

Looking forward, looking back

Solaris Corrected

The Flower Piece

Ingliz

- The European Union commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of negotiations, Her Majesty Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).
- In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news with joy. Also, the hard "c" will be replased with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter.
- There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replased by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 per sent shorter.
- In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"s in the languag is disgraful, and they would go.
- By the forth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by "z" and "w" by "v". During ze fifz year ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.
- After zis fifz year, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trobls or difikultis and evrivum vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

Blomsterstykket

BESKUELSEN

Plumpe Menneskebeundring,
som behøver Luft og Læber!
Mere plump end Dyr's Forundring,
der er taus og bly beskeden,
krænker du i din Tilbeden,
øder i Begeistringsheden; --
med din Elskovs vilde Brunst
du din egen Elskte dræber:
din tilbedte rene Kunst.
Ve, om nu, da jeg maa tale
(saa nødvendigt som at Brystet
stønner, naar det bliver krystet)
denne Draabe skulde dale
fra *van Huysums* Rosenblad,
af min Læbes Mundveir rystet!
Foraarsvinden, yr og glad,
var af meer barmhjertig Hu:
Duggens Glands fra Lund og Hegn,
perlemoderagtig Regn
gjemt i foldet Marikaabe,
hver en Draabe, hver en Draabe
har letsindigen den plyndret,
alle hen i Luften søndret

-- *denne* ligger der endnu,
yderligt som Taaren baaret
bævende af Øjenhaaret,
yderst i dit Diadem,
yndige og blide Smerte,
som din Byrde triller frem;
skjøn som Perlen, der var værdig
til at være Stjernes Hjerte;
fuld som Magdalenens Graad,
fuld og tung og bristefærdig;
bristende, skjønt endnu heel,
som beslutningsmodent Raad
i tungsindig Engels Sjel.

The Flower Piece

THE CONTEMPLATION

Clumsy human admiration
that needs air and lips to say it!
Clumsier than the shy wonder
humble beasts display, you blunder
wholly in your adoration
squander in rapt adulation; --
with your passion's savage heart
you misuse your love and slay it:
your adored unsullied art.

Woe, if now that I need utter
(so compelled I sense my breast
gently moan when it is pressed)
I should cause this drop to flutter
from *van Huysum's* soft rose petal
shaken by my lips' rough breath!
Spring breeze, giddy, slow to settle,
shows more mercy if you will:
Dew's bright gleam from grove and hedge
rain with iridescent edge,
hid in lady's-mantle folds
every drop the eye beholds
it has plundered recklessly
in the air has scattered free

.. *this one* only lies there still,
at its rim like teardrop borne
trembling by an eyelash worn,
outmost in your diadem,
anguish that is sweet and tender
rolled on by your weighty gem;
lovely as the pearl whose splendour
merits it the heart of stars;
full as Magdalena's tears
full and heavy, almost bursting;
shattering and yet still whole,
as sound counsel ripeness nears
in an angel's saddened soul.