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.

Dmitri Borgmann points out a few additional cardinal transposals for Darryl Francis’s article in the November 1975 Word Ways: EIGHT transposes into TIGHE (a surname in numerous references), THIRTEEN into NEETRITH and FOURTEEN into NEETROUF (both in Eric Partridge’s A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English).

Much reader comment was received on multilingual look-alike words. Dr. Doris Parkinson adds to her November 1975 examples the following sets: fare (Eng.) = danger (Danish) = make (Ital.) = mouse (Turkish); bog (Eng.) = book (Danish) = God (Croatian). She also notes that the previously-cited cheek-lice-kind-arc set can be augmented by face (Croatian). Harry Mathews of Paris, France has come up with a letter-combination which means four different things in four languages -- RAPE: carnal knowledge (Eng.), rasp (Fr.), stuff (Ital.), shaving (Span.). Both he and David R. Williams of Rochester, N.Y. have unearthed numerous three-way examples -- CANE: walking stick (Eng.), duck (Fr.), dog (Ital.); MARE: female horse (Eng.), pool (Fr.), sea (Ital.); PIE: pastry (Eng.), pious (Fr.), foot (Ital.); ROT: decay (Eng.), belch (Fr.), red (Ger.); TOT: child (Eng.), soon (Fr.), dead (Ger.); FORT: army post (Eng.), strong (Fr.), away (Ger.); SANG: vocalized (Eng.), song (Ger.), blood (Fr.); LEER: suggestive look (Eng.), empty (Ger.), to read (Ital.). Albert Wilansky notes that SCHMUCK should be excised from the August article because it has the same meaning in both German and English. In the best examples, the words not only have different current meanings but different etymologies (no common ancestry) as well.

Maxey Brooke writes: I hereby lay claim to the terminal sound of OBLIGE / It would be a shame if I didn’t expound on my ‘DJ’. Noting that OBLIGE has two pronunciations, Ralph Beaman has obliged James Roberts (see November 1975 Colloquy) with five couplets:

Jacob Riis / Had noblesse oblige
You have noblesse oblige; / Corn on the cob, please
Elijah knew; / Oblige a few
Bob lies just to / Oblige us two
Oh, Bligh, jeer! / Oblige here!

The third couplet is written in honor of the prophet who replaced Baal with God; the fourth relates to testimony concerning Watergate; the fifth, a fully homonymic couplet, reports Mr. Christian’s parting words to his captain.

Errors in "Hard-to-Find Words in Web 3 (D-G)"; reference for d’oeuvre should be hors =, entry domicilli should be domicilii; entry englandy should be englandly; reference for ext should be = de color; and reference for frieds should be french fry.

Robert Gilmer of Tallahassee, Florida adds two more bigrams to the ones reported in the May 1975 Colloquy: bijVer and wijJS method, both found in Webster’s Third.

In a follow-up commentary on Darryl Francis’s A-E-I-O-U-Y problem, Dmitri Borgmann suggests many new examples. On the three-letter level, a better example is LEA-LEE-LEI-LEO-LEU-LEY; the first five words have at one time or another appeared in Webster’s Pocket Dictionary, and LEY is in a number of collegiate dictionaries.

STALE-STELE-STILE-STOLE-STULE-STYLE can be found in the Penguin Dictionary of English, with the exception of STULE, a 14th-century variant of STOOL in the OED. The six-letter PATTER-PETTER-POTTER-PUTTER-PYTER contains five reasonably common words; PYTER is given in a 1546 citation in the OED as a variant of PITTER (a rivulet). To ascend to the seven-letter level, prefix S to the previous word set; the two unusual words are SPETTER (a 17th-century variant or synonym of SPITTER in the OED) and SPYTTER (a variant of SPITTER in a 1600 citation in the OED). Finally, he suggests the eight-letter example STRANGER-STRONGER-STRUNGER-STRYNGER. STRANGER is an obsolete comparative form of STRONG in Webster’s Second; STRUNGER is a comparative of the past participle STRUNG when it is used as an adjective; STRYNGER is a 15th-century spelling of STRINGER given in the OED.

Harry Mathews of Paris, France notes that Howard Bergerson’s Automnorchagrams have their musical counterpart in the fugal practice of augmentation.

In "Re Morse" in the November issue, Philip Cohen notes that a better L-word (one which repeats the pattern ... when encoded in Morse) example is STILLED.

Bill Ballance’s punctured poetry contribution: I’ll take you home again, Kathleen / That last martini turned you green.
Dmitri Borgmann has a set of Levine's three pattern word lists in mint condition which he is willing to sell for $65. If interested, contact him at P.O. Box 300, Dayton, Washington 99328.

In "The Twenty-One Words" in the November 1975 issue, the Latin word AUEIO was suggested as a possible permutation of the five vowels. Dmitri Borgmann notes two other permutations of these letters: the abbreviation A.E.I.O.U. (Austriae Est Imperare Orbi Universo), adopted by Frederick III in 1440, and the English transliteration 'IAUOE of a late Greek variant of JEHOVAH, given in The Century Dictionary (1889-91) and The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia (1914).

In the last sentence of "Russian-to-English Homographs", Lee Croft noted three homographs (ATOM, MAMA, TOTEM) which had the same meaning in both languages. Philip Cohen adds the seven-letter TOKAMAK, an experimental fusion reactor too new to appear in most dictionaries. The first three words are English-to-Russian borrowings, but the last is a Russian-to-English one. Charles A. Kaufmann has compiled a list of 150 English-to-Russian borrowings, noting that many have entered the language (to the horror of purists) in the last decade or so. Bearing in mind that the Russian and English alphabets do not match on a one-to-one basis, here is a sampling:

- **Government**: BYURO, BYUDZHEM, PUBLIKA
- **Culture**: MUYUZIKL, KULTURA, DILETANT
- **Technology**: ASPIRIN, MOTOSEIKL, TELEFON
- **Sport**: CHEMON, DZHUJO, BOKS, FUTBOL
- **Food**: KOFE, KHOT DOG, BIFSHTEK
- **Modern Life**: VESTERN, DZHAZ, TVIST, VISKI

Philip Cohen feels that Ms. Quincunx was unreasonably harsh on the editors of Webster's New Geographical Dictionary in the August 1975 issue -- one cannot simultaneously criticize price, comprehensiveness (as measured by number of pages, entry length, special features) and typeface size. Taking further issue with her, he feels that the various Little America bases are hardly important enough to warrant individual mention, and the Mohorovicic discontinuity should not be included since it is a geological rather than a geographic feature. And why, he asks, should anyone need to be told how to pronounce East-Central or North-Western? Had WGN included these pronunciations, it would be reasonable to criticize it for wasting space unnecessarily. Frederick Crane concedes that PILIPINO is a misprint for FILIPINO, but notes that the former word is the name of the official language of the Philippines.