

MAGIC-SPELLERS

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The February issue left off the solution to Norwich Bumstead's "My Favorite Magic" puzzle. Here is a resolution. The questions.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Hawthorne's red letter | 6 Abbot on first (two words)
(alternate clue) Wall Street? |
| 2 UFO pilot | 7 Self-love (var. O.E.D.) |
| 3 Indian greeting | 8 Political philosophy |
| 4 Signaling speed unit | 9 Certain caterpillars |
| 5 First appearance | |

The answers:

Each of the nine answers uses only the letters of Norwich Bumstead.

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1 A | 6 Bud who? Or Dow hub? |
| 2 ET | 7 Narcism |
| 3 How | 8 Centrism |
| 4 Baud | 9 Inchworms |
| 5 Debut | |

The answer can be placed in a semimagic square.

Bud who?	A	Centrism
Narcism	Debut	How
ET	Inchworms	Baud

Every row and column can be rearranged into the magic constant "Norwich Bumstead"! It would be impossible to include the main diagonals also.

This is one example of what we choose to call "magic-spellers", a puzzle that usually will take a slightly different form. The "magic" will always refer to a magic square and our idea starts with the famous 3x3 LoShu square of ancient China.

3	8	1	6
2	3	5	7
1	4	9	2
	a	b	c

The magic constant sum on the rows, columns, and two main diagonals is 15 using the numbers 1 through 9. The "spell" begins with these words:

3 Hex	a Her
2 Eve	b Nee
1 Few	c Set

Notice that these six words contain exactly one letter from each spelled-out number in its row or column. For example, 1a contains an F (from Few) and an R (from Her) to clue FourR. The clues read across and down crossword style.

When we offer a puzzle the numbers will not be given, only the clue words and the solver is expected to fill in the numbers.

Here is an unusual example:

3	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				3 Its	c Not
2	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				2 Tex	b Her
1	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				1 Hoe	c Vie
	a b c					

This square uses the numbers 1 through 9 as before but each row, column and two main diagonals sum to a different number.

Two more examples that are a bit larger.

(I.) Albrecht Dürer's 4x4 magic square that will be 500 years old next year.

SORE	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				
FLEE	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				
NEXT	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				
OTTO	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				
	EVER OVER TEST HIVE				

(II.) A 5x5 square with constant 65 from "Card Tricks & Puzzles", Berkeley and T.B. Rowland, 1892, Geo. Bell and Sons. They claim that there are 42 ways to find the sum 65.

SEVER	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
FOIST	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
TORTE	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
TETON	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
WROTE	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
	INERT TWEET FEINT EXERT TENET					