

NOTES ON TWO ORIGINAL METRES.

To the best of my knowledge both of the following metres are entirely original and have never been used in English verse before.

Around the end of 1983, beginning of '84, I wrote a poem called 'The Gambler' (see enclosure), it rhymes as follows - a b b a c c and is iambic throughout; expressed in iambic feet and rhyme it reads -

3 a  
3 a  
7 b  
3 a  
3 c  
7 c

It was only a while after I'd composed the poem that I realised just how unique it was. I have christened this verse form 'Gamblemeter' after the original poem. As it has a slow and somewhat melancholy feel it is suitable only for serious verse.

About the same time as I wrote 'The Gambler' I wrote a couple of other poems in another original metre. This one I have modestly christened Baron meter. Basically it is a quatrain consisting of a line of ballad stanza (7 iambic feet), followed by a line of iambic pentameter, (five iambic feet), another line of ballad stanza and another iambic pentameter. I have composed many poems in Baronmeter; unfortunately most of them are not very good, one of the best 'City Kid' is enclosed. Baronmeter can be expressed in iambic feet and rhyme scheme as -

7 a  
5 b  
7 a  
5 b

It is really only suitable for light verse if written in quatrain form. However, if written instead as a couplet i.e. 7-5-7-5 a a b b it produces a melancholy tone, similar to gamblemeter. The quatrain is altogether a light and rather frivolous verse form.

It can also be written with another iambic pentameter tacked on the end, i.e. five lines to the verse, 7-5-7-5-5 a b a b b. I call this Baronmetric pentameter and have written probably enough poetry in all these verse forms - Gamblemeter, Baronmetric stanzas, couplets and pentameters to establish them; but the possibilities are endless, e.g. 7-5-7-5-7-7 a a b b c c etc. The nearest approach I have seen to any of them before is the words to the song Misalliances, the first verse of which is given below.

The fragrant Honeysuckle spirals clockwise to the sun  
And many other creepers do the same  
But some climb counterclockwise, the Bindweed does, for one,  
Or Convolvulus to give her proper name.

(A novelty song, words by Michael Flanders, music by Donald Swann. The first two verses are approximately Baronmetric)

11 th October, 1985.