

## PALINGROANS AND AMALGRAMS

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A new genre offering opportunities for amusement involves what I call palingroans. The first one appeared in Willard R. Espy's Another Almanac of Words at Play, though he seems not to have appreciated the possible extension of his idea:

A man, a plan, a canal - Suez!

Extrapolating from here, how about:

Sums are not set as a test on Sir Thomas More

(although I suppose cogito ergo sums might be set as a test on Descartes?).

Of course, these days:

Suns are not set as a test of the British Empire  
any more than

Sons are not sent as a test of the British Empire  
but that is all rather by the way.

Returning to mainstream developments, we have:

Able was I ere I saw St. Helena

as Napoleon once very nearly said, or, in Biblical vein:

Abel was I ere I saw Cain

By now perhaps the reader will begin to be wondering:

Was it a rat I smelt?

but no, only:

Lee, evil as a live serpent

In fact, the best in this collection is due to Evert Lamfers:

A clan, a plan, a canal - The Caledonian!

(canal, that is, linking the Moray Firth with the Firth of Lorne across Scotland). Remember Howard Bergerson's introduction in Palindromes and Anagrams to the "universally admired gem...mined, cut and polished by Leigh Mercer, of London"? Well, now it's been undermined, recut and polished off by Professor Z. Einschwein, of Nijmegen:

Zeus! A man, a plan, a canal - Panama, Suez!

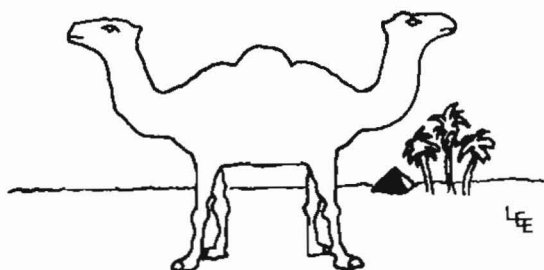
Sacrilege, what?

Complementary to palingroans we have the inviting field of amal-grams:

The nudist colony - no untimely clothes  
or, in other words:

Desperation? - A rape ends it!

I leave it to fellow logologists to extend the list.



#### PALINDROMEDARY

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*This is the title of a chapbook series on onomastic topics, published by George H. Scheetz, 2814 Summit Street, Sioux City IA 51104-3743. Word Ways readers may recall his onomasticons, several collections of words with a common suffix, published in Word Ways since 1977. The first onomasticon, in the August 1977 issue, exhibited 40 words having the -onym suffix. This article, expanded to 137 -onym words, is the subject of a monograph available from him for \$5. Each of the words is defined, and the source given. The monograph is printed in a limited edition (50 copies).*