

ARTIFICIAL ADREVERBUMS

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Imaginative palindromes have been featured in two recent *Word Ways* articles: "Soap Dealers and Beer Barons" by Eugene Ulrich in November 1982, and "The Majestic Palindrome" by Dmitri Borgmann in February 1985. Inspired by their monumental achievements, I have created a series of questionable forward-and-backward scriverings of my own.

If a prefix beginning with SE or DE can be discovered or coined, it is a simple matter to manufacture palindromes with seemingly-logical definitions. Employing my meager knowledge of Caesar's language, and referring to a small Latin-English dictionary, I culled several potential prefixes of Roman origin and herewith present some of my findings to an impatient public.

The first of a short series of these prefixes is DEMI-, meaning "half", like our familiar friend, SEMI-. Its four common letters, when reversed, attract a large number of compatible orthographic partners. Here are six coinages together with plausible meanings:

- DEMIAMED - Half-aimed, as an angry spouse hurling a pan at an irritating spouse.
- DEMIIDMED - Reducing any item's worth to a nickel.
- DEMIIMED - Coating a surface with half the needed amount of calcium oxide.
- DEMIIMMED - A schoolboy's partial imitation of his most disliked teacher.
- DEMIIRIMED - An uncompleted poem, or one in which only half of the lines possess the same sound at their ends.
- DEMITIMED - The late arrival of a sweetheart or lover for an agreed-upon hour.

If the demand warrants, I am prepared to inflict upon an unsuspecting world analogous lists based upon SEDI- and SENI-.

What is an *adreverbum*? This is my coined synonym for "palindrome", to be explained in a forthcoming book on this subject.