

COMPASS ROSES

Rex G Gooch

Letchworth Garden City, Herts, England

rexgooch@ntlworld.com

Compass roses were invented by Christopher McManus in W2003-231. I found them pleasing to look at and challenging to do. He had a little difficulty with some of the words in the 9-compass: there are myriads of these in a large dictionary, though finding common 3-letter words to fit is a little difficult. The first 9-rose uses purely OED solid headwords, but has a repeat. The second consists of OED solid headwords, though Wiskinkie and Sasak are proper nouns.

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      N
    C U P
  B O R E D
C E N S A R E
W O L V E R I N E
  P E A R L E D
    F L I E R
      L E D
      S
  
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      N
    F U R
  S O L A H
H A L L Y E R
W I S K I N K I E
  C A S T I S M
    K A I S T
      Y E H
      S
  
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The two 11-roses below were much more difficult to find: I had to roughly double the vocabulary for each successive word as I neared completion, so had to use place names. 11-roses are less scarce than hen's teeth, but scarcer than 10-squares. The two are selected from about 100, with especial attention to the 3-letter words.

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      N
    K E R
  N A S O C
M E N O U R E
P U R I T A I N E
W O L F W H I S T L E
  G U B A A S M A K
    T A L M S O N
      R A N E R
        N U T
        S
  
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      N
    P A G
  D U N A G
S A L O B O T
Y E N I C A D I R
W E L W Y L L Y N G E
  T A R A A R E E G
    M A D D A M E
      N D I K E
        A U B
        S
  
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First 11-rose:

Nesothamnus: old genus name for Perityle, family Compositae, a dicot (www.anet.com/~manytimes/), wolf-whistle, elk, ker, nut, menoure (see minor), and nerf-bar (see nerf) are all OED headwords or variants.

puritaine: OED partisan A 1 1555q

Guba Asmak, Russia, 53°50', 136°47'

Kaniwalan Point, Philippines, 19°17', 121°19'

póg is Irish for kiss; also many places

Rouaisset Helouane, Israel, 33°06, 35°18
 Kampong **Mulut**, Brunei, 4°53, 114°50
 Crismor, Philippines, 6°37, 124°35
 Raner, India, 24°03, 72°04; and name in US Census

Talmson Borzya, Russia, 50°34, 119°12
 Entan, North Korea, 38°10, 125°44
Nasoc Creek, Philippines, 9°28, 123°22

Second 11-rose:

yet, maddame (see madam), and selam (see salaam) are OED headwords or variants.

RGG: Royal Grenadier Guards (Chambers), and other admirable wonders

Nanocladius marcidis basidens, ITIS animal

Yenicadir, Turkey, 39°38, 43°42

Taraareeg, Somalia, 10°58, 48°56

Paj, Croatia, 44°26, 15°03

Salobot Island, Philippines, 14°00, 123°32

Danwran, Pakistan, 29°34, 71°41

Palang **Dunag**, Afghanistan, 33°09, 63°29

welwyllynge, OED affect 3 1444q

Puliyadda, Sri Lanka, 7°15, 80°39

Jabal Rakb, Saudi Arabia, 26°50, 38°04

Aub, Germany, 50°15, 10°30

Tinée, OED standful 1611q

Godyeme, Côte d'Ivoire, 9°21, -7°13

Ndike, Gabon, 0°29, 9°34

Place names are from the NIMA database. Latitude and longitude are in degrees and minutes.

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The New Oxford American Dictionary

Published in 2001 for \$55, this handsome book of xxxvii + 2021 pages offers a fully up-to-date view of the language. The editors have taken especially great care with definitions, eschewing jargon and arranging them in hierarchies in which there is a logical connection between core meanings and ancillary ones (for example, CARNIVAL is a 'period of public revelry at a regular time each year', with ancillary senses 'an exciting or riotous mixture' and 'a traveling amusement show or circus'). Illustrative examples are drawn from their extensive citation files (rather than made-up ones, these nicely illustrate language usage), and selection of words (and featured meanings) is based on the same files.

Dictionary words and names are intermingled, and the latter are often accompanied by brief explanatory entries. The dictionary does not hesitate to offer usage notes, and carefully labels vulgar and offensive words as such. The dictionary is accompanied by a CD-ROM which should aid in logological searches of various sorts. The dictionary word-stock appears comparable to the Merriam-Webster Collegiate dictionaries (which banish names to various appendices); however, the Oxford Dictionary offers a less-cramped layout, as well as fuller definitions and etymologies, plus related phrases.