

# Double-Croctic No. 73

by Thomas H. Middleton

## INSTRUCTIONS

If you've never solved one of these puzzles, it will probably look much more difficult than it actually is. If you can answer only a very few of the WORDS correctly, you're on your way to solving the puzzle.

Fill in the numbered blanks of all the WORDS you can guess, and write the letter of each numbered blank in its correspondingly numbered square in the diagram. The letters printed in the upper right-hand corners of the squares indicate from what WORD a particular square's letter comes.

The diagram, when filled in, should read as a quotation from a published work. The dark squares are the spaces between words. If there is no dark square at the end of a line, a word may carry over to the line below.

The first letter of each WORD, reading down, will spell the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

You should find yourself seeing words and phrases taking form in the diagram; so you can work back and forth, from WORDS to diagram and from diagram to WORDS, until the diagram is filled in.

1	U	2	Z	3	F	4	B	5	A	6	P	7	G	8	D	9	M	10	J	11	Z	12	T	13	C	14	Q	15	O	16	K
17	H	18	W	19	Z <sup>1</sup>	20	Y	21	W	22	G	23	R	24	P	25	A	26	D	27	Z	28	H	29	V	30	B	31	X	32	A
33	U	34	Q	35	J	36	L	37	M	38	Q	39	D	40	F	41	J	42	L	43	V	44	L	45	K	46	R	47	Y	48	E
49	A	50	T	51	C	52	O	53	Z <sup>1</sup>	54	H	55	G	56	W	57	Q	58	V	59	X	60	R	61	Z	62	C	63	F	64	J
65	K	66	E	67	X	68	S	69	B	70	F	71	C	72	P	73	I	74	T	75	E	76	Y	77	S	78	Z	79	P	80	F
81	Z	82	B	83	P	84	N	85	G	86	X	87	Z <sup>2</sup>	88	N	89	E	90	W	91	D	92	A	93	X	94	Z	95	L	96	X
97	U	98	Y	99	P	100	B	101	W	102	Q	103	A	104	T	105	C	106	V	107	Y	108	M	109	G	110	C	111	J	112	F
113	U	114	V	115	B	116	T	117	I	118	R	119	Z	120	Z	121	L	122	N	123	W	124	K	125	D	126	C	127	E	128	O
129	O	130	S	131	M	132	A	133	L	134	V	135	Z <sup>2</sup>	136	B	137	H	138	N	139	L	140	A	141	I	142	D	143	X	144	L
145	S	146	X	147	J	148	Z <sup>1</sup>	149	S	150	M	151	W	152	H	153	A	154	O	155	Z	156	U	157	F	158	V	159	X	160	S
161	I	162	G	163	O	164	Z	165	J	166	Z	167	L	168	N	169	A	170	B	171	W	172	Z <sup>1</sup>	173	X	174	D	175	W	176	H
177	J	178	L	179	X	180	I	181	I	182	W	183	P	184	H	185	R	186	B	187	Y	188	M	189	C	190	E	191	X	192	K
193	P	194	J	195	Z <sup>1</sup>	196	Z <sup>1</sup>	197	I	198	C	199	S	200	H	201	Q	202	T	203	K	204	T	205	M	206	D	207	W	208	S
209	Z <sup>1</sup>	210	E	211	Q	212	I	213	J	214	T	215	O	216	L	217	Q	218	C	219	B	220	Z <sup>1</sup>	221	H	222	G	223	J	224	Z <sup>1</sup>
225	E	226	D	227	L	228	Q	229	R	230	C	231	Z <sup>1</sup>	232	T	233	G	234	K	235	A	236	Z <sup>1</sup>	237	U	238	M	239	F	240	P
241	S	242	Q	243	U	244	Y	245	K	246	R	247	Y	248	E	249	S	250	M	251	D	252	A	253	X	254	B	255	E	256	Z

- CLUES**
- A. Monkeyshines
  - B. Batons, billies
  - C. Embossed, inlaid (of a decorative object)
  - D. "Thou art \_\_\_\_\_ calamity," Friar Laurence tells Romeo (2 wds.)
  - E. Term applied sometimes to Edinburgh, sometimes to Copenhagen (2 wds., followed by WORD G)
  - F. Ruckus, hullabaloo
  - G. See WORD E (2 wds.)
  - H. Without equal
  - I. Insane
  - J. Son of Deucalion and Pyrrha; first man to mix wine with water
  - K. First run of the still (2 wds.)
  - L. Ridiculed or dismissed as absurd (2 wds.)
  - M. Undiplomatic
  - N. Dull, routine (comp.)

