

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 at least one month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Reaction to the Dmitri Borgmann issue was almost universally favorable. Jay Ames: "Dmitri Borgmann's articles .. merit warm and sincere thanks from all who read them. They are further proof (if such were needed) that he is a top wordsmith." William Sunners: "That February issue of Word Ways is a monument to two entities: to Word Ways and to Dmitri Borgmann. He must be living and breathing words, and our language will be the better for it." Philip Cohen: "[Marjorie Friedman, Enigma editor] loved it, feeling Dmitri Borgmann can't be serious; I slog." John Henrick: "The special Borgmann issue has been quite as enjoyable as I had anticipated .. Many interesting and challenging questions throughout." Chaim Fleischmann: "By the way the Borgmann issue was superb!" Wally Firlit: "The February 1985 issue of Word Ways is spectacular! I'm a big fan of Dmitri Borgmann, so this issue was most enjoyable."

Dmitri Borgmann pointed out to the editor a total of 43 typos in the February issue, most easily correctable in context. The most serious was the omission of part of the discussion of KORNETTENROK in "The Majestic Palindrome"; the following should be added to the top of page 15:

a CORNET was the fifth commissioned officer in a cavalry troop, carrying the colors and corresponding to an infantry ensign. The discrepancy in meaning deserves investigation.

Other typos: Fomalhautians, not Fomelhautians (35, line 8); astronomers, not astronauts (34, second line from end); encourage you to (21, line 3); fall far, not far fall (20, line 9); Nia, not Niua (45, third line from end); of, not to (43, line 30); form, not term (27, line 31); Boötes, not Böotes (28, line 31); that, not their (42, line 1); in it, not in them (59, sixth line from end); verses, not verse (6, line 12); phrases, not phrase (38, line 4); excrescences (40, line 31); additional (44, line 39); technician, not technical (61, line 9); BERuwee, not RERuwee (25, line 8); hands, not hand (17, line 10); gerontological, not gerentological (25, eighth line from end); ... My apologies.

In "The 'G' Spot", Dmitri Borgmann adds FLEDGLING, HODGKIN and RIDGLING to words not ending in -ment, and BRIDGMAN, BRIDGTON and WEDGWORTH provide additional geographical and biographical examples of the soft G not followed by E, I or Y.

Reinhold Aman provided a number of additional foreign-language butterflies to the list of etymologically-unrelated ones in Kickshaws: Arabic FARASHA, Chinese HU T'IEH, Coast Tsimshian ADABIIIS, Eskimo TARRALIKITAK, Finnish PERHONEN, Modern Greek PETALOU DA, Hebrew PARPAR, Hungarian LIPE, Icelandic FLÐRILDI, Indonesian KUPU-KUPU, Japanese CHŌ, Kwakiutl HEMUMU, Maori PĒPEPE, Pidgin English BIMBI, Quechua PILLPINTU, Rumanian FLUTURE, Russian BABOTCHKA, Serbo-Croatian LEPTIR, Swahili KIPEPEO, and Turkish KELEBEK. A study of the etymology and literal meaning of two unrelated-looking words may reveal semantic relationships veiled by their appearance (SCHMETTER-, for example, is derived from the Czech smetana, "cream").

In the August 1984 Kickshaws, Ed Wolpow cited a couple of examples of dictionary humor. The April 15, 1903 issue of the Ardmore Puzzler furnishes a third: in the Century Dictionary discussion under question is found "To pop the question. See pop."

Dmitri Borgmann supplied various improvements for his two-letter transadditions of European capitals in Kickshaws: NONRADARS (Andorra), A LAPLANDER'S VALOR (Andorra La Vella), JAVAN MAILED ARMOR (Andorra-La-Vieja), A.Z. DUVAL (Vaduz), NAVY TACTICIAN (Vatican City), and GLABRIZE (Zagreb). Capitals omitted in the Kickshaws section include INTENTIONAL CROPS (Constantinople), REJECTING (Cetinje), ANTICHARITIES (Christiana), "JUJUBE" ALLAN (Ljubljana), JAVAN OGRES (Sarajevo), and YE CHIVE (Vichy). However, the most remarkable transadditions were based on Helsingfors:

English fjords	Irish elf songs	Finnish oglers
Danish golfers	Norse goldfish	Latin she-frogs
Flemish groans	Polish fingers	Cornish elf-Gls
French solings	Welsh frosting	Spanish for "leg"

Dmitri Borgmann adds the following note to his article "The Ultimate Homonym Group" in the November 1984 Word Ways: "The foregoing list of written representations of the long sound of E can be extended in a most curious manner. According to Webster's Third Edition, the pronunciation of BALGE (in BALGE YELLOW, a synonym for sunflower yellow) is unknown. Presumably, no one has ever spoken the word aloud. That being the case, I have pronounced BALGE out loud a number of times recently, making the word rhyme exactly with BEE. ALGE is, ergo, yet another way in which the sound of the long E appears in English-language text."

Dmitri Borgmann notes that the word INTERDIGITATION should have been added to his article "Speaking of Fingers". This is the act of interlocking the fingers of folded hands, particularly appropriate for those patiently waiting their turn to shuffle off this mortal coil. He adds the magnificent term ARTICULATIONES METACARPOPHALANGEAE, a synonym for "knuckles". Philip Cohen notes that if one gives someone THE FINGER (a fastigate gesture), one is using the DIGITUS IMPUDICUS.

