

PASS

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE MASTERMIND CLUB

SUMMER 1999

Accounts

Millennium or no?

Facts v. intelligence

Welcome to Carlisle

Master Quiz Round 2 answers

Mugnum answers

Revisionism rules OK?

20th-century celebrities

A Cambridge dozen



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IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to welcome three more new members to the Mastermind Club. The Rev. Christopher Carter became the 1999 Champion, winning on passes – the first winner (I think) in the 27-year history of the programme to do so. Also welcome to Chris Harrison and Richard Humphrey. I hope that they will all have a long and happy association with the Club.

I am hoping to distribute a new membership list with the next edition of PASS. The list has been revamped after a lot of work on the word processor. If you have an email address to include in the list, please let me have it before the end of October. I hope all members enjoy their summer holidays and I look forward to meeting some of you at the lunch in London in September.

Last but not least, many congratulations to Margery Elliott on her recent 80th Birthday.

New members

920 Christopher F. Carter

921 Chris Harrison, 21 Lansdowne

922 Richard Humphrey

PASS

SUMMER 1999

PASS NOTES

Craig Scott, Editor

Jack Clark's diary

First of all, apologies once again, particularly to Jack Clark, for the omission of his diary of the Function. The artwork went astray somewhere between here and the printers (opinions differ as to just where!). With this issue, we return to our former printers, the Chameleon Press, so we'll see if that makes a difference.

Holiday snap

This little guy (right) is one of the performing opossums I mentioned last time, captured in the act of trying to force entry to our chalet at Freycinet Lodge in Tasmania. That's our screen door he's sunk his claws into and is tugging at. He'd obviously done it before.

Sports desk

I usually start Saturday mornings with *Transworld Sport*, Channel 4's weekly magazine programme. I don't usually expect to see Club members in this context, so imagine my surprise at being confronted with Paul Campion, appearing as spokesman for the Croquet Association. Paul commends croquet to members as "a game for thinkers; a game for strategists".

Ad ardua Mensa

A matter has come up which I thought best to refer to you. Normally I figure that, within reason, members wanting to publicise their own enterprises – whether Patricia Owen's book, Mike Meakin's bike ride, or Michael Schwarz's spices – ought to have free access to PASS to do so. Now Glenys Hopkins (see page 5) has approached me on behalf of Mensa to inquire about advertising for that organisation in PASS. How do you feel about this? Do we take the money and run, or would you rather that PASS remain free of ads like the BBC?



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LETTERS, NEWS AND VIEWS

From Howard Pizzey

I was disappointed not to get on *Mastermind* this year, but by way of consolation I won *Mastermind of Kent*, broadcast on BBC Radio Kent – the final went out on Sunday 27 June. The format was similar to the original *Mastermind*, except that for all contestants the specialist subject was Kent. It may not have been as prestigious as winning the real *Mastermind*, but I walked away with a winner's cheque for £500, more than I would have got on the real thing!

Spicy news from Michael Schwartz

GRILLED FISH by the banks of the Bosphorus. Fresh tzatziki, one of the world's best-loved hors d'oeuvres. Succulent meats awaiting the skewer of the kebab or the charcoal of the barbecue. What do they have in common? Sumac. One of the most versatile spices in the world, but almost totally unknown in the UK.

So what is sumac? It is a crushed berry coarsely ground to let out its lemony-salty flavour. As if the unique pleasantly astringent flavour of sumac is not enough, it will stand out in any display of herbs and spices because of its rich colour – burgundy-red. Quite simply sumac is a culinary and visual treasure which the citizens of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Iran have long kept to themselves. Ideas for sumac include sprinkling it over humus, tzatziki and taramasalata, and then twisting a fork through the sumac to create beautiful patterns. For main courses, chicken and lamb casseroles can be seasoned with the burgundy of sumac, and combined with pre-fried onions and glazed carrots to bring out an autumnal array of colour. Or just sprinkle sumac over kebabs and barbecues. Sumac was known to the Romans, who substituted it for vinegar. Now you can obtain sumac from us at "Elegant Imports" in St Albans, Britain's best-known Roman city.

I've been kitchen-testing my sample of sumac ("shameless bribery", I hear you say) and he's right; it is an interesting new taste which I commend to your attention – Ed.

An appeal from Mike Meakin

During April 2000, I and other volunteers will be taking part in a serious sponsored bike ride across the top of Borneo (Sabah). This is to raise money for, and publicise, the organisation Sense (charity no. 289868), which is Britain's largest charity for the deafblind.

As well as the obvious physical effort involved, I also need to raise at least £2000 or else I cannot take part. The money will go towards transforming and improving the quality of life for deafblind people in Britain.

For more information on Sense and/or if you would like to sponsor me in this endeavour, please phone me or email me. I look forward to hearing from you.

In any case, please listen out for me in the next *Mastermind* series, which will be just before I (hopefully) go to Borneo. I already know that I shall be on in the spring as I was an uncalled substitute earlier this year.



MILLENNIUM?

Lance Haward sets things straight

IT'S REFRESHING THAT THE CLUB HASN'T SO FAR, like almost every other institution in this country, got into a frenzy about the imminence or not of the Third Millennium. But because it's no doubt only a matter of time before it too falls into this lunatic turmoil, may I attempt to get it off to a sound, if belated, start by putting straight the facts which virtually everybody else seems hell-bent on getting chaotically mangled?

Firstly, the passing of a millennium does not mark the Birth of Christ, which almost certainly occurred before 4 B.C. (as now paradoxically cited): the third millennium since that Birth probably arrived around 1995, at some now unascertainable time of year. That is: assuming, as we justifiably may on the basis of textual analysis alone, that Matthew's reference to Herod the King, whose terminal dates are a matter of record, is not mere idle invention. (Unascertainable? Well, the only deduction available from the record would be that Jesus was probably born around mid- to late November, as it happens.)

