

Re: "Ockie" (line 12)

Ockham or Occam, William of. Known as Doctor Invincibilis and Venerabilis Inceptor, c.1300-49. ... formulated the doctrine that the real is always individual, not universal, that universals have no real existence but are only abstract terms ... (M-W, p.1113)

Ockham's Razor. A principle ... which states that entities must not be multiplied beyond what is necessary. In a scientific evaluation, Ockham's Razor is the choice of the simplest theory from among the theories which fit the facts we know. In logic, Ockham's Razor is the statement of an argument in its essential and simplest terms. (Razor refers to the idea in this principle of shaving an argument to its simplest terms.) (World Book Dictionary, 1968 Edition, p.1338)

Occam or Ockham, William of (c.1285-1340). English scholastic philosopher and theologian, known as "Doctor Invincibilis" and "Venerabilis Inceptor." He joined the Franciscans, was a partisan of strict observance in their controversy over evangelical poverty, and became general of the order in 1342. In his Dialogus (c.1343) he summarizes many of his previous writings, contesting the temporal power of the Pope and asserting that a king has independent authority in civil affairs.

Occam's philosophy was greatly influenced by his teacher Duns Scotus, although later they were rivals in scholastic disputes. He revived a modified Nominalism, maintaining the distinction between concrete realities and the abstraction of universals. Thus he claimed that purely intellectual abstractions are not valid knowledge and that reasoning must be based on experimental proof. In this view, the basis of the later position known as theological scepticism, the existence and attributes of God are not susceptible of proof by human reason, but can only be approached through intuition. (The Reader's Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, p.726) (Full text)

7/22/71

Dear both,

Urlet 21, amazingly, got here this a.m. There is another time crunch that may last for a while, so in order to clear for urgent writing, I'm hasty in response. I'll, by the way, will go over the KT file this weekend and copy out what you want from Innovator, of which I have that copy and others I'll then list. I've got to keep on other things which suddenly are very important.

Occam is my big shame. Knowing no more than the pope, I discounted, until another friend, who knew more, told me. I've been hooked on it since. Your sources say what other did not and I'll circulate those quotes....Did you ever hear our boy mention such writing, William's or Duncan's? World Book doesn't say, but Hazor's author is Duncan. Like?

On the anagram, where lines 2,7,12,6, 11 yield THORN, what are the chances with almost any writing? Is this possibly significant or could chance account? I realize you have restricted yourself to caps.

On distribution, not out of fear, for which there is no basis, but simply because it would serve no good and therefore Occam, I'm not identifying the various people who are so helpful except where they already know each other. Very few Warm critics involved.

Thanks to you both. Keep trying!

Best,

for Weisberg

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21 July 71

Dear Hal..... Nothing more so far on "Constable from Barnstable," etc. but still looking. Trust you received ours of the 8th, with notes on "Zenarchy," etc. Also, while fooling around with the 12 lines of the riddle I made the usual simple anagram. Almost too elementary or obvious motif for anyone to use in the 20th century, but:

line 2—T  
" 7—H  
" 12—O  
" 6—R  
" 11—N

Ockham for Ockie, to my way of thinking, fits well in all this... but you may feel differently.

More later...

Cheers,

