

MORE BALANCED WORD PAIRS

REX GOOCH

Letchworth Garden City, Herts, England

rexgooch@ntlworld.com

Darryl Francis presented a neat idea in “Balanced Word Pairs” in the November 2004 Word Ways. I do, however, prefer a name like “complementary word pairs” because the corresponding letters in each word are the 27s-complement of each other. I do not see how the word “balanced” applies, as it does with balanced words. Darryl found just one example of length 6; I found another 150 of this length (mostly by using place names). I also found nine of length 7 (ignoring words consisting of strings of up to 23 As). The following selection of length 6 includes cases where both words are to be found in a dictionary or similar reference, or where one word at least is familiar.

Porto **Artaza**, Brazil, -24°31, -54°20; **zigzaz** rainbowfish (ITIS animals)
crozer (Web2); **Xilavi**, South Africa, -22°31, 31°01
droogs (Clockwork Orange); **will'th** (O leave 12, 1541q)
drools (O drool); **Willoh**, Australia, -29°30, 147°15
Dzidzi, Gabon, -0°14, 12°16; **war-war** (O jaw-jaw, Churchill: “To jaw-jaw is always better...”)
Gibuli, Latvia, 57°21, 21°56; **try for** (O)
giburo (O, W German antecedent of boor); **tryfil** (O trifle)
Wadi **Girgir**, Egypt, 28°07, 34°12; **tri-tri** goby (ITIS animals)
Girvin (O spring, 1799q, author); **Trierm.** (O arch 5, 1813q abbr. title of Scott's)
glavir (O); Epipterygium **tozeri** lipocarpa (ITIS plants)
glifts (O glift); **Torough**, Nigeria, 7°19, 8°34
grillo (O); **Tiroom**, Namibia, -26°20, 16°32
helots (O helot); **svolgh** (O, Middle Swedish antecedent of swallow)
Holdt's (locust) (ITIS plants, sic); **slowgh** (O attain 5, 1450q, also earlier form of slow, slay etc)
ifiifi (Samoan tree, Pal); **rurrur** (Pal)
Iiili, Samoa, -14°01, -171°42; **rorrow** (Pal)
iviivi (Mangarevan, Pal); **Rerrer** (German family name, Pal)
kilerg and **provit** (DF recorded this pair)
Kirali, Pakistan, 32°48, 72°05; **prizer** (O, earlier form of prizer)
Kiravi, Turkey, 38°54, 41°32; **prizer** (O)
Kolevi, Georgia, 42°18, 43°32; **plover** (O)
Krouvi, Finland, 63°22, 22°42; **pilfer** (O)
levior, as in *Polyrhachis levior diagonalis* (ITIS animals); **Overli**, Norway, 69°05, 18°34
Lavit (US Census personal name); **overga** (O)
lil-lil (Macquarie Dict); **orooro** (Pal, or **Oro'oro** River, Solomon Islands, -9°46, 160°14)
lullul and **ofofo** are both in Pal
malmal (O mulmull, Hindi antecedent); **Nzonzo**, Congo, -4°47, 14°36
Marmar (Web2 below line); **Nzinzi**, Dem Rep Congo, 2°32, 30°32

Length 7:

Armariz, Spain, 42°22, -7°43; **Zinzira**, Bangladesh, 23°52, 90°18

Mughayr az Zilfi, Saudi Arabia, 26°12, 44°52; **Rass ez Zaarour**, Syria, 33°38, 36°07

Eridzor, Armenia, 40°50, 45°32; **Chak Virwali**, Pakistan, 31°32, 72°16

Gargarh, Afghanistan, 32°23, 64°57; **tzitzis** (O, tsitsith, 1881q)

hazizah (Pal); **Szaraz's** (Pal)

hevinle (O, mean 2, 1500q); **Svermov**, Czech Rep, 50°10, 14°08

Kilevli, Turkey, 39°52, 33°46; **proveor** (O purveyor, Old French antecedent)

Kiviloo, Estonia, 59°17, 25°14; **preroll** = time for videotape to get up to speed (Dictionary of Occupational Titles)

Krizara, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 44°13, 18°15; **Piraziz Dagi**, Turkey, 38°37, 40°08

SOLOS

Emily Lime is a photographer obsessed with words. From her own name to her compulsion to photograph only three words (*dog, bread, time*), the sound of language is of endless fascination. Between Otto and Izzy (her dog and cockatiel), her old Brooklyn studio apartment and her lovable-oddball Williamsburg neighbors, Emily is happy. But her world turns upside-down when she falls for her dog-walker and fellow language-lover Marcus Mead, who is sixteen years her junior and the son of her paranoid ex-husband. Unknown to Emily, the ex-husband wants her dead as part of a money-making scheme, and has asked Marcus to kill her. Caught between his possibly dangerous and crazy father, his painful childhood, and his growing feelings for Emily, Marcus doesn't know which way to turn. Will Emily and Marcus find love and linguistic contentment without her getting killed or him going crazy?

This novel by Kitty Burns Florey, a paperback published by Berkley Books for \$14 (ISBN 0-425-19599-6), is saturated with wordplay. Each chapter is headed by a palindromic phrase (*No Garden, One Dragon; Mix a Maxim; Murder for a Jar of Red Rum*). Emily word-ladders their surnames (*Lime-line-lane-land-lend-lead-Mead*) and anagrams his name (*Dr. Maus came, Mama's cured*) and keeps a computer file on him labeled *Scarum*. (Too bad Florey didn't notice that Emily's three words anagram to *Mead got bride*; however, she does give credit to the Word Ways website in her acknowledgements!)