

Archimedes of Syracuse

Archimedes, in Sicily,
Lived off the coast of Italy
In the Greek town of Syracuse
When Romans came, they took abuse.

He lifted ships out of the sea —
That surely would have frightened me!
He lobbed large stone into their craft.
He nearly drove the sailors daft.

When Archie took a bath in town
He stole a moment to look down.
His private parts, beneath the water,
Didn't sink, as they had oughter.

“Eureka!” He exclaimed aloud,
“I've solved the problem now,” he vowed.
“If displaced water causes lift,
Then lead or silver will get short shrift.

“Their density's not the same as gold,
So this old man will not be sold.”
And so he entered history
For the bath he took so publicly.

Archie also built a screw
That picked up water and put it through.
He found an excellent value for pi
By capturing a circle, in mind's eye

Between two polygons of different size.
For that he never got a prize.
His mathematics had no equal
'Till Newton there was not a sequel.

What a shame a legionnaire
Despite his orders, didn't care.
He killed the scholar where he stood.
Perhaps because he knew he could.