COLLOQUY

Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

J.A. Lindon, Weybridge, Surrey, England has come up with "a hasty and not good solution" to the 5-by-12 pentomino rectangle word problem presented as a Query in the May 1970 Word Ways (the reader is referred to page 94 for the underlying pentomino patterns):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ATOMS} & \quad \text{LOOMS} \\
\text{OPERA} & \quad \text{ARENA} \\
\text{RENA} & \quad \text{STILL} \\
\text{LIBRA} & \quad \text{CANST} \\
\text{TRILL} & \quad \text{LIVID} \\
\text{BEANS} & \quad \text{TRIOS} \\
\text{EDIT} & \quad \text{BARON} \\
\text{HEARD} & \quad \text{BRACE} \\
\text{LIMBS} & \quad \text{BLARE} \\
\text{AVIAN} & \quad \text{IMED} \\
\text{STOLE} & \quad \text{LATHE} \\
\text{GROUP} & \quad \text{UPPER}
\end{align*}
\]

In the February 1969 issue, "The Multiple-Letter Word Hunt" lists SCACCHIC as the shortest word with 4 C's. However, Howard Bergerson points out that COCCIC, a bacteriological term, appears in the Random House Unabridged Dictionary. Elsewhere in this issue, Darryl Francis offers an improved word having 4 Q's.

Darryl Francis has located two double-AEIOU words in the 23rd edition of Dorland's Medical Dictionary: PSEUDOINTRALIGAMENTOUS and PSEUDOHEMAGGLUTINATION. Notice that the first word contains one AEIOU in the first eleven letters, and the second AEIOU in the final eleven letters. He has also discovered a triple-AEIOU electronics phrase: AUTOREGULATION INDUCTION HEATER.
Does Nova Scotia air stimulate infinite palindromes? A. Wilansky of Bethlehem, Penna. (who graduated from Dalhousie University) responds to "The Baleful Tale of Hale and Gale" with the sound of an eternal Rip Van Winkle: \[\ldots\ldots zzzzzzz \ldots\ldots \]

In the February 1970 Word Ways, Jean Sabine gave three nine-letter words (with repeated letters) that could be traced out in her word square using the King's Move in chess. Darryl Francis has located a number of additional words of nine or more letters, all in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition:

9 antenatal, antralgia, amotsteal, besetment, cementite, centenary, costalgia, filiality, hostility, mentality, metralgia, metranate, momentary, ostealgia, postnatal, semestral, taltalate, talitale, tartarate, viritrate
10 bestiality, centrality, fugitivity, mesometral, nestiastria, post-atrial, postmental, semestrial, sentential, tenemetal
11 centenarian, itatertrate, sententiary, tenemetary
12 metatijmate
13 sententiarian

He challenges Word Ways readers to come up with a 5x5 square of letters (omitting any letter one desires) for which no words can be traced out. He conjectures that at least one word can always be found in either Webster's Second or Third Editions.

Ralph Beaman, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, suggests numerous additions to his May article, "Syllabilities".

Part I - Shortest Words Containing n Syllables:

3 letters, 3 syllables - DDT; SOS; VIP; PDQ (Webster's gives no pronunciation); O'I'O (bonefish, also noted by Darryl Francis) is a superior example since it is not derived from an abbreviation.
4 letters, 4 syllables - PETN (Webster's gives no pronunciation, but chemists assure me it is pronounced P-E-T-N, not penta-erythritol tetranitrate); O-O-A-A (a Hawaiian bird, also noted by Darryl Francis and Murray Pearce).
7 letters, 5 syllables - OXYOPIA (in Language on Vacation) can be matched by OLEARIA.
16 letters, 10 syllables - UROBILINOGENURIA
20 letters, 10 syllables - HEMANGIOENDOTHELIOMA
21 letters, 12 syllables - HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAUA

Part II - Longest Two-Syllable Words:

13 letters - HAIRSBREADTHS, HANDSBREADTHS, SMOOTH-TONGUED
14 letters - STRAIGHT-BACKED, STRIKE-THROUGHS
15 letters - STRAIGHT-GRAINED
By coining a word, one can go as high as 17 letters: "The road was very narrow, about two BROUGHAMS BREADTHS".

Part III - Words With More Syllables Than Letters:
Darryl Francis suggested AWOL, six syllables for four letters; this was not previously included because it is also an abbreviation.

In OO GAGE, the "OO" is pronounced double O, 3 syllables for two letters.
The second entry under S-, an abbreviation, is pronounced secondary, four syllables for one letter. T- has no pronunciation given, but it must be tertiary.
The entry 20/20 is pronounced twenty-twenty, four syllables for no letters.

Mary J. Youngquist, Rochester, New York and Murray Pearce, Bismarck, North Dakota have supplied geographic mnemonics for all 14 states omitted by Charles Karrick in the February 1970 Word Ways. A handful of Mr. Pearce's mnemonics were supplied by Dmitri Borgmann, and are identified with asterisks.

