

P	T	N	Y	O
C	E	D	R	N
V	I	R	A	O
L	A	U	S	B
6	S	D	N	I

CELEBRATING PD60/2

Don Ylvisaker

(It is thirty years since I spent the better part of the winter quarter visiting Stanford's Statistics Department. Persi had begun his first academic job there in the fall. He soon put me to work on a research project . . . no regrets here.)

LOTTERIES

PAST AND PRESENT

(Take a lottery to be a distribution plan that employs chance events - thus opening most everything to discussion. The ancients cast lots - threw sticks or stones, or drew pebbles in ordered style from a bottle - in modern times . . . examples to follow.)

**“The lot causeth disputes to
cease, and it decideth
between the mighty”**

Proverbs 18:18

(World peace is a possibility here . . . we can flip a coin over the issue and skip the fighting part. Well, maybe not a coin . . .)

“Let us take out of the hospitals . . . 200 or 500 poor people, that have fevers, pleurisies. Let us divide them into halves, let us cast lots, that one halfe of them may fall to my share and the others to yours; I will cure them without bloodletting and sensible evacuation; but you do as ye know . . . We shall see how many funerals both of us have.”

Van Helmont, in a 1662 dispute with Galen.

**(Marvelous quote;
modern experimental
design is at hand; the year
is one in which the Royal
Society got its charter.)**

**A Lottery is a Taxation,
Upon all the Fools in Creation;
And Heav'n be prais'd,
It is easily rais'd,
Credulity's always in Fashion;
For, Folly's a Fund,
Will never lose Ground;
While Fools are so rife in the
Nation.**

—Henry Fielding, 1732

(Apparently there are two sides to the question. From the year that brought us Haydn and Washington - the latter used lotteries to fund road construction, no taxes to fall back on.)

NAME DROPPING

Jonah

Queen Elizabeth I

John Wesley

Benjamin Franklin

Alexander Pirnie

(John Wesley is an interesting case, apparently making more than one large decision on the “flip of a coin”.)

PLACE DROPPING

The Great Wall of China
Florence, Italy
Jamestown, Virginia Colony
Harvard University
Colorado Parks

(It is said that Keno was invented during the Han Dynasty - around 100BC - and used in the financing of the Great Wall.)

CAUSE DROPPING

Detection
Election
Restoration
Defense
Education
Care of the Elderly