F.A.Q.

Uvr√ pollo¥q kai peuymo¥n ki ™xv to groikhm™na   1
na måuoyn tiq ekøpiasen eiq t' apanvgramm™na.
Ki eg√ de ue na koyrfeyt√ ki agn√risto na m' ™xoy,
ma u™lv na fanervu√, ki øloi na me kat™xoy.
Antr™aq onomåzetai ki e°nai Anvpol°thq   5
ki eg°nh ki anauråfhken eiq to nhs° thq Kr¸thq .

Bitz™tzoq Kornåroq, Ervtøkritoq. (´Ekdosh: Styl. Alej°oy)
1- 4 : E 1539 - 1542
5   : dik¸ moy prosu¸kh
6   : B 588

Q = This question is an excerpt from some e-mail that I have received
during my "hunt for pi-poems" <W.> (sometimes shortened)
Q*= This is a question of mine.

I

Q: Why do you spell your name as "Antreas" instead of "Andreas" ?
A: The name Andreas (Andrew, Andrejs, Andrei etc) is a common
one in Christian world after the Apostle Andreas.
Andreas is a Greek name (etymology: |Andre°a = bravery < |Andr™aq)
In modern Greek, however, we do not pronounce "nd" anymore.
We pronounce "nt" instead.
There are exceptions for scientific terms (løgieq l™jeiq) :
®ndomorfismøq ('ndon + morfismøq) = endomorphism, for example.
Conclusion: I spell my name as it is pronounced.
This spelling is, as I have discovered later, useful:
AltaVista displayed 120 docs matching the query term Antreas,
and 70000 the term Andreas.

Q: Many Greek names start with `Hatzi'. Is this another form of
 `Hadji' [Arabic word] meaning pilgrim ?
A: Yes! When someone has visited "Holy Land" (Jerusalem, for Christians)
he became "Hatzis".
After that the prefix "Hatzi-" was added to his name.
Many Greek surnames start with "Hatzi-" because many Greek surnames
are produced from the names of persons who were "Hatzis".
My surname's etymology: Hatzis + Polos

One of my forefathers (grand-..?..-grand-father) who was named
Polos
(Pavlos = Paul, in Cretan dialect) had been "Hatzis"
The suffix -akis is a characteristic of the Cretan surnames.
(Well known examples: Kazantz-akis, Theodor-akis)

Q: Sorry to be curious: But who are you? I just know that you collect pi
mnemonics ...
A: I was born in 1952 in Anopolis, a village in Sfakia region of the   Greek
island Crete. I studied Mathematics at Athens University(*).
My Interests: Mathematics, Mathematics History/Culture, Cretan folklore
and ... the Internet. I have written some papers on Cretan folklore (published
in Greek scientific periodicals) and more than 150 articles on Cretan
folklore and Mathematics(**) (published in Greek periodicals and
newspapers),
and 6 freely available e-docs.

(*) By the way, here is a story from my student life:
```
Once someone asked a group of Athens University mathematics
students:
- Are you all Mathematics students ?
- No! I am Cretan ! I replied.
```

(**) I am not a Professor, since grammÓ mºa tØn   gevm™trhn oª poie¡.
(Grhgørioq ∏ NazianzhnØq)
[Free trans. : a single line is not enough to be someone geometer -
Gregorios of Nazianze]
When I explained that to Prof. Davor Butkovic (Croatia), I received
the following reply (here with Butkovic's kind permission):

Date: Mon, 6 May 96 12:28:09 +0200
From: butko@zpm.etf.hr (Davor Butkovic)
To: xpolakis@hol.gr

Dear Professor Hatzipolakis,

for me you are more than a Professor, because you are Greek.

(...)

D. Butkovic

My comment:
+Ellhneq e″sÁn oἀ t∂q Ômet™raq Paideºaq met™xonteq. (∥Isokråthq)
Greeks are who have our (=Greek) education (Isocrates)
Prof. Butkovic met™xei to Greek education.

Therefore Prof. Butkovic is Greek.

II

Q: Why are you collecting them   [= pi mnemonics] ?
A: The existence of pi mnemonics in several languages is an interesting
cultural phenomenon.

Q: Does anyone actually USE these mnemonics?
A: No! Except some primary school teachers (Cf. Slovene #1).
Pi mnemonics are more wordplays than useful devices.
On the other hand, none needs more than 5-6 pi digits for practical use.