What it does mark is the completion of a cycle of ten centuries of the Christian Era, as retrospectively and erroneously computed by Dionysius Exiguus around 530 A.D., in calculating that the Birth took place in the year 753 A.U.C. of the Roman Calendar (4th year of the 194th Olympiad), now called 1 A.D.. (There is no year 0.) Originally, as assigned by Dionysius, that year commenced on the 1st of March, then the beginning of the liturgical year (cf. Christian Advent); from around the Seventh Century, on the amended first day of the liturgical year, the 25th of March (i.e., the original choice of the Roman Kalends being amended to take account of the newly instituted Feast of the Annunciation, itself computed by the subtraction of nine months from the Nativity, that had replaced the Classical observance of the Saturnalia.) It currently commences, however, at midnight on the 31st of December, by reason of a subsidiary measure of the calendar reform of Gregory XIII introduced in 1582. The Roman year having originally commenced in March, as still evidenced by the surviving names of the last four months,

was brought forward to January in 143 B.C. to allow Fulvius Nobilior to commence his consulship — and his command of the army! — at a moment of crisis. March was retained for ceremonial purposes — hence Dionysius' first choice — but January re-adopted for most purposes by the Gregorian reform.

The Dionysian Era was officially adopted at the Council of Chelsea in 816. First regnal dating to employ it was Charles III of Germany's citation of his accession in 879.

Thus, the wholly arbitrary cycle of two millennia, which is significant purely for citation and record purposes rather than those of commemoration, will be complete, if one discounts the Gregorian reform, at midnight on either the 28th of February, or 24th of March, 2001!!

If one wishes to make allowance for that reform, then it really starts to become less straightforward. To begin with, one has to decide whether "year" is to equal 365/6 days (sunrises) or one earth-revolution of the sun. If the latter, the cycle indeed terminates at midnight on the 31st of December, 2000; if the former, then by reinstatement of the eleven days subtracted by Gregory from the total of 730,485 (I think — allowing for Leap Days) at midnight on the 11th of January, 2001!! (I'm no astronomer. Someone better instructed than myself will no doubt point out some consequence, that I've failed to take into account, of the earth's "wobble" and the difference between True Solar Time and Mean Solar Time, the "sidereal" or the "solar" day.)

All of which is, moreover, to assume that one is neither Abyssinian nor Coptic Orthodox, when the accession of Diocletian on the 29th of August, 284, becomes material (inaugurating the "Era of Martyrs" — hence the alternative Western citation, the "Year of Grace"); nor Armenian, when one has a further choice of the 9th of July or 11th of August, 552, for reasons, believe me, too obscure even for this exhaustive analysis!!

AND LASTLY, the matter of simple mathematics, for the benefit of those who did not learn arithmetic at school. A millennium comprises ten centuries. A century equals a

MEMORY AND/OR INTELLIGENCE

Glenys Hopkins

DO YOU GET TIRED OF BEING TOLD that “Of course a good memory for facts has Nothing to do with Real Intelligence”? This usually from the sort of person who seems to think that their inability to remember facts must mean that all their mental capacity is employed on higher things, even though their conversation and interests demonstrate a level of cerebral activity hardly adequate to enable them to change TV channels.

As well as obtaining and retaining information you have to be able to retrieve it quickly and, in my opinion, this is where intelligence does make a great difference. Of course, the debate still continues (OK, not in my local pub, possibly not in yours, but here and there it does, really) on What is Intelligence. Whatever it is, the Cattell tests which are rather like the intelligence test used in the old 11+ exam, purport to test for this elusive quality, and are used by Mensa to test for its membership qualification.

The Mensa test is aimed at those whose intelligence puts them in the top 2% of the population. Using very approximate arithmetic, with a U.K. population of about 50 million, one million would be eligible. Of this million, fewer than 40,000 are actually members, so only 1 in 25 of the potential members are, for whatever reason, members

of Mensa. The Mastermind Club has about 400 members. If the distribution of intelligence across our members is typical of the UK population, eight of us would be eligible for membership of Mensa, but none of us would actually have joined. I am a member of both organizations, and was curious to see if there was a correlation between Fact people and Intelligence people. So one wet afternoon, I checked the Mastermind membership against the Mensa membership and guess what, 37, yes, thirty-seven of us are also in Mensa. Now we come to a nice little paradox. Only 1 in 25 of those eligible for Mensa actually join, so the Mastermind Club must have 37 x 25, 925 members who could join Mensa if they wanted to! Where are these 500 or so invisible members?

One obvious reason for the disproportionate presence of Mensans in the Mastermind Club is that both organisations consist of people who are interested in their own mental abilities, but even so, almost 10% of us in an organisation which is open only to those in the top 2% of the population in terms of intelligence, gives us a useful response to those who deny any link between Quizz-ability and intelligence.

MILLENNIUM?

Continued

hundred — legionaries, runs, years, whatever. No rational being ever proposes the expedient of counting one hundred as $-1 + 1-99$; the present era has never yet been regarded as beginning in 1 B.C. in order that the First Century might conclude in 99 A.D. Nor is the batsman run out at 99 seen to be dancing on his bat in sheer triumph. TAKE THESE HARD FACTS TOGETHER and the conclusions are perfectly simple: the end of the year 2000 A.D. has nothing at all to do with the Birth of Christ and not much

to do with a millennium of our present calendar. For anyone looking to catch pneumonia by swimming in Trafalgar Square it may be regarded, on one definition of the term “year”, as marking the elapse of the ten centuries (give or take a few Gregorian days) that now constitute the Second Millennium for convenience’ sake. However, the end of the year 1999 has nothing at all to do with anything other than the end of the year 1999.

WELCOME TO CARLISLE 2000

Stewart Cross provides a taster for next year's function

CARLISLE, THE FIRST VENUE of the new millennium for the Mastermind Club weekend, is a highly attractive one. Everything the city is, it owes to its strategic position as the last bastion of the English. It was the centre of numerous sieges and confrontations with the Scots, keeping its watchful eye over the ebb and flow in the 'Debatable Lands'. As time passes this year, we will know whether the city will welcome you with glass pyramids, *à la Louvre*, or not. The fierce political battle that has raged over this Millennium project has culminated in Labour losing control of a council they have held undisturbed for 23 years. Cumbrians, when they put their minds to it, can startle even themselves (not to mention the still bemused Tories!) Personally I think the pyramids will be there, if only because the existing hole in the ground, complete with foundations, is impossible to ignore!