- WORDS**
- 5 25 32 49 92 103 235 132 140 153 169
  - 170 219 4 30 69 82 100 115 136 186
  - 189 13 51 105 126 198 218 230 71
  - 125 142 174 206 226 8 26 39
  - 48 66 75 89 127 190 210 225
  - 239 3 40 63 70 80 112 157
  - 162 222 233 7 22 55 85 109
  - 152 176 184 200 221 17 28 54 137
  - 141 161 41 73 197 117 180 212
  - 223 64 177 194 213 111 147 165 10 35
  - 45 65 203 234 16 192 124
  - 167 178 216 36 121 139 227 42 144 95
  - 108 131 150 188 205 238 9 37
  - 88 122 138 168 84

- CLUES**
- O. Invested with sovereign authority
  - P. Small, antisubmarine warship (2 wds.)
  - Q. Unimportant persons or things
  - R. Ancient city in West Asia Minor, SSE of Izmir
  - S. English playwright (1829-71; *Society, Caste*)
  - T. Show off
  - U. Rare trivalent metallic element, found in gadolinite, etc.
  - V. One of Disney's Seven Dwarfs
  - W. English poet and critic (1881-1938; *Emblems of Love, Deborah*)
  - X. Dominated; behaved arrogantly and dictatorially toward (3 wds.)
  - Y. Supple, flexible, especially of body
  - Z. Astray (3 wds.)
  - Z<sup>1</sup>. Legal right of possession
  - Z<sup>2</sup>. Trim, spruce, foppish

- WORDS**
- 91 128 154 163 15 52 62 110 215
  - 240 6 24 72 83 99 119 183 193
  - 201 57 211 14 38 228 34 242 102 129 217
  - 46 185 229 79 118 23 60
  - 68 77 130 149 160 199 241 145 208
  - 104 116 204 214 181 74 202 12 232 50
  - 156 237 1 33 44 97 113
  - 43 58 134 158 114 29 106
  - 18 56 171 90 182 101 151 123 21 175 207
  - 96 67 146 143 159 31 191 59 86 179 173 93
  - 107 187 20 47 76 98
  - 94 120 11 27 2 164 81 155 61 166 78
  - 133 53 236 195 172 231 148 196 209
  - 19 135 87 224 220

Answer to Double-Croctic No. 72 appears on page 59.

## Spelling Airers

It was a nice ego trip for me to get a letter from Louis Untermeyer asking my help with a word. He says, "As a confirmed cat-lover, I am an aelurophile. The word is frequently in print—most recently in a *New York Times* account of a cat show—but *aelurophile* isn't in any of the three dictionaries on my shelves. It's not in the *American Heritage* or the *Webster's New World* or even in the omniscient *OED*."

I'd heard the word *aelurophile* and was surprised he couldn't find it; so I checked in all my dictionaries. It's in *Webster's New International*, Third Edition. *WNI III* has been criticized by a great many people, usually because it doesn't stick to the gospel as set forth in *WNI II*. We do tend to resist change. Great as Webster's Second is, the Third is more valuable—to me, at least—in 1975. For instance, it contains *aelurophile*. Where the definition should be, it says "var. of AILUROPHILE" and under *ailurophile* it says, "a cat fancier: a lover of cats," which is essentially what it says in *Random House* under *ailurophile*. Evidently, the *Times* likes the var. sp., as we puzzle-makers often put it.

*WNI II* doesn't have the word at all. It does tell us that *Ailuroidea* is "A group of Carnivora including the cats, civets, and hyenas," and now the thing gets muddled. Try to follow this: *ailuroidea*, in Webster's Third, is listed "syn. of AELUROIDEA," which is then described as "a superfamily of Carnivora comprising the cats, civets, hyenas. . . ." Back in *WNI II*, *aeluro-* is given as "A combining form from Greek *ailouros*, cat." All of which I find confusing. Anyway, if it

hadn't been for *Webster's Third*, Mr. Untermeyer and I wouldn't have learned any of this.

Our problem points up one of the major reasons why there's always a movement afoot somewhere to change the spelling of the English language into something more reasonable. You can't look up a word unless you have at least the first few letters right. If a kid says, "Dad, how do you spell *fisickle*?" and Dad, hoping to teach self-reliance as well as spelling, says, "Look it up," he'll just be jamming a larger wedge into the generation gap.

