

KICKSHAWS

CHARLES W. BOSTICK
Ashton, Maryland

Kickshaws is currently being assembled by a series of guest editors. All contributions should be sent to the editor in Morristown, New Jersey.

Winds of the World

Guy Murchie is one my my favorite authors. He has the heart of a poet when writing about science. His book, Song of the Sky, is a delight to read. "Can you feel the rhythm of the wind in human memory? It is music in the sky and in men's souls." Let me introduce you to some of the wind names he has 'snared' and collected for us:

Haboob - of the Sudan, the black roller of the upper Nile
Chergui - sand-laden wind of Morocco
Crivetz - of Rumania, like a blizzard
Etesian - of cool summer afternoons in Greece and the Levant
Siffanto - up from the hot heel of Italy
Reshabar - lusty and black, out of the high Caucasus
Ghost of Gouda - local gust on a calm night, South Africa
Vinds-gnyr - ancient blustery wind of Iceland
Cat's paw - which barely ripples mill ponds in America
Ghibli - dry, southerly wind of the eastern Mediterranean
Koshava - of Yugoslavia, bearing snow from Russia
Kai - balmy south wind of China
Yamo oroshi - foehn of the steep valleys of Japan
Klod - Balinese wind that blows "downwards to the sea"
Tehuantepecer - the mistral of Mexico, from the central plateau
... and the very gentle
Sz - first faint breeze of the Chinese autumn

Rectangle Words

The rectangle on the next page was constructed from a list of 16 five-letter words, each written horizontally and each containing five different letters. The words were so chosen that each column of letters consists of sixteen different letters; in other words, they form a mutual non-crashing set. Note that the numbers run from 1 through 16 in each column of the rectangle. These columnar numbers represent the relative positions of the letters of the alphabet in that specific column only. They do not necessarily show any horizontal relationship in a word, nor do they represent positions within the alphabet. In general, low numbers represent letters occurring early in the alphabet and high numbers repre-

sent letters occurring late in the alphabet. As a starter, all 1's happen to be A's. What are the sixteen words?

1	15	5	15	5
2	7	7	14	16
3	11	4	5	10
4	4	16	13	11
5	6	2	6	12
6	2	9	7	14
7	8	13	9	15
8	14	10	2	7
9	9	1	16	2
10	16	11	3	4
11	1	8	12	9
12	3	14	4	6
13	12	6	1	13
14	13	15	10	8
15	5	12	11	3
16	10	3	8	1

The Guru

On 28 October 1977, Lambros Dimetrios Callimahos passed away. He was a scholar, prolific writer and captivating raconteur. He also contributed wit and humor to recreational linguistics.

Because his contributions have not yet been brought to the attention of most Word Ways readers, I will pay late homage to him here in Kickshaws by presenting a few of his works.

First let me mention his series of monographs for the Ptolemy Club Research Foundation. All seven of these monographs were written during one epochal week in the month of February, 1966. Their titles are:

1. A Short Table of Even Primes
2. Unity Expressed to 1600 Decimal Places
3. Powers of 1, From 1^1 to 1^{200}
4. Table of $(N^2)^0$ For 120 Integral Values of N
5. Abridged Table of Logarithms to the Base π
6. The Last 24 Positive Integers, in the Arab World
7. The 100,000th Decimal Digit of π , After the Decimal Point

To give you an appreciation for the magnitude of this undertaking, I quote the foreword to his first monograph:

This publication heralds the first in what is hoped will be a series of definitive treatments of important topics facing the scientist in this technological age. Although this first monograph is hardly controversial in its nature or approach, it nevertheless faces squarely up to a rather sticky problem that has long baffled, puzzled, rankled, and bothered mathematicians all over the free world. Like Euler's Identity and Gauss's formula for the number of primes under N, the utter simplicity of this presentation should appeal to both novice and expert

alike, requiring as it does only the rudiments of counting, although graduate study in celestial mechanics is certainly not a bar to its full appreciation.

I wish to thank the Directors of the Ptolemy Club Research Foundation for their encouragement in the face of adversity, and for the in-substantial grant which made this far-reaching study possible. I also wish to acknowledge the assistance of my good wife, Helen, who egged me on and on and on; not only did she read through the manuscript, but she gave me her unstinting help and unflagging cooperation without which this work no doubt could not have seen the light of no day. Any errors in this paper are the author's, of course. Comments, criticisms, and suggestions for revision are invited.