Q*: Why people have written and still write pi mnemonics?
A: The pi-mnemonic-rule is one more writing constraint, an addition to
the existent ones (rhymic schemes in poetry etc.)

Q*: When the pi-mnemonic writing has started?
A: As far as I know, the first one was written in 1878. It is the
German self-referential (it says about the pi itself) pi mnemonic
written by Weinmeister.
The next year (1879) it was written the well known French one,
a hymn to Archimedes.
Afterwards people in several countries started to mimic these
very first pi mnemonics (the form [pi mnemonic rule] and its
contents too [hymns to Archimedes or references to number itself]) .

Q*: Why people (especially mathematicians) learn and remember Pi
mnemonics?
A: They have simply read pi mnemonics in math. books, periodicals,
since authors often like to add historical/cultural information in
their textbooks, papers, articles.

Q*: Why are there variants in one pi mnemonic?
A: Because "memory is unreliable" <F.>.
For the same reason we have variants in folk songs, proverbs, legends etc.
(Pi mnemonics also belong to folklore; to Mathematics Folklore)

Q: Why are there much less e mnemonics than pi ?
A: Because people are more familiar with or know more about the pi than
other mathematical constants (e, g=gamma, sqrts etc).
Every little schoolboy learns the pi (to mensurate the circle). S/he hears
about the e years later (in the secondary school).
Other probable reasons: the pi (Archimedes' number) is older than the e
(Euler's number); the pi is more interesting (more mysterious?) than the e.
(A "proof" is the existence of too many pi Web Pages and too many pi

related Usenet postings)

III

Q: Your file is free. Why?
A: I believe in the so called "Gift Economy" or the Christian:
dvreÅn ®låbate, dvreÅn døte = You got freely, give freely.
On the other hand, TØ xr¸ma polloÁ ®mºshsan, tÓn døjan oªdeºq =
Many (people) hate money, (but) none the fame.   :-)   :-)

Q*: What "freeware" means exactly?
A: This means that:
Anyone may use and distribute the file as long as:
1. s/he does not change any of its parts
2. s/he does not ask for fees of any kind.

Q*: What did/do you earn ?
A: The friendship of the people from South to North and East to West.
It is enough. Is not it?

IV

Q: For my curiosity, please, who has given you my [e-mail] address?
A: The Internet (WWW and Usenet) search engines.
I did/do use mainly the following ones:
http://altavista.digital.com/
http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu/
http://guide.infoseek.com/
http://www.dejanews.com/forms/dnq.html

Q*: Is it appropriate to send e-mails to everyone on the Net ?
A: IMHO,Yes, since his/her e-mail address is publically accessible.

Q*: Is it appropriate to publish private e-mails ?
A: No. It is not. Permission required. My apologies if sometimes I forgot
to ask for permission.
Anyway, I never publish something unrelated to the subject without
permission.

Q*: Have you changed anything in the published parts of the e-mails?
A: In general, No. But I have compiled the texts.
Please keep in mind:
1. All people do not speak English well; the first of them is the
one who wrote these lines.
2. e-mails are not .... scientific papers!
For these reasons, please be lenient in your criticisms.

Anyway, II(*)   have the responsibility of ANY errors ANYWHERE
in this doc: as editor I should have cared to be corrected.
(*) II = I and only I (cf. Iff = if and only if)

m' an eºn' ta gråmmata sfaltå, ta løgia dºxvq xårh,
san tyrokømoy måuhsh kai mp™na mhtatårh,
an ein' ta gråmmata sfaltå, ta løgia mperdem™na,
sympåueio øsoi t' ako¥ete den eºnai ki apø m™na,
san aigidårhq o ftvxøq, pokåt' apo¥ ton prºno
tø 'graca san ekåtexa, tv gnvstik√ t' af¸nv.

La chanson de maitre Jean ou révolte des Sfakiotes, en 1770.
Poéme en dialecte crétois. Publié par Emile Legrand.
Annuaire de l' association pour l' encouragement des études
grecques en Françe. Paris, 13 Anée, 1879, p. 228
[The verses above are an apology of the poet. My spelling]

Antreas P. Hatzipolakis
September 14, 1996