It might be a good idea to have a dictionary that lists wrong spellings, as well as variant spellings: NEW-MAT-IC: wrong spelling of *pneumatic*.

In fact, if you're not busy for the next few months, you might take that up as a project. *A Dictionary of Incorrect Spellings*. No library should be without it.

There's one word that's rarely spelled right in any newspaper, and it's a word that's easy to look up, even in a dictionary of correct spellings. The word is *nauseam*, as in the expression *ad nauseam*. It's always spelled *nauseum*: "The bleeding-heart liberals still go on insisting *ad nauseum* that the death penalty . . ."

A week ago, I'd have said that *nauseum* is incontrovertibly wrong and that the correct spelling is, was, and always will be *ad nauseam*, because the word is Latin and we can't change a Latin spelling simply because so many people get it wrong. Now, I'm not so sure. If *aeluro-* can be a combining form from Greek *ailouros* (which is worse, since it messes with the beginning of the word, causing problems for *The New York Times*, Louis Untermeyer, and me), *nauseum*

could possibly become a var. sp. of *nauseam*. Sickening.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the one dictionary I own that lists *aelurophile* with that spelling, along with its definition, "a cat-lover." It's *Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary*, by Josefa Heifetz Byrne. The full title, in case you're not familiar with it, is *Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words*.

I've never met Mrs. Byrne, but the jacket of her dictionary says she's a concert pianist and composer. Her husband, Robert Byrne, edited the dictionary and wrote the introduction. It's a smallish dictionary, claiming "6,000 of the weirdest words in the English language," and I'm grateful to Mrs. Byrne for having compiled it. She lists such words as *quakebuttock* (a coward) and one of my favorites, *philoxenist* (one who is happiest while entertaining strangers), as well as a word consisting of 1,913 letters. Remember poor old *antidisestablishmentarianism*? The 1,913-letter epic is the chemical name for tryptophan synthetase. A protein, thank God; so you'll probably never have to use it or even understand it.

I got *Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary* thanks to Mrs. Brace Paddock, of Pittsfield, Mass., who, at the age of 97, is still solving Double-Crostics. I met Mrs. Paddock's granddaughter, Joan Maxwell, a couple of months ago, and Mrs. Maxwell gave me a copy of the dictionary "for giving my grandmother so much pleasure." I hereby publicly express my gratitude to Mrs. Paddock, Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Byrne, and to Mr. Untermeyer, for asking me about *aelurophile* in the first place. □

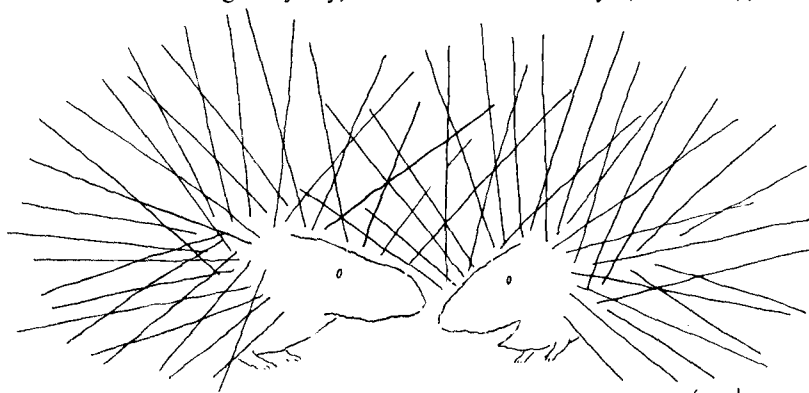
### ANSWER TO MIDDLETON DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 72

JAMES CAMERON:  
AN INDIAN SUMMER

The fatalism of the poor in India is not apathy but disassociation from unhappiness, just as the cruel indifference of the rich around them is not necessarily callous, or cynical, but an equal acceptance of the *dharma* that feeds them and keeps others hungry.

Answer to *Wit Twister* (see page 36):  
clapst, septal, staple, patels, plates, petals,  
tepals, pleats, palets, palest, pastel.

Answer to *Literary Crypt No. 33* (see  
page 45): the English may not like  
music, but they absolutely love the noise  
it makes. Thomas Beecham



"You tickle."