

## COLLOQUY

**PHILIP ENGLISH MACKEY** of Lambertville, New Jersey submits the following poem:

Bellows bellow below.

“Blow low!”

Ow! O!

He comments: “This little poem has languished in my files for quite a while. When Willard Espy and I discussed it many years ago, he called it a “reverse rhopalic, except you don’t change the order of the remaining letters. Whatever we call it, I thought it might challenge Word Ways readers to come up with other such sequences.” ([philip.mackey@gmail.com](mailto:philip.mackey@gmail.com))

**TIM HEATH** replies to Jeff Grant’s colloquy contribution in November 2018:

“I am grateful to Jeff Grant for putting me straight on the origin of his “Satan oscillate my metallic sonatas” palindrome in the previous issue of Word Ways. I consider this one of the finest single-sentence palindromes and am thankful for the correction of my misattribution.

On the disputed origin of the famous palindrome “Doc, note: I dissent a fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod”, I think the uncertainty has been resolved quite convincingly. Credit was given to Peter Hilton by his wartime colleague Jack Good in the 1993 book *Codebreakers: The Inside Story of Bletchley Park*. This credit was subsequently confirmed by two maths professors who knew him well and worked with him. This information and much more was provided by Mark Saltveit in his fascinating article “The Palindrome Game of the Enigma Codebreakers” ([vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com), 24 February 2015).

**DARRYL FRANCIS** writes:

In the previous edition, Darryl Francis introduced the word LAMPROTINE, and explored some themes related to it. Darryl now writes ....

We note that there is a two-word transposal of trampoline, intemporal and lamprotine. It is Metro Alpin, which – according to Wikipedia - is an underground funicular railway situated above the Swiss town of Saas Fee. Opened in 1984, it links the Felskinn cable-car station (9,777 feet) on the shore of the Fee Glacier to the Mittelallalin (11,339 feet) in the north flank of the Allalinhorn. The Felskinn–Mittelallalin Tunnel has a length of 5,738 feet, with an altitude difference of 1,562 feet between the two stations. The Metro Alpin is the highest funicular railway in the world. Being a fully underground railway, it is also considered the highest subway in the world!

Going beyond the bounds of the English language, there is also a foreign word implorante. This exists in French, Italian and Latin, as an adjective meaning ‘imploring’. There is also an Italian word planimetro, a device used to measure the area of an irregular figure via tracing its outline.

Various implementations of anagram-solving software also offer Nil Patmore. While this looks like a personal name or placename, we can’t find any evidence that this actually exists. It could be an error for the personal name Neil Patmore, which does turn up on internet searches.

## **TWO regular Word Ways contributors have recent publications:**

**ANIL’s *Silly Animal Rhymes and Stories A to Z*** is for readers of all ages, 2 to 102. The catchy rhymes include fun illustrations and plays on words, with some subtle satire snuck in. The book is available for \$19.50 through the publisher’s website: [www.sbprabooks.com/Anil](http://www.sbprabooks.com/Anil) or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).

**STEVE KAHAN’s *Afterwords: Sixty Incredible Adventures in Logology for the Connoisseur*** is his “eleventh compilation of sixty word puzzles designed to make you stop and think and think some more.” 2019 by Esskay Publishing Company, Hollis Hills, New York.