

THE AEIMNORST PROBLEM

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In the August 1989 *Word Ways*, Dmitri Borgmann's article "The ACEINORST Transposal Problem" brought the total number of transposals based on the letters ACEINORST to 55. Dmitri's article queried the extent of the transposability of the letters AEILNORST. In my article "The AEILNORST Problem" in the November 1989 *Word Ways*, I offered a total of 24 transposals using those nine letters. My article finished by suggesting that a very slightly different set of nine letters, AEIMNORST, was another fecund group.

This brief article offers the 34 AEIMNORST transposals that I know of. Some are straightforward dictionary words, and others are non-dictionary terms, but I have been no more liberal in selecting these than either Dmitri or I were in the earlier articles. Here then are my 34 items:

- ANTI-ROMES the plural of 'anti-Rome', a noun given under 'anti-' (OED)
- E. MARISTON the eastern part of 'Mariston', a locality in Devon, England (Bartholomew's Gazetteer)
- E. MONASTIR the eastern part of three places called 'Monastir', a seaport in Tunisia, a city in Yugoslavia, and a town in Sardinia (Times Index Gazetteer)
- E. ST. ROMAIN the eastern part of the town of 'St. Romain' in France (Times Index Gazetteer)
- MANITORES a mountain in Macedonia (Times Index Gazetteer)
- MANTORIES a possible plural of 'Mantory', a town in France (Times Index Gazetteer)
- MARIONETS reformed spelling of 'marionettes' (W2)
- MARONITES Arabic-speaking members of a church in Lebanon (W3)
- MARTINOES unicorn plants (W3)
- MATRONISE to act as a matron to (Chambers English Dictionary)
- MINORATES makes less in value (W3)
- MISATONER one who misatones (W2 lists 'atone', 'atoner' and 'mis-atone' but not 'misatoner')
- MONASTERI a 15th-century spelling of 'monastery' (OED)
- MONASTIER a French placename (Times Index Gazetteer)
- MONTERIAS the plural of 'Monteria', a city in Colombia (RHD)
- MORENITAS little brunettes (W2)
- MORE SAINT a comparative form of the adjective 'saint'
- MORE SATIN a comparative form of the adjective 'satin'
- NEAR-MOIST a coined adjective, similar to 'near-Stoic', which appeared in the ACEINORST article
- NITROMASE a ferment concerned in nitrification (Century Supplement)
- N. RAMISETO the northern part of the town of 'Ramiseto' in Italy

(Times Index Gazetteer)

- OISTERMAN a possible obsolete spelling of 'oysterman' (W2 shows 'oysterman' and the OED has 'oister' as an obsolete spelling of 'oyster'; since the word 'oysterman' was in existence at the same time as 'oister', I conclude OISTERMAN is possible)
- OISTREMAN a possible obsolete spelling of 'oysterman' (the OED has 'oistre' as an obsolete form of 'oyster'; since the word 'oysterman' was in existence at the same time as 'oistre', I conclude OISTREMAN is possible)
- RANSOMITE a mineral (W3)
- ROAMINEST a superlative of the adjective 'roaming', formed similarly to 'fightinest', 'dancingest' and 'shootingest', all of which appear in the second supplement of Mencken's The American Language
- ROMANITES citizens of Rome (W2)
- SAINT OMER the full form of 'St Omer', the name of towns in Indiana, Quebec, France, and New Zealand (Times Index Gazetteer); a 7th-century monk (The Penguin Dictionary of Saints)
- SARMIENTO a mountain peak in Chile (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)
- SEMINATOR a sower of seed (W2)
- STEAM IRON a pressing iron which uses steam (W3)
- STIRONEMA a genus of plants found in eastern Asia and North America (Willis)
- ST. ROMAINE a town in Quebec (Times Index Gazetteer)
- TRASIMENO a lake in central Italy (RHD)
- TREMONIAS the plural of 'Tremonia', a 12th-century name for the West German city of Dortmund (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)

LIST OF REFERENCES

- OED The Oxford English Dictionary
- RHD The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Unabridged Edition
- W2 Webster's New International Dictionary of The English Language, Second Edition Unabridged
- W3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language
- Willis A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns, 7th Edition, by J.C. Willis, revised by H.K. Airy Shaw, London & Cambridge, 1966

Can any readers expand on my list? Or suggest a similar group of nine letters displaying an extreme degree of transposability?