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.

Word Ways is not in the business of helping readers solve crossword puzzles; nevertheless, the editor couldn't resist an opportunity to show the versatility of Levine's two recent monographs on pattern and non-pattern words. Albert Wilansky of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania asked for a five-letter word beginning with L and ending with M to complete the following Kipling quote: "Lord, Thou hast made this world below the shadow of a -----." A fast search turned up exactly five candidates: LAISM (var. of Lamaism), LANUM (lanolin), LEDUM (a small genus of cold-region shrubs), LINUM (a small genus of temperate-region herbs) and LORUM (part of a bee's proboscis). However, Levine overlooked a sixth word, LARUM (short for alarum). A world created below a bee's proboscis? Surely Kipling had something more poetic than that in mind! Betsy Burr of Morristown, N.J. resolved the problem by discovering the correct answer, DREAM, in Kipling's 1893 poem "McAndrew's Hymn".

Joel Gaines of Honolulu, Hawaii points out that the editor was a bit premature in claiming in the February 1972 Word Ways that there are no nine-letter trio isograms in the English language; if hyphenated words are allowed, Webster's Third lists CHA-CHA-CHA.

An error crept into "The Thirteen Words" article in the May issue; MOVE should have been MOVE. Inspired by the labors of Messrs. Ault and Wheeler, Mary Youngquist produced two more lists of thirteen four letter words in which each possible letter-pair appears in exactly one word, and each possible pair of words has exactly one letter in common. All words in both lists are in Webster's Third and above the line in Webster's Second.

city clad cone cwms dime dots Iowa mant moly nils welt wynd yeas char cite cloy cwms howe lish merl miao myth rots walt wiry yeas

Darryl Francis has responded to Ralph Beaman's May 1972 request for recently-minted words of logological interest by pointing out the following quote from the January 31, 1972 issue of Time Magazine:
Nixon's plane, The Spirit of '76, carries a miniclinic, including a defibrillating machine for use in case of a heart attack, blood plasma and a tracheotomy set.

MINICLINIC is a second-order reduplication which is additionally notable because it is accidental; that is, it is made up of the parts MINI and CLINIC rather than MINIC and LINIC.

Word Ways readers will undoubtedly wish to acquire Willard R. Espy's recently-published book, The Game of Words (Grosset & Dunlap, 1972), a galleymauff of word-play popular over the past couple of centuries -- acrostics, lipograms, oxymorons, spoonerisms, pallindromes, word squares, pidgin English, malapropisms, rebuses, epitaphs, Irish bulls, Pennsylvaniana Dutch, chronograms and much more. Nevertheless, some entries are surprisingly up-to-date: "There's so much pornographic rubbish in print it buggers the imagination" (malapropisms), and "Said the chemist: 'I'll take some dimethyloximidomaralamide / And I'll add just a dash of dimethylamidoazobenzaldehyde / But if these won't mix / I'll just have to fix / Up a big dose of trisodiumphoatoluroglucinaic acid'" (interminable words). In a book of only 279 pages, it is hardly surprising that no subject is covered in much detail; for example, Espy exhibits only four word squares larger than order four, and few anagrams of words with more than seven letters. (On the other hand, he does include a seven-page homonym dictionary.) The casual reader may not miss an index, but the seeker of a particular variety of word-play will; how many people would know to look under O (On the Square) in the table of contents for word squares, or I (I Dream of Couth) for a discussion of words appearing only in antonymic form (inevitable, uncouth)?

Willard R. Espy
Does not suppress P
Or any other alphabetic letter;
As a word gamesman, he knows better.

After reading Wilfred Funk's list of the ten most beautiful words in the English language, Mary Youngquist sat down and wrote the most repellent poem she could think of using these words:

The dawn hides in a murky mist,
The hush of doom hangs over all.
Then mushroom cloud -- a luminous fist --
Spreads awesome golden deadly pall.
In croaking melody a crow
Gasps out one murmuring last breath;
With clucking lullaby so low,
Chimes in a hen, till tranquil death.

In the November 1970 issue, Darryl Francis reported on two words containing five hyphens apiece. He has now located in The English

Murray Pearce writes about a small book entitled 'Isms, A Dictionary of Words Ending in -ism, -ology, and -phobia, edited by the library staff of the Sheffield City Library, in Sheffield, England. The second edition, dated 1968, is available for $3.75 from International Publications Services, 114 E. 32nd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016. This is a paperbound book of 100 pages with words taken from about fifteen different dictionaries. Words are referenced to the appropriate dictionary except for those words known to be used but not found in any printed source. The title is not all-inclusive since words with other endings appear regularly throughout the dictionary. The arrangement is topical and alphabetical. In other words, if you look up "alcohol" in the A's you find listed under that entry the following terms: dipsomania, ebriety, nephalism, prohibitionism. All have something to do with drinking and all are defined. Similarly, under the entry "horses" you find farrier, hippology, hippophile, hippophobia, knacker. An interesting book with a lot of fascinating words.

Ralph Beaman adds to "An After-Dinner Mint" by noting that in Webster's Second and Collegiate the word BAROQUELIKE is used in the definition of churrigueresque. Strangely, there is no entry for BAROQUELIKE in Webster's Second, Webster's Third, Funk and Wagnalls, Random House Unabridged, or even the massive Oxford English Dictionary!

In the February 1970 issue of Word Ways a request was made for long isogram transposals. Darryl Francis suggests the fourteen-letter pair HYDROCALUMITES-TRICHLAMYDEOUS which can be found in Levine's A List of Words Containing No Repeated Letters. Unfortunately, the second word does not appear in the Webster dictionaries.

Darryl Francis adds an interesting footnote to "The Longest Dictionary Words". In the February 1937 issue of Word Study, a magazine formerly published by G. & C. Merriam, a list of nine very long words was presented. One of these words, INANTHROPOMORPHISABILITY, has never appeared in any of the Webster unabridged dictionaries!