TWO HUNDRED EIGHT-SQUARES?

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In his article "More Quality Word Squares" in the February 1988 issue of Word Ways, Dmitri Borgmann exhibited the four finest eight-by-eight word squares known to him. The first example is clearly the best of those shown, as the others all resort to two-word terms which rather detract from their standing.

The two squares below would rank on a par with the "Agaricus" square in my opinion.

The example on the left is a slight modification of an eight-square originally published in 1902 by Charles B. Stewart. It employs all solid-form words from Webster's Second Edition. The square on the right was constructed by Darryl Francis, and uses solid-form words from Webster's Third Edition, except REDELESS, which is in the Second.

I recently discovered a set of base words which has proved incredibly fertile in producing eight-squares. Exhibited here are sixteen variant squares which all use essentially the same base.

DECISIVE ROSETTER
EGOMANIA OVERRULE
COMPUTES SEQUINED
IMPOTENT ERUPTIVE
SAUTERNE TRITAL
INTERRE R TUNICATE
VIENNESE ELEVATES
EASTERED REDELESS

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The eight-square word terms is clearly a square. It employs solid-LESS, which proved in-

A few of the terms may be unfamiliar. AMARINES, ALANINES, AMIDINES, and ARICINES are chemical compounds; LATINERS are interpreters; ITINERAL is an obsolete synonym for itinerant; SEVERANE and SOVERANE are early forms of sovereign; EUCARIST is a reformed spelling of eucharist; a UDometer is a rain-gauge; a NAVALIST is a supporter of naval interests; a SOLARIST is one who interprets ancient legends as being based on sun-worship; an OXIMETER measures oxidized haemoglobin in the blood; a GOMARIST is a supporter of the Dutch Calvinist Francis Gomar; a TOTITIVE is a type of mathematical integer; a BONAVIST is a hyacinth bean; ANAXONES are types of nerve cells; LATONERS are brass-workers; ADAMINES are kinds of mineral; and REGITIVE means governing. All words can be found in either Webster's Second Edition or the Oxford English Dictionary, except VITATIVE, pertaining to the preservation of life, which is in Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary.

What is remarkable about the base is its flexibility. TRESSLET can be replaced by TRESSLES or TRESSLED, and SEVERANE by SEVERATE, an obsolete form of separate, or SEVERALE, an early spelling of several. Throughout the squares many other exchanges are possible, for example NOTATIVE/NOVATIVE, UDometer/UKometer, MODALIST/SODALIST, ARICINES/ARIBINES, ODOMETER/OROMETER, PEDALIST/PEdALIST, CORALIST/MORALIST, and so on. It is likely that if every avenue were explored and every permutation recorded it would result in a total of over two hundred eight-by-eight word squares. Would anyone like to take on the challenge?