

## *An Editorial*

### Welcome to WORD WAYS!

The Journal of Recreational Linguistics has been created to provide a forum for all people interested in word puzzles and in other recreational aspects of language, a meeting ground for active minds comparable to the many books, magazines, and columns devoted to mathematical recreations. Addressing itself to a broad spectrum of word interests, it is the first and only periodical of the kind.

To the average person, "word puzzle" means "crossword puzzle," that ubiquitous diversion found in almost every newspaper and in numerous magazines. Individuals especially interested in words as a hobby are also aware of the doublecrossics and the cryptograms featured in a limited number of publications. That, however, just about sums up the public's acquaintance with the field of verbal recreations.

Actually, of course, the world of language has immensely more to offer the word enthusiast. Its treasures are fully as diversified and as challenging as those available to the mathematician, amateur or professional, who likes to play with numbers and with the logic behind them. In WORD WAYS, these linguistic riches will be brought out into the light of day, to be examined, savored, and explored. Over a period of time, every conceivable facet of language will be touched upon from a recreational viewpoint.

The material comprising the Journal will, naturally, include some bona fide word puzzles, though the examples displayed in the pages of WORD WAYS will invariably be of a novel character, compelling readers to channel their thinking into unaccustomed avenues in search of solutions. There will also be quizzes of various sorts (such as an incredible spelling quiz intended to become a regular feature), and thought problems calling for analysis, or research, or both.

There is yet another side to the coin. WORD WAYS will also feature articles of interest to logophiles. Some of these articles will report the results of research into special word problems; others will focus attention on new problems, commending them to readers as possible objects of future investigation; and still oth-

ers will be purely for entertainment, treating word hobbies in a light, humorous vein. Apt also to be included is occasional verse relevant to the subject matter of the Journal.

Readers will find all the strands of word lore that we have been enumerating represented in this first issue of WORD WAYS; those and more.

We invite readers to submit their solutions to unsolved problems posed in various articles, to propose new problems, and to send in questions falling under the general heading of recreational linguistics, questions that either the Editor or other readers might be able to answer. Planned for future issues of the Journal is a section of letters from readers, with replies given where possible or appropriate. Manuscripts relating to subjects consistent with the purposes and general content of WORD WAYS, for publication in future issues, are also welcome.

Features and subjects that prove to be particularly popular with readers will receive more attention in subsequent issues—we aim to please.

Enough of these preliminaries—we don't want to detain you. Delve into the substance of WORD WAYS, and enjoy yourself!