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.

Darryl Francis and Dmitri Borgmann are actively collecting ten-letter tautonyms from post-1950 books and reference works, with the intention of using them to construct a ten-by-ten word square as proposed in the article "Unsolved Problems" in the February issue. So far, they have a list of 246, including 29 culled by Ralph Beaman from Webster's Third. They report that they are desperate for ten-letter tautonyms beginning with a vowel, certainly the rarest form of such specimens. In particular, they wonder if any Word Ways reader can locate the word INTERINTER in the Oxford English Dictionary. This was cited as a nonce-word appearing there in a 1926 issue of The Enigma.

In the February Word Ways, Josefa Byrne of Mill Valley, California arranged a set of 14 Scrabble Cubes in a crossword pattern to obtain a score of 91 points using Scrabble values for the individual letters. Mary Youngquist has raised the score to 96 with the pattern below which uses words from Webster's Second Edition:

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Down   Across
PH     qu 11 pH 7
QUIZ   pun 5 quiz 22
UNDY   hid 7 undy 8
MY     zyme 18 my 7
EM     ym 7 em 4
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If pH is replaced by pK (only in Webster's Third Edition), the score can be raised to 98. Can anyone see how to reach an even hundred?

Pamela H. Brang was much intrigued by Jean Sabine's "Sight-Reading Substitution Ciphers" and believes that the readers of Word Ways would enjoy sight-reading the following cipher, a favorite saying of a former American president: 123 4567 894A6561 BC96 123A 748D56!
Dmitri Borgmann points out that the sixteen-letter word UNPROS-
PEROUSNESS is a pair isogram, although somewhat marred by the
fact that two of the eight letter-pairs are identical. A French coin-
age offers a better sixteen-letter example: ANTIPERpirantes,
the nominative feminine plural form of the adjective antiperspirant.
(He is now looking for an eighteen-letter pair isogram in Old Al-
banian.)

The editor has discovered that the words PROFLIGATE and PROFLI-
GACY should be added to the "Pocket Ghost" word ROOFLESS in
implementing the O-OF-OFL strategy.

The Word Buff complains that Dmitri Borgmann's requirement that
a palindrome have "a clear meaning in correct English" is difficult
to apply in practice. What is clear and correct depends upon the re-
ceiver and the context, and cannot be judged in a vacuum. To illus-
trate, he comments that while working in the Decoding Division of
Impossible Mission (a secret agency devoted to catching international
jewel thieves), he intercepted and decoded a ten-word telegram lead-
ing to the capture, arrest and conviction of the notorious Hu Mie, op-
erating in the South Pacific. The decoded message read "Snug on
Nauru - a name gem, a Nauruan, no guns". Adds the Word Buff:
"Since the message was originally written backwards, I had great
difficulty breaking it."

Darryl Francis has responded to Ralph Beaman's May 1972 request
for recently-minted words of logological interest by indicating the
following quote from the March 11, 1973 issue of The Sunday Times
Magazine (a weekly distributed with the British newspaper The Sun-
day Times):

John Allan, who is a violinist with the New Philharmonic Orch-
estra, will get the job done with a Rotavator (a powered digging
machine available from hire shops for 6 pounds per 24 hours or
8 pounds per weekend).

Although obviously coined, the palindrome ROTAVATOR joins the se-
lected band of nine-letter worthies such as MALAYALAM and SEMITIMES.

Word Ways readers who have access to the March 4, 1973 issue of
the Chicago Tribune Magazine (perhaps available in larger libraries)
may be interested in a two-page article by Dmitri Borgmann giving
many details of his introduction to logology via newspaper puzzle
contests and TV quiz shows. He admits that success in such endeav-
ors can be elusive and time-consuming:

To achieve solutions of prize-winning caliber you must, for all
practical purposes, lock yourself in a soundproof room with...
Aaron Martin Cohen of Tokyo, Japan points out one small error in his article on Japanese-English words -- gata should be geta.

Darryl Francis has discovered an addition to his article "Words With Two Pairs of Like Letters" -- BB YY exists in the word CUB-BYYEW. He also updates Delphi Knox's all-vowel trigram list in the February 1971 Word Ways by noting that the trigram AOO exists in the word YACORT (one of the many variant spellings of yogurt). Examples are now known for all all-vowel trigrams legal with respect to Webster's Second Edition.

In the February Colloquy, Murray Pearce pointed out two Websterian lexemes using four consecutive S's, ignoring spaces, apostrophes and other non-literal symbols. Darryl Francis can conceive of even longer strings arising in everyday speech, such as "Jill'll love me".