

COLLOQUY

A. ROSS ECKLER was the first to answer all the unsolved posers in the November issue. He wrote:

Knuth's puzzles are based on mixup, premix, and simplex; the two-letter puzzles by Harold Jacobs are based on names of states and territories, Scrabble two-letter words, two-letter elements, and ANSI two-letter standard codes for countries. I solved the Nongram Christmas Card (HAPPY XMAS) without using the alphanumeric substitution: noting that E seemed to mark the space between letters, I noted that the letters were of the form SSNNSSSSN where 5 stands for right-left symmetry; also, the second letter of the first word is the same as the third letter of the second word.

I was especially intrigued by Ronnie Kon's article which lays out the structure of various types of hypercubes. There has been little study of this in Word Ways since Darryl Francis created various hypercubes (up to 5 dimensions) in the 1970s.

Also, I recently noted a panalphabetic index of only 397 items in Deep Ancestry Inside the Genographic Project (National Geographic Society, 2007) by Spenser Wells. This is nearly equal to the 394-item panalphabetic list of language names in Roget's International Thesaurus (1977), mentioned by El Wolpow in the Aug 1984 Word Ways.

And did you know that the predecessor of your CLINTON/BOBDOLE crossword appeared in the May 1981 Word Ways (for CARTER/REAGAN)? (The Editor: Yes, when it did not run in the 1980 NY Times, I gave a version to Word Ways)

The answers to **DONALD KNUTH's** "Latin Square Word Puzzles" are:

(a)	(b)	(c)																																																																																																														
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Professor Knuth notes also that the IPP was number 29 thereby accounting for the XXIX in (b) and (c). The answers are unique.

HAROLD JACOBS also solved Knuth's puzzle and submits a new poser:

TROUBLES WITH MAVIS

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
Tge qyucj briwb fix hynos iver tge kazt dig.
Yhr wuivk ntoen goc jumpd obrt yhr lsxy foh.
Tje qiocl brpwm fpx ki,[s pver tje ;azu dpq/

What exactly is going on here?

AL BACKIEL adds to Jacobs' table 3:

Missing: Darmstadtium –Ds - 110
Roentgenium –Rg – 111

Source: [Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_elements_by_symbol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_elements_by_symbol)

CHRIS COLE notes that Rex Gooch's 6+ million word and name list contains the following 15 letter near-palindrome:

Ir-Romla tal Torri

This is a city in Malta.

DON HAUPTMAN writes:

I am a winner-albeit in Fourth Place-of the Washington Post's "Style Invitational" wordplay competition today. (WP contest results are frequently circulated via e-mail.) I'm told that I will receive a coffee mug.

Although I was a frequent contributor to the long-gone New York Magazine Competitions, I was unaware that it's possible to follow and enter the WP contests online. I happened to be in DC last month and found the announcement of this contest in the print edition.

To access this feature, one must register. So I've reprinted the key elements below.

I've been trying to get *S-cargo* into the language for years, if not decades!

Glock-n-Spiel: Common action-movie scene in which the villain has a gun aimed at the hero's head, but rather than just pulling the trigger, he delivers a long victory speech about his superiority, which proves fatally wrong seconds later. (*Christopher Lamora, Arlington*)
2. Ho-maid: The role of a traditional wife. (*Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.*)

3. Hi-deaf TV: Commercials. (*Steve Offutt, Arlington*)
4. S-cargo: Snail mail. (*Don Hauptman, New York, A First Offender*)

MIKE KEITH is preparing a new book. He notes:

“Octopi”, the 768-digit pi mnemonic that appeared in Word Ways about a year ago, has been expanded into a book-length work that should be appearing quite soon, hopefully with a publication date of 3/14 (get it?) of this year. The structure of the work is ten sections of 1000 digits each, each section written in a different style (short stories, several styles of poetry, a movie screenplay, etc.).

SIR JEREMY MORSE comments on Ed Wolpow’s ENNUYING in the Nov. issue. “The formation is not unique. TAXYING used to be the correct and is still the preferred, present participle of the word TAXI.”

EDWARD K. CONKLIN of Honolulu offers the nice square below all of whose words appear in the shorter OED.

PACER
ANIME
CIVIC
EMINA
RECAP

Butler University is busily placing all previous issues of Word Ways online through BEPRESS. When this is completed, we will alert our readership. Last year about 7500 hits were made to our electronic sites. We have many new subscribers online but still do not make a profit. It is not our intention to make a profit, merely to break about even.

ANIL contributes this ‘irregular’ haiku:

INSTANT ENLIGHTENMENT
The moon is shattered
By drops of water
Falling on the pond at night.