

COLLOQUY

Murray Pearce writes "Has anyone else noticed that 10C (Webster's 10th Collegiate) includes the word **uncopyrightable** in its list of un- words? You probably remember that in **Word Ways** Volume 5, p 22, Alden Myles and John Standish said 'You know, don't you, that there is no such word as uncopyrightable ... or its assumed substantival plural?' Later in Volume 9, Borgmann found a citation in a Government Printing Office booklet on copyright information." However, it is clear that 10C regards it as an adjective, so one cannot add an -S except as a citation form plural.

Larry Urdang notes that **Word Ways** has been cited three times in the Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary: **initialism**, **update** (as a noun), and **Yucatec** (a native of Yucatan). The latter two citations are, respectively, from p 197 of Nov 1983 and p 152 of Aug 1983; I conjecture that the first comes from p 210 of Nov 1984.

Two readers commented on "Arithmetical Morphology". Dana Richards said "Ted Clarke's claim that math is inherently foreign to word-play (and linguistics, etc.) sounds logical, but flies in the face of the success of math in other fields, where the same logic applies. It is precisely 'the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics' that has made it the Queen of the Sciences." And Leonard Gordon: "On page 85, Clarke falls into the very trap he rails against. Taking the square root of 281 and saying 'this represents average use of 17 letters' is nonsense. If you must do mathematical analysis in logology, recognize that the alphabet does not consist of 26 equal letters. It consists of 18 or 19 consonants, 5 or 6 vowels, and a few odd letters like Q. Then the number 281 is understandable."

Nyr Indictor has been forced to terminate publication of "N Is For Newsletter" (**Word Ways**, Nov 1993) because of lack of time. Instead, he proposes that "alphabet nuts" send out, by turns, a letter about ABCs to others in a round robin. He conjectures that, with 20 participating, a monthly letter could be produced with each person having responsibility for it every year and a half. If you wish to participate, write him at PO Box 465, Chappaqua NY 10514.

Monte J. Zerger comments on his article in this issue "It is curious that in the most powerful English-speaking nation, the number five, the pentagon, and the pentagram play symbolically significant roles. Our flag displays 50 (5x10) pentagrams, and a striking geometric shape decorating our capital city is the Pentagon."

Michael Helsem writes "The May Colloquy mentions lipograms composed only of prime-number ordinal letters of the alphabet. Awhile back I wrote a number of poems in this format, which I called QABGAB."

A mage asks Seka;
babe, saga.
Meseems a cage came as ease
Seeks make
a.k.a. gem.
Base awe Mecca swages.

A gage, same scam,
message-sake.
Saccade gawks beg askew
cake back.

Meseems a seesaw saga be scab wage
a sewage-sea-swam-safe ameba mage
amasses. Smack smegma
as Mecca as magma,
Agama; eke keck, gaga sage.

Weegee was a bee-meek sage.
Base age begs gaga message.
As Weegee (keek askew) saw;
became agama seesaw.

Dana Richards writes "Robert Fleissner takes a rather fanciful approach to the origin of NANCY DREW. Billman [Carol Billman, The Secret of the Stratemeyer Syndicate, Ungar Publishing] takes a more scholarly approach and comes up with a more plausible explanation."

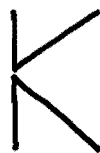
Another genre - the Blythe Girls begun in 1925 - ...introduced a figure named Chester Drew, who in name anyhow may have inspired Keene's Carson Drew.

Harry Stern footnotes Mark Saltveit's article on the Internet: "There is an organization called the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries that offers electronic access via the Internet...One of their databases is called UnCover, and it is billed as 'the world's largest article index'. CARL offers a free service called 'reveal' which allows a user to create a list of journal titles of interest, and the tables of contents of these journals are delivered electronically to the user...I checked the database and found that Word Ways is included." For more information, use the telnet program to connect to the computer called database.carl.org, or write CARL at 3801 East Florida St., Suite 300, Denver CO 80210. Enoch Haga writes "I haven't tried to use America Online to engage in a discussion group on words. I will try and will report the results. I did wander into a discussion group obviously occupied by morons, and got out fast." In a later letter, he adds "I checked out word things on AOL. Could find absolutely nothing...I got disgusted with AOL and signed off for good. I tried to send two long messages and was told electronically that I couldn't just then."

Responding to Leonard Gordon' Nov 1993 article on word squares, Rex Gooch wonders "Why is it that number squares and word squares have different rules? Bearing in mind the plethora of word squares reported, why not restrict them by requiring the diagonals also to be words? To go further and insist that rows, columns and diagonals should also make words when read backwards might lead to obscure words - or perhaps there is at least one nice solution."

The editor regrets to report that Tom Pulliam, featured in the last Kickshaws, died of cancer on February 5, 1994. His widow writes "He thoroughly enjoyed **Word Ways**...for the most part he kept an alert mind [up to the end]."

Max Maven writes that Anthony Sebastian's system for converting numbers into words is, indeed, widely used by mnemonicists. It is frequently called Number Alphabet and the idea dates back several hundred years. There have been assorted versions in several languages, not all using the same consonant-digit links described by Sebastian. There have been several dictionaries issued offering a range of usable words for number entries. The diagrams below show alternative mnemonic links for 5=L (the hand) and 7=K or Q (K formed out of two 7s).



Certain phonemes are difficult to place. Sebastian has TH linked to 1, but Maven prefers linking it to 0, as in use it feels closer to Z and S. Does NG go with 2 (N) or 7 (G)? There is no right answer.

Leonard Gordon adds a branch to his (5,4) word chain network: AGHA, connecting to S in the STERE cycle. This contains a six-step Webster's 10th Collegiate chain: GHASTERNES. Note that any nine consecutive letters in the network form a progressive word square (see "Nested Squares" in the Feb 1994 issue).

Sir Jeremy Morse identifies additional incompatible six-letter word pairs: TIGONS and TOSING cannot be diagrammed with the same template, nor can LITHER and HIRTLE* (or LUTHER* and HURTLE), the starred words being OED variants of HURTLE and LITHER.