ENOUGH OF LOCAL POLITICS. The castle is a good place to start. The massive keep dates from the twelfth century and this, together with the warden's apartments above the main entrance, are the principal remains of the old medieval castle. Both the hall in which Edward I held his parliament, (he died at nearby Burgh, where a memorial stands guard overlooking the Solway) and the rooms where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned, are long since gone. However, the keep is a wonderful one, and very atmospheric. In the dungeon are licking stones, where countless prisoners, desperate for water, have tried to drink from seepage through the porous sandstone. On the third floor are rather enigmatic carvings, at one time assumed to be done by prisoners, but more likely to have been carved by bored soldiers during one of the many sieges the castle has endured. On the top floor, in the area given over to the history of the Jacobite rebellion, is a model of Carlisle in 1745, still totally within its walls, and,

if you manage the somewhat precarious steps to the battlements, still clearly apparent in the layout of the modern city. The cathedral and the well-preserved West walls enable you to get your bearings at once and trace the line of the missing fortifications, with its English, Scottish and Irish gates. At the furthest point lie the twin towers of the Citadel, a reconstruction of the original one built by Henry VIII adjacent to the English gate.

THE CATHEDRAL DATES FROM NORMAN TIMES and boasts some of the finest stained glass from the Decorated Gothic period in the country. Some claim it is better even than York Minster, but I, of course, couldn't possibly comment! The building is sadly truncated because of Oliver Cromwell's reluctance to keep a promise made to the city. Carlisle was a Royalist stronghold, and one of the terms of its eventual surrender was that all churches be left untouched. Cromwell, however, demolished much of the nave to provide the stone required to repair the castle. Within the cathedral are some rare medieval panel paintings, many depicting the life of Saint Cuthbert, good miserichords and a marvellous carved early Flemish altarpiece. High in the ornate vaulting the painted face of the Virgin stares down directly at you if you find the right spot. It was here that Sir Walter Scott was married, indicative of the pivotal position Carlisle has long held for all of the Borders region.

Situated between the castle and the cathedral lies Tullie House. Originally a fine town house, it is now (much extended) the city's museum. It has within the grounds a few Roman excavations, and in the old house itself, some good Pre-Raphaelite works. The modern museum has won prizes. The exhibits, imaginatively done, centre especially on Roman Britain (Carlisle is near to the western end of Hadrian's Wall) and the history of the Border Rievers. The

audio-visual presentation on 'The Debatable Lands' is stirring stuff. The museum, all being well, is to be the venue for the Saturday night dinner, as it boasts a fine function room, with adjacent bar, plus a lecture theatre ideal for the quiz. Should the weather be kind, the terrace and gardens are a delight.

THE HEART OF CARLISLE IS THE MAIN SQUARE, directly in front of the *Crown and Mitre* hotel. Before pedestrianisation, three important streets met here. It now forms a huge triangular open space that is full of life. Within it are the old market cross, the small medieval Guildhall and the old town hall, now the Tourist Information centre. In front is the replica of Anthony Trollope's first post box, as this is where it originally stood. Because Carlisle was not prosperous in the 60s, it has avoided the worst excesses of 60s town planning and learnt the lessons well. It is one of the finest traffic-free centres I know, hiding its main shopping precinct behind original façades. Nearby (most things are!) is the delightful medieval church of St. Cuthbert. It's a schizophrenic church. Inside it's Georgian and very beautiful. By its side stands the largest tithe barn within any English city (probably not too much competition!). The barn has a rather basic tea-room, but it's easy to sneak in and see the undoubted splendour of the original barn within.

FOR A PEACEFUL INTERLUDE, there are two parks close at hand. Bitts Park, behind the castle, is a traditional formal park, and a little further along, where the bridge crosses the Eden, is Rickerby Park. Imagine, if you will, a deer park with sheep instead of deer (it is Cumbria!) and you get the idea. It's a wonderful place and no more than half a mile from the cathedral.

I will not linger on the obvious attractions of the Lakes and Hadrian's Wall that are so close to the city, but will

draw your attention to a few lesser known delights around Brampton, some 8 miles to the east of Carlisle. Brampton parish church is a must for admirers of the Pre-Raphaelite movement. It is designed by Webb, and all the considerable quantity of stained glass is designed by Burne-Jones. Some of the designs are extremely rare, particularly that of the pelican suckling its young with its own blood. The church is quite simply amazing. A word of warning is necessary. The church is usually locked at 4 p.m. Within a couple of miles is Lanercost Priory. One of the great ruined priories, it dominates the valley around it. In truth, part of the old nave remains roofed and still serves as a very elegant parish church. Like Brampton it houses some Pre-Raphaelite glass, although much less. Beyond here lies one of my favourite spots. High in the hills, maybe some 8 miles away, along roads that are pretty well all unclassified, lies Bewcastle. The hamlet has in its churchyard a Century Anglian cross of stunning beauty, a replica of which is in Tullie House Museum. But to me Bewcastle is so special because it evokes so completely the spirit of the 'Debatable Lands'. Nothing has changed for centuries. To imagine hordes of marauding Scots (or at different times, English) sweeping down is not difficult. Indeed it seems by its very isolation to belong to no-one except maybe the raven and the curlew. It brings home the truth of the local saying that if you ask a Cumbrian a question that demands a yes-no answer, he'll say 'maybe'. Cautious people in what was once a dangerous land. Perhaps I've rambled on a little. If I've tempted a few of you to sample a part of the country I suspect is not well known to many of you, then I'll be pleased. Come with a spirit of adventure and a thirst for somewhere a little different and I'll be very surprised if you are disappointed. Here's to the next millennium.

