

## 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.*

Tributes to the late Dmitri Borgmann continue to arrive.

Philip Cohen: February was a fine swan song for Borgmann; it displayed his strengths (imagination, indefatigability and range) and downplayed what I consider his weaknesses. Whatever negative things I've said in the past, I have to agree we've lost one of the very greatest.

Harry Partridge: The news about Dmitri Borgmann was dreadful and devastating. You cite Willard Espy as commenting "He was obviously a difficult man", but one would never know it from his writings, which have always impressed me as uniformly good-humored and vivacious...[a] dense and pregnant style.

Darryl Francis: My feelings were echoed by Jeff Grant's words in May...Dmitri...introduced me to the world of logology [in Language on Vacation]. I can remember the time when I received 6 or 7 letters a day from Dmitri, usually when he was working on a project that he was particularly enthusiastic about...Alas! No other individual has so altered my life, except I suppose for my parents, my wife, my kids!

The Word Wurcher passed along a number of comments on the Borgmann memorial issue. At the time of Shakespeare's and Cervantes' deaths, England used the Julian calendar and Spain, the Gregorian; they died on the same days of their respective calendars, but in reality died ten days apart (page 8). In the days the Bible was being written, the word Bible (from the Greek biblia, meaning "little books") did not exist; hence it is not surprising that the word Bible is not in the Bible (page 40). To solve Dmitri's bookshelf problem, place Volume A-L in front of you with the binding facing away from you, and place Volume M-Z in the same orientation on the right side of Volume A-L (page 43). Other names for Hispanics include the pejorative spic, the Mexican poches or pochos for a Mexican-American, and tico for a Costa Rican (because of the frequency with which the diminutive -tico appears in their speech) (page 54). In his list of words starting tautonymically, Dmitri omitted the Hawaiian fish humuhumunukunukuapuaa (page 27). An only child might well be called a unigenit, a word used as an adjective in a sixteenth-century OED quotation (page 48). Finally, the acronym POSSLQ (Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters), pronounced "puzzleque," has been used by the U.S. government to characterize unmarried cohabitants, with or without a sexual relationship (page 13).

Darryl Francis suggested another name for either one of the unmarried cohabitants of opposite sex: tallyman and tallywoman, both found in the OED and Webster's Second. Webster's Third gives "companionate marriage" as one definition of tally. Wright's English Dialect Dictionary also lists tallyhusband and tallywife, as well as the phrase to live tally.

The Word Wurcher adds to Paul Hellweg's non-manias the well-known ROMANIA (RUMANIA, ROUMANIA) plus the less-well-known placenames SODERMANIA (a variant of the Swedish province of Södermanland) and ANGERMANIA (the Swedish province of Ångermanland, so-called by Laurence Sterne in Tristram Shandy ["crossing over Swedeland, if you please, through the small triangular province of Angermania"]). Tim Wheeler writes "I think we need one more: AINAMOMANIA, a morbid obsession with palindromes."

Philip Cohen: "'Rivers of Type' is a fascinating new aspect of logology's concentration of form over function." Tim Wheeler: "A friend showed me 'rivers' years ago. Too bad if you get typhippomania. Ruins your reading." William Sunners: "The article by Fritz Striebel recalled the happy years when I taught hand composition (typesetting) for thirty-two years. I had cautioned my students against creating rivers, lakes, circles and widows...graphic arts as I taught that trade is now one of the lost arts."

Elsewhere in this issue, the Word Wurcher makes extended comments on "D'Ou Etes-Vous?". Lawrence Levine notes a French city where he lived for a year: he was a Bellifontain in Fontainebleau. Another example of Gallic illogic is Meaux, inhabited by Meldiens. Philip Cohen wonders how many inhabitant-names were invented by medieval abbots with nothing to do, or are survivals from vulgar Latin.