Because of its brevity, the short table of even primes is fully reproduced on the next line.

2

More From the Guru

Lambros Dimetrios Callimahos had a unique ability to create the most challenging crossword puzzles. Perhaps it all began in 1965 with a 4 x 4 composed for the CMI annual banquet:

A Puzzle Specially Designed for Nonmathematicians, Topologists, Senior Executives, Busy Housewives, Tired Lovers, Indolent Indigenous Personnel, Macedonian Hillbillies, Sandouri Players, and Their Friends

	1	2	3	4
1				
2				
3				
4				

HORIZONTAL

1. A native of one of the Slavic countries. Frederic Chopin was one of these only because his father, Nicholas, a flute player and the representative of a Paris snuff company, was stranded in Warsaw when the company folded.
2. Amundsen, Byrd and Peary led expeditions there, in all its frozen glory; the location of the aurora borealis. Incidentally, the U. S. Army's "Arctic Manual" gives a succulent recipe for lemmings, and also contains a most intriguing passage which begins "If you're not squeamish, . . ."
3. This holds up a pup tent at either end; the pup tent was used in World War I and is a favorite among Boy Scouts, who in turn are favorites among Girl Scouts, our own favorite cookies in the small-fry world.
4. Prefix of the popular name for a smelly cat, Mephitis mephitis, which, when attacked, sprays the enemy with an offensive secretion from two apertures located on either side of its little f---y.

VERTICAL

1. Garden vegetables: small, round, green objects that are usually

- cooked by the Chinese together with their pods -- not the Chinese's.
- In debt. Also, a maiden's exclamations of titillated delight when her brawny swain brings her a one-pound box of Fanny Farmer's. (You've heard of the cannibal who brought his inamorata a box of ... ?)
 - Overhead railways. New York City doesn't have one on 6th Avenue any more -- as a matter of fact, New York no longer has a 6th Avenue -- but Chicago still has these on the Loop.
 - Comfort; rhymes with trapeze. Also, the error sign in the Morse code (U).

In 1966, Mr. Callimahos refined his techniques to produce the following 1 x 1 crossword puzzle:

The Clews

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Horizontal to right: indefinite article | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 2. Vertical down: initial of Eve's husband | | | |
| 3. Horizontal to left: Brand's International Sauce, -l | 1 | | 3 |
| 4. Vertical up: highest mark on report card | 8 | 4 | 7 |
- Diagonal down: first vowel; what the dentist asks you to say
 - Diagonal down: French (also Italian) preposition
 - Diagonal up: note on second space of treble staff
 - Diagonal up: pitch corresponding to 440 cycles per second

Scoring To obtain final score, multiply each correct item by 12.5%

Although subsequent 1 x 1 puzzles appeared in the following two years, Mr. Callimahos exceeded himself in 1969 with a 0 x 0 crossword puzzle, the only entry being a mathematical point with no dimensions.

Double-Crostics and the Computer

How do you solve double-crostics? Do you use references? Dictionaries? Almanacs? There are some purists, I suppose, who refuse any aids whatsoever; but if you are willing to accept some assistance, then you ought to consider what a computer can do for you.

First of all, if you have one of those handy-dandy home jobs, you can program it to keep tabs on your entries. It will automatically place letters in the quotation when you have guessed at the clue. If you have guessed wrong, it can automatically erase at your command. That's just housekeeping.

Because of the several ways of cross checking during solution of a double-crostic, there are other possibilities. Every letter is doubly keyed. This means that if you can get a letter in the clues then you can get a letter in the quotation. Also if you can get probabilistic information about a letter in the clues then you can get probabilistic information about a letter in the quotation. The same holds vice-versa. Although the

differences are not very large, there are differences in the frequency distributions of letters which appear as first, second, . . . , last letters of words. These deviations could be used to obtain "probable" letters for clues and quotations. Then some clues could be guessed as starters -- providing a basis that would strengthen statistical information. Additional probabilistic information could be obtained from the poly-graphic roughness normally found in English words.

Yet another attack might be to build a file of "common" five-letter words (say). Then the computer could try each of these words in the five-letter spaces of the quotation. Once a particular five-letter trial was placed in the quote, it could be scored by observing its effects in the clues. In this way probably five-letter quotation words could be determined. Obviously the same would hold true for words of other lengths. (In general, the longer the word, the more reliable the score.)

I do not believe that an unaided computer could solve a double-cross-tic. But I have been wrong before. Are there any programmers out there who are intrigued enough to give the idea a try?

