

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.

In the February 1987 Word Ways, Dmitri Borgmann commented that UUCHATHON is defined in Webster's Second as one of the four astral spirits of the planet Saturn, and attempted to identify the others. Michael Helsem reports that The Sworn Book of Honourius (Heptangle Books, 1983), a translation of a thirteenth-century manuscript, lists the planetary angels of Saturn as Bohel, Casziel, Michathon, and Datquiel. In the Gothic handwriting of the day, the lower-case UU and MI both have four vertical strokes; it seems plausible that UUCHATHON is a ghost word arising from a misreading of the text. Datquiel is probably a variant spelling of the Zapkiel Dmitri discovered; Casziel and Bohel were noted in the earlier discussion.

Jeff Grant succeeded in locating a genuine word for AGILNRSTU to complete John Holgate's transdeletion nest on RESALUTING. In the Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary, the entry *tragulin/e* is given under *Tragulina*. It is not defined, but TRAGULINS are obviously members of the *Traguloidea*, a superfamily of ruminants.

Two readers suggested additions to "Listen to the Mocking Word". Dave Morice proposes

Are you familiar with the Fifth Amendment? (I refuse to answer)
Is it really true that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself? (I'm afraid so)
Do you believe in the devil? (Hell, yes)
Are you feeling paranoid? (Why? Who wants to know?)
Do you ever talk to yourself? (Do I talk to myself?)
You think everything I say is a joke, don't you? (Ha! Ha! That's a good one)
Can you tell me the opposite of yes? (No)
Will you please talk to me (.....)

Charles Suhor adds

You never listen to me! (Eh? What's that?)
I'm still worried about your forgetfulness (I don't recall your mentioning it)
You're much too modest about your achievements (Oh, it's nothing, really)

Oops! In "Word Network Spans in the OSPD" there should not be a link between IDLED and ISLES on page 30, and there should be a single line between AGLEE and AGREE. In "Berserk Rebel Grew Tough, Ha!", GHOSTBUSTER on page 17 should have been GHOSTBREAKER. Mike Morton adds that the strangest anagram on Bush's name is probably HUGE, BERSERK REBEL WARTHOG.

Maxey Brooke was the only respondent to Leonard Ashley's request for synonyms for fired; oil-patch workers are sometimes laid off or PINK-SLIPPED.

Michael Helsem reports using the ghost word ZZXJOANW in a poem that was printed in the Winter 1988 issue of Atticus Review; the word now has a literary life of its own.

David McCord footnotes the article "Borgmann: The Man Behind the Legend": "When I visited Dmitri he gave me a quick look at his library of books on place names. However he didn't let me examine them in detail. It wasn't until much later that I learned why...When I got the books I was horrified to see the heavy tape on many of them. A little investigation showed that the tape was covering up 'Chicago Public Library' and about two-thirds of the books were so marked under the tape...I was at a loss as to what to do." He finally wrote the Chicago Public Library saying that he had bought a batch of books which appeared to have been taken from their library, but never heard anything in return. He concluded "I never faced Dmitri with this issue, but I no longer had the same respect for him after that incident!"

Jeremy Morse noticed in "A Trivia Challenge" that smithery also contains the demonstrative pronoun THIS.

Responding to the editor's speculation that Bombyleumatic means "gadfly" in "'Or'son Visits the Escorial" Harry Partridge writes "Bombyleumata, neut.pl., means 'Kickshaws' in Classical Greek and is of very interesting filiation -- to bumblebee, the Greek word for silk, etc. Rather complicated. Buzzing things like gadflies are in there, too. (And an excellent Kickshavian is Mr. Morice.)"

Maxey Brooke supplies sources for his etymologies of STAKE, BAND, and QUIVER: Pei's The Story of English, the Random House Dictionary, and Claiborne's Our Marvelous English Tongue.

Walter Shedlofsky composed an Anachuttle in honor of "Transposals of 15 or More Letters". See if you can find eight different transposal pairs therein:

Conversationist racks mind, creates pairs countermarching.
Oversaucinesses earn goal; was venture sanity?
Unescapableness confounds; some censure vanity.
Nondeseccrations outdo, fifteen or more letters bore.
Teleradiography note, each strange word betters lore.
Encyclopaedical sight delves in transcendental maze.

Radiotelegraphy taps mind, finds entrance in mental daze.
 Dechlorinations revive, outrageous thoughts furl, propound.
 Ornithoscelidan unnerves; could it be pearl profound?
 Conservationist concocts, brain waves on higher stage record.
 Transpositional tyro finds faith in higher cage restored.
 Recondensations interfere, yet proper stress is length.
 Inconsideration opts, what truth states that less is strength?
 Nondictionaries negate research, question brash belief.
 Extirpationists execrate transposals, lash: "Be brief."
 Sextipartitions declaim, extol praise countercharming.

Dave Morice writes "It's interesting to see that one of the major directions that logology seems to be moving is toward computer usage (which, if I remember correctly, Borgmann was against). I say this not only because of the discussion of The Franklin Word-master, but because other articles, such as those on word networks and word squares, mention the use of computers. I have a feeling that logology is perhaps more suitable to computer science than linguistics proper. Or certain facets of logology may bridge the gap between artificial and natural languages. After all, computerized logology studies words as objects to be manipulated like numbers -- with the additional restriction imposed by dictionaries and spell checkers. The computer isn't impeded by the rules of human language, unless the rules are programmed into it."