

## SOME NARRATIVE ALPHAMETICS

JAMES MAYFIELD  
Silver Spring, Maryland

In an alphametic, letters are substituted for numbers in an arithmetic problem, and the reader is invited to find the solution. If the letters spell out some sort of a message, so much the better; the oldest one known, SEND + MORE = MONEY, was crafted by H.E. Dudeney in 1924. (The term *alphametic* was coined by J.A.H. Hunter in 1955.) Narrative alphametics have occasionally appeared in *Word Ways*, including "Literate Cryptarithmic" by Peter Newby in November 1989, and "Literary Cryptarithmic by Computer" by Leonard Gordon in May 1990.

A special case of narrative alphametics are doubly-true alphametics, in which the narrative consists of a correct arithmetical statement, such as THREE + FOUR = SEVEN, with the solution 28566 + 7495 = 36061. Mentioned in Borgmann's *Language on Vacation*, these have also appeared in *Word Ways*, in "Doubly-True Alphametics" by Leonard Gordon in February 1994.

The following narrative alphametics have unique solutions and are soluble by hand without excessive enumeration (although in some cases they may require quite a bit of analysis). To the best of my knowledge, all are original. I call the reader's attention to two with logological features:

STARTER + RESTART = ANAGRAM  
BEAR + RARE + ERE = RHYME

ADVANCED + STUDENTS = CALCULUS  
AGASSI + GRAF = TENNIS  
ALICE + RABBIT = HATTER  
ALLAH + ISLAM = MECCA  
AMERICAN + COMEDIAN = ROSEANNE  
AMES + AGENCY = SPYING  
ANCIENT + JAPANESE = PAINTING  
ANSEL + ADAMS = NATURE  
BARBIE + MAKER = MATTEL  
BATMAN + COMIC = GOTHAM

BELOVED + NOVELS = TOLSTOY  
BLACK + SILK = JACKET  
BLOOD + BODY = MURDER  
BOB + DYLAN = SONGS  
BORDELLO + REPORTED = DOWNTOWN  
BRILLIANT + TERRIBLE = BEAUTIFUL  
BRUTUS + STABS = CAESAR (my best one)  
CANAL + TOWN = VENICE  
COLLEGE + CLASSICS = SOCRATES  
COOK + SHISH = KEBABS

COPPER + COINAGE = PENNIES  
 COSA + NOSTRA = CRIMES  
 CRACK + COCAINE = ILLEGAL  
 CREOLE + SOUL = ZYDECO  
 DAILY + MIRROR = LONDON  
 DALAI + LAMA = TEMPLE  
 DEAD + SINGER = GARCIA (pun intended)  
 ENGINEER + DESIGNED = HARDWARE  
 ENGLISH + CHANNEL = ISLANDS  
 FANNIE + FREDDIE = LENDERS (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mae)

FICTION + BRONTE = SISTERS  
 FRENCH + ARABIC = CHINESE  
 FRESH + FISH = DINNER  
 FRODO + MORDOR = GOLLUM  
 GEORGE + WALLACE = ALABAMA  
 GRACE + SLICK = SINGER  
 HEALTH + CARE = SYSTEM  
 HOOSIERS + REDSHIRTS = ATHLETES  
 HORROR + BORIS = KARLOFF  
 HOSPITAL + PATIENTS = ILLNESSES

HOSTS + PAT = VANNA  
 JAZZ + MUSIC = ALBUMS  
 LIBERAL + WILLIAM = BRENNAN  
 LIVED + DIED = COFFIN  
 LUXURY + RESORT = HOTELS  
 MARIE + CURIE = RADIUM  
 MILITANT + SIKHISM = PAKISTAN  
 MURROW + CAREER = NEWSMAN  
 NASCAR + RACING = DRIVERS  
 NAZI + HORROR = DACHAU

ORIGINAL + COLONIAL = AMERICAN  
 OSCAR + ACTOR = LEMMON  
 OUTLAW + WILLIE = NELSON  
 PEARL + HARBOR = BOMBED  
 PIANO + ANDRE = PREVIN  
 PIANO + PIECE = CHOPIN  
 PINTA + NINA = VOYAGE  
 POOPER + SCOOPER = CANINES  
 PUNCHES + OPPONENT = KNOCKOUT  
 PURPLE + ROSE = VIOLET (doubly true)

RABIES + FATAL = DISEASE  
 RACE + TRACK = JOCKEY  
 READ + WRITE = POETRY  
 REAGAN + CARTER = DEBATE  
 RIGOR + STIFF = CORPSE (this is a good solve, too)  
 RIPARIAN + CREVICES = SERPENTS  
 RUBEOLA + RUBELLA = MEASLES

SADDLE + LASSO = COWBOY

SEED + BEDS = BLOOM

SEVEN + SEAS = VOYAGE

SEVERE + STORM = TWISTER

SINGH + SHOT = GANDHI (Indira)

STAGE + SATIRE = BRECHT

SUGAR + YOUR = COFFEE

SURNAME + RECORDS = MORMONS

TAGGERS + PAINTING = GRAFFITI

TARIK + AZIZ = IRAQI

TASTE + SWEET = COCOA

TEACHER+ STUDENT = RESEARCH

TUTU + WON = PRIZE (1984 Nobel Peace Prize)

WAIKIKI + HAWAII = SURFERS

WILD + SWEET = EXOTIC

WOMAN + BARES = BREAST

And here are a few subtraction narratives:

BUTLER – ACTOR = GABLE

COSTA – RICA = ARIAS

EROTIC – LOVE = SCENES

EXPENSIVE – PASADENA = VERANDAS

FABLED – LEGEND = NESSIE (Loch Ness monster)

GORILLAS – DESIGNED = LINGERIE (a *singerie* is a monkey trick)

KAREEM – ABDUL = JABBAR

PRICELESS – ARTISTIC = TREASURES

REVEALING – PARISIAN = NEGLIGEE

WATER – POLO = POOL

Finally, did you know that BILL MURRAY and EDDIE MURPHY sum to GILDA RADNER?