

SET SQUARES

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It would appear that the contributors to **Word Ways** have abandoned interest in the lower orders of word squares in favour of computerized 8-by-8s and 9-by-9s. May I suggest, therefore, an original challenge to rekindle the spirit of the pure pencil and paper practitioners: Set Squares.

A L N Set Squares are squares restricted to words of a clearly-
L E E defined subject. One simple example of six names of Eng-
T A W lish rivers should suffice (see example at left).

However, these are not the names of six English rivers, as LEA has the alternative spelling as LEE, and both forms are given on official maps which show this tributary of London's river Thames. To note a further imperfection, NEW is an artificial river which flows alongside the LEA/LEE through London. The other names pose no legalistic quibbles. ALN, a Northumberland river, flows into the North Sea; TAW, a tributary of the Torridge, is found in Devon; ALT enters the Irish sea north of Liverpool.

In creating a better square, the compiler should strictly adhere to a subject and provide completely different words for each line in both directions. Whilst obvious categories readily suggest themselves, it would be interesting to see if any reader can provide a square restricted to the English word with the greatest number of meanings: SET synonyms. This would indeed be the perfect Set Square.

s o u N d Set Squares should not be confused with Synonym
r u m O r Squares, introduced by Tom Pulliam in the August
b r u l t 1979 **Word Ways**. In Synonym Squares, one writes
b l a S t the base word vertically and crosses it with syno-
b a b E l nyms of the same length (see example at left).

The editor has pointed out that Murray Pearce constructed a number of 4-by-4 animal squares which appeared in the January 1981 issue of *The Enigma*:

W A T T	B A T T	P A R D	B U S S	T H A R	D A M A
A G U A	A R U I	A N O A	U N A U	H A R E	A P A R
T U A N	T U R K	R O A N	S A K I	A R N I	M A H A
T A N T	T I K E	D A N E	S U I D	R E I N	A R A B