Word Games for Long Trips

Perhaps you are planning for your vacation this summer a long trip by car, bus, train, boat or plane. If so, you might like to keep your mind active by making word, name or phrase lists. For example, how many cliché comparatives can you think of? (Blind as a bat, brown as a berry, clear as a bell, . . .) Or, how many cities can you name that are celebrated in song? (Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Are You From Dallas, Moon Over Miami, . . .) You should be warned, of course, that lists like these are highly addictive. Here are some suggestions:

Color words: yellow fever, orange pekoe, red carpet, . . .

Doubled letter word pairs: cop/coop, rifle/riffle, carton/cartoon, . . .

Nearly-unique first names: Anouk Aimee, Hoagy Carmichael, Yma Sumac, . . .

Doubly-initialed people: B. F. Goodrich, H. G. Wells, J. C. Penney, . . .

Four-word phrases of form "---- in the ----": blues in the night, down in the mouth, farmer in the dell, . . .

Four-word phrases of form "---- of the ----": benefit of the doubt, end of the line, lily of the valley, . . .

Tell-tale middle names: Thomas Alva Edison, James Fenimore Cooper, John Pierpont Morgan, . . .

Somebody's something: Adam's apple, Brahm's lullaby, Charlie's aunt, . . .

Sidekicks: Tonto/Lone Ranger, Watson/Holmes, Robin/Batman, . . .

Triplets: bell, book and candle; health, education and welfare; lock, stock and barrel, . . .

If you really become addicted and need to enlarge your lists at all costs, back issues of Word Ways might be of some help.

Going Somewhere?

I was looking at my Collins Phrase Book the other day. It lists useful words, phrases and sentences in French, German and Italian. It is very handy when traveling.

The item that caught my eye was the sentence "That man is following me everywhere." It appeared in the French section under the heading General Difficulties. Turning to the corresponding headings of the German and Italian sections, I could find no such entry. One can only conclude that the problem of men in pursuit does not exist in Germany or Italy, but it is a problem in France.

Phrase books, such as my Collins, might be good indicators of national customs and habits. The differences between the items selected for translation would point out the differences between the nations. A quick test seemed appropriate.

Turning to the index for each section, I compared entries with initial letter S. The following lists show the differences of S-words:

French only: sandals, scald, scale, shaft, shingle, sick, skin, slang, snack, snails, sold, someone, soothe, splint, spokes, square, steak, sting, stove, striped, swerve

Not in French, but in other two: sardines, scissors, sightseeing, smelling salts, son, specialist, supper, supplement, surgeon, sweets
Interesting? The French like snails for a snack, but they scald their skin while cooking at the stove. The sting gets soothed, somehow. It's clear a surgeon can't help, nor can smelling salts.

German only: sailing, sculpture, sherry, short-circuit, soda, souvenir, sponge, spray, steamer, steeplechase, steps, stranger, syringe

Not in German, but in other two: salmon, screw, screwdriver, seasons, September, shave, shawl, shoulder, sitting room, slippers, slow, spark plug, spectacles, spitting, spring, standing room, steering wheel, strap, string, summer, Sunday, swollen

The Germans love the water. They sail, take the steamer, go sponge diving and get wet in ocean spray. They drink sherry and soda while admiring sculpture. They can't be very mechanical-minded, never having heard of screws, screwdrivers, spark plugs, springs or steering wheels.

Italian only: sand, Saturday, shade (color), shivering, silver, sledge, snow, sore, sorry, south, stewed fruits, stitch, straight, strong

Not in Italian, but in other two: sauce, side, skid, sleeves

It must be cold in Italy. They shiver in the snow while thinking south. But except for skidding, sleeves, and taking a little sauce on the side, the Italians have just about everything else that the French and the Germans do.

It Gives Me the Heebie-Jeebies

Have you ever noticed how many consonantal rhymes begin with H?

I would guess that they comprise close to 25%. To name a few: hand-stand, handy-dandy, hanky-panky, hell's bells, helter-skelter, Henny Penny, hickory dickory, hi-fi, higgledy-piggledy, hobnob, hobo, hocus-pocus, hoity-toity, hokey-pokey, Hong Kong, hoodoo, hootchy-kootchy, hotchpotch, hotsy-totsy, hubble-bubble, hugger-mugger, hull-gull, humdrum, Humpty Dumpty, hurdy-gurdy, hurly-burly, hurry-scurry, hustle-bustle. An interesting article by Iris M. Tiedt on "Rhyming Phenomena in English Words" is printed in the February 1973 issue of Word Ways.

