

COLLOQUY

October 21, 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of MARTIN GARDNER'S birth and a world-wide celebration is being planned. Every October since Gardner's death in May 2010 remembrances have been generated, sometimes on seven continents.

Colm Mulcahy (colm@spelman.edu) is chair of the Martin Gardner Centennial Committee and is coordinating some special events. Judi Morrel at Butler University is conducting an honors class on the magic of Gardner and will have a birthday party on October 21st. Tanya Thompson is hosting a recurring yearly Gardner celebration. Some permanent members of her committee include Chris Morgan, Dana Richards and Nick Baxter. Many magician friends of Gardner also honor him each October. Max Maven and Mark Setteducatti are well-known to *Word Ways* readers.

Since Gardner suggested starting *Word Ways* in 1968 and was instrumental in choosing its initial editors we take special note of him this year and ask for reader comments for the November issue

ARTHUR SCHULMAN comments that "I'm sure I'm not the first to point this out, but Wolf's solution is flawed, and can't be easily fixed. The square whose solution is given as SKYLIGHTS has two Ls and no H, and replacing either L by H won't work. Wolf's exercise is admirable, but I hope that solvers have stopped spinning their wheels on this one".

SOLOMON GOLOMB writes:

- 1) The worst error occurs on p. 145, in the article on Lipograms. Under the J lipogram, it states:
The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, at least in modern editions, does use J consistently, but its first appearance in Leviticus isn't until after 58036 letters. (The last word of the preceding book, Deuteronomy, is "journeys":....
There is no Bible anywhere in which Deuteronomy precedes Leviticus. But in fact, "journeys" IS the last word in Exodus in the KJV, and Exodus IS the book that does precede Leviticus.
- 2) In Kickshaws, Figuratively Speaking, on p. 97, there are many more things one can "take":
You can take a hint (or a suggestion); you can take a turn (or a pass); you can take a second or a moment, or any other period of time, ("minute" and hour" were listed on p. 97). There are, correspondingly, many intangible things that one can "give", many on the "take" list and many others.
- 3) Re Wordplay, pp. 87-90, for phrases with multiple meanings, my favorite used to be "A pretty little girls school", with 5 different meanings, depending where you put the mental parentheses. But

this is trumped by "A pretty light doll house", with 14 different meanings. The number of different ways to place parentheses in a sequence of $N + 1$ non-associative elements is the N th "Catalan number".

The sequence of Catalan numbers begins (1,2,5,14,42,....

A. ROSS ECKLER replies: "To quote Elba Kramer, a remarkable issue! Mark Wolf's Anagram Sudoku, a special case of the transposal square (WW2002-62), is the first full conversion of numbers to letters in Sudoku. Not easy to solve! I wonder if any other solver will get the same answer. The two pieces by Tristan Miller are Internet research tour de forces. Is the pangrammatic window in Gutenberg now under 56? Finally, I salute Jim Puder's massive list of color palindromes as well as Anil's extreme number names and Susan Thorpe's Russian dolls."

JEFF GRANT writes: "Well done on another excellent edition of 'Word Ways'! I've been really enjoying it, particularly Tristan Miller's comprehensive Lipogrammatic Windows Survey and Jim Puder's palindromized color names - a project I can particularly relate to.

I have a few comments and suggested improvements that may be suitable for Colloquy.

hellebore red this needs to be modified slightly to make it palindromic:
"I'm a - a hellebore-red rum-murderer, O belle? Ha! Am I?"

tenne the word 'wanna' is allowed in international Scrabble. It is listed in both Collins English Dictionary (2009) and Chambers Dictionary (2011).

Here is a possible improvement for **yellow** although Jim's are fine by me.

yellow

American actor and director Ossie Davis (d2005) looked smart in yellow.

Yellow on Ossie is so 'now', Olley!

(Ossie and Olley are variants of Ozzie and Ollie, diminutives of Oswald and Oliver (75,000 Baby Names, Lori Cooper, 2001)

Now a couple of new ones:

magenta

At Nega my sorrow ended - new or rosy-magenta?

(Nega is a small settlement in Ethiopia (Geonames, Net)

scarlet

The African waterhole is pale colored, not bright red from the sap of surrounding vegetation.

Pastel Racso, no scarlet sap.

[Racso is a waterhole in Somalia (Geonames, Net)]

silver

The poetically inclined head chauffeur asks the agile new girl to warm up the silver vehicles by revving their engines

Rev, lissom Ila, limos silver.

or:

A gang planning the theft of a fabulous silver bird's claw statuette, perhaps.

Nola, Trev, listen! Net 'silver talon'!

SUSAN THORPE takes up Anil's challenge (May issue page 106) to produce more Nautonyms (sounded but not spelled tautonyms such as RETREAT) by offering ANNAN, COCOA, CUSCUSS (vf), DIDDY, ENSENSE, ENTENTE, KICKY, LILY, NINNY, PIPPY, SISSY, and TITTY.