A SURNAME SAGA

DEREK PELL
Water Mill, New York

HAFIZ on my way to the LONDON POST ORPHEUS to MAILER
a LEVERTOV to MAUGHAM. As I PAZ through the PARKEK, my
BACH began AIKEN. I SATIE down on a nearby BENCHLEY, first
MENCKEN SCHORER it was DREISER. An INGE of SNOW had fallen
recently -- HAILE REMARQUE a BOLL for the MIDDLETON of JUNO --
and there was a CRISP TRILLIN DEVRIES.

I SITWELL HUEFFER an AUBRACH ANOUIL set in. My throat
felt DRYDEN, all NIETZSCHE, STRACHEY, and RAWLINGS.

'HEINE a CAPOTE, ' I told myself; however, I'd have settled for
a GLASS of RILKE, some LEHMANN ADE or even a PEPYS ZOLA.

LOWELL and behold, I spied a can of BEERBOHM LYONS in a
PATCHEN of GRASS where the SNOW had been MILTON. HECHT, it
had been WRIGHT UNTERMeyer nose all the time! Not bothering to
MONTAIGNE my dignity, I bent down to PEAKE it UPHAM and,
SHAW enough, discovered it was FULLER. I took a HADY ZWEIG (SPIR-
LANE some down my WESTCOTT) and found it FOWLES to my taste,
like a GENET tonic spiked with SAKI, but HELLMAN, as my MUM-
FORD always told me, a BAKER KANT be CHAUCER.

When the BEERBOHM was ALGONQUIN, I DESCARTES the empty
can at my FOOTE. My head was SPINOZ A round and I had a CREASEY
sensation that something was AMIS.

Was I being PARRAnoid?

IVANOV to LORCA round, to make SARTON I was ALONSO.

'I DUNSANY body ...'

STILL I had the urge to RUNYON, as if pursued by a mysterious
VILLON -- a MUJ-DURAS! ANONYMOUS tell you I was truly aFREUD
for a WYLIE. Finally, when I felt a bit SAFIR, I returned to the BENCH-
LEY but was overcome by SARRAUTE. You see, I was VERDI POE;
without ALGREN of SAND in my pocket. I GUEST EUCLID SAYERS I
was the UNRUH-CHEEVER in my family. My BRODER OWEN DOYLE
WELLS. My CICERO a CASTLE and had lots of CERVANTES, including
a BUTLER, COOKE, and VALERY -- she even had a maid to CERF her
DINESEN bed! I, of CORSO, was not USTINOV luxury. My wife and I
lived in a rundown TOLSTOY BIEGLOW without even a BATHroom.
FERBER-MOORE, my wife was always accusing me of STEELE-LINDSAY MONET from her PERSE, and often threatened to THOREAU me out.

I COLETTE unfair, GODDEN-DÜRRENMAIT all! WHARTON earth was I to do? Rob FIRBANK?

I was on the VERGIL SOUSAicide, just one step away from a ride in the HERSEY to the GRAVESyard, when I was rescued by the sight of a PRIESTLY CUMMINGS toward me. He held a DIDION Bible in one hand and a PARRISH-SAUL in the other.

'This,' I thought, 'must be a MERRICK-COLE.'

'Beware of SETON, my son,' WARREN the PRIESTLEY, as if he were speaking from an invisible POHL-PITT. 'O'NEILL down and pray. Time DOS PASSOS by, HAY-VENUS calling you. Repent before it's too LAYTON!!

There was a loud KEROUAC of THURBER overhead.

'MAETERLINCK than never!' I cried, dropping to my knees just as the STORM struck -- POWYS! It began raining KAZIN DODGSON HALE, too. But then, as soon as it had ASTARTE, it STOPPAtU! And FROMM FLAUBERT the clouds came a beautiful RIMBAUD and I saw APOLLI-NAIRE.

Was this the sign I had waited MOLIERE LONG FORD?

I had to PYNCHON myself to see if I was dreaming ...

MALLARMÉ CLARKE WOUK me with a SARTRE!

It ROUSSEAU loud I FALLADA my ALCOTT and received a WELTY on DEFOEhead. Standing UPDIKE, HAZLIT a cigar and DE BEAUVOIR filled with smoke. I began to KAFKA and moved to the OPPEN window for a breath of FRISCH EYRE. From BELLOW carne the sound of my wife playing her ARP in her BAUDELAIRE, it sure was nice to HEARN she hadn't lost her PASTERNAK. MAUPASSANT could play as well as she.

