JEFF GRANT  
Hastings, New Zealand

For some time I have been looking out for long palindromic words in the Oxford English Dictionary. I recently decided to try and find the longest palindromes in each letter of the alphabet, starting with A and working right through to Z. The results of this search are set out below. Reduplications such as TOOT-TOOT, WAW-WAW and TUT-TUT have not been included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALALA</td>
<td>a shout used by ancient Greeks in joining battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALULA</td>
<td>the bastard wing of a bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANANA</td>
<td>variant of 'ananas', the pine-apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOB</td>
<td>a foolish mistake or blunder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINENIC</td>
<td>pertaining to cinene, a terpene derived from cineol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEEDEED</td>
<td>euphemistic for 'damned' -- under 'dee' (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEIFIED</td>
<td>made into a deity, raised to the rank of a god</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESESED</td>
<td>an early spelling of 'disseized'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEUOUED</td>
<td>an early spelling of 'devoved'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVIVED</td>
<td>rendered lifeless, devitalized (nonce-word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVOVED</td>
<td>an archaic word meaning 'devoted'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDIFIDE</td>
<td>an early spelling of 'edified' -- constructed, set up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINNIF</td>
<td>variant of 'finnip' -- U.S. slang for five dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNIPPING</td>
<td>nipping, biting -- an archaic word which may also refer to a horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADADAH</td>
<td>a large brown-green ibis, Hagedashia hagedash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOI</td>
<td>an archaic spelling of 'joy'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITI</td>
<td>a derogatory term for an Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVI, IFI, IHI</td>
<td>the Tahitian chestnut (variant forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>short for 'J-pen', a broad-pointed pen, stamped with the letter J, as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in the following quotation: &quot;What pen do you write with? Do you use a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|          | J?"
KINNIKINNIK a mixture of dried sumac leaves and the inner bark of the dogwood or willow tree, used by North American Indians as a substitute for tobacco, or for mixing with tobacco (listed under 'kinnikinic' in the H-N Supplement)

LEFFEL an obsolete form of 'leeful'
LITTIL a fourteenth-century spelling of 'little'
LUFFUL an early spelling of 'loveful'
LUTTUL an early spelling of 'little' (verb)

MALAYALAM a Dravidian language, closely related to Tamil, spoken in southern India

NAURUAN a native or inhabitant of Nauru; of or pertaining to Nauru

OTTO altered form of the word more accurately spelt 'attar', as in attar or otto of roses, the fragrant essence of roses

PEEWEEP a lapwing, a pewit

QAZAQ variant of 'Kazakh', one of a Turkic people of Central Asia, forming the basic population of the Kazakh S.S.R. (Kazakhstan); the language spoken by this people

REPAPER to paper (a room, etc.) again

REVIVER that which revives, restores or invigorates

ROTATOR a muscle by which a limb can be moved circularly

SEMI-TIMES a mysterious word purported to have biblical origins, meaning 'half-times' (listed under the prefix 'semi-' (8), and listed without the hyphen in Webster's Second)

TALLAT a loft over a stable
TENNET dialectic variant of 'tinet' - brushwood for making or repairing hedges or fences
TERRET a ring on a dog's collar, to which a leash can be attached
TILLIT an early spelling of 'tillet'
TIPPIT sixteenth and seventeenth-century form of 'tippet'
TIRRIT a fit of fear or temper; an upset of one's equanimity

ULULU a wailing cry, a wail of lamentation

VENEV an early spelling of 'venue'

WOWLOW an obsolete form of the verb 'wallow'
WONNOW early Scottish spelling of 'wallow'
WORROW sixteenth and seventeenth-century form of the verb 'worry'

X to supply with X's in place of types that are wanting
YAY obsolete form of 'they'
YCY obsolete form of 'icy'
YDY obsolete form of 'eddy'
YEE an early spelling of 'eye'
YLY a Middle English past participle of 'lie'
YOY obsolete form of 'joy'
YSY obsolete form of the archaic verb 'ysee'
YUY, YVY early spellings of 'ivy'
ZYZY another variant of 'ysee'

ZEREZ early form of 'Xeres', as in 'Zerez sack' - white wine from the town of Xeres, in Andalusia

By referring to other dictionaries, it is possible to equal or improve upon some of the OED palindromes.

ADINIDA a group of primitive protozoans (Webster's Third)
HAGIGAH voluntary sacrifices offered by Jews at the Passover and other festivals (Webster's Third)
HALALAH a monetary unit of Saudi Arabia (Webster's Third Adenda)
IMAMI a member of a Sh'ite sect (Webster's Third)
LEPPEL a spoon (English Dialect Dictionary)
OPPO British slang for a friend or companion (Webster's Third)
TAMMAT as much hay or straw as a man can carry (English Dialect Dictionary)
TARRAT a loft (English Dialect Dictionary)
TEBBET variant of 'tabet', a Scottish word for bodily feeling (Webster's Second)
TIBBET another variant of 'tabet' (Webster's Second)
TINNIT variant of 'tinnit', brushwood (English Dialect Dictionary)
TUBBUT short and thick (English Dialect Dictionary)
TUFFUT variant of 'tuffet', a tuft (English Dialect Dictionary)
YARAY a Puerto Rican fan palm (Webster's Third)
YEEZZEY Lancastrian dialectic form of 'easy' (English Dialect Dictionary)
ZAZAZ one of the conspirators against Assurbanipal (Cooper's Archaic Dictionary)

The place-names ININI, NEUQUEN and ORURO can be found in Webster's New Geographical Dictionary, and the hyphenated term ABBA-DABBA, slang for jargon or nonsense, appears in the Dictionary of American Slang, by Wentworth and Flexner.