MORE VOWEL TRIGRAMS

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In the February 1971 Word Ways, Delphi Knoxjaqzonville presented a list of words and names displaying vowel trigrams. However, she only considered the letters A, E, I, O and U as vowels, excluding Y. From five vowels 125 trigrams can be generated, while from six vowels the figure is 216. In her article, Miss Knoxjaqzonville gave examples of words and names which used most of the 125 AEIOU trigrams, and appealed to readers to search for words which used the 91 trigrams containing the letter Y. I decided to respond to her appeal.

Initially, I searched the Second and Third Editions of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and found words for seventy different trigrams:

AEY teaey  IYY Selyuhonito  YEI eyeing
AIY copalye  IYY siyyld  YEO yeoman
AOY taoyin  OYE joey  YEU voyeur
AUY hauynite  OOO forhooy  YEP clayey
AYA maya  OUY ouyczd  YIA orgyla
AYE taxpayer  OYA voyage  YIE yield
AYI saying  OYE enjoyed  YII ki-ying
AYO bayonet  OYI boyish  YIO myosis
AYU Cayuga  OYO joyous  YOA myoalbumin
AYY sayyid  OYU coyure  YOE hyopiglottic
EAY fleay  UAY quay  YOI yolks
EEY treey  UEY bluey  YOO yop
EOY peecoy  UOU buoynant  YOU yourself
EYA abeyance  UYA buyable  YOY yoy
EYE eye  UYE buyer  YUA yuan
EYI obeying  UYI buying  YUE Yuechi
EYO beyond  UYO guyot  YUI Yuit
EYY's snarleyyow  UUY kikuyu  YUY avuyu
IEY criley  YAE hyaena  YYA Omayad
IAY sukiyaki  YAI Banyai  YYE cubbyew
IYE biyearly  YAU kyaung  YYI sayyld
IYI kil  YAY yaya  YYO gayou
IYO ukiyoye  YEA year  YYU Payyumlc

Possibly some trigrams exist that escaped my search.

In an attempt to find words which used most of these two remaining five -- IY, YI, YO, YY, YU -- I found words of interest:

AAY Baa'  EAY Leiy  EUY Leuv
AYU Banyai  IAY Klay  IOY Rloy
IUY Kluy  OAY Toav
OYI Loly  OYY Koy
UIY Kuy
YAA yaap  YAO yauw  YIU ylun  YIY Yiya  YUO yuon

86 of the 91 possible trigrams were found.

124
Possibly, words containing one or more of the 21 remaining trigrams exist in the two large Webster dictionaries. If they do, they escaped my notice.

In an attempt to find words and names to fill the 21 gaps, I searched the First Edition of the unabridged Webster's dictionary and the Times Index Gazetteer of the World. The former was not used as a reference in Miss Knoxjaqzonville's original article, but the latter was. Using these two references I have managed to find words and names containing most of the outstanding trigrams:

- AAY Baay, a town in the Philippine Islands
- EII Leiyang, a town in China
- EUY Leuy, a town in France
- EYU Beyukkyshlak, a town in the U.S.S.R.
- IAY Kiayukwan, a town in China
- IOY Rioyo, a town in the Caroline Islands
- IUY Kluyuanshan, a town in China
- OAY Toay, a town in Argentina
- OYY Lolya, a town in Kenya
- OYY Koyyalagudem, a town in India
- UIY Kulyahi, a town in Nepal
- YAA yaap, a dialect spelling of yaup, a loud noise
- YAO yaourt, a variant spelling of yogurt
- YIU yiung, an obsolete spelling of young
- YNY Yiyan, a town in China
- YUO yuond, an obsolete spelling of yond, meaning yonder

86 of the 91 trigrams have now been found. What of the remaining five -- IY, UUY, UYY, YUU and YYY? Can any Word Ways reader find words or names exhibiting these trigrams?