

ANOTHER UNIDICIONARY NINE-SQUARE

A. ROSS ECKLER

Morristown, New Jersey

The November 1991 Word Ways exhibited a nine-square by Eric Albert with all of its words contained in a single dictionary (Webster's Second Unabridged), the first one of its kind to be discovered. Can this feat be duplicated with words only from the Oxford English Dictionary? At least two logologists have tried, with varying degrees of success. In the February 1997 Word Ways Richard Sabey presented the first square given below, claiming that it consisted entirely of OED words. ENVEIL (to cover with a veil) and ALECIZE (to dress with ale-sauce) appear in the OED, but there is no indication that these archaic inflections have ever been used in English literature.

N E O P L A S I A	B E S T R I D E S	W O R C E S T E R
E N V E I L E S T	E C P H O N E M A	O V E R L A R G E
O V E R M E R I T	S P E R C U L I N	R E C O I N A G E
P E R D I C I N E	T H R E E R I N G	C R O S S T I E D
L I M I T I N G S	R O G E R E N E S	E L I S I O N A L
A L E C I Z E S T	I N U R E M E N T	S A N T O N A T E
S E R I N E T T E	D E L I N E A T E	T R A I N A G E S
I S I N G S T A R	E M I N E N T E R	E G G E A T E R S
A T T E S T E R S	S A N G S T E R E	R E E D L E S S E

The second square, created by Chris Long and telephoned to the editor about 1994, has an equal claim to be an OED unidictionary square. THREERING and ROGERENE are in the OED Supplement, and SANGSTERE is labeled as a 16th-century Scots variant of SONGSTER; however, EMINENTER does not appear anywhere. (However, it is listed as a synonym of EMINENTLY in Webster's Second).

The third square, also by Chris Long, was published in the September 1993 issue of The Enigma, the official organ of the National Puzzlers' League. It has the most legitimate claim:

WORCESTER an early slightly conical red-skinned eating apple
 OVERLARGE excessive in size
 RECOINAGE the process of sending money through the mint a second time
 CROSSTIED knotted across
 ELISIONAL pertaining to the action of suppressing a letter in pronunciation
 SANTONATE a salt of santonic acid derived from santonin, a powerful anthelmintic
 TRAINAGES haulages
 EGGEATERS snakes of the genus Dasypeltis
 REEDLESSE obsolete variant of REDELESS (devoid or destitute of counsel), with a 1494 illustrative quotation