MASTER QUIZ ROUND 2 ANSWERS

Gerald MacKenzie

1. The assassination of President William McKinley in Buffalo 14th September 1901.
2. Mount Pelé
3. Serbia's King Alexander and Queen Draga
4. Doctor Ivan Pavlov
5. Robert Koch. The bacillus has been more recently renamed Mycoacterium tuberculosis
6. Viscount Haldane
7. 'Les Demoiselles d'Avignon'
8. She was Clementine Hoz(s)ier
9. It was threatened by a veto in the House of Lords
10. Doctor Hawley Harvey Crippen and his mistress Ethel Le Neve
11. Andrew Bonar Law
12. Jim Thorpe
13. Mein Kampf 1924 (A. Hitler)
14. It provoked a riot
15. Mary Richardson acting on behalf of Mrs Pankhurst in support of Mrs Pankhurst and her Suffragettes
16. Stonehenge
17. 68 years from 1848-1916
18. It requested Mexico to declare war on the USA
19. It was rejected by Parliament
20. During a flight to rescue the Italian airship crew of General Umberto Nobile trying to fly over the North Pole.
21. R T 'Bobby' Jones
22. 'Dame' Ninette de Valois
23. C P Scott
24. It was the Tennessee Valley Authority; its purpose was job creation by Workfare as part of F D Roosevelt's New Deal in 1933
25. Public Enemy Number One
26. 'Dame' Peggy Ashcroft
27. Doctor Ferdinand Porsche
28. The destruction of the eponymous market town of Guernica by indiscriminate terror bombing by the Luftwaffe during the Spanish Civil War
29. Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy and Sneezy
30. Anderson Shelters after Sir John Anderson
31. The Local Defence Volunteers (LDV)
32. In the absence of a Union Flag they hoisted a 'Bush Hat'.
33. General Field Marshall Sir Claude Auckinleck
34. After the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 the Russians massacred as many of the Polish elite officers and professionals as they could, probably in May 1940 at Katyn. Discovered by Germans in 1943; ignored by Churchill and Roosevelt.
35. A Sword of Honour
36. The Holocaust designed to eliminate the Jewish population of Europe
37. Poethlyn. The question was intended as WWII hence Lovely Cottage. Poethlyn was correct for WWI.
38. Christian Dior
39. John Mark later MD, FRCP
40. Jackson Pollock the action painter
41. North and South Korea
42. Eniwetok Atoll in mid-Pacific in 1951
43. The Festival of Britain
44. The Flying Enterprise
45. Because his Father King Talal was displaced after a brief period because he was an incurable schizophrenic
46. Sir Charlie Chaplin
47. 'The Angel of Dien Bien Phu'
48. Siegfried Sassoon M.C. a.k.a. George Sherston
49. William Hulme Lever, 1st Lord Leverhulme
50. The 800 and 1500 metres
51. Firstly, by services supporting the Bolsheviks in 1917 and secondly, and conversely, mutinying against Lenin and the Bolsheviks in 1921
52. Jaguar
53. Mustafa Kemal
54. Twice, first by Richard I Coeur de Lion in 1191 and secondly as titular ruler from 1884-1914 continuing thereafter as actual ruler from 1914 until independence and still continuing as the occupier of the Sovereign bases in Cyprus, ie Akrotiri
55. The General Strike of 1926 and Winston Churchill
56. They were drowned in a runaway car
57. The rejection of the Revised Book of Common Prayer by Parliament in 1929
58. Joe Davis
59. Pietro Annigoni in 1955
60. Harold Macmillan in 1957
61. The National Council for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Tests
62. Joe Lampton as played by Laurence Harvey in John Braine's 'Room at the Top'
63. The Zambezi
64. Olduvai Gorge in Tanganyika
65. Doctor Arthur Michael Ramsay
66. Mandy Rice Davis and Christine Keeler
67. Edith Piaf
68. Steptoe and Son
69. Mrs Mary Whitehouse
70. Geoff Hurst
71. The pound was devalued by 14.3% from \$2.80 to \$2.40 by Harold Wilson on 19th November 1967. James Callaghan (born Len Geoghen) called it a slight escapism and resigned 20 days later.
72. The High Jump Gold Medal at the Mexican Olympics in 1968
73. Brian Trubshaw
74. From North Vietnam, through Cambodia into South Vietnam
75. Tony Jacklin in 1970

