

# AERST TRANSPOSALS

JEFF GRANT

Hastings, New Zealand

My article "Transposing Rates" in the November 1987 Word Ways has examples for 63 of the 120 possible transposals of the letters AERST. Further research has expanded the collection to 85, with many of the original entries being improved as well. Abbreviations like ESRTA (Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association) are excluded; however, a couple of derivatives (RTase, TSAer) are listed. Names with initials, such as T.S. RAE, are omitted, as are contrived terms and purely foreign words. Due to the nature of the source (Net), some examples may be suspect.

AERST an early form of *erst*, first [OED]

AERTS a surname listed 163 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]. Egidus **Aerts** (1822-53) was a Belgian musician and composer [DUB]

AREST an obsolete form of *arrest* and *erst* [OED]

ARETS reckons, ascribes, imputes [Web 2]

ARSET backwards, a Scots term [SND]

ARSTE a surname listed 4 times in US telephone directories [White Pages], and 6 times in the 1978/79 Hamburg, West Germany telephone directory [TD]

ARTES plural of *arte*, a 14-17th century spelling of *art* [OED]

ARTSE an Ashkenazic male given name [DAGN]

ASERT brand name of the anti-depressant sertraline [Net]

ASRET a male given name [Kabalarians]

ASTER in sponges, a star-shaped spicule [Web 2]

ASTRE a hearth or home [OED]

ATERS plural of *ater*, an early form of *atter*, poison, gall [OED]

ATRES genitive singular form of *ator*, poison, venom [A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, J.R. Clark Hall, 1960]

ATSER son of Thured, a Somerset landowner in Anglo-Saxon times [Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum, W.G. Searle, 1897]

EARST an obsolete variant of *erst* [OED]

EARTS plural of *eart*, Shetland Islands form of *earth* [SND]

EASTR possibly an early variant of the surname *Easter*. Bridgett **Eastr** and Margaret **Eastr** of Atwick, Yorkshire were both married in 1663 [IGI, British Isles]

ERAST 15th century form of *erst* [OED]

ERATS persons with the surname *Erat* such as the 221 listed in US telephone directories [White Pages]

ERSAT a Turkish male given name, such as **Ersat** Hurmuzlu, author of *Irak Turkleri*, 1991 [Net]

ERSTA a populated place in Sweden [GeoNames]

ERTAS a surname listed 9 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]

ERTSA Finnish diminutive or nickname for the male given name *Erik* [yhdistykset.etela-karjala.fi], such as Erik "**Ertsa**" Mandelin and Erik "**Ertsa**" Tarnaala [Net]

ESART a surname recorded 6 times in the 1930 Federal US Census, including Vincent and Margaret **Esart** and their children Marguerita and Vincent Jr of Suffolk County,



- Massachusetts [Net]. Vincent and Arlene **Esart** are residents of Concord, Massachusetts [ussearch.com(Net)]. There are 33 entries for **Esart** in Britain [IGI, British Isles]
- ESRAT a Bangladeshi female given name (sometimes rendered *Israt* or *Ishrat*), such as lawmaker **Esrat** Sultana Elen Bhutto and junior tennis player **Esrat**-Zahan Eti [Net]
- ESTAR a surname listed 8 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]
- ESTRA variant of the female given name *Esther* [What to Name the Baby, Evelyn Wells (1946)]
- ETARS plural of *etar*, a 15th century spelling of *eater* [OED]
- ETRAS persons with the surname *Etra* such as the 79 listed in US telephone directories [White Pages]
- E-TSAR someone appointed to lead a campaign to get more businesses and individuals on the Internet. "Will the minister say a little more about the e-envoy or **e-tsar**?" [The UK Parliament, House of Commons Hansard Debates for 29 Nov 1999 (Net)]. Dorcas **Etsar** of Surrey, England is recorded in the 1881 British Census, and Anne **Etsar**, daughter of John **Etsar**, was christened on 4 Mar 1719 in Leatherhead, Surrey, England [IGI, British Isles]
- ETSRA a small town in northern Saudi Arabia [EB, 10th Edition, 1903]
- RAEST an early form of the noun *rest* [OED]
- RAETS surname of Willem **Raets**, a 16th century Flemish mathematician [DUB]
- RASET variant of *reset*, an old Scots form of *receipt* [DOST, reset, 1556 quot]
- RASTE a surname listed 5 times in US telephone directories [White Pages] and 4 times in the 1981 Oslo, Norway telephone directory [TD]
- RATES the amount of assessment on property for local purposes [OED]
- RATSE an Ashkenazic female given name [DAGN]
- REAST variant of *reest*, to become rancid [OED]
- REATS plural of *reat*, an offence, wrong-doing [DOST]
- RESAT past tense of *resit*, to sit {an exam} again [OED]
- RESTA a populated place in Sweden [GeoNames]
- RETAS a surname listed 3 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]. People with the surname *Reta* such as the 219 listed in US telephone directories [White Pages]
- RETSA **Retsa** Agency Inc and **Retsa** Business Services are based in Jackson Heights, New York [AllPages.com (Net)]
- RSETA surname of Milan **Rseta**, a resident of St. Petersburg Beach, Florida [White Pages]
- RTASE short for reverse transcriptase, an enzyme that transcribes single-stranded RNA into double-stranded DNA [Net], compare *RNase* [OED]
- SAERT a former subdivision of the province of Kurdistan in Turkey [EB, 9th Edition, 1876]
- SAETR the name of a farm in Norway [NG, Vol 19]. **Saetr** is an old Norse word meaning *mountain pasture* (see etymology of *saeter*) [OED]
- SARET a populated place in Afghanistan [GeoNames]
- SARTE a populated place in Ethiopia [GeoNames]
- SATER variant of *saeter*, a meadow associated with a dwelling in the Shetland Islands [OED]
- SATRE a surname listed 210 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]
- SEART surname of Conrad and Elisabeth **Seart** of Indiana, recorded in the 1880 US Census [familysearch.org (Net)]. The surname **Seart** is listed 6 times in Britain [IGI, British Isles], and 5 times in North America [IGI, North America]
- SERAT a region in Yemen [Times Index-Gazetteer, 1965]
- SERTA the modern Syriac cursive script [Web 2]
- SETAR variant of *sitar*, a guitar-like Indian musical instrument [OED]
- SETRA a populated place in Indonesia [GeoNames]