Vernon D. MacLaren writes on Double Reversals: "It doesn't MUCH MATTER to me if folks say I have a LITTLE MIND. My brain operates FULL TIME concocting double reversals, and I fill much EMPTY SPACE on sheets of paper. Working at my DROP-FRONT table, it is impossible to HOLD BACK the torrent of ideas. Not one to PLAY AROUND with words, I WORK OVER every example with care. I hope that the reader will UNDERSTAND if I by chance OVERSTEP the bounds of decency; I refuse to talk about EASY OFF Oven Cleaner. Am I getting in DEEP WATER, or am I on THIN ICE?" Some others:

handstand/footfall	upcountry/downtown
sidewalk/end run	fight on/playoff
cry out/Laugh-in	hand-knit/footloose
weak-kneed/strong-armed	handwriting/footprint
pancake/pot-pie	high seas/lowlands
clubfoot/whip hand	give up/take down
cool head/hotfoot	cover story/naked truth
stand tall/fall short	hardheaded/softhearted
standout/sit-in	play down/work up
cash in/charge out	stand-in/fallout
overhand/underfoot	first lady/last man
overland/undersea	light-footed/heavy-handed
child's play/man's work	tenderfoot/hardhead

Opposites are not always clear-cut: is STAND opposed to SIT, FALL, RUN, LIE or HANG? Dmitri Borgmann suggested the Double Reversals bitterroot/sweetleaf, blackbird/whitefish, redness/Green Bay, cat's tail/dog's nose, small talk/macrography, understand/overlie, understand/overrun, woodless/Ashmore, highboy/Lowman, poor boy/Richman, footless/Morehead, and ton/from [to + N, fro + M].

William Sunners fills in three holes in Jeff Grant's "A Palindromic Alphabetic Insertion" in November 1982 with 1A1 (a language spoken in the Loyalty Islands), 1U1 (a language spoken in the highlands of East New Guinea), and 1Z1 (a language spoken by the Ibo of Nigeria).

John Henrick notes that Dmitri Borgmann omitted many unisex names in Kickshaws: diminutives like Tony (Anthony/Antoinette), Bernie (Bernard/Bernice), Max (Maximilian/Maxine), Tommy (Thomas/Thomasina) and Sandy (Sandor/Sandra); ethnic derivatives like Jan, Sal, Angel, and Joan (Miró); family names like Alison, Fay, Mercedes, and Vermilion. The name Wally was once applied to Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson (later the Duchess of Windsor), although it is more commonly a diminutive for Walter. It always takes him a moment to remember which one is the woman in the Frankie and Johnnie duo, and the hero of Hero and Leander is actually the heroine.

Dmitri Borgmann footnotes the Kickshaws synonyms for ANGINA PECTORIS by anagramming these into ONE'S TRAGIC PAIN; NOTICE A PANG, SIR; POIGNANCE ASTIR; IN A PANIC? GO REST; GREAT PANIC IS ON; AN OGRE, IT PANICS; and GASP NOT - AIR NICE.

Dmitri Borgmann discovered ROGER O. GREGOR, a 12-letter name that contains all 24 permutations of the letters EGOR. Inspired by this, the editor found the similar names ERNIE N. REINER and GEORGE O. GREGO. Telephone directory searches have revealed Roger Gregor in Houston TX and Milwaukee WI, Ernie Reiner in Tampa FL and Monroe CT, and George Grego in Kansas City MO; however, only one person out of 50 has a middle initial N, and only one out of 80, O.

George Levenbach notes that the 33-letter Dutch word for roller-skate street hockey in the May 1984 Kickshaws is spelled wrong; the second O should be omitted. Incidentally, the longest Dutch word in a book (though not dictionary-listed) appears to be the 47-letter possessive **gemeentereinigsroltrommelhuisvuilphaal-auto's**, referring to a municipal sanitation truck which collects domestic refuse in a rotating-drum mechanism. This is two letters longer than the lung disease, and, unlike the latter, has apparently been used in a non-logical context.

Ruth Roufberg sends in a nice punning beauty-parlor name: The Best Little Hairhouse (in Manville, New Jersey, not Texas). In Madison, New Jersey there is a new variation on an old theme: Hair Core.

Dmitri Borgmann weighs in with three additions to "The Majestic Palindrome" - DR. AAGAARD, TO ORDER REDROOT, and MARGO'S ISOGRAM (her name, obviously).

Ed Wolpow updates his "Hyphen-Straddling Bigrams" list in the November 1981 *Word Ways* with beZ-Antler (from the first edition of Merriam-Webster) and boY-Queller (in the OED).

Dmitri Borgmann asks with regard to alphabetic word chains: "What are the shortest such chains consisting entirely of literate and easily-recognized English words showing no evidence of being acronyms or initialisms?" In answer, he supplies two 37-letter chains:

A BIC DEFOG HIJACK LIMN OPAQUER STU VOW OXY OZ
OZ PYX WAVE UT SIR QUIP ON MILK JIB HUG FED COB A

In the November 1976 *Word Ways*, Philip Cohen noted that the coinage ZZXJOANW appeared in Rupert Hughes' Music-Lovers Encyclopedia as early as 1914. The word in fact appeared at least ten years earlier, according to the April 15, 1905 issue of the Ardmere Puzzler, in Hughes' two-volume The Musical Guide, published by McClure.

Related additions: Philip Cohen adds a non-governmental -ocracy to Paul Hellweg's August 1981 article (SNIPOCRACY, a collective name for tailors), and Richard Lederer appends two -ly adjectives to Frank Rubin's list of such words in the February 1981 *Word Ways* (LEISURELY and ORDERLY).