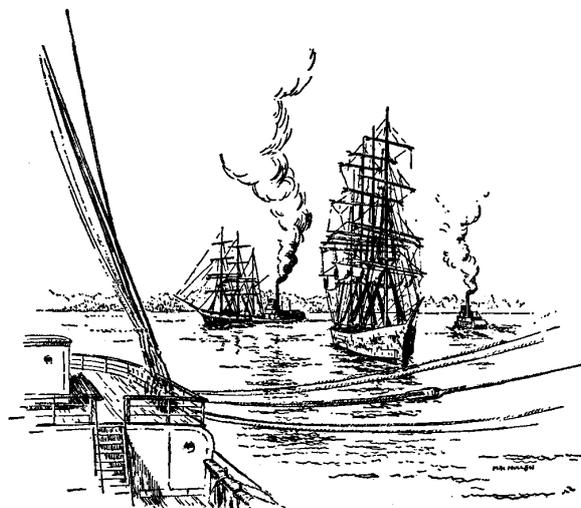
76. (Sir) Edward Heath and the Sidney Hobart Race in 1970
77. The Massacre of the Israeli Hostages and Olga Korbut's gymnastic performances during the 1972 Munich Olympics
78. Regret typographic error, I was referring to the plane crash on the snowbound Munich runway on Feb. 6 1958 in which seven members of the Manchester United Football team, the Busby Babes, were killed as well as several journalists. Sir Matt Busby himself was very badly injured
79. During the Middle East Crisis of 1973
80. On the 15th July 1974 to escape death squads of Greek soldiers who had been ordered by the Junta in Athens to assassinate him. This question was formulated prior to the crisis in Kosovo. The incursion by Greek soldiers was the cause and instigation of the Turkish invasion of North Cyprus on the 20th July 1974, in the course of which 165,000 Greeks were forcibly expelled from their homes apart from the 1000s who were imprisoned and executed just as in Kosovo they were mainly of men of military age. In addition many sacred Christian sites were desecrated. Is it not extraordinary that NATO didn't intervene on that occasion?!
81. Josephine Baker
82. Mao's Widow Chiang Ching
83. Red Rum
84. Stephen II reigned for two days in AD752
85. St Francis of Assisi, on her general election victory in 1979
86. Diego Maradona
87. Because they were forced Mike Gatting to apologise to the Umpire Chakur Rana to avoid diplomatic incident
88. Over 150
89. Fred Perry won the Wimbledon Mens Tennis Title and Alfred (Alf) Perry won the British Open Golf Championship at Muirfield Golf Course in 1945. Apologise for the typographical error UKL!
90. Social Democrats
91. Ang San Sun Ky
92. a) Sandy Lyle, b) Nick Faldo and c) Ian Woosnam. Nick Faldo triumphed again a third time in 1996
93. Stella Rimington
94. It was a toy submarine with a modelled serpent's head attached to it.
95. 1995
96. 31st December 1996
97. This is the MacKenzie question – it was myself properly accoutred as a Highland Gentleman and Minor Chieftain
98. Hurricane Mitch
99. It is expressed in the Apostolic Creed and the Nicene Creed with the omission of the Filioque according to the modifications of the Council of Constantinople
100. Pope Leo IX
- 2001 St Basil of Caesarea, his brother St Gregory Nyssa and St Gregory Nazianzen
- 2002 *Roma locuta, casa finita!*
- NB. *The odd typographical errors confused few and lost no marks!* – KGPM

HIGH TIMES ON THE RIVER

The tale of a ship bearing a noble name

“...in 1889, the *Ocklabama* [a Columbia River tow-boat] ... was clanking up the river, taking one of the wheat ships, the *Clan Mackenzie*, to Portland when her fuel ran low and she had to detour to a woodyard. It was about midnight, cloudy and dark as the inside of a chain-locker, and the *Clan Mackenzie* dropped an anchor, lying at wait in the channel until *Ocklabama* wooded up and returned. Suddenly out of the dark loomed the lights of a liner, the coastwise steamer *Columbia*, speeding along the channel. The *Clan Mackenzie* had swung idly on her chain and her riding lights may not have been too bright, for the *Columbia* slammed into her just abaft the stem, driving the liner's prow in nearly thirty feet and as deep as the keel. When the *Columbia* backed away, the *Clan Mackenzie* took water, so that by the time *Ocklabama* returned, her tow was on the bottom of the river, there to rest for a year until she was raised, patched, and put back to work as part of the 1890 fleet.”

[FROM *STERN-WHEELERS UP COLUMBIA* BY RANDALL V. MILLS, PACIFIC BOOKS 1947]



REVISIONIST HISTORY RULES, OK?

Patricia Owen

DURING A VISIT TO SOUTHERN SPAIN in May this year I thought I noticed a new spin being put on our background briefings. Our charming Mexican guide extolled the artistic achievements of the Moorish caliphate; no surprise, that was the tour had been sold on. But the follow-through was less expected: the expulsion of the Muslims and the Jews had been a bad mistake, impoverishing both the intellectual and economic development of the nation. When the local guide in Granada also presented the *Reconquista* as a questionable achievement, I asked if views of this had not changed. “Indeed yes; when I went to school under Franco we were only told that the Moors came, conquered, raped and destroyed. Now we look at things very differently. In fact, there will be an international conference on revisionist history in this very city next week.”

I was interested in the way both official policy and social attitudes can affect our perception and interpretation of historical evidence because of the research I had been doing for *A Rebel Hand*, the book my daughter Frances and I had written, which was at the printers as he spoke. It traces the life of my great-great-grandfather, a peasant from County Wicklow who was caught up in the United Irish Uprising of 1798, condemned to death for ‘cold blooded murder’ on the evidence of a paid government informer, reprieved and shipped out in chains to play his part in the European settlement of Australia. Note that I used the qualifier *European* settlement; when I went to Sydney Girls’ High School there was no Australia worth talking about before the Europeans ‘discovered’ it – and there’s another word you want to be careful with.

IN 1988 AUSTRALIA CELEBRATED the Bicentenary of – what, precisely? The government’s establishment of a convenient dumping ground for the convicts who were overcrowding British gaols and could no longer be shipped to North America, certainly. But was it, as it used to be seen, the moment when Australia was hitched on to the civilised world, or rather when “Captain Cook he stole our land” (more accurately when Governor Phillip claimed it for the British Crown) and the interlopers, unaware of the concepts of the relationships of the land to its indigenous people (the word aborigine is suspect, too) destroyed a complex culture that lived in co-operation with the

demanding environment. 1988 raised a lot of unexpected awareness: the project for a replica of the First Fleet to re-enact Phillips’s landing was endangered when it became clear that a more vigorous resistance might well be offered this time. Government funding was refused when it was realised how the role-playing would emphasise the convict presence; the project was abandoned.

I am sure that my father had no idea of how his forbear came to Australia. There was still a self-consciousness about having a convict in the family. It is most likely that his father’s generation were not told about it, or ‘forgot’. Some of you will have seen the recent revival at the Young Vic of Timberlake Wertenbaker’s play *Their Country’s Good*, derived from Thomas Keneally’s novel *The Playmaker*, which in its turn fictionalised a strand from Robert Hughes’s *The Fatal Shore*. It was Hughes’s book that became the focus of a new attitude to the convict ancestors, they acquired the virtuous associations of victims and the discrepancy between the crime, most often petty theft, and the punishment of seven years’ transportation was emphasised. Indeed, the new and more comfortable idea of the convict was of someone who stole a loaf of bread to feed their starving children. The motivation for setting up the colony had for some time been slanted away from the penal settlement to the growth of imperialism in the Pacific; equally suspect in the later Twentieth Century, but more respectable until then. Analysing the reasons for these evasions, the historian John Rickard in 1988 concludes that:

“In a young country such as European Australia history lies very close to the surface... When the time scheme is so short we are all much more implicated in its crimes; the protective glaze provided by culture is thinner. I must remind myself that I am a mere six generations from the First Fleet, from a humble marine on the *Sirius* and the convict woman with whom he was to make his life in New South Wales.”