1. Renew Mexico's wild pheasant, a feral bird.
I knew Mexico would extend this peasant a fervent welcome.

2. These nine bras Katie bought last fall in Coi. Newton's store.
Even if you wear fine bras, Kate, you won't look Lincoln-esque.

3. Criminal trio wanted; ringleader decides M. O. in Estherville.
Hardy trio wades Mo. in essaying cross-country hike.

4. Cockney shouts from inn, "I E's 'ot," and "Yes, ain't Paul great?"
Be calm, Innes, otalgia won't arrest Paula's hearing.

5. Chewy 'oming pigeon: Cockney apache yen, never fulfilled.
The Hebrew "yom", Inga, doesn't mean ache, yen, need or desire.

6. Often, Ness eels burn to brown ash, villein complains.
On a forgotten ness eerie monsters gnash villeins with impunity.

7. In joy endemic, "Hi Gang!" hear the clan sing.
During the epidemic, Hi, gangrene overcame Alan's ingrained fear of doctors.

8. Oh, I only saw Mexico, Lum; bus was late.
Oh, I often read the poetry of Padraic Colum, buster.

A grim ass (achu!) set tsars sneezing at the hobo's tongue.

10. Penn., sylvan iambic poet, writes of Harris, burglar of jewels.
The Pennsylvanian period was explained by Mr. Harris, burgomaster and scholar.

11. A clever montage maker is Simon T. Pellier.
Never monthly! In the Piedmont, 'PE' lie repeaters speak
A few mnemonics improve upon Mr. Karrick's originals:

Use an insectifuge or giant insects will destroy that lantana field. Sinewy or knotted branches are typical banyan tree characteristics. I knew Hamp's hireling would greet the deacon cordially. To disconnect, I cut cables marked on a chart for destruction. Don't panic, Ali, for Niagara Falls enhances the sacrament of matrimony.

Florid atheists treat Allah, as seen by Muslims, as nonexistent.

Josefa Byrne, Mill Valley, California, also discovered geographic mnemonics for all 14 states; however, several of her sentences exceed the eleven-word limit originally set by Dmitri Borgmann.

1. Agnew M., ex-iconoclast, is now as pleasant a fellow as he can be.
2. The nine bras Katherine bought were for Lin, Col. Neiderhoffer's grandniece.
4. Minne's otalgia was due to a preauricular cyst, Paululated.
5. I know Yom Ingersoll (grandson of Robert) has neither ache, yen, need, nor desire for religion.
6. After death, his obsequious rottenness e'en followed him to his urn, ash villein.
7. The great mimic, Hi Gantry, hides plans in gestures.
8. "Oh, I ought to learn more about protocol," U. M. Bushwhacker said.
10. The home of William Penn, sylvan, I assume, was the first on the block with a genuine Harrisburg burglar alarm.
11. Whenever Monty played Beethoven's Egmont, Pel, i.e. Robert Pel, flipped out.
12. "I haven't a sou," T. H. Carol, in a loud voice said, "because I pay Frederico Lum biannually."
13. Neither B. B. nor T. H. Dako take to theatrical cubism; arc klieg lights and a bare stage suffice.

Finally, Scott Hattie of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada supplies
geographic mnemonics for Canada’s ten provinces and capitals:

1. "Down with Victoria and all the British!" Colum, biased, cried.
2. "Be in bed, mon, tonight by ten," Albert A. McTavish warned.
4. Mani to Babel hastened, saying, "Erwin, nip egotism in the bud."
5. Smear on tar Lorder, then, Victor, on to feathers.
6. A Basque becomes a Basque because of an accident of birth.
7. Fred, Eric, Tony -- I have a brand new Brunswick pool table!
8. No, Vasco, Haras are not for Stendhal if axes are carried.
10. At last John’s Scrabble-playing friend Agnew found L and Z.

Leslie Card, Urbana, Illinois, has added 77 four-letter numerical tautonyms to Darryl Francis’ list in the February issue of Words Ways. If letters are assigned values according to their numerical position in the alphabet, a four-letter numerical tautonym is a word in which the sum of the values of the first two letters equals the sum of the values of the last two letters. All words can be found in Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition.

ahed, ambl, amie, arco, arme, atli, awes, bija, cads, deha, dhak, dute, erin, floc, glar, gnop, hela, hiel, hore, holk, hoin, jena, jine, knet, leap, lepa, lip, lowd, losh, lori, magg, miro, mowe, munt, muso, myrt, nids, oaks, orix, pahi, piet, plew, plug, pyl, purs, ralen, ran, rect, reds, rive, rish, ruts, scog, shir, shri, sith, siwe, skoo, solv, thew, thug, toun, typy, vare, veri, velo, warf, wase, weis, whop, wims, yerl, zair, zels, zips