

*IGGY MCGOVERN*

**John Graves (Mathematician)**

And nothing in our maths was quite the same:  
Quaternions had trampled on our norms,  
The commutative law put to the flame  
And with it Peacock's *Permanence of Forms*.

I wrote that this new system 'graveled' me  
For I too had the triplets much in mind  
But I was willing to move on and see  
What other fabled treasures we might find.

And which I did, based on the number eight,  
His offer to make public gave no hint  
That he would manage to procrastinate  
Until I had been beaten into print.

And still the thought disturbs too frequent slumbers  
My Octaves ever known as Cayley Numbers!

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