Jiggery-Pokery

Everyone has heard of a limerick. Perhaps 93.71% of the readers of Word Ways have even composed a limerick. Limericks are fun. But so are Double Dactyls; yet how many readers even know about them?

Double Dactyls first made their appearance in the June 1966 issue of Esquire magazine. So you see they are a relatively new art form. My exposure to them, however, came with a birthday gift. A good friend gave me a copy of the Double Dactyl compendium, Jiggery-Pokery, edited by Anthony Hecht and John Hollander (Atheneum Press, New York, 1967). Since that wonderful day I have been a DD fan.

Higgledy-piggledy

Anton van Leeuwenhoek

Poking his nose at a

World very small

Started the science of

Microbiology

Watching the viruses

Wiggle and crawl.

You see? They are catchy, like limericks. They're short, too. And if they are well composed, they have a certain charm.

Hippity-hoppity

Emperor Hadrian

Travelled from Rome to all

Parts of the earth.

Britons and Scotsmen found

Archeologically

Stones of his wall and the

Proof of its worth.

Surprisingly, the rules are quite complicated. To compose a Double Dactyl you must obey the following:

1. there must be two stanzas of four lines each
2. the last lines of the two stanzas must rhyme
3. all lines must be composed of two dactylic feet, except the last (rhyming) which are truncated
4. the first line must be a nonsense phrase
5. the second line of the first stanza must be a name
6. one line of the second stanza (preferably the antepenultimate) must consist of a single double-dactylic word.

Not many people have double dactylic names. Perhaps as the DD craze catches on parents will name their children appropriately. The number of double-dactylic words, however, seems limited. This fact

alone will limit the craze and cause DDs to explode like supernovas and die off as soon. Now is the time to claim your double dactylic word. Write those stanzas. Register your word with the Regents.

Recreational Linguistics in the Art World

Have you ever seen a newspaper review of an art show or read something in an art magazine? You can find marvelous humor in the word play; but first you must be prepared to read with a detached view. Let me give you some examples of what can be found in serious discussions about an artist's work: "...black lines punctuating an expanse with a shout", "...jelling of abstract elements", "...feathery lines directing the construction of major planes then retiring to crucial junctures", "...the figure is in a 1-1 scale relationship with an abstract element", "...flowing aureoles of light produce an uneasy mystic and tumid quality", "...pre Utopian space where graze and kiss the wet-lipped fauna of utter Decency", "...The overwrought surfaces empower the forms and gestures of his general figurative types with the mortal warmth of their own exacerbated application."

Beautiful! These quotes were taken from different articles, so they represent the style of more than one author. The humor probably does not lie in the words themselves but in the fact that the authors take them so seriously. I am not alone in this belief. Some years ago there was a special exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art. It was titled "Gnostic Reductions". None of the 'paintings' were larger than two inches on a side. All were measured in millimeters. All looked like blobs of color, some with scratches. But alongside each of these works of art was a description of the painting. Each description was at least 20 times the size of the item described; and each description was filled with lofty phrases and sentiments similar to those quoted above. It is heartening to me that the museum could see and display the humor of its reviewers.

But just last night there was a concert at the Kennedy Center. Its reviewer said ...

More Rebuses - of a Type

It's rather obvious that rebuses can be constructed by modifying a normal English alphabet. For example, the word DEFORM could be represented by ABCDEFGHIJKLDENOPQRSTUVWXYZ, wherein the M is replaced by DE, giving DE for M. What words do the following modified alphabets represent?

1. ABCDEF EHIJKL MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
2. ABCDEFGHIJKL TNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
3. ABCDEFGHIJKL MNOPQRSTUVWXYZB
4. ABCDEFGHIJKL MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ Y
5. NCEABDFGHIJKL MOPQRSTUVWXYZ
6. ABCDFGHIJKL MNOPQSTUVWXYZRE
7. REABCDEFGHIJKL MNOPQSTUVWXYZ
8. BCDEGHIJKL MOPQRSTUVWXYZ

9. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 10. BCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 11. ACDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 12. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRUVWXYZ

Double Crash

In the following three problems you are to find 'hidden' words by deduction. To help you do this, I have listed probe words and the number of 'hits' each probe word has with the hidden words. A hit between a probe and a hidden word occurs when the two words have the same letter in the same position. Thus BRINE and GREEN have one hit in the second position, the R. The N's and the E's do not hit since they do not occur in the same positions. When comparing the probe with the hidden words, you must count all hits. Thus if the hidden words were CLOSE and SHAVE, the probe word STORE would have a total of four hits (two for the O and E of CLOSE, two for the S and E of SHAVE). Note that you will be trying to find two hidden words for each set of probes.

