THE ART OF THE STATE

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In this article we shall discuss two areas of logological interest in which the fifty state-names play a prominent part. No doubt the reader will be able to discover further areas for himself.

The first area of interest can be termed Stately Abbreviations. Most of the fifty state-names possess abbreviated forms. A number of the state-names possess more than just one abbreviated form. These abbreviations help us to save thousands, possibly millions, of typist-hours each year. Consider the time that is saved by typing PA one hundred times instead of PENNSYLVANIA one hundred times.

Newspapers can make fuller use of the space available to them by utilizing these abbreviations where necessary. It is much more compact to refer to KLEINFELTERSVILLE, PA. rather than KLEINFELTERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA; or to AI, N.C. rather than AI, NORTH CAROLINA. These are but two examples of the necessity of abbreviations for the state-names.

Logologists, however, view these abbreviations in a somewhat different light. Logologists, by definition, are interested in words, not abbreviations. To the man in the street, the state-name abbreviations are just abbreviations and nothing more. But the logologist points out that many of the state-name abbreviations, besides being abbreviations, are also real words. For example, ILL (from Illinois, of course) is a real word. MASS (from Massachusetts) is a real word also.

A fuller list of the abbreviations which are also real words is given in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>a Sumerian drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALAS</td>
<td>an exclamation expressive of a number of emotions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARK</td>
<td>a chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAL</td>
<td>wolframite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALIF</td>
<td>a variant of caliph, a title of the successors of Mohammed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case he is re...
COL - a pass in a mountain chain
COLO - a town in Story County, Iowa, between Ames and Marshalltown
CONN - the control exercised by one who guides the movements of a ship
DEL - a vector differential operator
FLOR - a coating on microorganisms
GA - a people of Ghana
GEO - a deep coastal inlet
I - the first person nominative pronoun
IA - a genus of African bats
ID - a skin rash
IDA - a feminine proper name
ILL - bad or evil
IND - a poetic form of India
IO - a shout of joy
KAN - a Dutch liquid measure
KANS - a common Indian grass
KAS - a Dutch cupboard
KEN - a rowdy resort for thieves and beggars
LA - the tone A in the fixed-do system
MASS - the Christian eucharistic rite
ME - the objective case of I
MICH - a variant of the word meech, to play truant
MINN - a variant of the word mind, a head ornament
MISS - to fail to hit
MO - a dialect form of more
MON - a family badge
MONT - a mountain
NEB - a bird or tortoise beak
NY - nor I
O - a variant of oh
ORE - metal in its natural state combined with some other substance
PA - a Maori village
PENN - a town in Saskatchewan, Canada
PENNA - a feather
RI - a Japanese unit of distance
TEX - an obsolete form of text
UT - the musical tone C in the French fixed-do system
WASH - to cleanse
WIS - know
WY - the letter Y
WYO - a town in Glenn County, California

In case a number of these abbreviations are unknown to the reader, he is referred to the abbreviations section in Webster's Unabridged.
Dictionary, Second Edition, where all can be found.

This list contains 46 abbreviations representing 34 state-names. In other words, over two-thirds of the state-names possess real word-abbreviations. Is this not an amazing proportion?

But what of the remaining state-names? The abbreviations of these make no sense to the logologist. SC, ND, NJ, etc. are all devoid of any logological beauty. Something has to be done to remedy this situation. We begin by suggesting that SC (for South Carolina) is replaced by SCAR, which is a common enough word. Can the reader suggest replacements for the other abbreviations? Perhaps the Post Office could be persuaded to adopt them officially!

The second area of interest can be termed Stately Charades. If we take the word MONUMENTALLY we can split it into four complete words: MO, NU, MEN and TALLY. Such words are called charades. There are hosts of everyday words from which charades can be formed. A few examples are:

HESITATION - HE, SIT, AT, ION
MATHEMATICS - MAT, HE, MA, TICS
INTEGRATION - IN, TEG, RAT, ION
AMERICAN - AM, ERIC, AN
NEWSPAPER - NEW, SPA, PER
HISTORIES - HIS, TORIES

The regularity with which charades can be formed from individual words tends to reduce their interest. Rather than creating charades from increasingly longer words, we decided to take all of the fifty state-names and run them together. From this chain of 412 letters we would try to form charades. It was thought prudent not to allow single-letter words. Also, for esthetic reasons, we decided that two-letter words should be kept to a minimum. Even so, our list contains a considerable number of two-letter words.

