

p. 53) (46) orig. list 13 (Dandelion) pg 53

1st draft b. Thurs. Sept 16/76

f <Mon> Sept 20/76

2nd draft f. Sept 20/76

Linnaeus flower clock - open 5-6 AM

- Century dict. - close 8-9 pm fruit, plumed minute achenes (won't split) ∴ "blowball" (Nfd) leaving ^ autumn ←(black) berry (enlarged ovary) Taylor 307 head only of ray flowers basal rosette triangle sections

- Illust. p 11 Field Flwrs lion's tooth [Z: teeth] Taráxacum officinale (chicory f.) potherbs, salads: blossoms → Italian wine. Ea. spring, late fall, everywhere flattish heads on hollow stems 3-18 in. H taproot feet deep

- Kamm orig Greece → world. Chinese "earth nail" <2→>

the long "golden hair" <→"earth ~~nail~~"> Medicine: antiscurvy; mild laxative, year all liver tonic, dyspepsia (roots) Theophrastus (won't dwarf)

seasons cf chamaeleon a thistle ←ΑΠΑΙΠΗ [<up> a-pop-ay]>

it -Gray 1549 Taráxacum: "Blowball, "Dumble-dor"

flowers (i.e. bumble-bees + beetles delight [Nfd. names]:

[dandle pissenlit (Quebec) (peace-n-lea <peæ piece 'n lee>]

lion] -Taylor T.H. cond. n. p.3 8/27ff madding . . <holy (wholly)> sun(ned) mixen . . seeded love's rebus

1 No ^ witloof (blanch)ed <blanch> handbound dry

2

3 lion's-teeth thistle-head golden<->hair earth nail

4

5 dwarf lamb closes night season

6 the <its> long year dumble-dor bumbles

7

8

1

2

3 lion's-teeth thistle/head golden-hair earth / nail

4

5

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Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Cichorium, Dandelion, Endive**

Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Compositae** (Composite Family) > **Taraxacum** (Dandelion) > **T. officinale** (1553)

Everett, *Field Flowers*, **Dandelion** (11)

Theophrastus, *Enquiry into Plants* VI. iv. 8; VII. vii. 4

Kamm, *Old Time Herbs for Northern Gardens*, **Dandelion**

Century Dictionary (CD), **dandelion, dandle, dumbledore, mixen**

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*

Dandelion

line 1: **No blanch witloof handbound dry**

line 2: **heart to racks a comb**

line 3: **lion's-teeth thistlehead golden-hair earth nail**

line 4: **flower-clock up-by-pace dandle lion won't**

line 5: **dwarf lamb closes night season**

line 6: **its long year dumble-dor bumbles**

line 7: **cure wine blowball black fall's-berry**

line 8: **madding sun mixen seeded rebus**

Sept 16-20/76

line 1: **No blanch witloof handbound dry**

Taylor, **Cichorium** {see LZ's notes and sources for previous poem} > CHICORY AND WITLOOF CULTURE. {...} Less known in U.S., but common in France, is the French endive or witloof. It is a form or variety of chicory in which the blanched leaves are eaten. They may be forced in a cellar after the roots have been dug from the ground in the fall and stored as other root crops. > **Endive**. (*Cichorium Endivia*) This delicious salad plant is troublesome to bring to perfection. It is grown for the rosette of leaves, which when tied up and blanched constitutes practically the whole plant. {...} During the early stages endive needs no more attention than any hardy vegetable beyond rather constant cultivation and, of course, freedom from weeds. But as the plants approach maturity, the necessity for blanching arrives and this is both troublesome and hazardous. The leaves will not turn white nor become crisp without excluding the light. Many good growers prefer to tie up each plant by hand. Others put boards each side of the row, pinch them together over the endive and thus cut off all light. The real difficulty in either method is that if drops of water are left, or subsequently get into the heart of the plant, it will probably rot before it blanches. {NBk (second abbreviated list)}.

line 2: **heart to racks a comb**

See Taylor line 1.

Taylor, **Dandelion**. The common dandelion, one of the six known species of the genus **Taraxacum** (ta-raks'a-kum), is chiefly noted as a weed, but others have spoken of it as the "tramp with

a golden crown.” It belongs to the section of the family Compositae which have milky juice and only ray flowers in the head. Perennial herbs with a deep taproot (in ours), the leaves in a basal rosette, the blades cut into more or less triangular sections, the tips of which are curved or bent downwards (runcinate). Flower head solitary at the end of a hollow stalk. Below the head is a series of calyx-like bracts, some bent downward, the inner ones erect. Rays numerous, golden-yellow. Fruit a collection of minute, plumed achenes {> A dry, one-seeded fruit that does not split}, the mass forming a globe-shaped cluster. (*Taraxacum* is from the Greek for disquiet or disorder, in allusion to the medicinal qualities of the herbage.)

to racks a comb < *Taraxacum*

line 3: **lion’s-teeth thistlehead golden-hair earth nail**

Everett, *Field Flowers*, **DANDELION**, *Taraxacum officinale* [Chicory family]. Originally a native of Europe and Asia, the Dandelion is now established over the civilized world. Its name is a corruption of the French *dent de lion* (lion’s tooth), and refers to the jagged-toothed leaves which may be eaten cooked or in salads. Dandelion blossoms make an excellent wine.

