

## WE SALUTE

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- Rigour - transferred from mathematics to logology
  - Originality - in new forms of wordplay and letterplay
  - Stamina - over so many years of unstinting effort
  - Seniority - as the dean of our discipline
  - Erudition - on every page of 'Making the Alphabet Dance'
  - Civility - in our own not always civil society
  - Kindness - to newcomers in the field
  - Lucidity - however abstruse the topic
  - Editorship - so many different contributions melded
  - Reliability - Word Ways always timely and on time
- and he has FAITH

MAY THEY BOTH CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

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## THAT'S AMORE!

Erin McKean, editor of the language quarterly *Verbatim* and editor-in-chief of American dictionaries for Oxford University Press, has come up with a delightful bonbon of words relating to love in 46 different languages, in a \$14.95 paperback published by Walker & Company (Feb 2007). I was beguiled by her assemblage of terms for one's lover: onomastic ones like little dove (Russian), my doe (French), little mouse (Italian) or cuddle bear (German), or more abstract ones like my pearl (Spanish), my treasure (German), little gold (Czech), full moon (Urdu), or bright dawn (Russian). More inexplicably, there is my liver (Greek), my heart-liver-precious-cowrie-shell (Chinese), or small fart or little turd (Dutch)!

Love at first sight is characterized by a bolt of lightning (Italian, French, Swedish) or arrow (Spanish). One falls like a block (Dutch), steps on a crazy stone (Croatian), falls on one's buttocks (Mexican Spanish), dives headfirst (Norwegian), is intoxicated (Indonesian), is swallowed like a postman's sock (Spanish), or is hit by a blind Sunday (Bulgarian).

A. Ross Eckler