

QING PANGRAMS

ALAN G. WAGNER

Cambridge, Massachusetts

The word Qing, the name of the last Chinese dynasty (1644-1912), is frequently employed as an adjective, as in Qing porcelain. Used in a pangram, Qing has the obvious advantage of taking care of the Q while freeing up the U to be used elsewhere, resulting in 26-letter pangrams which make much better sense and use more familiar words than the ones I have seen. However, Qing does not appear as an entry in Merriam-Webster's Tenth New Collegiate (10C), Merriam-Webster's Third New International (NI3), or the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition (OED). 10C does have an entry for Ching (or Ch'ing), the difficulty being that different systems exist for rendering the sounds of the Chinese language into Western alphabets. Qing follows the pinyin romanization which is the system considered authoritative in the People's Republic of China since 1949. Ch'ing follows the Wade-Giles system which was prevalent in the West during much of the 20th century and which is still in use, especially by the older generation of scholars who have not changed their ways. (Ching is a vulgarization of Ch'ing, and is not a correct romanization in any system that I'm aware of.) Qing now seems to have the upper hand; for example, a search on amazon.com brings up 103 books with Qing in the title versus 65 with Ch'ing.

In a bizarre display of lexicographical inconsistency, neither NI3 nor OED has an entry for Qing under any spelling. Both, however, have entries for four other major Chinese dynasties: the Han, Tang, Song and Ming. Nonetheless, Qing is in fact in the OED—it appears in the definition of **wu ts'ai** and in the definition of **transitional** in Volume 2 of the Additions Series (1993-97).

However, Qing does appear as a main entry in the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1993), the New Oxford American Dictionary (2001) and the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (4th edition, 2000).

Black DJs' fry vex whom, Qing putz?
 Qing fry, whom black DJs vex, putz.
 Qing fry chew vamp DJ's box, klutz.
 DJ, comps vex Qing klutz—why barf?
 Wry vamp chefs box Qing DJs, klutz.
 Block my wharf, Qing putz; DJs vex.
 Why vex Qing putz's black form, DJ?
 From Qing putz: why vex black DJs?
 Qing fry waltz, bump hocks, vex DJ.

Fry are “human offspring” in the first sentence and “members of a group” in the second. **Putz** is a noun in the first sentence (“stupid or ineffectual person”) and is a verb in the second (“to engage in inconsequential or unproductive activity”).

DJ is an abbreviation for “disk jockey” in 10C, NI3 and OED, but is a regular word in the New Oxford and the American Heritage dictionaries.