

ENTRIES TO THE ROTAFEST POETRY AND ACRONYM CONTESTS

POEMS

1.

You always hear Gian-Carlo mumble
That the universe is basically umbral.
If he continues to rant
This impossible cant,
They'll wheel him away in a tumbrel.

2.

I have a good friend--Gian-Carlo,
As a detective he's hardly a Marlowe.
But when he's hot on the scent
Of a new invariant,
He makes **us** look as though we're on furlough.

3.

When asked to discourse on philosophy,
Rota offers a modest apostrophe:
I beg to explain, sir,
I'm not a philosopher,
Just an expert in phenomenology.

4.

When Rota lectured in Meridà
On Ponti and his view of phenomena,
He decided not to tussle
With the ideas of Herr Hüsserl,
Nor to try to deconstruct Derrida.

5.

Gather ye math folk and watch my face
As I relate the story of letter-place
Methods in representation theory--
Alas! Your eyes tell me that you grow weary!

Well, let me just say it was always a battle
'Tween Rota and me; 'twould make our teeth rattle:
I'd argue that things not be basis-dependent,
Gian-Carlo was champion as basis defendant.

But one day, a surprising event ensued:
A letter-place homotopy Gian-Carlo eschewed,
And so, though it brought red to both of our faces
We had to admit: we'd changed --- places!

ACRONYM

Great
Innovation
And
Never

I

Ceasing
Artistry
Roasting
Ludicrous
Oratory

David Buchsbaum