TWO SUPERB 144-LETTER WORD SQUARES

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When I read Dmitri Borgmann’s article on 100-letter tautonymic word squares in the November 1973 Word Ways, it was with elation (amidst some rather queasy emotions) that I realized “word” had taken on a new meaning. Now that multiple-word phrases have been accepted as “words”, the building of tautonymic word squares is child’s play. Hence, with childish delight I set about to whip up a couple of examples:

GORGES! GORGES!
M-O-O-V-E! M-O-O-V-E
ROBBERS! ROBBERS!
GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
EVERY! EVERY!
SERENITY! SERENITY!
GORGES! GORGES!
M-O-O-V-E! M-O-O-V-E
ROBBERS! ROBBERS!
GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
EVERY! EVERY!
SERENITY! SERENITY!
FASTER! FASTER!
A-HORSE-A-HORSE!
SOWATTS! SOWATTS!
TRAMHOTRAMHO
ESTHER! ESTHER!
RETORT! RETORT!
FASTER! FASTER!
A-HORSE-A-HORSE!
SOWATTS! SOWATTS!
TRAMHOTRAMHO
ESTHER! ESTHER!
RETORT! RETORT!

Where are these words (and I use that term in its new sense) to be found? Well, most of them are familiar usage to any English-speaking person, but for the sake of completeness I’ll include sources:

GORGES! GORGES! was the enthusiastic cry of the first explorers to view the expanse of the Grand Canyon; it is recorded in the Journal of Unusual Nature Kingdoms (JUNK), February 30, 1818.
O M-O-O-V-E! O M-O-O-V-E! is the anguished utterance of a camel dri-
ver whose beast is clumsily standing on his master's foot (see Handbook of Camel Drivers, page xiv).

ROBBER, ROBBER! is an expression (heard often in New York City) used by persons discovering a thief on the premises (so common that no source need be given).

GOBBLE, GOBBLE is quoted in the familiar song, 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm', in the section regarding turkeys ("here a gobble, there a gobble, everywhere a gobble, gobble").

EVELYN, EVELYN! was the impassioned outburst of the star of the classic silent movie, 'The Ecstasies of Evelyn', to his leading lady (see The Late, Late, Late Show).

SERENE, SERENE was the reply of the 100-year-old guru when asked the state of his mind (quoted in Gurus I Have Known and Loved).

FASTER! FASTER! is directly related to the following word, a term used in operating a horse to increase his rate of locomotion (see How To Run A Horse, published by Horses, Assoc.).

A HORSE! A HORSE! Every Shakespeare lover knows this one: "A horse! A horse! My kingdom, etc."

SO WATT, SO WATT! was the famous reply of James Watt's mother when told that her son had invented the steam engine (found in a private collection of letters from Mrs. Watt to her friend Mrs. Hoo).

TRAM HO! TRAM HO! is the often-heard expression in cities where streetcars are still in use. It is considered the official duty of the first person to spot a streetcar thus to announce its arrival to his fellows.

ESTHER, ESTHER! is the word that gives divine sanction to this word square. Reading between the lines of the Book of Esther, King Ahasuerus spoke this word when he saw his queen standing in the doorway awaiting his approval.

RETORT, RETORT is doubly interesting as it has two meanings. One is found in The Handbook of ALCHEMY AND PSYCHICS as the proper response of a student when asked by his chemistry professor, "What vessel should be used for this reaction?" The other meaning is given in Proper Debating Tactics and is the formal verbal notice given by the referee when it is time for rebuttal.

Yet this is but a beginning. I am courageously working on a much larger word square using the delightful word MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY (quoted in the old song, "Row, row, row your boat") and I appeal to Word Ways readers to help out with words of similar length and legitimacy.