Claude Shannon and His Rubik Cube Poem

Shannon was not only the creator of information theory, he was also an avid juggler, unicyclist, designer of machines that play chess and other games, and—most surprising of all—a poet.

Rubric on Rubik Cubics (1) By Claude Shannon

Once puzzledom was laissez faire
With rebus, crosswords, solitaire.
Comes now the Rubik Magic Cube
For Ph.D. or country rub e.

This fiendish clever engineer
Entrapped the music of the sphere.
It's sphere on sphere in all 3D—
A kinematic symphony!

Ta! Ra!

One thousand bucks a day .
That's Rubik's cubic pay .
He drives a Chevrol et. (2)

Problems Rubik posed for us.
Numbers of this awesome kind
Boggle even Sagan's mind. (4)

Some chaps pry their cubes apart
In with calm intelligence.
Then reassemble to the "start".
Not cricket! A rude game's afoot
And up with which we will not put

Ta! Ra! Ra! Boom De Ay!

One thousand bucks a day .
That's Rubik's cubic pay .
He drives a Chevrol et. (2)

All hail Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw,
A mayor with fast cubic draw. (13)

CODA:

She: Long pause (having been here before):
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OY VAY!

Footnotes


2. Rubik's cube, invented by Ernő Rubik, is a 3x3x3 cube that can be twisted and rotated to achieve a solved state.

3. John Conway, a mathematician known for his work in group theory, is known for his contributions to the Rubik's cube.

4. Robert J. Entringer, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

5. Michael Reid, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

6. Timo Niskanen, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

7. Richard K. Guy, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

8. David Eppstein, a computer scientist, is known for his work on Rubik's cube algorithms.

9. John Conway, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

10. Ian Stewart, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

11. Morwen B. Thistlethwaite, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

12. Jie Ma, a mathematician, is known for his work on Rubik's cube mathematics.

13. Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, a mathematician, is known for her abilities in solving Rubik's cubes.

Rubik's cube manipulator

by Shannon, Claude Elwood
10 in x 19 in x 5 1/2 in
Exhibition in MIT Museum