But, since Rickard has been showing us how to read the subtext, let’s look at that last sentence. “A mere six generations from the First Fleet” means that he can claim membership of the most exclusive society in Australia: the First Fleeters. So the non-convict “humble marine” is an ancestor to be proud of and, if he is frank about the

convict woman, “to make his life” with her is a euphemism for the fact that, like the majority of the first generations, they were not married.

Ten years later, in 1998, the bicentenary of the 1798 Uprising in Ireland drew attention to a comparable range of interpretations. It, too, had left behind a popular amnesia which folklorists attributed to fear of reprisals from either side; as Fergal Keane wrote in the *Independent* on January 1st this year, “So much of our Irish past is snagged with myth and suppressed memory.” Earlier historians were overtly loyalist and Protestant, like Musgrave in 1801, or nationalist and Catholic, like Kavanagh in 1870. You knew your community and took on its telling of the history. In 1898, the centenary was marked by a memorial in every town and village that had been involved in the Uprising. The popular models were a heroic pikeman or a Celtic cross with Irish lettering and a list of significant dates: 1798, 1803 (Robert Emmet’s uprising), 1848 (the Young Ireland uprising). To these dates was later added 1916, and the Uprising became the ‘first fight for the Republic’.

Things are very different now. There is vigorous argument amongst Irish historians as to the nature and aims of the Uprising: Enlightenment middle class spinoff of the French revolution; the last chance for an Ireland uniting both Catholic and Protestant; the spontaneous eruption of a land hungry and oppressed peasantry; an uprising of peasants, yes, but peasants deeply politicised?

In the year of the Good Friday Agreement, the tone of the official commemorations was moderate, inclusive. The new 1798 Interpretation Centre at Enniscorthy has an introductory display alerting you to the bias in historical accounts; Wicklow Historic Gaol, with the tricolour flying over its entrance, was reopened as a museum with a prayer offered by the clergy of three denominations.

A feminist reading of her life even gave an alternative view of the informer who accused, amongst many others, my ancestor. ‘Croppy Biddy’, ‘cursed Bid Dolan’, ‘Bid the Pointer’ who not only took money and finery to give her tainted evidence in one court martial after another but was ‘that libidinous wretch’ who slept with the enemy, most likely with both the enemies. But Daire Keogh shows her as an abused child prostitute, a servant who lost her job

through her adherence to the United cause, from whose record every redeeming feature had been excised.

Caveat lector.

(*A Rebel Hand*, by Patricia and Frances Owen, is available from Patricia.)

CLUB SHOPPING

PLENTY of new merchandise will be available mid-September (when Patricia returns from Down Under):

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- ❖ Tie clips and stick pins are back, enamelled with the club logo in black.
- ❖ A new style of superior-quality pen will be available for Christmas: details next issue.

All prices include postage and packing. Send a cheque with your order, payable to the Mastermind Club, to Patricia Owen

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MUGNUM ANSWERS 1999

The questions appeared in the last issue

13. The Ringling Brothers who ran a circus in the USA (their father had emigrated to that country).
20. Government House, Sydney. His own marines (The Rum Mutiny).
21. Portugal. (The easiest question, narrowly beating 287c.)
22. A Bubble Car.
54. Combined will and apologia of Ludwig van Beethoven (6 October 1802), Heiligenstadt was mis-spelt in the emotional state occasioned by his deafness and trouble with his brothers.
61. The voyage to Punt on the N.E. African coast, undertaken in the reign of the Pharaoh Hatshepsut (ca. 1479–1424 BC).
81. That $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solution for $n > 2$.
93. Lord Peter Wimsey (*Gaudy Night*).
145. Their surnames both have only 2 letters: Kenzaburo Oe and Dario Fo.
208. Their symbol is the ox.
220. Byzantium – Constantine, Roman Emperor.
253. Monday, December 7 1998, with the rest of the Springbok Rugby touring side.
275. The executioner. W = weight of prisoner, L = drop (or length of rope).
280. Lady Helen Windsor (1992).
- 287a. Bonn, Leyden, Leon (Nicaragua) and Grenoble.
- 287b. Queen Victoria.
- 287c. *Yesterday* (Lennon/McCartney).
306. Martha Canary, aka Burke, aka Hickok.
307. ‘Colonel’ Harland Sanders.
314. The Bodleian Library. Thos. Bodley married Ann Ball whose 1st husband left her a fortune, amassed largely from pilchards.
321. King Zog of Albania.
337. Grimsby Town F.C. won the Autowindscreen Shield in April and the 2nd Division Play-off Final in May.
338. Seven.
342. Harold Wilson.
390. H.J. Tayfield, South African off-spinner (1929–94). He tapped the ground with his toe before starting his run-up.
412. Of the 73 entries for Sonzogno’s ‘One-Act Opera Competition’, they shared 1st prize with *Cavalleria Rusticana*.
434. A dragon has 4 legs, a wyvern only 2.
448. The Army Cadet Force.
455. Slavery – it effectively ended slavery on English soil by not recognising slavery as a valid contractual arrangement.
457. The Millennium Bug.
473. Pushkin.
475. It was his 37th birthday.
477. Tobermory is a talking cat.
526. John Macnab.
532. Annick Goutal.
549. They have all been portrayed on British stamps.
565. Alexander Pope – the dog and prince lived at Kew. “I am his Highness’ dog at Kew. Pray tell me, Sir, whose dog are you?”
579. A hexagon.
600. Robert Todd Lincoln (son of Abraham Lincoln).
610. The Prayer Book Rebellion.
630. Rodrigues Island (where the last of the species, the Brown dodo, died in 1790).
642. Constant Lambert (1905–51) and Modest Petrovich Mus(s)orgsky (1839–81).
- 687a. Balliol.
- 687b. 16 strings (‘16-string Jack’ the highwayman, and the Baryton for which Hadyn composed 140 works for Prince Esterhazy).
688. Mr. Verdant Green.
690. 2 of the Chiltern Hundreds.
692. Trinity.
696. Katherine Hepburn.
729. Jean-Pierre Blanchard and Dr. John Jeffries (January 7, 1785 in a balloon, Dover to Calais).
731. Teeth (cockney slang).
753. First place in the world where fluoridation of the water was introduced.
765. Jane Digby, aka Lady Ellenborough, Sheikha Medjuel el Misrab and mistress of Ludwig of Bavaria.
766. Cornell.
799. The glassware of Tiffany.
808. The lagerphone.
823. Eunice Gayson.
824. *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard 1968, revived 1998. His 3 victims are Simon alias Higgs, Birdboot and Moon and his 3 identities are Magnus Muldoon, Puckeridge and Albert.
- 825a. Dorita Fairlie Bruce.
- 825b. ‘Dimsie’.
835. 1892 – Dadabhoy Naoroji (Central Finsbury, Liberal).
847. Mr. ‘Machine Gun’ McGurk was arrested on the 8th tee for vagrancy. He was allowed to finish his round in the company of 2 detectives, but he slipped badly and withdrew.
866. Both died at the age of 37.
868. William Henry Harrison.
869. 20 (incidentally he was the only player in the World Cup whose number was higher than his age).
875. Pericles.
877. Famborough Abbey, Hampshire.
880. A marsupial resembling a miniature wallaby and native to Rottneest Island, Western Australia. It was originally mistaken for a giant rat by its discoverer Willem de Vlaming, hence the name of the island “Rat’s Nest” (<Dutch).
899. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

