

## COLLOQUY

In the February Kickshaws, Richard Lederer claimed that two two-letter words--AT and AD--generate 13 three-letter words apiece by adding single letters at the start. Bill Webster notes that the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary allows 17 prefixes for AT (adding kat, lat, qat, wat); IN has 17 as well (18 with quin). He adds "I have too much respect for author Lederer, to think I might 'outdo' him." Rex Gooch points out that the null word can be preceded by any of the 26 letters. More seriously, he and Susan Thorpe have prepared an article (to appear in August) which examines the single-letter prefix records allowing a wide number of dictionaries.

Jeff Grant adds to Susan Thorpe's "AEIOU In Order" with CARMELIOUS (a name from the New Zealand Maori rolls), MALEDICCYOUN (15th-century form of malediction, in the OED) and WATERING-TROUGH (Chambers). Susan found in Lempriere's *Classical Dictionary* (Bracken Books, 1984) AEGIMORUS (an island near Libya, supposed to be one of the Aegates), AEGIOCHUS (a surname of Jupiter) and AREITHOUS (a king of Arne in Peloponnesus). She also discovered HAELIONUS (unsparing, generous, charitable) in the *New Welsh Dictionary* (Christopher Davies, 1970) and ASFENDHIU (a location in Greece) in the *Times Index-Gazetteer*.

Susan Thorpe and Sir Jeremy Morse added to "Statenames Revisited" ALABAMA Balaam; ALASKA akala (Web 2), akasa, kalas (Web 2), kasal (Stedman), Klaas, salak, skaal; ARKANSAS Aransas (TIG), sansara (Pulliam & Carruth); CALIFORNIA orifacial; COLORADO Coroado (Web 2), CONNECTICUT concutient (Web 2); HAWAII iahai (Palindromicon), iawai (Palindromicon); ILLINOIS sillion; INDIANA Danian, iniana (Nomenclatur Zoologicus), nidana (Web 2); IOWA iao (Web 2), ioa (Web 2), iow, iwa (Web 2), wai, wio, woa; KENTUCKY tyncke, yuncte; MISSISSIPPI ipsissimis verbis (Web 2); MONTANA manation (Web 2), manant, Manton, mantoa, monta, Tanoan; NEW HAMPSHIRE hemipheins (Stedman), hemiphrase; NORTH CAROLINA intra-coronal; NORTH DAKOTA koorhaan; OKLAHOMA holm-oak; PENNSYLVANIA avenalins (Web 2), pavilyeas, Yalensian (Web 2); VIRGINIA viragin; WISCONSIN sinsion. All unreferenced words are in the OED.

Sir Jeremy Morse adds to Lederer's three-way charades with IN/S/T/ALL FIR/S/T/RIPE and HA/S/T/ENS. TE/S/T/A/TE is a four-way charade, and if single-letter components are allowed, T/E/S/T/A/TE is a fiver. The four-letter PATE can be charaded (using single-letter components) seven different ways: P/A/T/E, P/A/TE, P/AT/E, PA/T/E, P/ATE, PA/TE, PAT/E. He also notes "AXES, BASES, TAXES are not homophonic with AXIS, BASIS TAXIS; in the former trio the S is hard, in the latter soft."

Susan Thorpe adds to Jeff Grant's WAGGER-PAGGER-BAGGER with BEE-VEEDEE, BERSERKER, HERBERGER, HEMI-DEMI-SEMI, PERVERSER and PERVERTER in the OED, and ALAPALAWALA, BOONOROO, BOUTOUNOU and the four-way KOUZOU MOUTOU in the Times Index-Gazetteer.

Jeff Grant noted two typos in Rex Gooch's "Isograms: The Sequel"--PTEROPTERIDOID and PSEUDAUTOHERMAPHRODITISM. He supplied a few references for questionable words: RIVERVILLE is in the 1972 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide (see *Language on Vacation*), SEMMES is in the OED (seems), and KASSAK is in Web 2 (Kirghiz).

Eric Chaikin writes: "I've recently completed reading all of the *Word Ways* back issues. It was an engrossing (though occasionally difficult) exercise, during which I enjoyed the logological equivalent of discovering the source of the Nile. It is only now I realize that most if not all of the linguistic morsels I consumed as a child, fed by various outlets of popular culture such as *Games Magazine*, were originally concocted in the pages of *Word Ways*. I remember learning the word 'sesquioxidizing' without a clue as to where it came from. Thus it was an interesting experience to follow the continuing attempt by Kyle Corbin, Jeff Grant, Darryl Francis and others to achieve the maximum possible score in one Scrabble turn, and to stumble upon the word in that context. I now have the appropriate historical grounding to appreciate the 'Unstoppable AEGINRST Machine' from its inception in Borgmann to its continued--if somewhat creakier--operation today.

"Wordplay has always been for me something of a 'guilty pleasure'--something to enjoy instead of doing those things one is 'supposed' to be doing. After my immersion in *Word Ways*, it didn't feel so strange. Logology has taken its place next to the other 'legitimate' pursuits in my life, and I now see it as intrinsically human as any other form of 'play.' In adding an appropriate amount of formalization to linguistic play, *Word Ways* has and continues to serve as the ultimate reference--the 'last word' for a community of people who benefit from this play. It's like touching bottom on a deep sea dive.

"While the direct community of subscribers may be a small but fervent one, the impact of your work does indeed reach widely into the 'general population.' This [letter] is an expression of gratitude to you and your wife from someone who has been intrinsically intertwined and affected by wordplay since earliest childhood. Your dedication to what clearly can only be categorized as a labor of love is truly extraordinary. Today I try to serve as a humble ambassador to the 'outside world', passing on the joys of discovering the truly sparkling gems. I ask [people] what rock star's name anagrams to 'narcoleptic' (Eric Clapton), or show them how 'Eleven + Two' really equals 'Twelve + One'. *Word Ways* is the ultimate breeding ground for such gems. Judging from the interest I can see in my peers for the 'choicest bits', I can only be hopeful that the prospects for wordplay, and *Word Ways* in particular are bright."