

## COLLOQUY

**GHIL'AD ZUCKERMAN** has posted at <http://www.genius2000.com/wordways/author.html> a listing of Word Ways articles arranged by author.

**EDWARD and GUDRUN WOLPOW** comment on Anil's article "Anagram Arithmetic", May 2011, p. 94-99. Anil mentions alphomes: number-names written in alphabetic order (and reverse alphomes). A remarkable and out-of-print book from the MIT Press, *Number Words and Number Symbols, A Cultural History of Numbers*, by Karl Menninger (1958 first German edition; 1969 English translation) conveniently tabulates and discusses number names of all the world. Some additional alphomes: Hungarian EGY (1); Turkish BIR (1), DORT (4) [umlaut over the O], BES (5) [tiny inverted caret over the S], OTUZ (30); Basque HIRU (3), BOST (5); Cornish DOW (2) -- and the less exotic French CENT (100). Swedish (and Danish, Norwegian) present a special problem since the 3 vowels (Å, A, O)[the second A should have an umlaut; the O should have an umlaut over it -- sorry, editors, I don't know how to get my computer to make all these marks -- I'm sure you can] appear at the end of the alphabet, giving these languages 29 letters. So, in Swedish, in addition to SJU (7), TVÅ (2) is alphomic, and ÅTTA (8) is a reverse alphome.

**ANIL** remarks:

T. A. Hall's list of English pseudoplurals (11-142) included three of especial interest (hive/s, crap/s, measles) in that those pairs are not related etymologically. And his welcome addition to the literature of pseudoantonyms with the re- prefix (11-151) inspired me to notice another rich negatory prefix, ex- (as in excentric, exfoliate), that I had overlooked in my earlier study (11-37). The most synonymous I found, out of fifty pseudos noted, were: **exchange** (¢), **exclosure**, **excogitate**, **explant**, **express** (toothpaste), **extensile** and **exterminate**. Less ideal are **exclaim**, **ex|one|rated** (a definitive charade: it's the one no longer censured!), **explain** (make plain—but it looks like it means complicate), **extemporary** (for the moment), **extort** (a tort), **extractor** (a tractor, for example). Another negatory prefix, extra- (as in extraterrestrial) also offers several pseudoantonyms, because extra- and extra are *ca.* opposites, but no synonyms except perhaps **extrasystole** (offbeat but yet a systole) and three via puns, **extralinguistic** (it's nonetheless a word), **extraordinary** (extremely ordinary?) and **extrasensory** (invoking an additional sense[s]).

**DAVID DILLON'S** two young daughters, Isabella and Vallory, made a card for their father after an overnight stay in the hospital for minor surgery that read "Get Will Soon" David admired the forward thinking conceit.