

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In the November issue of WORD WAYS (Volume 1, no. 4, page 230), you asked if we could find any longer French words than the one with 33-letters. I want to point out that the 1965 edition of "Le Petit Larousse" lists a 38-letter French place name which is

SAINT-REMY-EN-BOUZEMONT-SAINT-GENEST-ET-ISSON

I also heard that there was a place in the province of Québec, Canada in the county of Papineau named

"Couer-Très-Pur-de-la-Très-Bienheureuse-Vierge-Marie-de-Plaisance"
(54 letters) but I have not been able to verify it.

I enjoy very much your publication, but as my "native language" is French I would like to ask if you know any books of Recreational Linguistics in French. If you do, please let me know it.

Thank you very much,

Guy Lapalme
2261 Beauparlant
St-Hyacinthe, Québec
Canada.

(Can any reader refer Mr. Lapalme to some RL books in French?)

To the Editor:

Having received no less than four collections of nouns of multitude this past Christmas, and having also just recently gone over the splendid lists given under "Sports Technicalities" in Eric Partridge's *Usage and Abusage*, I may have been in a rather special state of readiness for the question asked on page 205 of the November WORD WAYS (Vol. 1, No. 4). The aforementioned gift books, by the way, were the newly-published *An Exaltation of Larks* by James Lipton (a fine compilation of both traditional and recently-coined terms) and three handsomely-illustrated volumes by Brian Wildsmith respectively titled *Fishes*, *Birds*, and *Wild Animals*.

The following phrases, proposed as additions to those you listed under the caption "DAUGHTERS OF JOY," are strictly of my own devising. But I do feel that Partridge, Lipton and Wildsmith deserve credit for putting me in the proper frame of mind for such a project. I am also indebted to Roget's *Thesaurus*, it is probably unnecessary to add, for many of the synonyms here employed.

Here is my list:

- a RING of jades
- a CARGO of baggages
- a SQUEAK of bawds
- a WIGGLE of wantons (or wrenches)
- a TRUMPERY of queans
- a SKULK of doxies
- a CLUTCH of hustlers
- a HUBBLE-BUBBLE of hookers (cf. *hookahs* and second meaning of *hubble-bubble*)
- a BECKONING & EGGING of bawds in rooms
- a HIGGLE of harlots
- a *CLUSTER (or *KINDLE) of courtesans (or concubines)

*These last terms are from the traditional "cluster of cats" and "kindle of kittens"; they therefore seem highly appropriate, also, for (a) inhabitants of cat bouses (b) professional sex kittens.

By way of conclusion, allow me to wish WORD WAYS a veritable Surfeit of Subscriptions,

Donald A. Drury
4436 East 5th Street
Long Beach, California 90814

* * *

AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES

Have you noticed something peculiar about motor vehicles? They tend to have double names either half of which can be dropped without any impairment in meaning. To illustrate: an AUTOCAR may equally well be called either an AUTO or a CAR; a TAXICAB is also known as a TAXI, or as a CAB; and a MOTORCAR isn't really anything other than a MOTOR, or a CAR. (Yes, MOTOR is a synonym for AUTOMOBILE or for MOTOR VEHICLE).

The only non-automotive example of such double naming that comes to mind is the fish called a MUSKELLUNGE, which is also referred to as a MUSKIE, or as a LUNGE. Have our readers found other examples?

* * *

WORD-PALINDROMES

J. A. Lindon

So patient a doctor to doctor a patient so.
Company of fond people irks people fond of company.
Bomb-disposal squad with failed technique failed with squad-disposal bomb.
Girls, with boys passing, meet passing boys with girls.
Girl, bathing on Bikini, eyeing boy, finds boy eyeing bikini on bathing-girl.
You can cage a swallow, can't you, but you can't swallow a cage, can you!