Problem 1

CL I C K 3 hits
 B R I N K 2 hits
 C H A I N 2 hits
 H A V O C 2 hits
 M O G U L 2 hits
 B R I N E 1 hit
 D A T U M 1 hit
 C R O O N 0 hits
 H O V E L 0 hits
 S H A I N E 0 hits

Problem 2

S O U T H 3 hits
 P R E S S 2 hits
 T O R C H 2 hits
 Y E A R N 2 hits
 P A R T Y 1 hit
 S P I L L 1 hit
 F L E S H 0 hits
 P A R C H 0 hits
 P E C A N 0 hits
 S P O I L 0 hits
 W H I T E 0 hits

Problem 3

C E L E R Y 4 hits
 I N S A N E 4 hits
 R E C E N T 4 hits
 I T S E L F 3 hits
 R E C O R D 3 hits
 A S P I R E 2 hits
 D O C K E T 2 hits
 D O G G E D 2 hits
 I N S I D E 2 hits
 S T R A F E 1 hit
 S T R I N G 1 hit
 A P P O S E 0 hits
 C O G N A C 0 hits
 E A R W I G 0 hits
 E N G U L F 0 hits
 G R O G G Y 0 hits
 R O C K E R 0 hits
 S T R I F E 0 hits

What are the three pairs of hidden words? Answers are given in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.

Ravenisms

Some time ago I had a boss who had to be one of the world's best entrepreneurs. He frequently spoke of "sticking one's neck out on a limb". Now that's really taking a chance! Another one of his favorite expressions was "We're in a new ball park from the word 'go'."

It's rather fun to mix cliches. Try it. You'll like it. Here are some starters:

Out on a limb without a paddle
 Don't pull the wool over my leg
 Mad as a wet hatter

Barking up his sleeve
 Chewing the breeze
 Don't burn your bridges at both ends
 Flipping straws
 Keep your ear to the grapevine
 Skim the cream off the crop
 He had his back to the handwriting on the wall
 Put one's oar in the ring
 Don't count your blessings before they hatch
 Born with a silver foot in his mouth

The "barking up his sleeve" example has been previously cited in *Word Ways*, by Dave Silverman in the November 1970 *Kickshaws*. Many more examples are given by Hap and Mary Hazard in "Malaproverbs" in the November 1975 *Word Ways*.

Unfamiliar VIPs

Do you know the names of the people credited with inventing the bicycle, gyroscope, friction match, nitroglycerine? If you refer to an *Information Please Almanac* you will find them to be Karl D. von Sauerbronn, Leon Foucault, John Walker and Ascanio Sobrero. Had I given you their names first, would you have been able to tell me that they were all inventors? Certainly their inventions are all well-known and important to modern life. But the inventors themselves are 'unfamiliar VIPs'.

Find the common property of the following lists of people:

1. George Clinton, Daniel Thompson, Richard Johnson, George Dallas, William King, Henry Wilson, William Wheeler, Thomas Hendricks, Levi Morton, Garret Hobart, Charles Fairbanks, James Sherman, Thomas Marshall
2. Henryk Sienkiewicz, Giosue Carducci, Rudolf Eucken, Paul Heyse, Romain Rolland, Verner von Heidenstam, Carl Spitteler, Jacinto Benavente, Wladyslaw Reymont, Grazia Deledda
3. Carter Braxton, Abram Clark, George Clymer, William Ellery, William Floyd, Lyman Hall, John Hart, Joseph Hewes, Thomas Heyward Jr., William Hooper, Stephen Hopkins, Samuel Huntington
4. William B. Renner, C. L. Brown, M. T. Stamper, Willard C. Butcher, Edward R. Kane, C. H. Chandler, Elliott M. Estes, John R. Opel, William P. Tavoulareas, A. Dean Swift, David M. Roderick

If you cannot make any headway at all on any of the lists, you have scored about the same as 95% of humanity. You can find the answers at the back of this issue of *Word Ways*, but see if you can discover the common properties by using some references first.