THE POLICEMAN'S BEARD IS HALF-CONSTRUCTED: COMPUTER PROSE AND POETRY

The Policeman's Beard Is Half Constructed is a 1984 collection of poems and short prose that was touted as "the first book ever written by a computer."It is generally agreed that the sophistication claimed for the program was likely exaggerated. The book's "author," Racter — short for Raconteur — was an artificial intelligence computer program written by William Chamberlain and Thomas Etter that generated English language prose at random. Illustrations by Joan Hall.



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The Policeman's Beard is Half-Constructed: Computer Prose and Poetry

Author	Racter
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Peek Inside the Book

War,' chanted Benton, 'war strangely is happiness to Diane. Racter, The Policeman's Beard is Half-Constructed: Computer Prose and Poetry //

Reader's Opinions

Good grief.

Dubiously touted as "The First Book Ever Written by a Computer," this 1984 collection of poems & prose owes an unacknowledged debt to the human programmers who wrote Racter, the software that is this book's author.It's a pretty book, and fun to browse, but I'm glad I didn't pay \$40 for a used copy. Instead, I downloaded a free, high-quality...