

ENGELS, ENGELS... 'n uitdaging

Tale en die letterkunde tel nie onder die vakgebiede waarin die Nasionale Museum spesialiseer nie. Ons kan egter nie die versoeking weerstaan om die onderstaande "gedig" wat in Mei 1971 in *Tegniek* verskyn het, hier weer te gee nie. Dit is oorspronklik gedurende die Tweede Wêreldoorlog geskryf deur 'n Nederlander – wat nogal sy Engels geken het – en in Londen gepubliseer in die koerant *VRIJ NEDERLAND*, destyds die mondstuk van die Nederlanders in ballingskap.

Almal weet Engels is 'n snaakse taal. Hy spel sy woorde op een manier en spreek dit dan heel anders uit. Daarom behels ons uitdaging die volgende: Lees die "gedig" hardop en spreek elke woord honderd persent korrek uit sonder om te strukel of te herhaal. Die prys – as daar 'n wenner is? 'n Gratis eksemplaar van elke toekomstige uitgawe van hierdie Nuusbrief. (Sorg asseblief dat ons u naam en adres het!)

*Dearest creature in creation,
Studying English pronunciation,
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse and worse.
I will keep you, Susy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy,
Tear in eye, your dress you'll tear,
So shall I! Oh, hear my prayer -
Pray console your loving poet,
Make my coat look new, dear, sew it!
Just compare heart, beard and beard,
Diet, diet, lord and word,
Sword, and sward, retain and Britain
(Mind the latter, how it's written).
Made has not the sound of bade;
Say – said; pay – paid; laid, but plaid.
Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as vague and argue,
But be careful how you speak
Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;
Previous, precious, fuchsia, via,
Pipe, snipe, recipe, choir,
Cloven, oven, how and low;
Script, receipt, shoe, poem, toe.
Hear me say, devoid of trickery,
Daughter, laughter and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,
Exiles, similes, reviles,
Wholly, holly, signal, signing,
Thames, examining, combining;
Scholar, vicar and cigar,
Solar, mica, war and far.
From desire, desirable; admirable from admire.
Lumber, plumber; hier but brier,
Chatham, brougham, renown, but known,
From knowledge, done, but gone and tone;
One, anemone; Balmoral;
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;
Gertrude, German wind and mind,
Scene, Melpomene, mankind;
Tortoise, turquoise, chamois-leather,
Reading, reading, beather, beather.
This phonetic labyrinth
Gives moss, gross, brook, brooch, ninth and plinth.
Billet does not sound like ballet;
Bouquet; wallet, mallet, chalet;
Blood and flood are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.
Banquet gives no clue to parquet,
Which is said to rhyme with darky.
Viscious, viscount; load and broad;
Toward, to forward; to reward,
Your pronunciation's okay
When you say, correctly, croquet;
Rounded, wounded; live and grieve;
Friend and fiend; alive and sleeve.
Liberty, library, heave and heaven:
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven,
We say hallowed but allowed;
People, leopard; towed; but vowed.
Mark the difference, moreover,
Twixt mover, plover, and then Dover.
Leeches, breaches; wise, precise,
Chalice, but police and lice,
Camel, constable, unstable;
Principle, disciple; label;
Petal penal and canal;
Wait, suprise, plait, promise, pal;
Suit, suite, ruin; circuit, conduit,
Rhyme with "shirk it" and "beyond it",
But it's very hard to tell
Why it's pall, mall, but Pall Mall.
Muscle, muscular; goal; iron;*

*Timber, climber; bullion, lion;
Worm and storm; chaise, chaos, chair;
Senator, spectator, mayor;
Ivy, privy; famous; clamour
And enamour rhymes with hammer.
Pussy, hussy, and possess;
Desert, dessert, and address.
Golf, wolf, countenance; lieutenants;
Hoist, in lieu of flags, left pennants.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
Doll and roll and some and home.
Stranger does not sound like anger,
Neither does devour like clangour.
Soul but foul, and gaunt but aunt;
Font, front, wont, want, grand and grant;
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,
Then say singer, ginger, linger.
Real and zeal; mauve; gauze and gauge;
Marriage, foliage, mirage, age.
Query does not rhyme with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury,
Dost, lost, post, doth, cloth and loth;
Job, job, blossom, bosom, oath.
Though the difference seems little,
We say actual but victual;
Seat and sweat; chaste, paste and caste
Leigh and eight and freight and height
Put, nut; granite and unite.
Feoffer does not rhyme with heifer,
Nor does reefer rhyme with zephyr.
Dull, bull; Geoffrey, George; ate, late;
Hint, pint; senate and sedate.
Scenic, phrenic, and pacific;
Science, conscience; scientific;
Tour, but our; and succour, four;
Core provides a rhyme for door.
Gas, alas, and pass, and was –
Dickens started off as "Boz".
Sea, idea, guinea, area;
Psalm and charm; Maria, malaria;
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean;
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.
Look up alien and Italian;
Dandelion and battalion.
Sallied, allied, yea and ye –
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, key, quay!
Say aver, but ever, fever;
Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver,
Never guess – it is not safe;
Face, but preface and efface,
Phlegm, phlegmatic; ass, glass, bass;
We say calves, valves, half but Ralph.
Heron, granary, canary,
Crevice, and device, and eyrie,
Large, but target; gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust and scour; and urging.
Ear, but eam; and wear and tear
Do not rhyme with here but there.
Seven is right and so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew, Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, clerk and jerk;
Asp, grasp, wasp; and cork and work.
Tunnel surely rhymes with funnel?
Yes it does – and so does gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,
Housewife, verdict and indict,
Aren't you mixed up, reader, rather,
Saying father, bather, father?
Finally, what rhymes with tough –
Though, through, plough or cough? Enough?
Hiccough has the sound of "cup" –
My advice is – give it up!*

Swepe



J.O.P.

Mnr. J.P. van den Berg (links), baassweepopleier van Seringlaan 6, Botbaville het onlangs vier nuutgevegte swepe aan die Museum geskenk, naamlik: 'n Boeresweep van blouwildebeesvel wat aan die een kant met die naald toegewerk is; 'n Koedoewelsweep met drie rieme geveleg, 'n Handsambok van koedoewel en 'n Cowboy-sweep wat met agt koedoewelnempies geveleg is. Mnr. van den Berg het homself hierdie kunsgeleer deur swepe te koop, dit los te torring en oor te vleg. By bom is mnr. A.G. Halliday wat behulpsaam is met die brei van velle.

BANTU SCHOOLS



J.O.P.

Edwin Mobatlane, guide-lecturer seconded to the Museum by the Department of Bantu Education proudly displays a beer sieve, brooms and grass mats donated by the pupils of the Popa Primary School, Maseru, Lesotho.

The guide-lecturer now handles about 1 400 school children per month.