

COLLOQUY

Richard Sabey comments on the Nov 2002 "New Record Pangrammatic Windows" that "The window in Mike Keith's third example is interesting...in that it needs to start as early as it does, to pick up two common letters S, O; it's unusual for such common letters to determine where one end of a pangrammatic window must be." He likes Mark Isaak's pangrammic: "The shorter form indicates the meaning just as well as the longer form, and is more convenient." But he wonders on page 304 "Why the second U in MEGAANNUUM?...possibly a misprint?" (Apparently the word-coiner preferred to use ANNUUM, a Latin adjective meaning "yearly", instead of ANNUM.)

Richard Sabey comments on the Feb 2003 "The Debunking of Torpenhow Hill" "Well done!", adding "Mario Pei is not even right in asserting that the 'how' comes from the Scandinavian element *haugr*. Even if it were, it is scarcely believable that a Devon hill name would have that element. Scandinavian elements are not characteristic of names in England outside the Danelaw." He notes "The record, so far as I know, stands at three synonymous elements: Pendle Hill (Lancs) in which Pendle is a corruption of Penhill, Breedon on the Hill (Leics), and the island of Axiholm (Axey = Axa's island, holm = river island)." Another "French Flies" Kickshaw is exhibited by Albert Ketelbey (1875-1959), an English composer of light music; the family name was stressed on the first syllable, but Albert decided to pronounce it with the stress on the second syllable, and added a grave accent to the second E. The third PEPPERTREE pyramid on page 4 is faulty, as the bottom row is E E E E and the third row P P P, invalidating the third property in the preceding paragraph.

After reading "A True Word Square" Jim Puder writes "That's quite an interesting new word square puzzle you devised...Beyond the obvious tactic of putting the five vowels into one letter set and distributing the other most-used letters evenly among the other sets, I can see no other strategies for maximizing the chances of forming words. Finding a solution seems to be a matter of trial and error, i.e., the kind of job computers were made for." He found a solution with only three non-words (all others are in Webster's Third, although PREB is an abbreviation):

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MANY PREB SWIG LOFT HUCK
CROW LUNG PATH KEYS bfim
efgh CITY KNOB WUMP LARS
BUST WAKF CLEM HIRN POGY
KLIP HOMS FURY abcg NEWT
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Susan Thorpe writes "My eye was caught by the Roman numeral items in the May Kickshaws. Readers may be interested in the designation CERQUEUX-DE-MAULVRIER, a location in France containing each of the Roman numerals."

Anil notes that the Louis Phillips dins-snip item in Kickshaws is not a 180-degree rotator, but diNs-sNip is!

Jeff Grant responds to Susan Thorpe's "My New Pals" as follows: "I always knew the Internet would provide 100s of new 'dromes, and have done some work in that area. Unfortunately Susan's list contains dozens of errors. Her comment about 'the minefield of spelling mistakes on the web' is very true!" He enclosed an analysis of her 40 A-examples, of which he accepted 21, rejected AEIEA (aeia), AESEA (aisea), AIWIA (aiwa), ALYLA (ayala), AOBOA (aoba), ARCRA (arora), ARYRA (araya), AUNUA (aunuu), AUVUA (auva'a), and reserved judgment on 11 (more evidence needed). He has progressed to the end of D, but without easy Internet access it is a slow and expensive exercise. Jeff would exclude nonsense examples like BINIB and BOXOB: "that line of willy-nilly coinage could lead to myriadairyms of new dromemords!" He adds "I am suspicious of single-site examples (usually wrong!) but sometimes multiple links are wrong too (e.g. AIWIA)."

Richard Sabey notes that Dan Tilque's AWE/WONDER synonym pair does not convert to the AWFUL/WONDERFUL antonym pair; the E in AWE is lost. Anil comments that Dan Tilque's "Reversed Spelling, Reversed Meaning" is "a topic I've been pondering for some time. Indeed, TIP/PIT is listed in *up/dn* in my chapter on antonyms. They're quite rare, so that's probably the best one so far. I'm a long way from finishing my search but since Dan asked for more examples, I'll pass on those I have. BAN/NAB means 'keep out vs. grab in'. And then there are a large number of Borgmannesque de-/re- swaps, such as DEDIVIDER/REDIVIDED, DELEVELER/RELEVELED, DETARTRATED/RETARTRATER and the like.

Richard Sabey remarks that Stuart Kidd in "Sound Spelling" cheated by claiming, as the spelling of a sound in a word, that sound's true spelling plus adjacent silent letters. Rex Gooch writes "I liked this. A change to have sounds assessed, and it is relevant to some work I did on spelling rules in the Times Literary Supplement some years ago."

Anil writes "Richard Lederer's great "Truth in Logology" I/We swap (I-illness, We-wellness) brings to mind John Ruskin's essay *The Illth of Nations*, and answers to Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*. Indeed, that coinage (or does it pre-date Ruskin?) found its way into the Random House Unabridged, which defines illth as "useless, worthless, or injurious consumer commodities," a term urgently intended to revival into our everyday vocabularies!