20TH CENTURY FAMOUS PEOPLE QUIZ

Brian Bovington

WITH THE END OF THE CENTURY so close now, it seemed a good idea to compile a quiz on this theme.

Accordingly, I set about putting together what I call 'Twentieth Century Famous People Quiz'.

It lists each year from 1900 to 1949 inclusive, followed by a brief description of a famous person's sphere of activity plus their best-known first name; the year in each case being that of their birth. This is followed by a separate list of persons who died in the years stated; honorary titles etc. have not been given, merely the best-known first names of these people.

As usual, I will offer a £10 book token to the sender of the first all-correct or most correct entry opened on 31 October 1999.

BORN IN:

1900 jazz trumpeter, Louis	1933 mezzo-soprano, Janet	1966 artist, Gino
1901 architect, Berthold	1934 tennis player, Ken	1967 poet, John
1902 novelist, John	1935 geographer, David	1968 publisher, Stanley
1903 inventor, Candido	1936 fashion designer, Yves	1969 architect, Walter
1904 cyclist/politician, Hubert	1937 actress, Vanessa	1970 soldier, Wladyslaw
1905 fashion designer, Christian	1938 performance artist, Hermann	1971 composer, Igor
1906 botanist, George	1939 swimmer, Rose	1972 archbishop, Geoffrey
1907 film director, Robert	1940 golfer, Jack	1973 dancer, John
1908 film director, David	1941 footballer, "Bobby"	1974 novelist, Eric
1909 politician, Dean	1942 pianist/conductor, Daniel	1975 historian, Arnold
1910 jazz pianist, Art	1943 palaeoanthropologist, Donald	1976 writer, André
1911 comedienne, Lucille	1944 palaeoanthropologist, Richard	1977 rock musician, Marc
1912 contralto, Kathleen	1945 cricketer, Derek	1978 illustrator, Norman
1913 actor, Burt	1946 actress, Diana	1979 potter, Bernard
1914 footballer, Joe	1947 actress, Jaclyn	1980 actress, "Hattie"
1915 playwright, Arthur	1948 dancer/choreographer, Dana	1981 drummer, Cozy
1916 novelist, Harold	1949 actress, Meryl	1982 radio engineer, Harry
1917 biochemist, Seymour	DIED IN:	1983 soprano, Isobel
1918 economist, Franco	1950 comic singer, Harry	1984 economist, Lionel
1919 psychologist, Leon	1951 statesman, Ernest	1985 painter, Marc
1920 baseball player, Stanley	1952 orchestra leader, Fletcher	1986 actress, Anna
1921 astronaut, John	1953 composer, Sergei	1987 accompanist, Gerald
1922 athlete, Emil	1954 cinema pioneer, Auguste	1988 writer, Sacheverell
1923 civil rights campaigner, Yelena	1955 artist, Fernand	1989 pianist/composer, John
1924 cartoonist, Brad	1956 cartoonist, Alex	1990 actor/comedian, Max
1925 politician, Margaret	1957 tenor, Beniamino	1991 jazz musician, Miles
1926 politician, Garrett	1958 storyteller, Peig	1992 air marshal, Edward
1927 architect, Balkrishna	1959 music critic, Ernest	1993 novelist, Nina
1928 minimalist, Sol	1960 author, Boris	1994 tennis player, Jean
1929 diarist, Anne	1961 psychiatrist, Carl	1995 pioneer photo-journalist, Bert
1930 astronaut, "Buzz"	1962 nuclear physicist, Niels	1996 comedian, Michael
1931 archbishop, Desmond	1963 sculptor, Frank	1997 musician, Carl
1932 basketball player, Bob	1964 general, Douglas	1998 poet, Ted
	1965 journalist, Pierre	1999 novelist/poet/feminist, Naomi

A CAMBRIDGE DOZEN

Henry Button invites questions to fit

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED in *Cambridge: The Magazine of The Cambridge Society*, Number 43, these “answers” were printed and readers invited to suggest the questions.

