

COLLOQUY

A. Ross Eckler notes that February was “a great issue which arrived yesterday, with lots of interesting stuff. I especially welcome use of the Project Gutenberg database. Perhaps it’s time to see if the 56-letter pangrammatic window (WW Feb 2006) has been reduced.

I have mostly solved Daniel Galef’s anagram quatrains. I guessed the eleven letters were those of his name, and soon obtained 1 a final ledge 2 failed angel 3 a glad feline 4 leading leaf 5 galena field 6 (is that a 10-letter word or 7 followed by 3?) 7 aligned flea 8 a legal field 9 felled again 10 naif, alleged.”

Darryl Francis reminds us that “Dmitri Borgmann’s “Language on Vacation” was published in 1965, so next year will see it’s 50th anniversary. Have you considered running any kind of recognition of this in an issue of Word Ways next year?

I wonder if there’s any mileage in getting Word Ways contributors past and present to pen their thoughts of what “Language on Vacation” and/or Dmitri meant for them. I’d be happy to write a brief item. Perhaps, too, there could be some wordplay developed around the title of the book, or Dmitri’s name – again, I’d be happy to create something.”

Arthur Schulman comments: “My recent ‘elementary’ piece in WW would have paid homage to Borgmann’s “Elementary Transpositions” in the August 1978 issue, had I remembered this 36-year old piece when I submitted it. (Pal’s recent attachment to an email sent to NPLers brought it to my attention again, and I found an old copy of the issue on my shelves.) That issue was remarkable in many ways. Among other contributions there were pieces by the young Will Shortz on collecting puzzle books, as well as quite a few by then-or-future NPLers such as Treesong, Newrow, and (half of) Faro.”

