


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

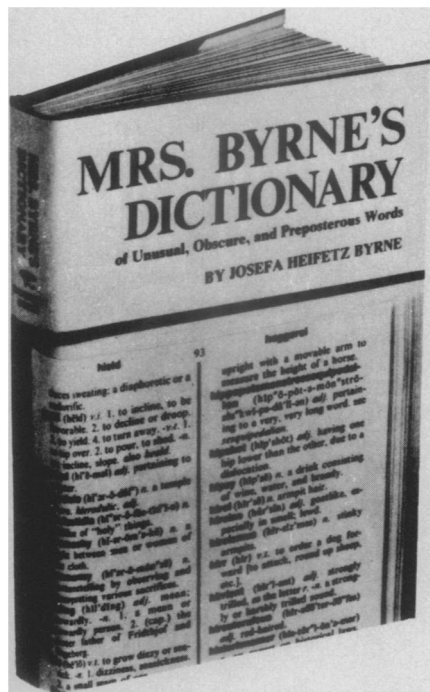
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**Rescuing Books:
Ending Acid's Reign**

For years I suffered terribly from
LETHOLOGICA
until a nice doctor friend prescribed

**Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary
of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words**



Yes, for years I couldn't remember the right words. People I considered complete idiots were finishing my sentences for me. I was leaving blanks in my love letters and suicide notes. I found how bleak the future was when I tried a little cephalonamancy (fortunetelling by boiling an ass head), and tyromancy (fortunetelling by watching cheese coagulate).

I went from doctor to doctor looking for help, finally becoming a confirmed iatrapistiac (one having little faith in doctors), especially when one suggested I needed a hepaticocholangiocholecystenterostomy (look it up).

Then I found *Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary*. Now I can be unusual, obscure and preposterous by turns. Now I don't need an unabridged to go along with my collegiate. For entertainment now, I browse instead of groak (watching people silently while they eat, hoping they'll ask you to join them). I don't care anymore that we have a kakistocracy (government or rule by the worst).

Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary by Josefa Heifetz is better than omphalokepsis!

GARDYLOO!

Herb Caen in the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "Wildly funny!"

Leslie Hanscom in *Newsday*: "You can dip in anywhere and come up with pay dirt . . . hundreds of words to stand your hair on end. Only a clinchpoop could scan these pages without a feeling of awe at the undiscovered boundaries of the English tongue!"

Nels Nelson in the *Philadelphia Daily News*: "A treasure! We should all kiss the publisher's feet!"

Camilla Snyder in the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*: "Hilariously useful . . . delicious!"

Donald B. Thackrey of *United Press International*: "A dictionary you can browse through and read like a book . . . a dictionary that will give great pleasure to many. Every page contains at least one nugget."

Sydney J. Harris in the *Chicago Daily News*: "There is no comparable work; I unreservedly recommend it."

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