Chapter & Verse
Correspondence on not-so-famous lost words

“mediocre” (March-April). Fred Shapiro, editor of the Yale Book of Quotations (see "Harvard in Epigram," January-February, page 84), offers two variants: “Only mediocrity can be trusted to be always at its best. Genius must always have lapses proportionate to its triumphs.” (Max Beerbohm, in the Saturday Review [November 5, 1904]) and “Only a mediocre writer is always at his best.” (in W. Somerset Maugham’s introduction to The Portable Dorothy Parker [1944]).

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