AMBIDEXTROUS AND ANTIDEXTROUS WORDS

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In the November 2001 Kickshaws, an ambidextrous word is defined as one whose first half contains only letters from the first half of the alphabet, and whose second half contains letters from the second half of the alphabet. An antidextrous word is defined the other way round. In the following, words of even length only are considered, to avoid the problem of the central letter in words with an odd number of letters.

In the case of ambidextrous words, it is difficult to find anything better than AMBIDEXTROUS, except for phrases. For antidextrous words, PUZZLE-HEADED (which I could not find in dictionaries) is easily equaled and just surpassable.

Heterograms (all letters different) are marked with an asterisk. The source of all words is the Oxford English Dictionary, except when noted otherwise (Ch = Chambers; US and Canadian place names from Columbia Gazetteer of North America).

Ambidextrous length 12

*AMBIDEXTROUS
BLACK BOURTON (Oxfordshire)
BLADDER-SNOUT
CALABAR POTTO (Calabar potto)
CHAMBER-STORY (chamber)
FIELD-HONOURS (field 1737q)
HALLIBURTON’S (spin 1862q, could be pl.)
LIE HEAVY UPON (Ch)
MALEFESOURYS (malefessor 14..q)

Ambidextrous length 12 when S is added to end

AIGLEAUTOUR (eagle-hawk)
BEEKMANTOWN (Web 2)
BLACK-BRYONY (bryony 1883q)
CHICKEN SOUP (Bloomsbury Thesaurus)
CLAEFERWYRT (clerewort)
GLACIER-SNOW
HELICHRYSON (a plant)
LAC BEAUPORT (village, south Quebec)
MACHIASPORT (village, eastern Maine)
MIFFLINTOWN (town, central Pennsylvania)

ALFHAMPSTON (place OED un- 1960q)
BELCHERTOWN (west central Mass.)
CHALMERSTON Moss (trundle 1839q)
CHICKENWORT
GILCAMSTOUN (a mill) (multure 1547q)
HEDGE-HYSSOP
HIGH-DAY NOON
LACED MUTTON
MIDDLESTOWN (West Yorkshire)

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Ambidextrous length 14

ALFALFA SPROUTS
IMMELMANN TURNS (Immelman)

CABBAGE-SPROUTS (broccoli)

Antidextrous length 12

OUT-PRODIGIED (out- 1844q)
PRONUNCIABLE
PSOROTHALMIA (scurviness 1548q)
ROOT-SYLLABLE (move, Ch)
SYNONYMICALL (synonymical 1645q)
TO TOP THE DECK
TURNPYKEHEID (turnpike 1623q)
*UNPROVIDABLE (Web 2)
UNTO SO MICKLE
UNWURTHLICHE (unworthily 1220q)

POSTTRACHEAL (Web 2)
PROTONIC ACID (Bloomsbury Thesaurus)
QUOYNTELICHE (point 1290q)
SUNNYSIDE EGG
TO TOP THE BILL
TO WROTHE HELL (wroth)
UNPONTIFICAL (Web 2)
UNSUPPLIABLE
UNTROUBLABLE (Web 2)

Antidextrous length 14

SWOOPSTAKE-LIKE (swoop, Ch)
UNOUTSPEAKABLE

TO STOP THE CABLE
VNOOUTSPEAKABLE (unoutspeakable 1564q)