SOME MORE QUALITY 8-SQUARES

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The following regular eight-squares are the result of a computer search using the Air Force list of words from Webster's Second New International Dictionary and from the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD), together with some inflections from Chambers English Dictionary. There are 45,594 words in the list; 315 squares were found.

There is still scope for more research into squares of just as high quality, by the addition of all the eight-letter words in Chambers, inflections of shorter words in Webster's Second, and all words (root and inflected) in Webster's Third.

Regular eight-squares have already appeared in Word Ways articles by Borgmann (Feb 1988), Grant (May 1988) and Albert and Cole (Aug 1992). So why yet another collection of regular eight-squares, especially as regular nine-squares have been published, and many persons are seeking regular ten-squares?

To paraphrase Barry Duncan in "Assorted Palindromes" in the February Word Ways, if one has read any of the eight-squares published in recent years, one might very well conclude that it is all but impossible to make one without using at least one proper name or obscure word. This article shows that there are plenty of regular eight-squares which do not. Accordingly, I did not put capitalised terms, multi-word terms, or hyphenated or apostrophised words into the word list.

Some of Albert and Long's squares form clusters with some of mine. Their article includes the squares below which use SERJANA (a capitalised term) or TINDERED.

GROSSART ACETATE+ + = D, S
REVEALER + = F, S CADINEE + = D S
OVERR I+ = E ** = FG ST EDENTATE
SER*ANI* "" = TINERED * = D, K
SARABAND ** = JA, RD ANTHEM
ALINASAL * A D TEARABLE
REINA + = E ENTELLUS
TREDLES $ = D, S + EEDLESS

None of the squares in Borgmann, Grant or Albert and Long appear in the rest of this article. Most of the squares in those articles use terms outside the word list I used: the 201 squares which use the fertile base of Grant’s all use ITINERAL (not in Webster’s Second or Chambers), and most of those in Albert and Long use at least one capitalised term.
One of the squares found is entirely in Chambers (below, left). Two are entirely in OSPD (below, middle and right).

BACKACHE CARBORAS CRABWISE
APHELIAN APERIENT RATLINES
CHARACID RECALLER ATLANTES
KEROSENE BRASSICA BLASTEMA
ALASTRIM OILSEEDS WINTERLY
CICERONI RELIEVOS INTERTIE
HAINTINGS ANECDOTE SEEMLIER
ENDEMISM STRASSES ESSAYERS

Twenty-six of the squares found are entirely in Webster's Third. They do not use terms which Webster's Third marks 'usu cap' or 'cap'. One square, with top row INTERACT and bottom row TATTLERS, is found in Allen and Long; the CRABWISE square above is another.

Six squares entirely in Webster's Third are among the eleven in the following cluster. This cluster uses the following words not in Webster's Third: UNFINITE, RECANCEL.

+ L + STERS ++ = BI, GI, BU, CU, FU
LENTICEL + I I U U U
+ INFINITE
STICKLED
TINKLING
ECILITE
RETENTOR
SLEDGERS

+ RACKERS + = C, T
RECANCEL
ACHROITE
CAROLLED
KNOLLING
ECILITE
RETENTOR
SLEDGERS

+ LASHERS + = F, S
LEN TICEL
ANN * RITE ** = KE, DO
ST * PLED EE OP
HIRPLING
ECILITE
RETENTOR
SLEDGERS

The other eighteen squares entirely in Webster's Third are given below.

POSTCARD
O * TR * GER ** = UA, SE
STEE RAGE ** AC EM
C R * RA * LS
A GALAXIA
REGALING
DRESSAGE
DI ERES * S * = E, I
IMPOTENT E I
EPI THECA
ROTUNDLY
ETH NICAL
SEEDCASE
*NCLASPS
STAYLESS

Other squares, with top row altering sequence as CA ST, alter seq. as ESTER; J

Twenty-six of these squares, replacing first row, are found in Webster's Dictionary, replacing first row, are found in Webster's Dictionary.

The other

ACC OL...
Note that Webster's Third marks CONGREET as obsolete.

Other squares, not entirely in Webster's Third, can be obtained by altering some of the above. In the GAMESTER square, replace GAMESTER by LAMESTER; in the HAPLOMID square, replace MINISTER by MINISHER.

Twenty-three of the squares are entirely within the Oxford English Dictionary. They do not use words which the OED marks as obsolete. One of these squares is the CRABWISE square above. Another is got from it by replacing INTERTIE with INTERLIE. Two of them, with INTERACT in the top row, are found in Albert and Long. Note that the OED marks the words EMITTE and TATTLERY, used in those squares, as obsolete.

The other squares in the OED are among the following squares.
The words RECESSER and STRESSER are not in the OED, though RECESSER is in Webster's Third.

What interesting logological properties do these squares have? With only 315 squares to choose from, the number of different letters in a square has a modest range of 10 to 17. The REASSAIL square uses only 10 letters. The FAUCHARD square is one of several which used 17. The IMPLATED squares contain the rare letters K and Z off the diagonal axis of symmetry. The EUCHROME square's diagonal from top right to bottom left is all Es.

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IMPLA TED EUCHROME SCR ABBLE
MEL ANOMA UPH EAVES CHOLER I C
PL C AT E R CHATTELS RO STRATE
LACE D A RK KTA E R IA A L TR IC ES
AN A B O LI N RATE ABLY BE RI BERI
TOT AL IZE OVER BOIL BRACER OS
ENER IZ ES MELILITE LI TERO SE
D A R KNESS ESSAYLET ECES I SE S
* = A, I

In Hamlet, F

YOU'RE

HOWARD RICHLER
Cote St. Luc,

In Hamlet, F
can sin in "the soul of English translation the results: English 36,500; Slavic 40,200; Indo-

Richard Lederer believe are bright li
greet the day that scald the perceptive, you

Of the fifty polisyllabic words.

In 1066, the British and French agreed that scald the difficult ins

French brought the words to English was not a wealth of adj

There was a word derivation and miller and sh
table like mason, there

For all its

Linguist Albert

still "ate, rode, leaped and

door, floor, was still En