

Acrostic #18—Solution

Don Marquis: “archy declares war,” from [*the lives and times of*] *archy and mehitabel*,”
Doubleday Doran, 1927

curse curse curse / on the cruel human race / does not the poor mosquito / love her little
offspring / that you swat against the wall / out of equatorial / swamps and fever jungles / come
o mosquitoes / a billion billion strong / and sting a billion baldheads / ... / this is war

Note: In rereading these delicious ramblings of a poet-reincarnated-as-cockroach (who wrote in lowercase because he couldn’t depress two typewriter keys at the same time), I noticed a remarkable similarity between Mehitabel’s friend “tom the old trouper” and T. S. Eliot’s “Gus the Theatre Cat.” Both claim to have had distinguished careers, both hobnobbed with stage luminaries of their time, and both complain that the theater kittens of today lack training. Both specifically mention appearing in “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

So which cat came first? A bit of research reveals that *archy* was published in book form some ten years *before* Eliot’s *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*—and even earlier, of course, in newspaper columns. Can anyone out there offer more light on the subject?

- | | |
|---|---|
| A DOOF+US | O YELLOW PAGES |
| B OVER+ALL+S | P A+LOOF (<i>fool</i> rev) |
| C NOODLE (anag) | Q NIT+W+IT (<i>tin</i> rev) |
| D MOR(O)NS | R DOMICILES (anag) |
| E ASSES+S | S MORROW (2 mnngs) |
| F RUBRIC (hidden) | T fETCHING |
| G QUASIMODO (2 mnngs) | U HIGH FIVE |
| H UNDRRESS (<i>res(o)unds</i> anag) | V ISAAC NEWTON (anag) |
| I IN+TERN (homophone) | W TOQUE BLANCHE (anag) |
| J SEPARATE BUT EQUAL | X ALL RIGHT (anag) |
| K ASSUMPTION (2 mnngs) | Y BLUETS (anag) |
| L RAJ+A (rev) | Z ÉTAT(S UN+I)S (<i>sun+I</i> in <i>taste</i> anag) |
| M CUTTLEFISH (anag) | ZZ LON+G SHOT (<i>ghost</i> anag) |
| N HAR(L)OT (rev) | |

Congratulations to the following solvers (in alph order):

Judy Adamski	Mike Geselowitz	Carolyn Roosevelt
Judith Bagai	Paul Gordon	Phyllis Rosen
Robert Brown	Tony Greanias	Al Sanders
David Durfee	Gérald Hurtubise	Arthur P. Schless
Michael Engber	Rick Kasten	Wayne Scott
Matthew Field	Richard Lang	Andrew Silikovitz
Herb Fish	Mike Lessie	Anita Stejskal
Carolyn Fox	Paul Noack	Ed Stejskal
Stan Francuz	Mary Lyndal Nyberg	Tom Wilson
Joyce Friedman	Dick Plotz	

