COLLOQUIY

JEREMY MORSE writes:

"Thank you for the August issue, in which I particularly enjoyed Jim Puder’s piece about Borgmann’s Palindromes’ articles. My interest in it was the greater because five years ago I looked into a similar case in the chess problem world. In 1927 Alain C. White, as pioneering an editor in his field as Borgmann was in logology, included in his column in the Pittsburgh Sunday Post a famous two-mover, attributing it to one Ralph Waldo Jones and accompanying it with a rambling and facetious letter headed “Oshkosh County Asylum”. It is generally accepted that White must have composed the problem himself, but why he entered into such an elaborate deception remains a puzzle, for which I have offered one possible explanation.

I found Jim’s analysis generally convincing except for his confidence that the articles must have originated with someone other than Borgmann, making him a plagiarist. If Borgmann was up to borrowing the name of David Williams, surely he could have adopted an unusual stance and style to aid his deception."

SCOT MORRIS has given us permission to rerun his fine article from his 1983 book OMNI Games, Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Scot was Games editor for OMNI Magazine for many years.

CHRIS MORGAN collected his list from members attending the International Puzzle Party in London in August, 2014.

This issue of Word Ways owes much to our founder the late Martin Gardner. We have to say that in addition to Gardner’s superb ability to explain so well the varied topics he wrote about, there was an even greater bonus in his articles. That was how he always engaged his readers in the subject and inspired them to expand on and create new materials. This was not done so much by Loyd and Dudeney. It was always a delight to read Gardner’s later addenda to his columns.

I mention this because this quality is so rare and so badly needed. We don’t want to keep repeating the same effects over and over but should strive for something new.

I consider Colm Mulcahy to be the best source to continue to reach for this ‘newness’ in his columns and writings.
DAVE MORICE has news....

Dave's famous "little" book that held the nine poems that made up his Master's thesis - with an average of nine words per poem - is new again. Today at the Hamburg Inn Kalmia Strong - print artist who published the new beautiful letterpress edition was joined by Al Buck - the print artist who published the 1971 original accepted as the smallest thesis by the Iowa Writers Workshop. Numbered copies of the highly limited new edition are available in some Iowa City bookstores for $13.50 or you can contact Dave Morice for signed copies for $15.00 with free shipping. The University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections holds both historic copies as well as a wealth of Dave's work including the largest book in the collection from his 100 pages for 100 days marathon specially bound by the university created in 2010 in honor of Iowa City being named by UNESCO as then one of three Cities of Literature.