. She despises an offer of work from a stupid person (goon), and just wants to be let alone, on a lagoon (haff). For some reason, she once uses Cockney rhyming slang: boracic = boracic lint = skint = broke.)

Sexy Love (a pornographic 2-reeler)

This one had origins quite different to how it turned out. Its map (ai)(eouy)(tnslr)(hg)(dw)(cfp)(mb)(vx)(kz)(jq) attracted me because of a Jewish theme to some of the words for the second text

(Midrash, matzos, Sukkot, Rabbi). But a more thorough scan of the word list revealed an altogether steamier theme I can best defend by telling the story of the man being given the Rorschach test. As his analyst shows the ink blots one by one, he remarks "Two hippos having anal sex... Two gorillas 69ing... A giant tortoise trying to mate with a car...". "It's obvious: you're obsessed with sex." "*Me* obsessed? *You're* the one with the dirty pictures!"

A journalist interviews two people involved in making a porn film: Mary, and Milo (the boss, owner of the dive or "cot" where they're making it). There's a lot of wine, women and song!

I felt waxy a lot. I sing for porn at cot.

"Limn Seth (Goth). Fork a pear, Joab."

A base Goth, I feel pissed, so-so. I, sexy Mary, Hal's sassy satyr, am wily.

"Re my towy, long wigs: leer less. In, he-men! Fit my pory wet clit."

I felt his pory wang feel clit.

"Emit no din, Golliath. In rules remain, for piles of levity annoy Flynn Daly if not."

Rab, baton flawy, an ass, rebelled. Belt ass! Say of my pissed boss: he is legit. We piss on sexy rule debit ploys by Cat.

(Mary cautions one he-man "Golliath" to be quiet: neighbour Flynn Daly has complained of this sexual levity breaking the noise rules. Mary says that Milo's dive is legal, and despises Cat[herine]'s ploys to extort bribes from him by debit, under threats to get him arrested under the vice law (sexy rule). Why did Rab rebel, and what happened to his... er... "baton"? Read on...)

A porn dive I run. A lash put cuts in fun Rab's long hung putz. I coit quim. I, Milo, hung a poor callow Lulu.

"A love bite, girl!" "Lille Linet, Ib, dare to be nude!"

"Rush, Dahl, root, roll, as gobos pan." "Be cute, Don, Fran."

A porn gal, cute dish, poor Fran. Oban Su was hurraing as Tyrol Tobias put Carol up Roxane.

"Issue press wire (AP, Sun)."

Tim, minus pride, is ill. Tomorrow morn, I'll lie up!

"Be callow, Mull." "Go, Al Rohan." "Do call us, love."

(Tyro woman. Cruel me!) FIN

(We've caught cruel Milo just as the filming is ending and he's saying his goodbyes. It must be legal: he's issuing a press release. *The Sun* is a British newspaper notorious for its soft porn. Some people come from far away: Linet from northern France, Su[san] from western Scotland, Tobias from Austria. gobo = device protecting a camera lens from light. As for the rest, I hope I don't have to draw pictures.)