LUCKY 13

by Kate Jones—presented at G4G13

What is 13? A famous digit,
A prime, a luck sign, that makes people fidget.

Today I bring you, to win your smiles,
13 sets of pretty tiles.
Such geometry and tessellations
Make for sweet math recreations.

These are the brainchild of Michael Dowle,
A British scientist always on the prowl
For designing puzzles with many solutions,
Each with its 13 convolutions.

Behold how 13 different tiles make sport
When ins and outs a hexagon distort.
In their assembled star arrays
Each tile in turn the center spot displays.

Observe now how some tiles are chiral.
That's an idea that could go viral.
And some have rotation on their mind
While others reflect the mirror kind.

Now this one is a little strange--
It wants each part of every tile to change.
Not 13 but 30 different centers chase
Solutions where each finds its place.

This non-symmetric center tile
When flipped will go an extra mile
And double up its tribal tricks
As chiral spirals merge and mix.

It's wondrous how one stubborn piece
Will drag the rest along like queens and bees.
Your solving these takes twice the labor
As every shape must please each neighbor.

This last one, "Leaves", is our own production
From Jacques Griffioen's first introduction.
Its edge-wise connections and symmetry cycles
Differ in style and template from Michael's.
While only 7 can hold the center
Map-coloring patterns also enter.

And here at G4G this year
I present the world premiere
Of one of Michael's lucky stars.
We hereby launch the "Cookie Jars".

Besides the star, one hundred tasty treasures
Await your pondering and solving pleasures.
It's your lucky day such play to enable —
Come see them at my sales room table!

* * *