ALA  a large ancient Sumerian drum
BAM  a slang word meaning hoax
AAL  an East Indian shrub or small tree
ASK  request
AA   a kind of lava
RIZ  dialect past participle of rise
ONA  an Indian of a primitive Tierra del Fuegan tribe
ARK  a place of refuge
ANSAS a river in Arabia
CALIFORNIAC an enthusiast for California
OLOR a genus of swans

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADO</td>
<td>bustle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONNECT</td>
<td>join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>obsolete form of the pronoun I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT</td>
<td>the musical tone C in the French fixed-do system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>a syllable in bebization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW</td>
<td>the rules of society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARE</td>
<td>100 square meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLO</td>
<td>an arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RID</td>
<td>to free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td>a period of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGIA</td>
<td>orgies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAW</td>
<td>a dull blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>the three-toed sloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDDA</td>
<td>the name of at least two towns in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HO</td>
<td>a dialect of the Kol language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILL</td>
<td>unhealthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INO</td>
<td>the wife of Athamas in Greek mythology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>form of the verb to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>an obsolete term for America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIO</td>
<td>ngaio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAKANS</td>
<td>supernatural forces in American Indian religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>a Roman weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEN</td>
<td>know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUCKY</td>
<td>the common spatterdash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUIS</td>
<td>a Louis d'or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAN</td>
<td>a Gaelic form of John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMAIN</td>
<td>to lower a sail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EM</td>
<td>a printer's unit of measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARY</td>
<td>any</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDMASS</td>
<td>a large area of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACHU</td>
<td>the name of a town in Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETT</td>
<td>the constitution of a burgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMICH</td>
<td>the stonechat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-GAN</td>
<td>obsolete past tense of verb i-gin, meaning to begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNE</td>
<td>love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOT</td>
<td>a habitual drunkard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMISS</td>
<td>faulty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>that which is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIP</td>
<td>to taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>to throw into disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISS</td>
<td>to avoid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR</td>
<td>belonging to us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'M</td>
<td>a contraction of I am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON</td>
<td>Biblical name of Heliopolis, ancient Egyptian city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANAN</td>
<td>a Siamese unit of measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB</td>
<td>a reformed spelling of ebb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS</td>
<td>a cape</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KAN a Dutch liquid measure
EVA a feminine proper name
DANE a native of Denmark
WHAMP a wasp
SHIRE a district
NEW modern
JERSEY the largest of the Channel Islands
NEW up to date
ME myself
XI a letter of the Greek alphabet
CONA a three-dimensional geometrical figure
WY the letter Y
ORK the grampus
NORTH a northerly wind
CAROLIN a Swedish coin
AN one of the indefinite articles
ORTH wrath
DA ambar
KO a type of Chinese porcelain
TAO a peasant of the Philippines
HI an obsolete word for I, he, her, herself, they
OOK a Scottish spelling of week
LAHOMA a town in Garfield County, Oklahoma
ORE a kind of fine wool from Leominster, England
GON a cloth measure of Annam
PENN surname of a signer of the Declaration of Independence
SYLVANIA a town in Lucas County, Ohio
RHO a letter of the Greek alphabet
DEIS a dialect spelling of dais
LANDS disembarks
OUTH over, or above
CAROL a masculine or a feminine proper name
INA a mother
SOUTH a cardinal point
DAK mail
OTA the name of at least 3 towns in Honshu, Japan
TENNES orangey heraldic colors
SEET obsolete past tense of sit
EX without
AS the singular of Aesir, the chief gods of the Teutonic pantheon
UT the first syllable of Guido's solmization system
AH a prefix to proper names used in parts of China
VER spring
MONT a mountain
VIRGIN a picture of a Madonna
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IA WAS</th>
<th>a spelling of Iowa, an Indian tribe, which dates from the 17th century</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HING</td>
<td>a type of gum with a strong odor and garlic taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TON</td>
<td>2240 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>Europe and the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIR</td>
<td>activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GINI</td>
<td>the name of a town in Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW</td>
<td>an interjection of disgust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>a town in west-central Iraq on the Euphrates River, now called Hit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON</td>
<td>in opposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIN</td>
<td>transgression of the law of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYO</td>
<td>a town in Glenn County, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MING</td>
<td>a Chinese dynasty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The words in this list were taken from a number of sources. They are the Second Edition and the Third Edition of Webster's New International Dictionary, the Oxford English Dictionary, The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World, the 1967 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide, The American Thesaurus of Slang (by Berrey and van den Bark), and The Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (by Frederick Webb Hodge).

Perhaps the reader would care to repeat this exercise in charades using some other well-known group of names. For a start, we suggest the letters of the Greek alphabet, the surnames of the presidents of the United States, the signs of the Zodiac, or the names of the chemical elements.