A NINE-SQUARE WITH A NON-PALINDROME DIAGONAL

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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 settle 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”.

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