MORE ALPHABETIC CLUSTERS

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In the May 1997 issue of Word Ways, Jeff Grant presented "Alphabetic Clusters", a coming together of words using multiple numbers of each letter of the alphabet. For example, for the letter C he offered the 6-C CHOLANGIOCHOLECYSTOCHOLEDOCHECTOMY and the 5-C COCCOCHROMATIC, and for the letter N he offered the 6-N NONANNOUNCEMENT. To complement Jeff's article, I offer here twenty words discovered on my journeys around the Oxford English Dictionary. Most of these don't improve on Jeff's offerings, some only match his offerings, and others fall short, but are worth recognizing and admitting to the world of logology.

TARANTARRATARA (6) The OED has **taratantara** as a main entry but also shows **tarantarratara** in boldface type as a 19th century variant spelling. The words are defined as the sound of a bugle or drum.

CLACK-CLACK-CLACK (6) The OED has **clack-clack** as a main entry, and then says "also **clack-clack-clack**", defining both words as "a repeated clacking noise".

PEEKEENEENEE (8) At the main entry **piccaninny**, the OED lists the terms **piccaninny dawn** and **piccaninny daylight** with the meanings "earliest dawn, first light'. At the entry, there is an illustrative quotation dated 1796 which uses the spelling above. Although not a main entry in the dictionary, this is still noteworthy since it hasn't appeared in logological literature and is spelled solidly.

SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS (7) A nonsense word made popular by the 1964 Walt Disney film "Mary Poppins". The word also appears in the Random House Dictionary. Although it is well-known as a long word and has been mentioned in Word Word Ways, I don't believe that attention has been specifically drawn to its seven I's.

INFINITO-INFINITESIMAL (7) This appears as a boldface term at the entry **infinito-** in the OED, where it is defined as "infinitesimal of the second degree".

DISINDIVISIBILITY (7) This word appears in boldface type at the entry **dis-** in the OED. Even though Jeff's offering contains 9 I's, I still felt this 7-I term was worthy of note.

DISINDIVISIBILITIES (8) The inferred plural form of the previous **disindivisibility.**

EXHIBITIONISTISTICICITY (8) This specimen appears in James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and is cited in an illustrative quotation at "human" in the OED.

EXHIBITIONISTISTICICITIES (9) The inferred plural of the James Joyce specimen, though one has to wonder whether any writer other than Joyce has used the singular, let alone the plural!

AMMOPALLADAMMONIUM (5) At the prefix entry **ammo-** the OED defines it as a combining form of ammonium, implying conjunction with an element, and then says "as in Ammopalladium, Ammopalladammonium." This term doesn't appear to have found its way into the world of loglogy thus far.

ONNFANNGENN (6) At the main entry **onfang**, an obsolete verb meaning to receive or accept, the OED has this specimen as a 13th century form of the verb. I don't recall this 6-N item appearing in a logological context previously.

UNNBIGUNNENN (6) At the main entry **unbegun**, an adjective meaning without beginning, the OED has this peculiar specimen, an obsolete form dating from the 13th century. I believe this is newly discovered in the world of logology.

TOOMATOOGOOROO (8) A main entry in the OED, it is given as a variant spelling of **tumata-kuru**, a New Zealand shrub. (I'll bet Jeff Grant has this shrub growing in his garden!)

PEPPER-UPPER (5) This boldface word is given at the main entry **pep** in the OED. It also appears in *The American Thesaurus of Slang*, a fact previously remarked on in Word Ways. Interestingly, the OED offers an illustrative quotation from 1938 spelling the word solidly.

PLIP-PLOPPING (5) This boldface word is given as an adjective at the main entry **plip-plop**, a representation of a rhythmically regular sequence of sounds.

PUPPY-PEEPING (5) This boldface word is given as an adjective at the main entry **puppy**. It is defined as "looking with half-closed eyes like a puppy".

TESTAMENT-TESTAMENTAR (6) This boldface term is listed under the main entry **testament**, a term from Scots law. The word can also be spelled with a final Y, **testament-testamentary**.

UNTITTLETATTLING (6) The form without the initial **un-** has appeared in Word Ways before, but the longer **un-** form hasn't. Though the addition of **un-** doesn't change the number of T's, the OED has the word spelled solidly with no obtruding hyphen.

WINDOW-SWALLOW (4) The OED listed this as a two-word term without the hyphen, defining it as a bird, the European martin. Webster's Second and Third editions also have this as a two-word term. However, The *English Dialect Dictionary* conveniently adds a hyphen.

KYRYMYRY (4) The OED has **kerimery** as a main entry, but also shows **kyrymyry** in boldface type as an alternative spelling. The dictionary defines the words as "? filigree work", the question mark presumably indicating the editors weren't totally sure about this definition! While there are several other words with more Y's in them, **kyrymyry** is notable for its alternating Y's.

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Examples of constrained literature? Think *Gadsby, A Void, Alphabetical Africa, Eunoia, Ella Minnow Pea, Whales for the Welsh*, and the Word Ways monograph *Satire: Veritas*. Spineless Books suggests "Write a novel without the letter E. Write a poem in alphabetic order. Never repeat a word. Write in the passive voice. Write 600 sonnets without the word *the*. Write a pastoral novel with multiple reading paths. Write a prose poem with five stanzas each using only one vowel. Tell a story entirely in questions. Write a book in the future tense. Write a love letter without the letter L. Write a poem including all the letters of the alphabet in every line. Write without nouns. Write an epic palindrome. Write a novel without the third person." For more information, see http://spinelessbooks.com/award.