

COLLOQUY

Rex Gooch writes “‘A Foul Ghoul Soul Loves Good Blood Food’ is a very interesting article, but it does unintentionally show another aspect of English: different folk pronounce words differently, which is why I disagree with so many of the examples. To take two, I expect American authors to pronounce *solder* differently, but I cannot imagine in what way *hog* and *dog* do not rhyme perfectly. There are also a number of examples where a word carries more than one pronunciation according to meaning such as *does* (verb or plural) or *prayer* (agent noun or noun).”

Ed Wolpow suggests two X-based Guggenheim sentences: Xochimilco xenobiologist Xerxes Xeroxes xerograph, x-es xeric xenium; Xavier Xenakis, Xenia xylophonist, x-rays xenophobic xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. The editor overlooked (see page *at*) a second Dutch example of Guggenheim Sentences in Hugo Brandt Corstius’s book *Opperlans*. Anil suggests quoll, an Australian marsupial (in the OED), as a substitute for quarter-horse.

In the Jul 2005 issue of Games Magazine, Raymond Love packed the nine planets (plus the sun) in a 12x7 rectangle, smaller than the 10x10 one exhibited in the May 2004 Word Ways:

M	A	R	S	V	J	P					
E				E	U	L					
R		S		N	E	P	T	U	N	E	
C		U		U		I		T		A	
U	R	A	N	U	S		T	O		R	
R						E				T	
Y		S	A	T	U	R	N			H	

Rex Gooch writes “I think your reader (May 2005 Colloquy) is too prescriptive. Rules such as those proposed have to work with in a context. For example, use of unusual words or phrases may reasonably be banned for 8-squares, but I would say you need no excuse to use any word (even coined) in a 12-square. Some of the rules will be operated differently by different people, because familiarity depends upon the background of the individual; thus, *base group* or *hexadecimal shift* are bread-and-butter to me and many others, but I have rarely read and never used *class reunion*.”

Ed Wolpow comments “In ‘Smynonyms or Definitive Palindromes’, Anil does not mention the variant of the phonetic smynonym, not to mention the polylingual smynonym. Still, there’s a fine example: TAX: SKAT (skat is the Danish word for tax).

Hugo Brandt Corstius writes about Gooch’s 11-square in the May Word Ways “Proud you used the Dutch SIERSNORREN. It is not in any dictionary, but any Dutch speaker will tell you the meaning ‘ostentatiously decorated moustaches’. I am absolutely certain the word has been spoken, written, printed many times. SIER is an adjective-like word from the verb (ver)sieren

with the meaning 'decorative'. In the popular Van Dale dictionary I find SIERSPREI (decorated bedspread), SIERSCHRIFT (calligraphy), etc."

Errata: In "The Prime Ministers, More or Less" the transdeletion for Wellington should have been towelling, not toweling. In "Animal Crackers" the brown-billed SCYHE BILL woodcreeper should have been SCYTHE BILL. In "A Homovocalic Survey" AROOSTOOK (p 134) is not homovocalic.

Rex Gooch writes "Jeff Grant endorses in Colloquy a certain spelling as correct [for a long Maori place-name in "Super Heavyweights (Part 2)"] without saying why. I actually have [in my database] five words starting Taumatawhak... One of 23 letters refers to a place some distance away. The other four refer to the same place, but have 28, 57, 83 and 92 letters. The first two of these four have AUAU as Jeff wants, and the second of these I have from two sources. The spellings come from three sources in all. I have copied these accurately, so Jeff is saying two of my sources are wrong. That could be: notation of place names in another language is rather fraught. For example, the spelling Istanbul is obviously wrong (should be a soft I) but it is accepted (along with the more accurate Stamboul, perhaps). From a practical viewpoint, I believe we have to accept what authoritative sources say, though it is interesting to have errors pointed out (with reasons)."

Hugo Brandt Corstius writes "In the May 2005 Colloquy the Dutch *verloren hoop* is translated as 'lost troops'. The word *hoop* has two meanings (and etymologies), 'head' and 'hope'. While in the 17th century *verloren hoop* was used in the military sense, nowadays it would be understood as 'lost hope'. Certainly the Cape of Good Hope is a heap, but it was named Kapp Goede Hoop as it encouraged the Dutch sailors.

In "Word Lists With All Starting Letters" the editor should have cited Ed Wolpow's August 1984 Kickshaw on this topic. He mentioned Roget's International Thesaurus (R.L. Chapman, Fourth Edition, 1977) where a list of 394 languages contains words beginning with all 26 letters. "Remarkable that you found a lipolist [a list lacking one starting letter] for the letter I. As the mathematician, you could probably quantify those probabilities—of finding or not finding such lists."