- SRATE surname of twins Caroline and Friedrich **Srate**, born 3 Oct 1868 in Ludenhausen, Germany; their father was Heinrich **Srate** [IGI, Germany]
- SREAT surname of a Missouri family of 5 recorded in the 1880 US census [familysearch.org (Net)]
- SRETA a male given name [Kabalarians]
- STAER old Scots variant of *stair* [DOST]
- STARE a fixed gaze [OED]
- STEAR one of the weasel tribe [EDD]
- STERA a populated place in Yemen [GeoNames]
- STRAE 16-19th century Scots form of *straw* [OED]
- STREA 17-19th century dialectic form of *straw* [OED]
- TAERS Shetland Islands and Cornish form of *tears* [EDD]
- TARES the cultivated vetch, grown as fodder [OED]
- TARSE the tarsus, first part of the foot [OED]
- TASER a type of stun-gun [OED]
- TASRE surname of Daniell **Tasre**, son of Potogono **Tasre**, who was christened in London on 21 Sep 1613 [IGI, British Isles]
- TEARS drops of any liquid [OED]
- TERAS a monster [Web 2]
- TERSA a populated place in Russia [GeoNames]
- TESAR a surname listed over 300 times in US telephone directories [White Pages]
- TESRA surname of Guerino **Tesra**, a resident of Akron, Ohio [White Pages]; also, a female given name [Kabalarians]
- TRAES variant of *thraes*, suffers from a serious illness [SND]
- TRASE an obsolete form of *trace* [OED]
- TREAS a 16th century form of the noun *trace* [OED]
- TRESA a stream in Norway [GeoNames]
- TSRAE **Tsrae** Lee Agency, a company running **Trsae** Art 'n' Frames, based in Penang, Malaysia [Net]
- TSAER an employee of the Transport Security Administration (TSA). "At least you have a fighting chance with the **TSAer** at first stage security" [slashtravel.com (Net)]. The surname **Tsaer** was recorded in the Russian village of Rosenheim in the Volga Census of 1798 [ahsrg.org, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Volga Census Index (Net)]
- TSARE given name of French Canadian man **Tsare** Genits (born 1817, Quebec), recorded in the 1881 Canadian Census [familysearch.org (Net)]. *Skazka o Tsare Saltane* (The Tale of Tsar Saltan) is an opera by Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov [Net]
- TSEAR surname of S.Y. **Tsear**, listed in the 1983 and 1985 Toronto telephone directory [TD]
- TSERA a populated place in Burma (now Myanmar) [GeoNames]

## References

- DAGN Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names, Alexander Beider, 2001
- DOST Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue, 1937-2002
- DUB Dictionary of Universal Biography, Albert Hyamson, 1951
- EB Encyclopaedia Britannica
- EDD English Dialect Dictionary, Joseph Wright, 1905



GeoNames National Imagery & Mapping Agency placename database [geonames.usgs.gov]  
 IGI International Genealogical Index [familysearch.org]  
 Kabalarians kabalarians.com, an Internet database of given names  
 Net the Internet, using Google search program  
 NG Norske Gaardnavne (A Register of Norwegian Farm Names), Oluf Rygh, 1936  
 OED Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1989  
 SND Scottish National Dictionary, 1931-76  
 TD telephone directory  
 Web 2 Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1934  
 White Pages whitepages.com, an Internet database of names listed in US telephone directories  
 June 2006

### A Topical Dictionary of Slang

*Republican pizza* = pizza with Green peppers, Onions and Pepperoni  
*BANANA* = build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything  
*Assmosis* = kissing up to the boss instead of working hard  
*Wallet biopsy* = finding out how much care a paying patient can afford  
*Red-headed Eskimo* = legislation tailored to benefit a tiny minority

*Slang* (Walker & Company, 2006; \$24.95 hardcover) is a new and completely updated version of Paul Dickson's *Slang!* (Pocket Books, 1990), reviewed in the Aug 1990 Word Ways. More than ten thousand slang words and phrases, twice the number in the earlier work, can be found here.

The unique feature of Dickson's book is its arrangement by categories, enabling the reader to browse among related items. Most of the categories in 2006 are repeats of the ones sixteen years earlier: advertising (renamed The Slang of Spin), Auctions, Automobiles, Aviation, Business, Computers, Crime, Drugs, Fantasy and Si-Fi, Medicine, Mental States, Nautical Affairs, Performing Arts, Politics (renamed Washington-Speak), Real Estate, Sex, Sports, War, and Yuppies. Food is still there, but with a spin-off titled Javaspark (think Starbucks). Bureaucratese has spawned Cube-speak, and Teen Slang considers University Slang an additional category. Net-Speak, Games, and Hip-Hop are entirely new.

As Paul Dickson says in the introduction, "[Slang] is renegade language that thumbs its nose at the very people who study and write about it. Slang is unruly, irreverent, illogical, and it can be brutally frank and direct, or deceptively kind and euphemistic. Euphemism is the verbal trick that has been termed the deodorant of language, and slang has given us dozens of terms for drunkenness and insanity that are remarkably gentle."