In his book *Philosophy Through The Looking Glass* (Open Court, La Salle IL, 1985), Jean-Jacques Lecercle concerns himself with a variety of perversion which Michel Pierssens termed logophilia, "...the love of language that knows no bounds, certainly not those of common sense." In his exposition upon délires, the point where grammar and madness meet, he introduces us to several obscure French writers and contrasts their varieties of délires with the more patterned and orderly nonsense of Lewis Carroll.

The bizarre writings of Jean Pierre Brisset (1837-1923) were an inspiration to André Breton and the Surrealists. Brisset was known for two "curious theses", the non-existence of Latin, and the demonstration, from linguistic evidence, that Man evolved from the Frog. This conclusion was based upon a series of homonyms of the French verb form loger (lodged). As recorded by Lecercle, here are seven:

1. l’eau j’ai: 1 have water
2. l’haut j’ai: 1 am high
3. l’os j’ai: 1 have a bone
4. le au jet: where I throw that object
5. loge ai: 1 have a lodge
6. lot j’ai: 1 bear my lot
7. l’aigu ai: 1 have my trough

Brisset indicated that all these homonymous ideas had the same basic origin. They tell a story of carnivorous (3) frogs (1) living in a village built on posts (2), etc. The French language is ideally suited to polyhomonymy, and it seemed odd that Brisset stopped short, since restraint seems not to have been one of his virtues. We dare to enlarge the list:

8. l’O j’ai: I have O: the letter or the porno novel
9. l’â j’ai: I have an interjection to call someone
10. l’oh j’ai: I have an interjection for expressing surprise
11. l’ho j’ai: I have an interjection for expressing indignation
12. l’eau jet: the jet of water
13. l’Auge ai: I have the Valley of Auge
14. l’augé: the contents of a trough
15. l’auget: the bucket on a water-wheel

Enough! Perchance for display logais, loges, loge, etc., etc.

One of the many forms in this sort of "logomachy", whose canvery Arts, Lese-Jeux, etc., etc., etc. (O. Bib, on page 19, statuary in sculpture, etc.)

It is unlikely the world is unlike the unexpected.

QUERY
and the same
sy (1) living
of idea-
set stopped
his virtues.

porno novel
ill someone
expressing
expressing

16. l'eau geai
17. le haut geai
18. l'Auge, eh!
19. l'O. G.
20. L6 j'ai
21. l'Auge hais
22. l'eau je hais
23. loge hais
24. loge, eh!
25. l'eau jeu hais
26. l'eau jeu ai
27. l'os jeu hais
28. l'os jeu ai
29. l'aige hais
30. l'aige ai
31. l'aige est

Enough! Permutations of the parts of the listed homonyms cry out for display — not to mention forms of the original verb: loger, logais, logait, logaient. A wonderful saga of the history of the world is undoubtedly encrypted in these mantra-like monotonies.

One of the French surrealist artists apparently influenced by this sort of verbal punning was Louis-Auguste Décélette (1894-1964), whose canvases always displayed a series of homonyms. In "Les Arts, Lésé-Arts, Lézards," pictured in World Encyclopedia of Naive Art (O. Bihalji-Merin and N.-B. Tomasević, Chartwell Books, 1984, on page 198) we see an artist painting a landscape, with bizarre statuary in the distance and lizards (lézards) creeping in the foreground.

It is unlikely that a homonymous list anywhere near this long could be generated from a single English word, and perhaps as unlikely that there are English punning visual artists to illustrate these homonyms.

QUERY

Among other things, the ancient alchemists searched for a universal solvent, or ALKAHEST. Michael Ravnitsky of Garden Grove, California wonders if any Word Ways reader knows of an antonym for ALKAHEST — that is, a word for a substance which is unable to be dissolved by any solvent, to be applied to a new form of PTFE (Teflon®).