

David Jolly

## THE ENGLISH QUIZ

Quizzes are strange beasts, productive of hilarity and lightness in the head. Part of the entertainment following the national English competition, held in Zagreb recently, was an English language quiz. Two teams — from the 1st and 5th Gimnasias — vied with each other in answering questions in English on vaguely British and American topics... The spirit of the quiz was lively and informal — like the behaviour of the audience. The question-master, in his unfamiliar role, was left to make a number of ad hoc decisions concerning scoring (2 points for correct answer, 1 for half-correct answer), the order of questions, and the method by which each team would answer. Both teams were four in number, one of whom was captain. The result I feel was a splendid unintentional satire upon the professional 'quizzers' on TV. For the life of me I can't remember who won.

The quiz was divided into six sections as follows:

a) General Questions. These required yes/no answers and were in the form of true or false definitions for given words. The teams had little trouble with these with the exception of **BOOKMAKER**. Here are some examples:

**PUBLIC SCHOOL** — a free school for the poor

Answer: No — a public school is a very expensive boarding school where fees are paid for by the pupils' parents.

**BOOKMAKER** — a man who takes bets on horse-races

Answer: Yes

**CARPENTER** — a man who paints cars

Answer: No — A carpenter is a worker who makes things with wood

b) The history questions concerned 19th. Century British History and both teams had prepared for these in advance (as they had for the geography and literature questions). First, the quiz-master read out a paragraph of contextual information, and then followed the question. Here are some examples, without the introductory paragraph.

Where and when was the Communist Manifesto published?

Answer: London, 1848.

What was the name of the working men's movement in England in the 1830's and 1840's?

Answer: The Chartist Movement.

c) Music. The questions on contemporary songs and singers proved to be more difficult than anticipated. Each team was played two songs on tape and asked to guess the singer and the title of the song. Surprisingly, they didn't easily recognise the voices of the Beatles (Happiness is a Warm Gun), Joan Baez (Mary Hamilton) or Bob Dylan (Visions of Joanna / All Along the Watchtower).

d) Geography. The questions in this section were rather like the history questions in form: a paragraph of information followed by a question. The questions were about American geography.

In 1867, the USA bought Alaska and the Aleutian islands. From whom did they buy them?

Answer : Russia.

What percentage of the American population is of Slav origin?

Answer: 10%

What is the name of the American University on the outskirts of Boston?

Answer: Harvard.

e) The literature questions were not so much literary (difficult to ask for literary opinion in a quiz) as much as semantic puzzles. The teams were given (twice orally) the names of twelve British and American writers. Then the teams were offered definitions which they had to match with one of the given writer's names.

A well-known make of English car?

Answer: Jane AUSTEN.

What do some of us have in our heads?

Answer: John BRAINE.

Another word for two?

Answer: Mark TWAIN.

f) Pictures. For the final section of the quiz, each team were shown in turn, pictures of famous American and British national monuments — and for two points had to state what they were: Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, The Tower of London, The Houses of Parliament, The Lincoln Memorial, The Supreme Court, The United Nations Building.

*Annie Govys-Tonković*

## LE FRANGLAIS

Le français et l'anglais, pendant longtemps, ont été deux langues importantes du monde occidental. Chacune était prépondérante dans son domaine: l'anglais, disait-on, était la langue du commerce, le français, celle de la diplomatie. Maintenant, l'anglais est presque devenu la langue de communication universelle, aux dépens du français.

C'est pourquoi, depuis ces dernières années, une partie de l'opinion publique française est en alerte contre cette expansion de l'anglais, et surtout contre le »franglais«, c'est-à-dire l'insertion inconsidérée d'expressions et de mots anglais dans la langue française et leur utilisation souvent impropre.

Une polémique s'élève, assez violente. Certains, comme Etienne par exemple, qualifient le franglais de »sabir«, et s'y opposent farouchement. D'autres pensent que tout nouvel apport susceptible de renouveler et d'en-