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In the Aug 1998 Word Ways, we presented a multiplicity of transposals of the seven letters AEINRST. After we had finished work on that article, we began to wonder how it could be extended further.

We wondered if there were any words that used each of the seven letters AEINRST twice, akin to the famous TAENIODONTIDAE. We were aware that there were a couple of near-misses. The 14-letter SENTENTIARIANS is made up of AEINRST plus AEINNST--i.e., there is a third N instead of a second R. And probably best of all is the 15-letter SAINTERRANTRIES, which is made up of AEINRST twice, plus a third R. Knowing the effort which went into finding TAENIODONTIDAE, it seemed highly unlikely that there existed a similar word composed of the letters AEINRST twice.

We decided to refocus our efforts. What words exist that contain only the letters AEINRST but allow repeated occurrences of any of the letters?

We managed to find 264 items, presented in the list below. Most are spelled solidly, a few are spelled with hyphens, and a few others are two-word terms. We searched only mainstream references—a search of increasingly obscure sources would no doubt throw up many additional specimens.

The longest word spelled with the seven letters appears to be the 17-letter ANTI-ETERNITARIANS, the plural form of a noun given in the Oxford English Dictionary. The longest solidly spelled word is the 16-letter INSANITARINESSES, the plural of an entry in Webster's Third.

We have grouped the words so that mutual transposals appear together; for example, the first eight items in the list all use the letters AEINRST + A. The set of longest mutual transposals is the 12-letter SAINT-ERRANTS, SAINTS-ERRANT and TRANSTAINERS (added letters are AXRST). Notice the well-mixed set at eleven letters consisting of SAINT-ERRANT, TERNARIANTS and TRANSTAINER (added letters are ANRT). To emphasize the various transposals, all added letters are capitalized.

The references are: Ch (Chambers Dictionary), Ox (Oxford English Dictionary), OS (Official Scrabble Players Dictionary and/or Official Scrabble Words), Ti (Times Index Gazetteer of the World), W2 (Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition), W3 (Webster's Third New International Dictionary) and WC (Webster's Tenth New Collegiate Dictionary).
There are a handful of even longer words: transenseSenteIATE, SAINT-ER-Rantries, Inertia STARTERS, transiENTnesSes, antiSEnSITISers, tranSese-SEnTiasTes, inSANiTARiNESSES and anti-eTERniTARIANS. I have assumed superlatives for SNARRY and REINSANE, and comparatives for STAINY and SNATTY. For TRAIN-TEAS, see TRAIN (noun 1) meaning 22 in OED. For TRANS-SEiRAN, see TRANS- (meaning 8) in OED; for TRAN-SEIiRAN, see 1935 quote at TRANS- in OED. ERASTIANISE and TRINITARIANISE are only -IZE in the OED. ANTISEnSITISER is only -IZE(R) in W2, but SENSITISER exists in Chambers. ANiRENNINS and ANiRENNETs assume that ANiRENNIN and ANiRENNET are nouns. AETERNITATIS is part of the phrase sub spicce aeternitatis.