

THEME AND VARIATIONS

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John Connett is one of the most prolific composers of short palindromic phrases. These often come in related families, as shown most spectacularly in "Ed's Palindromic Trickery" in the May 2000 Word Ways. Here are a number of further examples:

Anne Is Sienna?

Anne, I see Sienna
Anne, I sniff up a puff in Sienna
Anne, I snip a map in Sienna
Anne, I snip up a pup in Sienna
Anne, I snip Una May or Roy (a man!), up in Sienna
Anne, I snip up Alf's flap, up in Sienna
Anne, I sniff up at a cat, a puff in Sienna
Anne, I see by my ramp Mary, my bee, Sienna
Anne, I stop, I swap paws, I pot Sienna
Anne, I stop, stir grits, pot Sienna
Anne, is Nina May a man in Sienna?
Anne, I stay, baby, at Sienna

The editor notes that the last can be easily modified to Howard Bergerson's *Anne, I stay a day at Sienna*. Another palindrome, by Dmitri Borgmann, observes that *Anne is not up-to-date, God! Do get a dot put on 'Sienna'*. And the following alternative destinations have appeared in Word Ways:

Anne, varnish Tom's moths in Ravenna
Anne, I vote no-go--gone to Vienna!
Anne, he got Sal, alas, to Gehenna

Draw Upward, Edward

Draw desks, Edward
"Draw desks?" asks Edward
"Draw desks as is?" asks Edward
"Draw desks?" Ann asks Edward
"Draw deer," I wire Edward
Draw deer on Isle Elsinore, Edward
"Draw deer!" I fill up, I pull, I fire Edward
"Draw depots," I say, as I stop Edward

“Draw desserts,” I say, as I stress Edward
 “Draw--decide my drowsy ass,” says wordy medic Edward

Draw pus upward
 Draw pus-lip up, pupils--upward!
 “Draw pups,” I lisp, “upward”
 Draw--push turtledom’s model truths upward
 Draw pudendum, nine men in mud, Ned, upward
 Draw, puker--trek upward!
 Draw pure volcano puke (egad! a geek upon a clover!) upward
 Draw, pull a ball upward
 Draw pure mass o’ gossamer upward
 Draw pure wet stew--er--upward

Stephen Chism in *From A to Zotamorff* orders *Draw Deanna, Edward!* and Joaquin and Maura Kuhn exhort *Draw, defiant naif Edward.*

Sis, a Basis

Sis, a baton (stiff)--it’s not a basis
 Sis, a bare vent: is it never a basis?
 Sis, a basin under a Csar or a scared nun is a basis
 Sis, a basinet-fob often is a basis
 Sis, a basinet-fox or ox often is a basis
 Sis, a basis is a basis is a basis...

Sis is seldom encountered in palindromes. The only two mentioned in *I Love Me, Vol. I* are *Sis, ask Costner to not rent socks “as is”* and *Sis, Sargasso moss a grass is*, the latter attributed to Leigh Mercer. Joaquin and Maura Kuhn advise *Sis, O rue neurosis*, and Stephen Chism avers that *Sis is Isis*.

Reward Drawer

Reward: an inanimate pet. Am I, Nan, in a drawer?
 Reward: a nip o’ pop in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish crib, a rod or a birch, Sir, in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish crib, a roebuck (Row Ten), a network-cube or a birch, Sir, in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish sin, a Danish, Sir, in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish tomb-moth, Sir, in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish tooth, Sir, in a drawer
 Reward: an Irish side-dish, Sir, in a drawer

Stephen Chism lists three more in *From A to Zotamorff*: *Reward Evil One: pop open olive drawer*, *reward my gym drawer*, and *Reward paid on no diaper drawer*.