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.

A number of Word Ways readers were inspired to add to Philip Cohen's August 1974 list of outlandish languages in "The Language Game". Daniel Bial of Summit, New Jersey sent in many clever additions, including Rikki Tikki Kavi, Love Phocien, Indira Gondi, Berber of Seville, National Lampong, Virgin Maori, Hill Bhili, Strawberry Cham, Rolling Estonian, Double Chin, Rotary Fan, Stand-up Kumyk, Hot Tu-mali, Night Norse, Anti Makasser, Proto Kol, Standing Horvatation, Westward Ho, Chocolate Kuki, Last Lapp, Fee Caro, and Cry Wolof. (One specimen he discovered -- Snarley Yao -- will be treasured by logologists.) R. Robinson Rowe of Sacramento, California suggested Blue Chippewa, Reverse English, Milwauk Hebrew, Yo Semitic, Kid-dish Yidish, Checkered Chinese, and Stand Patois. Harry Hazard of Princeton, New Jersey sent in Cousin German and Dotted Swiss, and James Rambo of San Francisco, California discovered Body English, Bheli Bhutanese, Gnawing Hungarian, Mortal Annamese, and Gottingen Dutch. Daniel Bial, noting that Pidgin Toda on the original list is both a phrase and two languages, added Cree Sus. (A somewhat strained third example, Queechua Fox, was omitted from the original list.)

Philip Cohen claims that few people have the ambition and free time to trace out a knight's tour message in a 16-by-16 letter square, two of which were given in the May 1974 "Chesswords" article. The largest and dullest part of the task is locating the initial letter of the message; he suggests that this point be identified (as it is in Enigma puzzles of this nature). He also suggests that the puzzle-constructor should try to make the letter square more attractive by weaving in one or more words, such as the constructor's name (an 8-by-8 square in the October 1974 Enigma gives the pseudonym Treesong on the last line). How about a similar square containing Word Ways?

William Sunners of Brooklyn, N.Y. cautions readers that in his experience the Computer Puzzle Library Word Rectangle Handbooks omit many Pocket Webster boldface words which lead to thousands of omitted rectangles. To demonstrate, he appended 28 3-by-5 word rectangles using the word WOMEN, and found 125 word squares using the word NOS.
X-terminated words continue to be unearthed by readers. Philip Cohen notes XMAX, a village south of Xanla, on p. 236 of Morris Stegerda's A Description of 31 Towns in Yucatan, Mexico (Smithsonian), and XALAX, a man's name, from Edward Gifford's Clear Lake Pomo Society (Vol. 18, Univ. of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology). Bill Rawlings of West Vancouver, British Columbia looked through 60 phone books and discovered a few more Canadian X-terminated companies: XAFAX, XANTREX and XYLOX in Vancouver, and X-PER-X in Montreal.

The editor recently discovered another sesquipedalian word that should have been included in the May 1972 article "The Longest Dictionary Words" -- the Webster's Third scientific term SPECTROHELIOMATOGRAPH.

Philip Cohen footnotes "A Critique of a Critique" in the August issue by suggesting an additional requirement for a good anagram: if the base consists of two or more words, these ought to be intimately related (ideally, a dictionary phrase). Drawing on Ms. Xixx's examples, SEXUAL INTERCOURSE and STREET SHOES are excellent bases, but MURMURING WINOS and WEIRD NIGHTMARES join words rarely associated with each other.

In "Word Torture" in the August issue, Ralph Beaman pointed out that GAMINES can be beheaded/curtailed in any order, yielding legitimate remainder words at each step. Dmitri Borgmann points out that ABASHED is another seven-letter word having this property. Although both words contain obsolete variants found only in the OED (ine, nes, abashe, bashe, ashe), the latter word avoids using words that are only part of multi-word phrases (Ines de Castro) or in telephone directories (Gami). Take your choice! PASTERN, suggested by William Sunners, is nearly as good, lacking only rn, ste and aste in Webster's.

In the August 1970 Word Ways, Darryl Francis came up with the 4-Q word QAHTLOARQ, an Alaskan bluff listed in A Dictionary of Alaskan Placenames (Government Printing Office, 1967). Philip Cohen recently discovered a second 4-Q place name from the same region: QEQERTUQDJUAQ, said to mean the large island in Franz Boas's The Central Eskimo (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1964).

It seems clear that the Oxford English Dictionary can be mined for a much larger number of all-vowel tetragrams than the nine reported in the August 1974 Word Ways. Darryl Francis adds EUUULA (var. of uvula) and OOPEN (var. of oven), and Philip Cohen suggests AUAUCI (var. of advance), IUIENAL (var. of juvenile listed under acute), AUOUTER (var. of adulter) and QUAUUIR (var. of quiver).
In "My Last Words" in the August 1974 issue, Dmitri Borgmann invited readers to modify his list of the alphabetically-last words or names beginning with each of the 26 letters of the alphabet. One source unavailable to him was a series of official standard names gazetteers, one for each foreign nation, issued during the 1950s and 1960s by the United States Board on Geographic Names. Consulting these, Philip Cohen was able to improve on eight names:

DZ YUSH (var. of Dzhush, a populated place in the USSR)
EZ ZWAREEB (a populated place in Lebanon)
FZER-AL-RAZI (a wadi in the Arabian peninsula)
JZHIDKA (var. of Zhidka, a populated place in the USSR)
KZYL-ZHULDYZ (var. of Kyzyl Zhuldyz, a place in the USSR)
LZNA (a stream in the USSR)
RZYSZCZOW (var. of Zhishchuv, a populated place in the USSR)
VZ" YEZDY or VZVUDEK (populated places in the USSR)

In addition, he located WZZINO (Francesco Wzzino, a Maltese translator) in the British Museum General Catalogue of Printed Books, and QZINNA YA (a tribe of the Rif in Morocco) in Abdel Krim (1957), by R. Furneaux. Going further afield, he notes HZIULQUOIGMNZHHAH in "Door to Saturn" in Hyperborea (Ballantine) by Clark Ashton Smith, and XZIXKINA, an alien race mentioned on page 22 of Sydney Van Scyoc's Assignment Nor'dyren (Avon, 1973).

August errata: John McClellan points out that Plautus (instead of McClellan) was the coiner of the word PEDITASTELLUS. In "A Revised Spelling Rule", GANTZ should have been written "gants" in the fourth line of the jingle to emphasize that it is pronounced to rhyme with "Hans", not spelled out letter-by-letter as the various EI and IE diagrams elsewhere in the jingle.

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