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.

Ai! Ai! Frederick Crane of Iowa City, Iowa has called the editor's attention to the fact that the homophonic sentence in "Hsi Hsi and the Rhinoceros" in the August Word Ways is defective -- the final aye rhymes with day rather than eye. The editor's woes were compounded by the fact that he misspelled an author's name; Mrs. Isquit points out that her maiden name is spelled Tarr, not Todd. Sorry about that, Judy.

Darryl Francis has added an interesting footnote to his article on internally capitalized words in the May issue of Word Ways. His research for that article required searching through a number of esoteric sources including telephone directories. Actually, examples for 23 different alphabetic letters can be found in a single work, H. L. Mencken's The American Language (fourth edition) plus two supplemental volumes:

A  DeeAnne  J  DeJong  S  KleinSmid
B  LaBevith  K  RossKam  T  Le'Tulle
C  SaCoolidge  L  VaLeta  U  LeUrine
D  KleDShek  M  KenMore  W  DuWayne
E  ClarEtta  N  GaNun  V  CloVera
F  LaFerry  O  LaOba  X  MiXail
G  P  LaPhalene  Y  DeYoung
H  DeHarte  Q  Z  ZaZelle
I  R  JoyRene

All of these proper names are indexed in the second supplement, although the final two are misspelled there. Darryl's favorite is LeUrine which, amazingly, is a girl's given name!

Several more logologically interesting words have been unearthed. Ralph Beaman quotes from the New York Times of July 16, 1972: "Albert Bridge ... may be near the end of its SPAN-LIFE". From this, he concludes that span-life is defined as the life-span of a bridge, a rather neat transposal. Darryl Francis discovered a new nine-letter palindrome, SOBOSOBOS, the plural of sobosobo, an Af-
American variety of black nightshade, the fruit of which is used for making jams and pies. The word appears in the Hamlyn Encyclopedic World Dictionary, published by Hamlyn of London and New York in 1971. Most physicists and engineers are familiar with the Websterian word MHO, a reversal of OHM, which is an electrical unit of conductance. At least two more coinages of this ilk appear in the Dictionary of Science and Technology, published by W. & R. Chambers in Edinburgh and London in 1971: DARAF, the unit of elastance, and YRNEH, the unit of reciprocal inductance.

Jack Levine has now issued the second volume in his isomorph dictionary: A List of Pattern Words of Lengths Ten Through Twelve. Like the first book, it is available free as long as the supply lasts from Jack Levine, Box 5548, State College Station, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. It contains approximately 179,000 words (on computer print-out reduced in size to 8 1/2 by 11 inches) arranged in groups so that all words with the same pattern (such as DIRECTORATES and EMANCIPATING) are listed together. This volume provides an answer to a question raised in the first issue of Word Ways in February 1968: are there any other switch words besides INTERPRETING which pivot on the tenth letter? The answer, as far as Webster's Second and Third Editions are concerned, is no; in fact, there are very few twelve-letter switch words pivoting on any other letter (antinganting, roughwrought, curliewurrie, huckermucker, hudder-mudder, huggermugger, cuggermugger, and sensuousness). Ralph Beaman notes that four more twelve-letter pair isograms have come to light: CANCELLANSES, GRADGRINDLAN and TRISECT RICES in Webster's Third, and INTERINSERTS below the line in Webster's Second. He has also used Levine's dictionary to good advantage in a forthcoming article on twelve-letter pair pyramid words.

One more dictionary word of 23 letters has been discovered and should be added to the list in the May 1972 Word Ways: EPIDIDYMODEFERENTECTOMY. This word appears in Webster's Second, but in none of the other dictionaries discussed there. Darryl Francis recently noted a charming nonce-word of 24 letters used by H. L. Mencken in The American Language second supplement:

"Most American newspapers," says the Style Book of the Baltimore Sunpapers, not without a touch of ABLONOGASTRIGOLUMPIOSITY, "do not use italics; they are not even mentioned in the majority of style books. We should make our better practice stand out by using them correctly."

The Word Buff points out that the August article "The Pangrammatic Window" did not discuss either the narrowest or the widest known windows. The narrowest is clearly 26: the 26 alphabetical letters in one sentence. There are eight of these in Language on Vacation and the recent SQUIDGY FEZ, BLANK JMP CRWTH VOX in the New York Times, August 16, 1972. The widest must be over 220,000 letters:
the 1939 novel Gadsby by E. V. Wright deliberately omitted the letter E, which normally would have occurred about 28,000 times in a text of this length.

Dmitri Borgmann notes a lexeme using the four rarest letters J, Q, X and Z in the International Atlas published in 1969 by Rand McNally; the native name for the Chinese province of Sinkiang is XINJIANG WEIWUER ZIZHIQU. Darryl Francis has commented extensively on the list of words having three rare letters in the August 1972 issue. The gap at KXZ can be filled with the word SKEEZIX in Webster’s Third, and better examples can be found for several others:

- BFQ quantifiable 7
- BKQ quarterback 3
- BOW squawbush 3
- BXZ benzyloxy 3
- JKV Jacksonville 3

He fills the gaps JQZ JXZ QQX QXX JQX XXZ using various non-dictionary sources.

Phillip Cohen reports that he purchased the Compact Oxford English Dictionary from Edward R. Hamilton, Bookseller, Sherman, Connecticut 06784 for only $51.82 (write them first for an order blank). The Book-of-the-Month-Club has now offered the same two volumes for only $15 -- if you agree to buy four selections (or alternates) from the Club during your first year of membership.

Murray Pearce notes that words with four invariant letters (see the Query in the August 1972 issue) are quite common, and proposes as a more challenging problem to find any such words occurring later in the dictionary than subDEFinition. In fact, he found several words with five invariant letters: ABaDnGo, ArCheRsHp, and ArCheTyp-IcaL(ly). Is it possible to find such a word beginning with a letter other than A? For U-invariant words, a check of the Air Force Normal and Reverse English Word List turned up pseudomonocotyledonUs in Webster’s Second and Third, and pneumohydropericardiUm (and its transposition, hydropneumopericardiUm) in Webster’s Second. CounterobjEction is one of the very few Websterian words with an invariant J; can anyone find a Websterian word with an invariant Q?

Word Ways readers will be interested in a new word game, Requisite, available for $3.95 from George Bredehorn, 713 Francis Drive, Wantagh, N. Y. 11793. The object is to construct words having properties specified on 3 randomly-drawn cards. An example: first letter F; 3 syllables; must contain digram SC (fascinate). Another: second letter T; no letters repeated; 5 or 6 letters long (stage). Each game has a time-limit imposed by hour-glass. Try it -- you’ll like it!