

THE AEILNORST PROBLEM

DARRYL FRANCIS

Mitcham, Surrey, England

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 Magadascan 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)
- LORENTIAS 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

- telephone directory (coinage)
- N.E. ORTALIS the north-eastern part of the town of ORTALIS, Somalia (TI)
- N. REALITOS the northern part of the town of REALITOS, in Duval County, Texas (RC)
- SALERNO, IT. the city of SALERNO in Italy (TI)
- S.E. ANTRIOL the south-eastern part of the town of ANTRIOL, a town on the island of Bonaire, part of the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies (T1)
- S.E. RAILTON the south-eastern part of the town of RAILTON, on the Australian island of Tasmania (TI)

I have managed to expand Dmitri's original set of six AEILNORST transposals to 24. Can anyone improve on this total?

Another fecund 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
- RC Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide, 98th edition
- T1 The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World, London, 1965
- WL J.C. Willis, A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns, 7th edition, revised by H.K. Airy Shaw, London and Cambridge, 1966
- W3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, 1981