

Vincent Blackbird, the old miser: *Mr Blackbird is counting his money...*



Mr Blackbird : Coins, bank notes, pounds, euros, dollars.... It's all the same to me.
What matters is the quantity. Let me see... fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen,
nineteen, twenty, twenty-one....

Koko : Squawk!

Mr Blackbird : Shut up!Blasted bird! As I was saying, twenty-two and eight are thirty, forty,
fifty and fifty, a hundred!

Koko : Screech!

Mr Blackbird : Koko, enough! Where was I? One hundred, two hundred,
add eight hundred, a thousand!

Koko : Croak! Crooooooak!

Mr Blackbird : For goodness' sake, Koko, be quiet, I'm counting! One thousand one
hundred, one thousand two hundred plus those fifty-five....
There's one thousand two hundred and fifty-five pounds in this pile!



Vincent Blackbird, the old miser: *Disturbances*



Mr Blackbird : First, let's count the 18th century gold coins, second the 20th century pounds and third we'll count the twenty-first century dollars.

Koko : Aaaack!

Mr Blackbird : One hundred, two hundred, three hundred.....Let me see....Today, on the 3rd of July, I have 673 gold guineas. That's 80 more than on the 10th of June.

Koko : Aaaackeeeee!!

Mr Blackbird : Clam up, you bedraggled bird! It's three o'clock and I have an appointment at half past three. Do I have time to count the pound coins?

Koko : CoaK! Coooooook!!

Mr Blackbird : Be silent or I'll sell you! Well, I had 1,203 pound coins on the 1st July and I got 103 more at a quarter past nine yesterday mornof ing. I should have one thousand three hundred and six coins. I 'll check quickly.

Koko : Eckee!



Mr Blackbird : One thousand one hundred, one thousand two hundred, one thousand three hundred and one, two, three four, five, six. One thousand three hundred and six, that's right!

Koko : Criiiiike!

Mr Blackbird : I'll count the dollars now. One thousand, two thousand, three thousand, four thousand and ten thousand, that makes fourteen thousand dollars!

Koko : Aaaack!

Mr Blackbird : Now, let's think. At noon the dollar was worth 50 pence. Not bad! It was worth 70 pence on the 3rd of January 02. I must buy some more!

Koko : Oooak!

Mr Blackbird : Stop it or I'll wring your neck!



Vincent Blackbird, the old miser: An unexpected partnership!



Thursday 2nd September

Dear Mr Blackbird,

I remember fondly your time as a bursar in the school where I used to teach. As a result, I would be more than happy if you would accept the post of treasurer for a new group I want to start, the "Society for the Protection of Correct Spelling" (S.P.C.S.).

I have to admit that I miss marking exercises and preparing lessons. I am filled with nostalgia when I remember the classroom and even the playground, however noisy, the chatter of school children and the school bell at a quarter to nine and then again at half past three! In those days, we only had about twenty children in a class. Now there must be at least thirty-five! Oh dear, that must show my age!! I assure you I am not yet seventy. And I feel as young as fifty sometimes!

In my first school I was quite a shy teacher, very young, only just twenty-two you know. I think you worked in the third school I taught in. Or was it the fourth? I moved quite a lot in those days.

If my memory is correct, you were always very good with numbers and very methodical in all your work. Although that must be well over forty-five years ago (but of course we would rather not remember that!) I am sure you are just as clever as you were then. You were also the first to arrive, and you were in your office ready to start the day at eight thirty every day! So I have no doubt you will be perfect in this role, and I hope you will be as pleased as I am to work in the S.P.C.S.

I do hope that you will accept the position and in the meantime, I remain most sincerely yours.

Rose Thorn

Mr Blackbird: Did you see, Koko, that presenter didn't believe that I had been a bursar in my first job?



But I showed him! My school was an exemplary establishment, Koko, second to none! I worked there for at least eighteen years. Or was it nineteen? There were only about five hundred pupils there at the time. Now schools have over a thousand! Can you imagine that Koko? I am very glad I don't have to work in a school now! But I did enjoy the time there, and I got on well with the teachers and the pupils. And I remember one teacher in particular, Koko, so proud. She was called Rose. Rose Horn. No, Thorn, that's it. She was interested in accounting, so she said. But I

think, Koko, that she was secretly in love with me! It is true that in those days I was quite good looking! Goodness me, Koko, this is no time for dreaming! It's nearly half past seven, it's time I started counting my money!

