THE AEILNORST PROBLEM

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The August 1989 issue of Word Ways offered Dmitri Borgmann’s article “The ACEINORST Transposal Problem”. In that article, Dmitri asked if the nine-letter group AEILNORST could produce more transposals than the ACEINORST group. Dmitri began by offering six transposals from various collegiate dictionaries: ORIENTALS, ORLEANIST, RELATIONS, SEROTINAL, TENSORIAL, and TIROLEANS.

The short answer to Dmitri’s poser: No, AEILNORST is not more productive than ACEINORST. However, rather than just leaving it there, I thought it might be worthwhile to offer the AEILNORST transposals which I am aware of. Perhaps other readers can add to my small collection.

I have used various dictionary sources, listed at the end of the article. Note that I have been as liberal as Dmitri in offering non-dictionary terms, in order to make the comparison a fair one!

Solid AEILNORST Transposals

ALETORNIS a genus of extinct Tertiary birds from the Eocene period of Wyoming Territory (CD)
ATELORNIS a genus of Madagascan ground-rollers, birds which feed on worms (CD)
LAIRSTONE a Scottish word for a gravestone (W3)
LARSONITE an inhabitant of Larson, communities in North Dakota and Montreal (coinage)
LATNEIROS the plural of LATNEIRO (EH)
LORENTLAS the plural of LORENTIA, a genus of plants found in the southwestern United States and Mexico (WL)
ROTALINES certain protozoans, more precisely yet obscurely defined in the dictionary (FW)
TERNIOLAS the plural of TERNIOLA, a genus of plants found in Ceylon and parts of India (WL)
TORNELIAS the plural of TORNELIA, a genus of plants found in Mexico and tropical South America (WL)
TRIOLENAS the plural of TRIOLENA, a genus of plants found in Mexico (WL)

Broken AEILNORST Transposals

EAST LORIN the eastern part of the lake of LORIN, in Canada (TI)
LEAST IRON the opposite of most iron, a superlative form of the adjective iron (shown as such in many dictionaries) (coinage)
NEIL ASTOR a named individual, not immediately locatable in any
I have managed to expand Dmitri's original set of six AEILNORST transposals to 24. Can anyone improve on this total?

Another secund nine-letter group is AEIMNORST. I shall be offering my collection of transposals based on these letters in a later issue of Word Ways -- but perhaps readers would like to start looking for AEIMNORST transposals now!

LIST OF REFERENCES

CD The Century Dictionary, 6 Volumes, 1889-1891
EH Leslie Dunkling, English House Names, The Names Society, 1971
FW Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language (Unabridged Edition), 1945
W3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, 1981