ONE: John Fisher is, so far, the only Chancellor to have been canonised (in 1935). (Oxford has had two – Richard de la Wyke and the splendidly named Thomas de Cantelupe.)

TWO: Peterhouse claims the current Presidents of the Royal Society and the British Academy in Aaron Klug and Tony Wrigley. Christ’s College recently claimed both their Foreign Secretaries in Anne McLaren and Barry Supple.

THREE: With the appointment of Quentin Skinner as Regius Professor of Modern History in October 1996 Christ’s became the first College to have had among its Fellows, at the same time, the three Regius Professors who are appointed by the Crown. The others are Physic (Keith Peters) and Civil Law (David Johnston).

FOUR: In 1984 the four men heading the list of Emeritus Professors were all Johnians: Frank Engledow, Harold Jeffreys, George Briggs and Walter Bruford.

FIVE: Five old Mancunians have been awarded the Tiarks Scholarships for research in Germany. They were: Gilbert Waterhouse (1910, the first award), Walter Bruford (1919, see item four), Andrew Wilson (1923), Joseph Weltman (1932) and Henry Button (1934).

SIX: Trinity College could be said to have a complete set of Nobel Prizes. Along with the three scientific classes are Peace (Austen Chamberlain), Literature (Bertrand Russell) and Economics (James Meade and James Mirrlees — and now Amartya Sen).

SEVEN: Seven Chancellors have, so far, been beheaded. One of them, the Earl of Essex, was a Trinity man. The first was John Fisher in 1535 and the last was the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. (Oxford has only Archbishop Laud.)

EIGHT: When James Jeans, a Trinity man, became a member of the Order of Merit in January 1939, he brought to eight the number of Trinity men who were then members of the Order. The eight were: J J Thomson, James Frazer, G M Trevelyan, William Bragg, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gowland Hopkins, Arthur Eddington and James Jeans. Eight Masters of Trinity had previously been Masters of other Colleges, including one at Oxford. They were Bill, Whitgift, Still, Nevile, Richardson, Arrowsmith, Wilkins (from Wadham) and Pearson.

NINE: Speaking at a dinner in Trinity in March 1981, the Master, Sir Alan Hodgkin, said that exactly half of the Presidents of the Royal Society this century had been Trinity men, but there was usually a discrete gap of five years between one Trinity President and the next. Afterwards he apologised for overlooking Sir William Bragg, the ninth man. The complete list was: Rayleigh, J J Thomson, Rutherford, Gowland Hopkins, Dale, W H Bragg, Adrian, Hodgkin and Huxley.

TEN: Trinity provided ten consecutive Regius Professors of Hebrew from 1688 to 1831. John Mason Neale (a Trinity man), the hymn-writer, won the Seatonian Prize for a religious poem ten times, between 1845 and 1863.

ELEVEN: Eric Kent Ellis, from Christ’s, won the Seatonian Prize 11 times, between 1928 and 1958.

TWELVE: Trinity Hall provided 12 consecutive Regius Professors of Civil Law from 1666 to 1873. One of them, Henry Maine (1847–54) was the youngest man ever to be appointed to a Cambridge professorship. He was 24 years and 8 months old at the time of his appointment.

Katy Whitaker’s winning entry

THE ANSWER TO EACH CLUE is found via some sort of collection. A folk song gives the key to the size of each collection. Other cryptic and non-cryptic elements are clued. The folk song is *Green Grow the Rushes O!*

ONE: Which Chancellor went All Alone to a Protestant Scaffold?
*One is one and all alone and ever more shall be so.
(Fisher: the only Chancellor to have been canonised.)*

TWO: Which College’s Lily-White Boys preside over the Royal Society and British Academy?
*Two, two the lily-white boys, clothed all in green-o.
(Peterhouse: Presidents of both British Academy and Royal Society.)*

THREE: The royal Rivals profess history in which College?
*Three, three the rivals.
(Christ’s: the three Regius Professors)
The Regius Professors are of History, Physic and Civil Law, not just history.*

FOUR: Which of the Gospel Makers laid claim to 1984’s senior Emeritus Professors (of that number)?
*Four are the Gospel Makers.
(FE, HJ, GB, WB: senior emeritus professors)*

FIVE: Whose twisting tracks I take to find Manchester Grammar School’s Symbols At Your Door?
*Five for the symbols at your door.
(5 old Mancunians: tracks I (anag.) = Tiarks.
It is not a precise anagram. There is an intrusive ‘t’.*

SIX: Which College produced all the soundly noble Proud Walkers?
*Six for the six proud walkers.
(Trinity: soundly noble = Nobel, for all six prizes.)*

SEVEN: Which University Office saw Stars In The Sky via edged and steely apotheoses?
*Seven for the seven stars in the sky.
(Chancellorship: 7 have been beheaded.)*

EIGHT: In which order may we find Trinity’s 1939 April Rainers?
*Eight for the April rainers.
(The Order of Merit: in 1939, eight Trinity men were members.)*

NINE: Which College produced Bright Shiners leading the Royal Society?
*Nine for the nine bright shiners.
(Trinity: nine Presidents of the Royal Society.)*

TEN: It is fitting that Trinity should have produced which Commandments in Hebrew?
*Ten are the ten commandments.
(Trinity: ten Regius Professors of Hebrew.)*

ELEVEN: Considering which of Eric Kent Ellis’ masterful poems might explain why he Went to Heaven?
*Eleven are the eleven that went to Heaven.
(Seatonian Prize poem: 11-times winner.)*

TWELVE: Which College’s royal Apostles professed to be polite and law-abiding?
*Twelve are the twelve Apostles.
(Trinity Hall: 12 Regius Professors of Law.)*

What is the nicely numerical connection between Proud Walkers, the Bright Shiners and the answer to those two questions?

The numerical connection is:

Six Proud Walkers

Nine Bright Shiners

Trinity (=3, common factor)