

15 January

Hearing a radio talk today on the ludicrous nature of lines taken out of context made me remember the actor who took part in a documentary programme apropos of Regency Brighton and the Prince Regent's lavish entertaining in that daft pavilion. He had to say the line, 'The Prince Regent's balls were the largest in Europe.' He told me afterwards that there wasn't one note of complaint.

The Listener once printed a piece from a broadcast by the scientist, Brian Ford, who said, 'In Delhi I was taken to Dikshit University and passed by Phuket Island on my way through Malaysia, and in the South Pacific I learned that the Tongan for beautiful is "U-fukofa'ofa".'

Obviously, in the Orient, beauty is in the ear of the beholder – and the genteel will be supplied with ear-plugs.

From the author of
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**KENNETH
WILLIAMS**

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