BLOOMING SEASON: Early spring to late fall. WHERE: Fields, lawns, and waste places; common everywhere. FLOWERS: Bright golden-yellow. Flower heads flattish, 1 to 2 inches broad, supported on hollow stems; they close at night and are followed by balloon-shaped, airy white seed heads. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 18 inches tall, having a milky juice, bitter to taste. Roots thick and deep. Leaves forming basal tufts of rosettes, oblong, often narrowed toward the base, coarsely and irregularly lobed (11).

Theophrastus VI. iv. 8: The root of the sow-thistle is also fleshy and edible; but the swollen part is elongated and not thistle-like; and, alone of the spinous-leaved plants, it has this peculiarity, in which it is the reverse of the chamaeleon, (for that plant, though it has not spinous leaves, has a thistle-like flower-head). The flower of the sow-thistle, as it ages, turns into down as do that of the dandelion {*ἀπάτης*, *apapēs*} the tamarisk and other plants like these.

Kamm, *Old Time Herbs*, **Dandelion**, *Taraxacum officinale* Weber. Dandelion root has been used in medicine from ancient times. {...} The Chinese have for ages used the plant as a potherb, and called it “earth nail” and “golden hair”: gardeners who have tried in vain to extirpate the plant from the lawn will appreciate the former (226-227).

line 4: **flower-clock up-by-pace dandle lion won’t**

CD, **dandelion**, *n.* [Formerly *dent-de-lyon*, < F. *dent de lion* {...} lit. lion’s tooth (with allusion to the form of the leaves): *dent*, < L. *den(t)-s* = E. *tooth*; *de*, < L. *de*, of; lion, < L. *leo(n)-*, a lion: see *lion*. {...}] A well-know plant, *Taraxacum officinale*, natural order *Compositae*, having a naked fistulous scape with one large bright-yellow flower, and a tapering, milky, perennial root. It is found under several forms over the whole of Europe, central and northern Asia, and North American. The root has been used as a substitute for coffee. It acts as an aperient and tonic, and is esteemed in affections of the liver. The seed of the plant is furnished with a white pappus, and is transported far and wide by the wind. The flowers open in the morning between 5 and 6 o’clock, and close between 8 and 9 in the evening; hence this was one of the plants chosen by Linnaeus for his floral clock.—**Dwarf dandelion** of the United States, *Krigia Virginica*.

Theophrastus VII. vii. 4: Those which produce their flower with the stem quickly shed the flower; except that dandelion {*ἀπάτη*, *apapē*}, when the first flower is past its prime, produces another and yet another, and continues to do so right through the winter and spring up the summer.

up-by-pace < *ἀπάτης* {see Theophrastus line 3. In his notes above, LZ initially transliterates this as “up / a-pop-ay”}.

CD, **dandle** {this entry appears right next to that for **dandelion**}, *v. t.* {...} **1.** To shake or move up and down in the arms or on the knee, as a nurse tosses or trots an infant; amuse by play.

Sporting the lion ramp'd, and in his paw
Dandled the kid. *Milton*, *P. L.* iv. 344.

{**won't / dwarf** is apparently from a remark recorded in NBk: "You can't dwarf a d- 7/25/76" (Second abbv. list). Leggott plausibly speculates the voice is that of CZ, but see also *CD*, **Dwarf dandelion** line 4}.

line 5: **dwarf lamb closes night season**

See LZ's note line 4.

{See NBk: "the plover the crocodile's dentist, the wrasse the goat fish (gold fish?) barber, the lion + the lamb may yet <lie down> together." This is a note LZ copied out many times going back to material collected for "A"-23, and it seems likely this was something he found in the *New York Times Book Review* from 1970}.

See Everett line 3 and *CD*, **dandelion** line 4.

See Theophrastus line 4 and Gray line 7.

line 6: **its long year dumble-dor bumbles**

See Theophrastus line 4 and Gray line 7.

Gray, **FAM. 168 COMPOSITAE** (Composite Family) > **99. Taráxacum** Zinn DANDELION. **BLOWBALLS**. PISSENLIT (Que.). **DUMBLE-DOR** (Nfld.) (1549).

CD, **dumbledore** (dum'bl-dôr), *n.* [E. dial., also written *dumbledor*; < **dumble* = D. *dommelen*, buzz, mumble, slumber, doze (perhaps ult. imitative, like *bumble-*, *humblebee*), + *dore*, *dor*, a bumblebee, a black beetle, a cockchafer: see *dor*¹.] **1.** The bumblebee. **2.** The brown cockchafer.

line 7: **cure wine blowball black fall's-berry**

Gray, **FAM. 168 COMPOSITAE** (Composite Family) {see line 6 above} > **99. Taráxacum** {see line 6} > **10. T. OFFICINALE** Weber (of the shops; from the fame of the plant in medicine), COMMON D. {...} {blooms} March-Sept., and more or less through winter (1553).

See Kamm line 3

See Everett line 3.

See Gray line 6.

See Taylor line 2 and LZ notes above on "black autumn berry."

line 8: **madding sun mixen seeded rebus**

Madding sun mixen seeded rebus < {a combination of Hardy and Chaucer. LZ appears to have found "mixen" in Hardy and looked it up in the *CD* where he found Chaucer}.

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, Chap. XXII: 'Well, better wed over the mixen than over the moor,' said Laban Tall, turning his sheep (171).

CD, **mixen**, *n.* {...} A dunghill; a laystall. [Obsolete or archaic.]

Hooly write nat have been defouled, na moore than the sonne that shyneth on the
mixne. *Chaucer*, *Parson's Tale*.

{NBk dated 8/27/76 (condensed notes p. 3)}

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, Chap. XXVI: A coronet with five points and beneath, Cedit amor rebus—'Love yields to circumstance' (201).