

## ALPHABETIC INSERTIONS IN FIVE-LETTER PALINDROMES

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In 'A Palindromic Alphabetic Insertion' (WW, Nov 1982), we displayed a set of 3-letter palindromes of the form A-A, covering every combination from AAA, chief signet-bearer in the land of the Kens, under the Egyptian king Aspalut, through to AZA, a male given name of Hebrew origin meaning 'the noble'.  
'Another Palindromic Insertion' (WW, Aug 1992) explored the letter set A- -A, giving examples for all but three of the double-letter alphabetic insertions, from AAAA, a Tahitian interjection of laughter or ridicule, to AZZA, a wadi in Iran. Examples have now been found for the missing combinations.

**AEEA** an islet in antiquity, situated in the gulf of Squillace, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. (Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada, a 70-volume Spanish work published c1905-30)

**A'OOA** foolish:abject, in the Gilbertese language of Kiribati, West Pacific. (*Gilbertese-English Dictionary*, H. Bingham, 1908)

**AQQA** alternative form of 'Aqqah, a community in United Arab Emirates. (Geo)

At the 5-letter level it is possible to produce alphabetic insertions in various ways. Here are complete sets for two different types. Most terms are place names found on the GeoNames database (Net).

### Single-Letter Insertion (MA-AM)

- MAA'AM** to descend by boat or canoe, in the N. American indigenous Ojibwe language. [Ojibwe-English translation (Net)]
- MABAM** a town in Equatorial Guinea. (Geo)
- MACAM** a historical school in California, U.S. (Geo)
- MADAM** the mistress of a house. (OED)
- MAEAM** a community in North Korea. (Geo)
- MAFAM** a Costa Rican snack food company. (Net)
- MAGAM** a populated place in United Arab Emirates. (Geo)
- MAHAM** a town in Haryana state, India. (Geo)
- MAIAM** a settlement in Eritrea. (Geo)
- MAJAM** a populated place in Bangladesh. (Geo)
- MAKAM** a locality in Ghana. (Geo)
- MALAM** variant of 'mallam', a learned man in West Africa. (*Collins English Dictionary*, 2006)
- MAMAM** a town in Nigeria. (Geo)
- MANAM** a volcanic island off the coast of Papua-New Guinea. (Geo)
- MAOAM** a popular brand of chewy sweets made by German confectionery company Haribo. ([Wikipedia (Net)])
- MAPAM** a political party of the far left in Israel. (OED)
- MAQAM** a settlement in the Punjab region, Pakistan. (Geo)
- MARAM** 19th century form of 'marram' grass. (OED)
- MASAM** a populated place in Sierra Leone. (Geo)
- MATAM** a small town in NE Senegal. (Geo)
- MAUAM** in 'Ringin MAUAM', a community in Nigeria. (Geo)
- MAVAM** a company in Tallinn, Estonia. (Net)
- MAWAM** surname of Men Mawam, a resident of West Hills, California, U.S. [www.whitepages.com (Net)]
- MAXAM** a lake in Nipissing District, Ontario, Canada. (Geo)
- MAYAM** the name of 2 communities in Indonesia. (Geo)

**MAZAM** a populated place in Cameroon. (Geo)

## 2-Letter Insertion (A-A-A)

**AAAAA** alas! in the Masaka language of Uganda. (Net)  
**ABABA** a populated place in central Cameroon. (Geo)  
**ACACA** a community in Ethiopia. (Geo)  
**ADADA** an ancient site in the Isparta region, Turkey. (Geo)  
**AEAEA** another name for the mythological enchantress Circe. (*Random House Dictionary*, 2nd Ed., 1986)  
**AFafa** torn in many places. (Tahitian)  
**AGAGA** the name of 2 settlements in the Philippines. (Geo)  
**AHAHA** a Buddhist hell. (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, 1926)  
**AIAIA** the roseate spoonbill. (Web2)  
**AJAJA** the roseate spoonbill. (Web2)  
**AKAKA** a populated place in Gabon. (Geo)  
**ALALA** an ancient Greek shout on joining battle. (OED)  
**AMAMA** a settlement in Senegal. (Geo)  
**ANANA** the pineapple plant or fruit. (OED)  
**AOAOA** rambling, unsettled. (Tahitian)  
**APAPA** a town in the Lagos state, Nigeria. (Geo)  
**AQAQA** a finance and marketing company in Uttar Pradesh, India. (Net)  
**ARARA** the palm cockatoo of Australia. (Web2)  
**ASASA** a populated place in Ethiopia. (Geo)  
**ATATA** a hill in Ghana. (Geo)  
**AUAUA** slovenly. (Tahitian)  
**AVAVA** part of a reef. [*Dictionary of Mangareva* (South Pacific), E. Tregear, 1899]  
**AWAWA** a stream in Cameroon. (Geo)  
**AXAXA** an incorporated company based in Toronto, Canada. (Net)  
**AYAYA** variant of 'ajaja', the roseate spoonbill. (*Webster's New International Dictionary*, 1924)  
**AZAZA** a community in Togo. (Geo)

## References

Geo GeoNames database, U.S. Board on Geographic Names [[www.geonames.org](http://www.geonames.org) (Net)]  
Net the Internet, using Google search program  
OED *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd Ed., 1989  
Tahitian *Tahitian and English Dictionary*, J. Davies, 1851  
Web2 *Webster's New International Dictionary*, 2nd Ed., 1934