

COLLOQUY

Richard Sabey writes "I disagree with Peter Newby's opinion of Syzygies as 'dreadful'. One needn't stick to Lewis Carroll's rules of word admissibility. When publishing Doublets, he went so far as to published a list of words from which all doublet-links had to be drawn, but that has not stopped people studying doublet chains using larger modern word lists. The scoring system of Syzygies is complex, but that doesn't detract from the idea...which I find as elegant as ana-gram-mar chains." He adds that Carroll would not have allowed Sir Jeremy Morse's and Susan Thorpe's continuations, because he forbade the linking of a word's beginning to a word's beginning, or of an ending to an ending. He suggests CORMORANT rmo UPPERMOST upp SUPPLY.

Ted Clarke writes "I have always used [the word isogram] to refer to a line on a map connecting points having similar attributes, not different!" In a later letter, "My suggestion would be disogram, or even disagram." In the May 1995 issue of Wordsworth, he reports that Dr. J. H. Marshall, senior editor of the OED, proposed haplogram for a word having all letters different (and diplogram and triplogram for pair and trio isograms, respectively). In the same issue he came up with a sixteen-letter diplogram, ESOPHAGOGRAPHERS. The word is in no dictionary but ESOPHAGOGRAPHY, defined as "roentgenography of the esophagus" is in the 24th edition of Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary.

Did anyone notice that Alan De Wenzler in the May issue is an anagram for New Zealander? Or that "We Authors Present by Pen" anagrams the authors?

Sir Jeremy Morse adds RATTATTATTORY, an unhyphenated 6-T word in the OED (a 1709 coinage from Edward Ward's translation of Cervantes) to "Letter Repetition in Web 3".

Ben Pewtery writes "Whilst Newby's attempt to discover the secret of SERICON was quietly entertaining I fear that modernists such as he have overlooked the vital point that this mysterious substance is an additive and should have been utilized as such. My own researches have produced some startling results: SERICON + BRONZE = BRINCE OR ZONES (brince being the verb "drink to, pledge" and OR, of course, is gold."

Ed Wolpow reported seeing the surname MKRTSCHJAN, containing eight consecutive consonants, in a Boston hospital admissions list. Sure enough, Phonedisc reveals the existence of at least four individuals bearing this name: Andrew of Springfield MA, John of Lowell MA, Cheryl of Lombard IL and Evelyn of Chicago IL.

Reinhold Aman comments on Peter Newby's Logomotives in the May 1994 Kickshaws "Some sixteen years earlier, in Maledicta III/2: 152 (1979), I created similar wordplay in my "Is this Godunov for You?" Whereas Mr. Newby adds verbs, adjectives or prepositions to names for the wordplay,

I use just the name. Examples: Why does Saul Bellow? Did Rockefeller? Did John Drinkwater? Whom did Shaftesbury? Could Epicurus? Whom did Vivien Leigh?"

Dave Morice went to his computer to see whether or not he could devise an improved rule for abbreviating the states in "Abbreviations Without Ambiguities". Using the initial letter and the penultimate letter of the forty single-word statenames, he came up with AM AK AN AA CI CD CU DR FD GI HI IH II IN IW KA KK LN MN MN MT MA MT MP MR MN NK ND OI OM OO PI TE TA UA VI VN WO WI WN. MT appeared twice, and MN three times, resulting in five ambiguities. He then tried a more complex rule: take the first letter of the statename as the first letter of the abbreviation; add three to its alphabetic value and use the sum to determine the second letter by counting out letters in the statename. (For example, in CALIFORNIA the first letter has the value 3 and the sum is 6; the sixth letter is O, leading to the abbreviation CO.) This generated AB AS AZ AA CO CA CC DR FL GO HI ID II IA IA KA KC LI MM MD MA MN MO MI MI MO NN ND OH OI ON PL TE TX UH VV VM WN WI WI. Four abbreviations (IA, MO, MI, WI) have to be used for two states each.

Richard Sabey lives only nine miles from Upper Seagry, verifying one of the -GRY placenames in the February 1990 Word Ways.

Commenting on his article in this issue, David Armstrong says "You make an interesting point that since the word-unit charade (for lack of a better name) allows only changes in punctuation between the two versions, the letter-unit (normal) charade--allowing both punctuation and spaces to be changed--is a generalization. Viewed in that light, the anagram--allowing changes in punctuation, spaces, and the order in which the letters appear--is a further generalization. If I were in charge of such things, I would define the anagram so as to require, not merely allow, changes in the letter order between the two versions, and the letter-unit charade to require different locations of the spaces in the two versions. This would conform to the way in which one normally thinks of them, and would make the three categories separate and distinct." He is uneasy with the concept that the palindrome is nothing but a pair of charade sentences with the second one in reverse--surely there is an implicit requirement that both parts consist of recognizable words that, in sequence, make some sort of sense.

Rex Gooch belatedly updates Leslie Card's May 1970 article searching for words corresponding to ten-digit squares with all digits different, and their square roots. The one hole in the earlier article was 39147 and its square, 1532487609. Various Web 2 or Web 3 answers are:

ANSER	SHADE-GROWN, SLATE-BROWN, SLAVE-GROWN, STALE-GROWN
GYALS	ANGULOSITY
ONCER	CLOSE-DRAWN, CLOSE-GRAIN
PRESA	EXPISCATOR
SADHE	DYSPHRENIA
THIRL	INTERCLASH, INTERGLYPH
SETAL	TUSCAN-LIKE
WYLES	LOW-DENSITY (not in Webster's, but very common)