

# NEAR-HETEROGRAMMATIC DOUBLE 5-SQUARES

REX GOOCH

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*Rex was too ill to complete this article and he asked me to do this for him. He gave me the squares. Whilst he was disappointed that his final contribution to Word Ways could not have been more ground-breaking he hoped that, by demonstrating the limits of these squares, he might save others the task of looking for them. Rex's work is non-italicised; mine is italicised.*  
*Susan Thorpe*

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In 2006-176, Ross Eckler stated that a heterogrammatic 5-square is impossible to achieve, referring I believe to double squares, but without giving a reason. In the May 1979 Colloquy (following an earlier effort in February 1978), Jeff Grant had presented a double 5-square with 22 different letters, all ten words being in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED):

W H I C K    to squeak, like a pig  
R O B Y N    14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century spelling of 'robin'  
A F I V E    a-five – in five parts  
M U Z E D    past tense of 'muze', an early form of 'muse'  
P L A T S    plans or diagrams  
WRAMP    a twist or strain  
HOFUL    an old word meaning 'careful'  
IBIZA    a breed of dog found on Ibiza  
CYVET    17<sup>th</sup> century spelling of 'civet'  
KNEDS    an early dialectic form of 'kneads'

I have tried to fill in the gap between 22 and 25, with quality naturally increasing with fewer different letters, as follows:

No squares with 25 different letters.

20 squares with 24 different letters. The 4 selected are those having the most words (3, 3, 5 and 6 respectively) which appear in major dictionaries, especially the OED.

B F M P S    *British Federation of Master Printers - OED*  
Z A R E J    *populated place in Iran*  
Y U K T O    *a hypsographic feature in North Korea*  
C L O W N    *OED*  
H D V I G    *a type of digital video cable - Google*  
BZYCH    *populated place in Russia*  
FAULD    *the working arch of a furnace - OED*  
MRKOV    *populated place in Bosnia-Herzegovina*  
PETWI    *populated place in Ghana*  
SJONG    *lake in Norway*

F M C G S *Fast-Moving Consumer Goods – Chambers Dictionary*

D J I B Y *Loumbell Djiby is a waterhole in Senegal*

K O Z U L *populated place in Croatia*

T R O W P *vf 'troop' - OED*

A N V E H *populated place in Iran*

FDKTA *a sequence used in protein analysis - Google*

MJORN *lake in Sweden*

CIZOV *populated place in Czechoslovakia*

GBUWE *populated place in Nigeria*

SYLPH *a spirit supposed to inhabit the air - OED*

M D C X V *1615 - OED*

U Z H I N *populated place in Russia*

R W E J T *wadi in Saudi Arabia*

G A F L E *vf 'gaffle', a steel lever for bending the cross-bow - OED*

O K S B Y *populated place in Denmark*

MURGO *a pass in Somalia*

DZWAK *populated place in Afghanistan*

CHEFS *OED*

XIJLB *xijlb-xvd. - in a 1496 citation under the nautical term 'garnet' - OED*

VNTEY *= 'untie' - in a 1450 citation under 'untie' - OED*

P F L O C *MHG for 'plug' n. - OED*

V I J G H *= Dutch 'fig' – under 'fig-dote' - OED*

M T U W A *populated place in Malawi*

Y Z D E R *Timoulay Yzder is a populated place in Morocco*

S B A N K *an abbreviation for the Sudoströitelny Bank in Russia - Google*

PVMYS *= 'pumice' n. in a 1483 citation under 'pumice' - OED*

FITZB *abbreviation for Fitz-Boodle Papers by Thackeray, under 'lieutenant' in an 1842 citation - OED*

LJUDA *girl's Christian name in Russia*

OGWEN *a lake in Wales, UK - OED*

CHARK *charcoal - OED*

19,619 squares with 23 different letters. I have chosen 6 squares from a selection which Rex sent. In the first square, 8 of the 10 words can be found in the OED. The other 5 squares each have 7 OED words.

Z Y X S T *sixth - OED*

U W L C H *vf 'each' a. - OED*

M O V A R *vf 'mover' - OED*

B N I K A *El Bnika is an area in Syria*

I D J E F *Idjef Melene is a wadi in Algeria*

ZUMBI *cf. 'zombie'. vf 'jumby', a ghost or evil spirit among American and West Indian Blacks - OED*

YWOND *= 'wound' = past participle of 'wind' v. - OED*

XLVIJ *an anachronistic form of the Roman Numeral for 47 - OED*

SCAKE *vf 'shake' v. - OED.*

THRAF *old form of 'thrave', a measure of straw, fodder etc. - OED*

G W A H N *populated place in Liberia*  
 R U D B Y *a village in North Yorkshire, UK*  
 O L M E C *a native American people inhabiting the coast of S. Venezuela & W. Tabasco in 15<sup>th</sup>+16<sup>th</sup> centuries - OED*  
 S P I J K *Dutch: 'spike', an ear of grain - OED*  
 Z I X T E *vf 'sixth' - OED*  
   GROSZ *a surname - OED*  
   WULPI *a surname - OED*  
   ADMIX *OED*  
   HBEJT *Al Hbejt is a wadi in Saudi Arabia*  
   NYCKE *vf 'neck' n. - OED*

K H V A Z *Khvaz Pari is a populated place in Iran*  
 O W N D Y *wavy - OED*  
 R E F I X *OED*  
 B L O C S *as in American and Soviet blocs - OED*  
 U P G E T *OED*  
   KORBU *populated place in Ethiopia*  
   HWELP *vf 'whelp' - OED*  
   VNFOG *= 'unfog'. In a 1611 citation under 'unmist' v. - OED*  
   ADICE *an area in Bosnia-Herzegovina*  
   ZYGST *sixth - OED*

S C U L D *a parting - OED*  
 P O Z E R *vf 'poser', a puzzle - OED*  
 I M B W A *populated place in Malawi*  
 J F E I N *Umm Jfein are hills in Saudi Arabia*  
 K Y G T H *vf 'kith' n. = knowledge - OED*  
   SPIJK *Dutch: 'spike', an ear of grain - OED*  
   COMFY *OED*  
   UZBEG *one of the Turkic people of Turkestan - OED*  
   LEWIT *vf 'lewd' - OED*  
   DRANH *the name of a stream in Cambodia*

S K W E Z *plural of 'scu', a shadow or screen - OED*  
 T U N G D *in a 1758 citation under 'tongued' - OED*  
 A V C H I *populated place in Tajikistan*  
 P O L A B *a member of a Slavonic people once inhabiting the region around the lower Elbe - OED*  
 F R E M Y *a surname - OED*  
   STAPF *a surname - OED*  
   KUVOR *populated place in Nigeria*  
   WNCLE *vf 'uncle' - OED*  
   EGHAM *a town in Surrey, UK - OED*  
   ZDIBY *populated place in Czechoslovakia*

S Z P A K *a surname - Google*  
 W O R M Y *attacked, gnawed or bored by worms or grubs; worm-eaten - OED*  
 E B I N G *a surname - OED*  
 J U D I T *a girl's first name - OED*  
 F L E C H *vf 'fleech', meaning flattery - OED*  
   SWEJF *As Sweif is the name of a wadi in Saudi Arabia*  
   ZOBUL *Rio Zobul Uens is the name of a stream in Ethiopia*  
   PRIDE *OED*  
   AMNIC *of, or pertaining to, an amnion - OED*  
   KYGTH *vf 'kite' - OED*