I was suddenly HUNGERFORD affection, and I wanted to be near her now VIDAL, my HARTE. Thus I made a SWIFT TROTSKY downstairs and HORACE across the HALL to her room. The DÖRÉ was aAURY so HYPERION and saw her looking STERN, HAGGARD, and (though I HESSE-TATE to say it) rather STOUT. NOVALIS, she still looked PURDY good to me.

Upon entering the room, I spied two BOWLES of RICE SOUPALT on top of the PYEano.

'I see it'm AUSTIN time for BRECHT-FAUST ...'
My wife gave me a FROSTy stare.

'Don't BARTHELME,' she snapped, PUSHKIN aside her ARP. 'You want to eat, AESOP to you.'

VERMEER presence SEDOV my WILDER desires.

'May ICAIISU you, my LAMM-CHOPIN? URIS lovely as ever.' 'XAVIER breath.'

I approached her CARRfully.

'SABATINI kiss?'

'STEINBECK!' she warned. 'You touch me and I'll call TALESE... they'll put you in BOURJAILY where you belong.'

'I'll swap you my pet BRACQUE BORGES JUAN kiss,' I bartered. 'It WORDSWORTH a BUCK or a POUND once.' My wife appeared skeptical. 'ORWELL, maybe just a penny, but --'

'You got CHAGALL! Get out! Get out!' I made a GRABBE for her as she dashed for the DORE, and accidentally tore her ROBBE-GUILLLET.

'EURIPIDES SAGAN to scream!' I BELLOC her escape, PINDAR against the WALPOLE, and PROUST her to me.

Unfortunately, she drew a GUNN.

'NABAKOV!' she commanded. 'I KANT STENDHAL your mushy LOVECRAFT!'

HEREONYMUS admit I'd made a BOSCH of the situation.

'ISHERWOOD like to APOLLO-JOYCE for ACTON WILDE,' I told her. 'I don't NOAH WAUGH CAMUS-VERNE me. But ALBEE good from now on, PROMETHEUS.'

'I curse DAUDET EMMET you,' said she. 'JEFFERS think about my feelings? Of CORSO not, you NINcompoop. PICASSO you I missed my chance to marry that MARCEL-MANN from FRANCE. ALEICHEM. At least he knew how to earn a LIEBING!'

She sure knew how to hurt a GOYEN.

'Why, then,' I asked, 'did you DE SADE to MÉRIMÉE, HEMINGWAY?'
My wife frowned. 'You didn't ODETS then. Beside, I was JUNG, I liked your SOUTHERN accent . . .'

'Oh, BALZAC! It's because I was great in the SACKVILLE.'

'Ha! HUGO look in the MIRO,' she laughed. 'You think you're DUCHAMP but, DADA, you're a LOOSer.'

'Well, then, IONESCO.'

'That's right. GOGOL, BECKETT quick.'

And so I left HOMER that afternoon and never saw my wife again. That was ten years ago. In a strange way, I think I still love her . . . yet, for the life of me, I can't remember her name.

**QUERY**

Philip Cohen and Alan Frank are looking for words containing certain four-letter sets, not necessarily adjacent or in order, as GVXZ in eXtraVaGanZa. Each word is assigned a score as follows: a word scores one point for each nonliteral character in it (usually hyphens), one for each capital letter, and one for appearing only as part of a multwo-letter phrase. Thus, McBurney's (from the phrase 'McBurney's point') would score four. In addition, a point is added if the word is found in a standard dictionary other than the New International, 2nd or 3rd edition; two to four points are added for other references, depending on esotericness (2 for an electronics dictionary, 4 for an Official Standard Names gazetteer); four or more points are added for non-reference sources, like novels and textbooks, with particularly high scores for unnatural coinages.

The following list gives some of the more wanted sets and the score to beat in each (a score of 100 means we have no example)

The words with a score of one can only be improved by locating solid, uncapitalized NI2 or NI3 entries; these dictionaries have been searched quite thoroughly, except for NI2 below the line.

- bcpq 100
- ddvv 1
- ghxx 2
- kkpz 1
- qtxt 100
- bdkx 2
- ffyz 4
- ghmq 2
- kvww 16
- uwxy 100
- bfpj 5
- fghx 1
- ghpq 1
- kvyy 1
- vwww 16
- bfwj 5
- fhjr 1
- gmpq 1
- kwxy 100
- vwy 1
- bppz 2
- fhoj 1
- jwuw 100
- qtx 100
- xx 100
- cmpq 1

In general, can one find an uncapitalized unhynphenated word in NI2 or NI3 using bmmv, kpuo or kuux? Or any word in NI2 or NI3 using bhpq, bcpp, bpiv, hhvv, jwuw, kkkq or uwww?