Will Shortz adds to "Gary Gray, Meet Edna Dean" the anagrammatic name of Leonardo Loredano, a former doge of Venice whose portrait by Bellini is in the National Portrait Gallery in England. He knew a boy in high school named Mike Keim. An early member of the National Puzzlers' League, William Delaney, named his son Andy Lee. According to the Word Wurcher, Ashley Halsey lives in Spotsylvania County, Virginia and is an inveterate letter-writer to the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star. The editor remembers this name in a former Who's Who in America.

Jeremy Morse notes that Michael Smith overlooked the food subtractive ice cream, which in the OED was once iced cream. He adds that the OED regards roast beef as an older, obsolete form of the past participle, not as a truncation of roasted. Judy Bagai and the Word Wurcher hypothesize that the word may have originally been roast of beef. She comments that modifiers have always had ambiguous uses: coarsely ground pepper, finely chopped pecans, competently sliced peaches. She has encountered the usages coarse ground pepper and fine grind (but not fine ground) coffee. Says the Word Wurcher: "I doubt that boiled ham will ever be replaced

by boil ham, but he recently saw trim meat for trimmed meat.

Darryl Francis updates Borgmann's "The Majestic Palindrome" of February 1985 by noting that the recently-published fourth volume of the OED Supplement contains TATTARRATTAT, meaning "rat-a-tat", found in James Joyce's Ulysses. No doubt it appears nowhere else, except possibly in comments on Joyce's works.

Elsewhere in this issue, Dave Morice plays with oneway runway, twoway thruway, etc. These can be augmented by sevenway heavenway, a slightly abridged version of the Buddhist Eightfold Way, and tenway henway. What's a henway? Oh, about four pounds (see the Gannett Company's Pennywhistle Press for July 5, 1986).

Murray Pearce notes that Webster's Second Edition contains the 11 10 phrase SEPTIFRAGAL DEHISCENCE and the 12 9 phrases COMPENSATION INSURANCE and WHISTLEBELLY VENGEANCE. Further, the hyphenated patterns can be extended to 11-10 PLAGIOCLASE-PORPHYRITE. Perhaps a type-collection of the commonest examples for both types of pattern should be assembled.

Tim Wheeler adds to "This Quiz is a Hit" the terms hit the sack (instead of the hay) and hit the dirt (the Army's answer to hit the deck). The Word Wurcher asks "How could a teacher omit hit the books?" and adds that hit the bricks is an euphemism for getting out of prison.

Stephen C. Root has improved his five-letter-word non-crash group reported in the May 1986 Colloquy. There are 20 words, not 19, in Webster's Third that have no letters in common in the same position: angst, brigg, clamp, dwell, embox, fjord, gyppo, huzza, lgdyr, jiffs, kthib, loche, McKay, oxmen, psych, rendu, skunk, thrum, upski and waltz.

In the November 1984 Kickshaws, Charles Bostick reported on the protests of descendants of Samuel Hooey when Hooey Street in Dover, New Jersey was changed to Rutan Drive. On May 12, 1986, Hooey Park was dedicated as an onomastic replacement.

Readers didn't think much of the Language of Space. Philip Cohen characterized it as "silly but interesting to contemplate" and Tim Wheeler added "the translations of space words look for all the world like renderings of primitive languages." But the most scathing denunciation was provided by the Word Wurcher: "Will there never be an end to these philosophical maunderings? What purpose do they serve? The human mind can never analyze the universe in an absolutely rigorous way because both it and the universe are continually changing. That is why languages change. I don't think I could have stuck with it as you did."

Will Shortz points out that the Cs in LAKONICAR and VITICANIN in the Serbo-Croatian nine-square in Kickshaws should have haceks on them. Together with Philip Cohen, Tim Wheeler and the Word

Wurcher, he also noted that the word *wglab* in the Polish pangram should have a cedilla under the A. The vowel sound is a sort of hollow O, as if an M were to follow it ("f'gwOmp").

