COLLOQUY

Over 40 years of correspondence to ROSS ECKLER and copies of his replies are now archived in Indianapolis. Fascinating insights from long gone notables like DAVID SILVERMAN, DMITRI BORGMAINN, HOWARD BERGERSON and WILLARD ESPY are there as well as many, many current subscribers. We will occasionally exploit this valuable resource in the pages of Word Ways. As a first installment we offer “More Martin Magic” in this issue which describes a spelling effect by MARTIN GARDNER which we believe has not been in print before. It reminds us of things that MAX MAVEN and JIM STEINMEYER might choose to develop.

There are several new contributors in this issue; some young some not so young. It has always been our desire to encourage new writers to tell us about their passions in linguistic recreations even if some topics have been well covered in our pages before. Word Ways is now old enough to remind all readers of these items.

SUSAN THORPE notes two items:

In the February 2013 Word Ways, page 8, Jeremy Morse investigated the longest heterograms (no repeated letters) that can be made from various truncated alphabets. Here, I offer a number of additional truncated alphabets (italicised), together with some longer examples for some of those which Jeremy listed. Several of these improvements necessitated the use of place names.

*denotes the maximum number of letters possible. Non-locational words are in the OED.

A – B AB* is in Djibuti; BA* is in Egypt 2/2
A – D CABD* is in Jordan 4/4
A – E BADEC* is in France 5/5
A – J FAGBEDJI is in Togo 8/10
A – K JIG-BACKED is having a twist in the back 9/11
A – L JACKFIELD is in Shropshire UK 9/12
A – M MACKFIELD is in Jamaica 9/13
A – N BECHALKING, BECKINGHAM is in Lincolnshire UK 10/14
A – O HEADINGBLOCK is a term used in computing 12/15
A – R DECLINOGRAPH is an astronomical instrument 12/18
A – S FLESHING-BOARD is a wooden board used to flesh pelts 13/19
A – T BRICKLEHAMPTON is in Worcestershire UK 14/20
MALITSCHKENDORF is in Germany 15/20
A – Y SUBDERMATOGLYPHIC is in an article in the Sept. 1990 Archives of Dermatology 17/25

Also in the February 2013 Word Ways, page 73, Darryl Francis listed French number names. He found transposals for 9 of the numbers 1 to 20, and transadditions for the other 11.
Here are 6 transposals to replace 6 of his 11 transadditions. Non-locational words are in the OED.
8 HUIT THUI are mountains in the Himalayas
9 NEUF FUNE is a polecat or weasel type of animal
12 DOUZE DZOUE is in Gabon
13 TREIZE TEIZER is teaser
16 SEIZE SIEZE is seize
20 VINGT TVING is in Sweden
Taking this number game onwards, what about transposing German numbers? I found transposals for all 10 of the German numbers 1 to 10.
1 EIN NIE
2 ZWEI WIZE is wise
3 DREI DIRE RIDE REID is reed, also a surname
4 VIER EVIR and IVER both mean ivory; EVRI is every; RIVE is arrive;
VEIR is fair i.e.great looking; VERI is very; VIRE is fire
5 FUNF NUFF is enough
6 SECHS CHESS
7 SIEBEN IBSENE 1916 OED entry under Ibsenist
8 ACHT CHAT
9 NEUN NUNE is noon; UNNE means to allow
10 ZEHN ZHEN is in China; ZENH is in Vietnam

DAVID THORPE writes: Susan’s colleagues in the Word Ways world should perhaps know that last July she had a heart attack followed by a stroke, leaving her with a paralysed right leg and right arm. After 4 weeks in hospital she was able to walk. Her hand and arm are still not back to typing or writing use. Since last July her Word Ways work has been with the use of the forefinger of her left hand. The hospital staff told us that a brain scan showed how active her mind was – a good advert for Word Ways! She is about to celebrate her 80th birthday. I am sure I should not be sending this!!

ANIL responds: Although I invariably rank Steve Kahan's quizzes as among my favourite features, this time he has rankled my pride by daring to call Oceania a continent and demote Australia to what? A sub-continent? Oceania doesn't even necessarily include Australia. Macquarie and Random House both define it as "the islands of the central and south Pacific, including ... and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago." (Italics added.) Is Steve evoking some redefinition of "continent" I'm not privy to? Etymologically it means a continuous stretch of land as opposed to islands, <L. terra continens, continuous land. Admittedly, Europe, Asia and pre-Suez Canal Africa are or were a single continuous expanse of land, but Steve doesn't lump them together. Was he just trying to make the quiz unsolvable? Or pulling our collective legs? What gives? Australia demands an answer!
DARRYL FRANCIS writes: Jeff Grant's article Long Pair Isograms appeared in the August 2012 Word Ways, and listed various names and terms with seven or more like pairs of letters. While not long enough to qualify for Jeff's article, I have just found a six-pair (12-letter) name. It is ANITA TIESSEN. This lady is the deputy executive director of UNICEF UK, part of the UN's children's organisation. Searching the internet for this name will throw up numerous websites.

MARK SETTEDUCATI offers the following:

**ENGLISH - A POWERFUL LANGUAGE**

Professor Ernest Brennecke of Columbia University is credited with inventing a sentence that can be made to have eight different meanings by placing **ONE WORD** in all possible positions in the sentence: "I hit him in the eye yesterday."

1. **ONLY** I hit him in the eye yesterday. (No one else did.)
2. **I ONLY** hit him in the eye yesterday. (Did not slap him.)
3. I hit **ONLY** him in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit others.)
4. I hit him **ONLY** in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit outside the eye.)
5. I hit him in **ONLY** the eye yesterday. (Not other organs.)
6. I hit him in the **ONLY** eye yesterday. (He doesn't have another eye.)
7. I hit him in the eye **ONLY** yesterday. (Not today.)
8. I hit him in the eye yesterday **ONLY**. (Did not wait for today.)

This is why it is important to be precise!