

## ANAGRAMMING CO-AUTHORS

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A British mathematician, I. J. Good, who was a veteran of the World War II codebreaking group at Bletchley Park, once published a paper listing “K. Caj Doog” as a co-author (an obvious rearrangement of the letters of Jack Good). When asked subsequently about the status of his collaborator, Good replied that he lost contact with Doog after the Chinese Communists overran Tibet.

Famous mathematician Norbert Wiener once published a novel under the nom de plume of W. Norbert. It is unlikely that he really wanted to conceal his identity. I was pleasantly surprised to see a mention of my former Ph.D. student Gary S. Bloom, in connection with the concept of “eodermdromes” in A. Ross Eckler’s article (p. 265) in the November, 2013, issue of WORD WAYS. Bloom, later Chairman of the Computer Science Department at the City University of New York (CUNY), told me that often when he met people for the first time they were surprised to discover that he really existed, having thought that G. BLOOM was merely an anagram I had invented of GOLOMB, or that G. S. BLOOM was an anagram of S. GOLOMB. When I visited him at CUNY in 1981, he mentioned another logology project: identifying English words that sounded like they were Yiddish. The best one I remember from his collection was “farfetched”. (Bloom passed away a few years ago of an apparent heart attack while hiking in New England.)

At the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in the late 1950’s, six of us published an article under the collective pseudonym “B. H. JIGGS”, using the initials of our six surnames, plus the imaginary “I” for pronounceability. When asked to, I agreed to review it for Mathematical Reviews. When someone later asked me what had become of Jiggs, I replied that since he had published only one article, it seems he never got tenure. Another member of my JPL group was the late Gustave Solomon, best remembered as the co-inventor of “Reed-Solomon Codes”, widely used to protect the integrity of both stored and communicated digital information. Gus told me he could never co-author a paper with me, since he wouldn’t get proper credit for something referred to as, say, “Golomb-Solomon Codes”. He was not mollified when I told him I would be happy to give him first billing!