Would you believe that over eight hundred fifty transposable words of eight or more letters can be formed from only these letters:

A A B D E F G I I L N O P R R S S T T U

Transposition, a word game that begins where Anagrams leaves off, starts with a group of letters which are a breakdown of the spelling of a well-known work, a geographic location, the name of a prominent person or athletic team, a well-known quotation or slogan, and so forth. For example, the letters A A C D E E E I I L N O O O P P R R T T T T Y can be rearranged to spell the slogan TIPPECANOE AND TYLER TOO, and this is called the key. Players are not given the key as such; they are given only the letter breakdown.

The theme of Transposition is to form as many transposable words as possible out of the allotted letters. In other words, each word must be rearrangeable into one or more additional words, which taken together are called a word group. In any one word no letter may be used more often than it appears in the breakdown, and no words or word forms of less than eight letters are acceptable. For example, the word group LATRINE / RELIANT / RETINAL is not allowed because the words are only seven letters long, and the word group ENROLLED / RONDELLE is not allowed because there is only one L in the key.

Scoring is quite simple. Each group of two eight-letter words is worth 15 points, each group of two nine-letter words is worth 20 points, each group of two ten-letter words is worth 25 points, and so on. If there are more than two words in a group, each additional word is worth 5 points. Solving the key allows one to double the total word group score. The following legitimate word groups earn the number of points indicated:

CONNARITE / COTARNINE / CREATION / NARCOTINE (30)
AFORETIC / CAPRIOTE / OPERATIC / PETROICA (25)
CAROTENOIDS / COORDINATE / CORONADITE / DECORATION (35)
ELECTRET / TERCELET (15)

All word forms used must be dictionary provable; Webster's Third New International Dictionary and The American College Dictionary have been used as sources. Boldface entries such as REMINT, REAMEND, and countless others, do not show the use of such suffixing as D, ED, ING, and so forth. Any such suffixing approved for use with the basic word MINT, AMEND, and so forth may be used with the RE prefixed word form.

Acceptable words include the following:

1. Names of peoples and native tribes: ISRAELITE (REALITIES)
2. Words that are archaic or obsolete: ASTONIED (SEDATION)
3. Foreign words incorporated into our language and included in our dictionaries: GEHEIMNIS (HERMITAGE)
4. Foreign titles of address: SENORITA (ASTERION)
5. Foreign monetary units, current or outdated: TRIENTES (INTEREST)
6. Words peculiar only to the slang or dialect of any segment of the English-speaking peoples: MAUNDERING (UNDREAMING)
7. Proper names, if they are also dictionary listed: ARGENTINA (ARGENTIAN)
8. Dictionary-listed trademarks: FORMALIN (INFORMAL)

Also acceptable would be word shortenings which by usage have now become dictionary acceptable words, anglicized spellings of letters of foreign alphabets, and days of the week and months of the year. However, apostrophized or hyphenated words are not acceptable.

One may use both primary and variant spellings of any word, so long as both spellings do not appear in the same word group. The use of ALIGNMENT and ALINEMENT in separate word groups would be acceptable, but BANDELIER and BANDELEER would not both be allowed. Dictionary acceptable prefixing and suffixing may be used with the variant as well as the regular spelling.

One may use any plural form other than those formed by the simple addition of an ES or S to the basic word; furthermore, one may use both the singular and plural forms of any word. For example, CISTERNA can be combined with CANISTER / CESTRIAN / SCANTIER, and CISTERNAE can be combined with NECTARIES.

One may use words ending with an S only if the dictionary shows that such spelling is the only basic construction. Acceptable would be: MERIONES / EMERSION. One may use a verb form in which a
Y ending has been changed to an IES ending. Acceptable would be: STEADIES / EASTSIDE / SIESTAED. However, one may not use a verb form made simply by the addition of an ES or S to the basic word, such as PERFORMS, INCORPORATES, and so forth.

One may use as many forms of any basic word as are makeable out of the allotted letters: EARTHIER / HEARTIER, EARTHIEST / HEARTIEST, EARTHILY / HEARTILY, EARTHINESS / HEARTINESS, EARTHING / HEARTING.

Readers are invited to try their skill at a sample game:

AAAAACDEGIMNNRTY

As a hint, the key is the title of a widely-acclaimed American novel published in the 1920s. This is a relatively small game; the solution set, given in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue, contains 206 words arranged in 83 word groups. Specifically, there are:

- 8-letter words: 34 2-word groups, 14 3-word groups, 5 4-word groups, 1 5-word group, and 1 7-word group
- 9-letter words: 18 2-word groups, 7 3-word groups
- 10-letter words: 2 2-word groups, 1 3-word group

If you have formed an acceptable word group, of whatever number of words, and cannot find it in the category for that number of words, then it is part of a group containing more words than you have formed with those letters. Check those categories containing more words than you have formed, and having the same number of letters per word.

Now, play on, and enjoy a pleasant REACTION to my CREATION.