MORE WORD CUBES

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In "Cubism Revisited" in the August 1978 Word Ways I presented a non-symmetrical word cube of the sixth order. This cube, although structurally perfect, contains a small number of non-words. I recently had another go at this problem -- here is the result.

1 S C R A S H 2 C H I S T E 3 R A T T E L
T R A N T E R E S E E N A P E R N E
R A T T A R A M A R N A M O N I E R
E N T E R D P E R P E R I D E O M E
V I A G G E E N C A L M E A R L A P
E A S S E L S T O W S E S L E E S S

4 E S T E R E 5 P T E R I S 6 S E R E S T
V E R R E N A R R E S T T E E R T S
O V A L L E N A I L E R A L D E R E
R E D D E D O L E I T Y T E R C E T
Y N A L F E A E S S E N T R E T S S
E E S S E S N E T H R E E S S S S E

Of the 108 words used, 82 can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), or inferred from words therein; 5 appear in Webster's Third Edition (Web 3); and 4 in the English Dialect Dictionary (EDD). There are 2 foreign words used, and 3 place-names from Webster's New Geographical Dictionary (WNGD).

The remaining 12 words are made up of inferred terms such as REPERE (to 'pere' again, to reappear) and ANT-EGS (a reformed spelling and probable early spelling of 'ant-eggs'), two-word terms like HE MENT (dialectic form of 'he mended'), and citation forms plural such as SWESH'S.

Despite failing to find a complete solution, I decided to progress to the next level and attempt a symmetrical 7x7x7 cube. This also proved an extremely difficult challenge.

1 P L U S S E D 2 L U N E T T E 3 U N G R E A T
L U N E T T E U R A L I U M N A Y A N T E
U N G R E A T N A Y A N T E G Y A N T E R
S E R R I T A E L A T E R R A N G A L E
S T E I N I N T I N T I L Y E N T A B L E
E T A T I S T T U T E L L E A T E L L A N
D E T A N T S E M E R Y E S T E R E E N S

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Inferred or hard-to-locate terms are defined below:

- **AREESTS**: an early spelling of 'arrests' (OED)
- **ELAATER**: comparative form of 'elaat', an early form of 'elate' -- exalted, proud (OED)
- **EMERYES**: plural of 'emerye', an early spelling of 'emery' (OED)
- **GYANTER**: comparative form of 'gyant', an early form of 'giant' -- enormous, huge (OED)
- **ILLECTE**: an early spelling of the verb 'illect' (to allure, entice) given in a 1534 OED quotation
- **NAYANTE**: 16th century spelling of 'naiant' (OED)
- **NIBLICS**: variant of 'niblicks' in Webster's Second Edition
- **SERRITA**: a town in Brazil, given in the Times Index-Gazetteer
- **SLASTER**: variant of 'slaister' (EDD)
- **SSSSSSS**: the title of a movie, mentioned on p. 109 in the May 1978 Word Ways
- **STEININ**: slang or dialectic form of 'steining', variant of 'steen-ing', the lining of a well
- **TELMEST**: a town in Morocco, given in the Times Index-Gazetteer
- **TINTILY**: the adverb that must logically be formed from 'tinty', full of tints
- **TUTELLE**: the French word for 'protection', mentioned in the derivation of 'tutele' (OED)

**ETATIST, PLUSSED and RAGTIME** can be found in Web 3, and the remaining words of the cube can be readily located in the OED.

As with the non-symmetrical $6 \times 6 \times 6$ cube, I am sure that a perfect solution is possible. However, it will undoubtedly involve a lot of hard work, and probably a little luck, to discover it.

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Finally, here is a non-symmetrical, reversible word cube which contains 48 four-letter words and their reversals, giving a total of 96 different words.
RAWE, EWAR, ENEN and ETAR are early forms of 'raw', 'ever', 'eal' and 'eater' in the OED, and AWAL is shown as a variant of 'awald' in the EDD. NERA, REWA and Cape SATA are taken from WNGD, and Dominique ANEL from Webster's Biographical Dictionary. EREV and NENE appear in Web 3. All other words can be easily found in either the OED or Web 2.

AN ENGLISH WORD JOURNAL

Word Ways welcomes a sister publication from England -- Logophile, The Cambridge Journal of Words and Language, a quarterly edited and published by a group of enthusiasts at Cambridge University (actually, it is now in its third year, having been started in February 1977). Like Word Ways and Verbatim, it takes a fairly broad view of what constitutes language. In addition to such standard fare as "Metaphors Amok", "Language and Liberation" (a look at alleged language sexism), and "You Say Tomato" (language abuses such as 'a study is afoot' found in US publications), it has touched on topics as diverse as Guinness advertising wordplay, computer "word" generators, dyslexia, and newspaper names. Several departments have been introduced: book reviews, letters from readers, crossword puzzles (by Paul Remley, now at Cambridge), reader competitions (much like Mary Ann Madden's New Yorker Magazine ones), and linguistic challenges (what is the longest word that never produces another word in successive curtailments? what is the longest word with no repeated letters?). Subscriptions are $12 per year US (with 10 per cent discount for prompt invoice payment); checks should be made out to Logophile Press and sent to 47-49 Caledonian Road, London N1, England.

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