Michael Keller solved the three challenge crypts in Kickshaws using non-pattern word lists, running down and trying to match them with other words - for example, looking for seven-letter words for CRYPTED which made sense for YDT and EPRC as well. Eric Albert turned to a crypt program of Bernie Cosell's which solved all three in about five minutes. The 16-letter crypt, WAR TOY TOWARD YARD, generated some 2000 "solutions" (four words fitting the letter-pattern), including such plausible ones as VET COP COVETS PETS, FAT DEB DEFATS BATS, FOG BED BEFOGS DOGS, and TIN OUR OUTING RING. Using techniques similar to Keller's, the editor solved two of the three; Murray Geller solved the longest crypt in about ten minutes. The three answers are IDLE IDIOT TOILED NOT AN LOTA, ECHIDNA HAD NICE ANT DIET, and COY DEB DECOYS BOYS.

Tim Wheeler adds a few less-well-known Ex-Terminations to Will Shortz's Kickshaws quiz: Comtrex (decongestant), Flex (shampoo), Hyponex (plant food), Myuoflex (liniment) and Body-Flex (a home gym). William Sunners adds the regional telephone company Nynex.

The Word Wurcher corrects the translation of GUTSARBEITERZEUGNIS in the transdeletion pyramid in Kickshaws - this means "farm worker's report", not "good farm worker's report". (GUTS means "farm", not "good".)

Several readers responded to Will Shortz's observation that most third-order reduplications use a short l for the initial vowel and either a short A or short O for the second, as in *mish mash* or *King Kong*. Richard Lederer of Concord, New Hampshire speculates that this is related to the linguistically well-known movement of the vowel back in the throat as one moves back in time in strong verbs (*ring-rang-rung*). Vernon MacLaren of Augusta, Maine notes that Wentworth and Flexner's Dictionary of American Slang defines a second-order reduplication as an initial consonant change, and a third-order reduplication as a change of the initial vowel occurring after one or more consonants. (Confusingly, these are both special cases of what Dmitri Borgmann defines as a second-order reduplication in Language on Vacation: any single-letter change, from *voodoo* to *ogdoad* to *lifelike* to *perisperms* to *muckamucks*.) Charles Bostick has collected what he calls ping-pong words for years. Of the 175 different examples he has found (not counting variants such as *whim wham*, *whim-wham* and *whimwham* as different cases), a number fail the Shortz criterion:

First Vowel wrong: *cobcab*, *hindhand*, *huppity-hoppity*, *Lola*, *mar-mor*, *mustermaster*, *pulpal*, *rentrant*, *retrot*, *teeter-totter*, *vulval*  
 Second Vowel wrong: *ciscos*, *hiushes*, *mickle muckle*, *pilpul*, *shif-fle-shuffle*  
 Both Vowels wrong: *bacbuc*, *barber*, *bulbel*, *bulbil*, *carcer*, *cascos*, *circar*, *corcir*, *dido*, *forfar*, *fulfil*, *gangen*, *gangin*, *gewgaw*, *gil-*

gul, gorger, hashes, hi ho, hushes, kirker, kuskos, ladled, lake-like, langling, lises, mormyr, pepo, rag rug, roperipe, samesome, sudsed, tactic, tarter, tastes, tastos, ten-ton, testis, testos, tew-taw, tystes, wardword, wartwort

To these, Ed Wolpov adds the placename Cancun, and Vernon MacLaren adds **big bug** (Dictionary of American Regional English), and **past post** (Dictionary of American Slang). No doubt this list of exceptions would grow considerably if phonetic third-order reduplications such as **shipshape**, **D-Day**, **hooah**, **moose-misse** and **heigh-ho** were allowed.

Richard Lederer comments that the vast majority of second-order reduplications also exhibit a dominant pattern; about 80 per cent of the consonants that lead off the rhyming pair move forward in the mouth and throat (**boogie-woogie**, **claptrap**, **hocus pocus**, **namby-pamby**). Second-order reduplications are a little fuzzy around the edges: should **even-Steven** or **helter-skelter** be allowed even though they are not, strictly speaking, letter substitutions? **Hotshot** is a questionable second-order reduplication that pluralizes to a tautonym.

Philip Cohen found **entr'acte** as a consonym of **interact**, **pastichio** and **postiche** as consonyms of **pastiche**, and **minivers** as a consonym of **maneuvers**.