

COLLOQUY

Butler University has now placed all issues of Word Ways on line at <http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/wordway> . All issues are free except for the current three years. Butler reported in March that there were 125,401 total views over the last four years and this was before all issues were available.

DAVE MORICE has been ill but is recovering nicely. Instead of Dave's Kickshaws this month we reprint the late David Silverman's first Kickshaws. These were the original appearances of the feature.

DON HAUPTMAN writes:

The August 2012 issue contains two items relating to my second favorite subject (after wordplay, of course): the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan.

On page 176, this phrase appears: "...set to the music of Tom Lehrer's music on the chemicals."

"The Elements" was Tom Lehrer's ingenious idea, but not his music. He borrowed the tune from Arthur Sullivan. It's the melody of the Major-General's patter song in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

I've known and loved the work of Lehrer and G&S since childhood, and can badly sing much of both from memory. To my knowledge, this is the only one of Lehrer's songs for which didn't write the music as well as the lyrics.

On page 210, Dave Morice recounts a tale of his "Poetry Cheer." But there's a "poetry cheer" that predates this one. By an eerie coincidence, it's also from *Pirates*. It's a choral piece called "Hail, Poetry!"

At YouTube, search "hail poetry" (with or without quotations) and a bunch of stage renditions will appear.

I've been at many gatherings of Savoyards—the official term for G&S enthusiasts—where there was a call for the audience to stand and perform it. Like the Lehrer song cited above, this number has a musical distinction: It's one of only two songs in the rather large G&S canon that's always done *a cappella*.

MIKE KEITH offers:

Susan asks if there are any 10-letter words with triangular progressions of the kind for which she exhibits 6-letter words. I found these, all in Webster's 3rd Unabridged:

REVIOLATES (common difference = 9)
SPONDYLIUM (12)
MISSIONARY (15)
GERUNDIVES (16)

I note that she didn't consider words where the common difference is negative, such as USABLE, which has U=21, S+A=20, B+L+E = 19, forming an arithmetic progression with common difference -1. I found a few more 6-letter words of this type:

YAWNED (-1)
PIECED (-2)
WASHED (-3)
UNCAGE (-4)
YARDED (-6)
ZARIBA (-7)

SOLOMON GOLOMB contributes:

SOME MORE 3L OGGIES

A one-L Poly trains some hackers;
A two-L Polly wants her crackers;
But I will bet a hot tamale
There isn't any 3L Pollly.

Chicago has a one-L El,
They sell cloth by the two-L ell;
But I can confidently tell
There isn't any 3L elll.

A one-L Dali gave us art;
A two-L dolly's like a cart;
But it would be the height of folly
To try to find a 3L dolly.

A one-L cel is in a comic;
A two-L cell is anatomic;
But I will state with firm insistence,
No 3L celll is in existence.

Challenge to readers: Try to find a 1D word and a 2D word (like ad and add) where the 3D word would suggest 3-Dimensional.

MY ULTIMATE 3L OGGIE

A 1L CALENDER IS A PRESS,
A 2L CALLENDER'S WHERE YOU FRESS,
BUT IT WOULD CHALLENGE LISBET SALANDER
TO FABRICATE A 3L CALLENDER.

Notes.

- 1) A 1L calender is a device with rollers for pressing materials (paper, cloth, etc.) into sheets. (Another meaning is "a mendicant dervish", but what rhymes with "dervish"?)
- 2) The 2L Callender's is a national restaurant and bakery chain, best known for its pies.
- 3) To "fress" (German, via Yiddish) means "to eat greedily".
- 4) Lisbet Salander is the resourceful title character in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo".
- 5) A 3L "call-lender" could be someone who advances money over the telephone, but this requires (at least) a hyphen, and doesn't really rhyme with the other "-lender" words.
- 6) I didn't use the common word "calendar", since my other words end in "-nder".