# A NINE-SQUARE WITH A NON-PALINDROME DIAGONAL

REX GOOCH
Letchworth, Herts, England
rexgooch@ntlworld.com

As explained in my article *Nine-Square with Palindromic Diagonal* (Word Ways May 2002), the SW-NE diagonal must be palindromic. Such squares are rare (say, as common as ten-squares). Distinctly rarer is a nine-square such as follows, which has a frequency I estimate to be around 1 in 300,000 nine-squares.

| | |
|---|---|
| P L O T T A B L E | plottable, OED |
| L A S H E D O U T | lashed out, OED to lash out, see lash, verb 1 |
| O S T E R M U T H | Ostermuth, a castle, OED road, c1550 quote |
| T H E L L I C H E | thelliche, OED thellich, 1340 quote |
| T E R L E T H E R | terlether, OED |
| A D M I T T E R E | admittere, OED, Latin origin of admit, admission |
| B O U C H E T I A | Bouchetia anamola spiniceps, ITIS plant |
| L U T H E R I E N | lutherién, French, OED Lutheran |
| E T H E R E A N S | etherean, OED, plural of adjective |

ITIS = Integrated Taxonomic Information System, US Department of Agriculture

The diagonal starting in the north-west reads PATLETTES (patlettes, OED patlet, 1522 quote). Its reverse, SETTELTAP, is clearly the tap (faucet) restricting access to a settlement tank (settel occurs frequently in the OED), or a tap to settel a screw in place before driving it home!

ETHEREANS might be justified in the following imaginary book review: "The favourite adjective of the author is etherean, clearly a new toy for the author. Almost every object or person has this quality: indeed there are sufficient ethereans in the book to sink a battleship".

© Rex Gooch 2002