

It is not likely that sets of four-letter orchard words can be found corresponding to patterns of more than 15 letters, even with the aid of a computer. Gardner exhibits ones containing 19 points in 19 rows (Grünbaum), 20 points in 18 rows (Loyd), and 20 points in 21 rows (Lopow). Unfortunately, one must use several rather rare letters.

The geometric property of orchard words is reminiscent of word squares; each row of an r-by-r square has r intersections with all columns, and no intersections with any other row. For examples, see "Heterogrammic Word Squares" in the Aug 2007 Word Ways. The example above is a 3-by-3 heterogrammic square augmented by the same letter at the end of each row and each column.

INFATUATION

WIN EMMONS

Waco, Texas

Infatuation

Coming after several minutes
Of intense concentration, Sid smiled
Long and hard at the ultimate
In beauty staring back at him.
What a perfect thing she was
To contemplate, such a goddess.
Divine? He imagined her to be so.
Did he deserve her? To believe his eyes
Required a leap of faith.
God? Fate? Hope? All of these?
Such a mystery.
God, fate, hope, all of these
Required a leap of faith.
Did he deserve her? To believe his eyes,
Divine he imagined her. To be so!
To contemplate such a goddess!
What a perfect thing she was
In beauty staring back. At him!
Long and hard, at the ultimate
Of intense concentration, Sid smiled,
Coming after several minutes.