

COLLOQUY

Words' Worth, the quarterly journal that Ted Clarke of Newquay, Cornwall, England has been issuing to subscribers since 1991, is now available free via e-mail to anyone who has Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or 5.0 (available free as an Internet download). The editor will be glad to forward via e-mail the 18-page July issue, containing an interesting mix of logological and mathematical articles, plus a complete index of past issues. Alternatively, this can be ordered by e-mailing Ted Clarke at ted@comcal.softnet.co.uk.

Joshua Nash, author of "Onomatopoeia and Language Perception" in the August Word Ways, called the editor's attention to a website sponsored by Mainichi (a Japanese news service) that describes Bow-lingual, an electronic device produced by Takara Ltd. for 12800 yen. A small microphone attached to a dog's collar records its barks, which Bow-lingual then classifies into one of six emotional categories, such as "I'm annoyed" or "I've done it". At the end of the day, it summarizes the total bark experience with phrases like "I'm a bit lonely today". The analysis is based on 2000 barks collected from 100 different dogs. Takara also plans to offer a service which automatically e-mails translations of a dog's barks to its owner.

Susan Thorpe writes: "I was interested in 'Planet Packing' and 'Day and Color Packing'. Ross packed the numbers ONE, TWO and THREE into THRWONEE as an example and this prompted me to try packing the numbers ONE through TEN. There are 14 different letters in the series of ten numbers: ONETWHRFUIVSXG. The numbers THREE and SEVEN require that the pack has two Es ($14+1 = 15$). The numbers THREE and EIGHT require that there are either two Hs or two Ts ($15+1 = 16$). The number NINE requires two Ns ($16+1 = 17$). Between them, the numbers SEVEN and NINE require both an EN run and an NE run. To use the first E of SEVEN as the E of NINE would require three Ns in the pack. Let's go for three Es instead ($17+1 = 18$). SEFNIVGHTHWOURENEX is an optimal run of 18 letters."

While in a honey shop recently, Jeff Grant noticed a poster for the New Zealand Tawari tree (bees make honey from Tawari flowers' pollen). His eyes lit up when he noticed the scientific name IXERBA BREXIoides with its 11-letter internal palindrome. It can be found on p 822 of the Dictionary of New Zealand English (1997), edited by H.W. Orsman, under the entry for tawari.

Responding to "The Suet Alphabet Revisited", Philip Cohen found on Google 29 examples of the Utz surname, so one can conclude that the UTZES are alive and well. Google also revealed the surname ZUTES (in lowercase, this is the name of a shawl from a co-op in Guatemala), a hamlet named ZETUS in Lincoln County, Mississippi, and the first name SUZET. Jeff Grant confirmed the latter discovery, and adds that the Brethren website on Google describes Harley and Sylvia Utz of Greenville, Ohio, both 102, who celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary on June 15.

For EERS, Philip Cohen offers ZERES Grub H, a German company producing language products, and Jeff Grant notes that EERS transadditions were first discussed by Mary Youngquist

(now Mary Hazard) in the May 1972 Kickshaws. Jeff adds "the concept was extended to longer words in my article 'Alphabetic Transadditions' in the May 1980 Word Ways."

Hugo Brandt Corstius footnotes the editor's February 2000 article "Elemental, My Dear Watson" with a list of common words that can be spelled with one-letter chemical element abbreviations: bikinis, bionic, bishop, bobby, chick, Chinook, Chopin, chowchow, Confucius, cowboys, cynic, finish, focus, funky, hi-fi, hip-hop, hobby, hocus-pocus, husky, iconic, isis, kick, kiwis, knock, know-how, Ohio, picnics, pickups, poncho, pony, push, PVC, scoop, sinus, skiff, skin, Sisyphus, skunk, snob, Soho, spin-off, spook, spy, subsonic, sushi, syncopic, synopsis, UFO, unison, VIP, whisky, Wisconsin, yup.

Susan Thorpe writes "Recording Darryl's packing the colors of the rainbow, I managed to reduce his pack of 23 letters to 21 by reordering the letters so that it was possible to dispense with a D and an E: GYVIORBEANDIGLLOWUETN instead of VINDIGORYAEEBLOWUNGEDT. There are 15 different letters of the alphabet in the rainbow colors: REDOANGYLWBUIVT. YELLOW, GREEN and INDIGO require that the pack has 2 Ls, 2 Es and 2 Is ($15+3 = 18$). ORANGE and GREEN require that the pack has either 2 Rs or 2 Gs ($18+1 = 19$). ORANGE and INDIGO require that the pack has either 2 Ns or 2 Os ($19+1 = 20$). My pack has both 2 Ns and 2 Os. Theoretically then, it should be possible to get rid of one O or one N to achieve an optimal run of 20 letters. The logic of how this is practically possible (bearing in mind the other required letter orders) deserts me! Is 21 the [minimum] answer?"

Hugo Brandt Corstius gives a curious footnote to the AEGINRST transpositional problem often discussed in the pages of Word Ways. RIETGANS is a bird in Dutch, and SNATERIG is the sound the bird makes!

Jeff Grant adds a Q example to the His and Her Words introduced by Susan Thorpe in the August Kickshaws: QUININA. Quin is a variant of the masculine name Quinn in *What to Name the Baby* (1946) by Evelyn Wells.

Susan Thorpe has located a number of pair isograms (words containing each letter exactly twice) not previously published in Word Ways:

GYGYLL, TYTYLL, UUENEN Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Edition

NINILL Everyman's Dictionary of Non-Classical Mythology (Dent 1968), by E. Sykes

ENNELL (a lake in Ireland), SUSTUT (a river in Canada), ZHZHENNYE (USSR) Times Index-Gazetteer of the World

DIRIBDARAB (bits), ERRÉBB (nearer), ÖNÁLLÓAN (independently), SZÁZAS (hundred?)

A Concise Hungarian-English Dictionary (Oxford University Press 1990)

KOKONAAN (completely) KOTITEKIONEN (home-made) in a Finnish dictionary by the staff of Berlitz Guides (1989)