

JESUIT-IGNATIUS PALINDROMES

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Inigo de Onez y Loyola, St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), is famed as the founder of the Jesuit order of Roman Catholic clergy. The logologically noteworthy coincidence that the last four letters of "Ignatius" are the reversal of the last four letters of "Jesuit" has long challenged palindromists to devise some reasonably artistic palindromic passage that unites the two names. To date, a fully satisfactory formulation has proven to be frustratingly elusive. In *I Love Me, Vol. I*, for example, Michael Donner offers "An Ignatius ejaculation's...[no ital! u.c.!]...A JESUIT ANGINA!" and variations, and "Set, a Luca Jesuit 'angina man,' Ignatius, ejaculates." As ingenious as they are, these palindromes (which their own author calls "weird" and "squirrelish" and suggests be banned) nevertheless exhibit a number of flaws, including awkward syntax, the use of abbreviations, and the use of an unfamiliar proper noun.

Another approach to the Ignatius-Jesuit palindrome suggests a restaurant tableau:



Despite Ignatius ejaculating "Nita! Luc! A Jesuit!", Angie tips Ed.

The problem here is that this palindrome's Ignatius is clearly no saint. If "San" could be used in place of "St.," that would automatically produce "anginas": **Said Helina, "San Ignatius ejaculated 'Eta! Luc! A Jesuit angina's a nil!' eh, Dias?"** Alas, "San" takes "Ignacio," not "Ignatius." Dialect? **St. Ignatius ejaculates "Eta! Luc! A Jesuit!" an' gits!** Hardly. Realistically it may be that there simply is no really good solution to the Ignatius-Jesuit puzzle; then again, perhaps the writing of the Great Ignatian Palindrome merely awaits some wealthy patron's offer of a top-drawer reward pot.