

COLLOQUY

The editor has arranged for The Book Shop, 83 South St, Morristown NJ 07960 to accept overseas orders for Making the Alphabet Dance. To send a book surface mail to Great Britain (or, by extension, western Europe) send the bookstore \$27.70; for air mail, the total cost is \$36.45. Major credit cards are also accepted (telephone 201-539-2165).

Richard Sabey points out an error in "Queen's Move Graphing": a pair of letters that share bigrams with as many as five other letters does not necessarily prevent queen graphability. For example, A and I in ANIMALIZATION share bigrams with Z,T,L,N,M in the queen graph given at the right. Thus, as Leonard Gordon notes, ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHERS is queen-graphable. He notes that queen graphing must be done by hand, a tedious job. AUTOMETASOMATISM, OVERCONCENTRATE and TETRAIODOPHENOLPHTHALEIN are, apparently, not queen-graphable. Sir Jeremy Morse questions the legitimacy of pluralizing INSCIENCE to INSCIENCES, the shortest such word known.

Z + A + T
+ L +
N + I + M
0

Harry Partridge says "Rex Gooch is right about SERICON [in November 1995 Colloquy]. There's an interesting entry in Leddell & Scott: σηρικος, -η, -ov: adj. silken, seric, fr. Σηρ, Chinaman from whom silk was obtained; used w. clothes, hangings and even sutures in Galen."

Mike Morton notes that Example 18 in "Licensed Confusion" should be WE MIX ONCE for New Mexico. He adds that the "Box in a Box" February Kickshaw is reminiscent of Lost in the Funhouse, a novel in which stories nest eight levels deep, with more and more quotes surrounding the deeper ones. At one point something surprising happens in the deepest story, and listeners at all higher levels are surprised, ejaculating a series of What!?'s with appropriate numbers of quote marks."

In "Shiftgrams - My Deft Ruse" a T was omitted from BUFFET and THIS CAT should read THE CAT. Richard Sabey notes that the Webster's Second words TANGANTANGAN, EMBLAZONRY, INTERGRAVE, REPROBANCE, GRIVET and REBORE shift 13 letters into anagrams of themselves.

Susan Thorpe adds to "The Panamanian Rejects" A MAN, A PROF., NO DON FOR PANAMA and A MAN, A POOL, A LOO--PANAMA.

Jeff Grant writes of "Splendid Symbolism" "...some of the words are strained and fanciful. No doubt if we ran our words together we could come up with something similar, or even better, e.g. cwm-fjordbank-glyph-squiz-vest, an adjective meaning 'disturbed by looking at carved symbols found in Welsh valleys and Scandinavian fjords'".

Responding to a February Kickshaw, Richard Sabey reports a Usenet chat session on the pronunciation of GHOTI; his contribution was "porch", achieved by GH as in hiccup, O as in dog and TI as in question. How many other words besides FISH and PORCH are possible?

Peter Newby notes the most famous whimsical German surname of all: Helmut Cabbage (Kohl). He protests that Howard Richler in the November issue attributed Peter's MARY BRED A DERBY RAM to Howard Bergerson, who no doubt independently discovered it, and his MAY RON DINE ON EELS, LEE? NO, ENID, NOR YAM to Steve Chism. Finally, he comments on a February Colloquy: "Admittedly, Web 3 spells the fernlike moss HYPNUM but both the OED and Chambers give HYPNUM without a variation."

Did readers realize that "Barbara's Fart Creates a Fracas" was typed entirely with the left hand?

Peter Newby augments Susan Thorpe's February Colloquy "The two-letter word UU features in several of my books, as does OUEN." Susan Thorpe in turn writes with respect to the alphomic reversals NOP and 'PON "I have always been under the impression that the mid point of the alphabet lay between M and N. Had it been a word, then MN, the symbol for manganese, would have served his purpose."

Harry Partridge writes of "In Words of One Syllable" the following: "An interesting and informative article, but speaking of monosyllables as going 'back to the roots of our tongue' is a bit misleading: there are lots of non-Anglo-Saxon, non-Old English monosyllables in the quote at the bottom of p. 224: isles, round, beasts, large, part, tribes, mere, etc. are not of Anglo-Saxon origin. People always seem to get sniffly and starry-eyed when they talk about monosyllables and Old English."

Richard Sabey asks "The August 1995 Kickshaws mentioned SPEOVELIA AAA. If such biological names are considered to be English, is this the shortest eight-syllabled English term (other than those involving initialisms)?"

Peter Newby updates a long-ago Word Ways article (February 1977) on presidential anagrams: BILL CLINTON blit Lincoln. He comments "[This is] unfortunately blighted by a dialect word, BLIT, which the English Dialect Dictionary defines as 'blighty' (could mean 'affected with blight' or 'that blights' or 'withering, blasting' any of which could be construed as apt).