

COLLOQUY

*Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in **Word Ways**. Comments received at least seven weeks prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.*

Don Hauptman feels that O.V. Michaelsen's oxymorons (in Kickshaws) are too loosely-defined. "An oxymoron is not synonymous with 'contradiction in terms', nor is it a joke. It is a figure of speech in which seemingly incongruous or contradictory elements are combined, such as 'deafening silence' or cruel kindness'. A literary or metaphorical effect is intended; the Greek roots of the word mean 'pointedly foolish'."

Sir Jeremy Morse and Chris Long both came up with additional AEIOUY words for Susan Thorpe's survey: AffEctIOUsLY, mArvEIIIOUsLY, hArEIOUsLY (not in the OED First Edition), and trAgEdIOUsLY. For IUEOA, the Websterian mllqUEtOAsT was accidentally omitted. Chris Long fills in the final gaps with AUIEO cAUilErO (a variant of "cavalier") or mArqUIsEdOm (in a 1706 quote on "marquidom"); IAUEO lIllAbUlIerO (in a 1759 quote under "Lillibullero"); and IEAUO lERfAUlcOn (in a 1590 quote under "gyrfalcon"). Now, if someone can improve on the two-word term IAEUO vlllAgE bUrrOw...

The February 1968 **Word Ways** pointed out that in the game of Jotto it is often useful to find five five-letter words using 25 different letters of the alphabet. Recently Robert Levinson of Palos Verdes CA devised a new example: DZONG CRWTH JUMPS FLAKY VIBEX. The word DZONG, found in the four-volume Supplement to the OED, is a variant of jong, a Tibetan prefecture.

Commenting on "Anagrammed Pseudonyms" in the May **Word Ways**, Nyr Indicator notes that author EDWARD GOREY in his various books has used OGDRED WEARY, RADDORY GEWE, REGERA DOWDY, D. AWDREY-GORE, E.G. DEADWORRY, WAREDO DYRGE, DEARY REWDGO, DEWDA YORGER and DOGEAR WRYDE. This pushes name-anagramming to its limits!

Don Hauptman takes the editor to task for misusing DISINTEREST in his August 1993 note on the Mallarmé cryptopuzzles: "Disinterested means unbiased. Uninterested means indifferent or lacking in interest". He's right, of course.

In "Transposing Rates" in the November 1987 **Word Ways**, Jeff Grant presented 60 transposals of AELST and 63 of AERST. A computer run of PhoneDisc (see May 1991 **Word Ways**) revealed Lily ESTLA

of Vista CA, Peter LATSE of Brooklyn NY, Mark SLETA of Mankato MN, and Salvador ESTAR of Los Angeles CA.

In his book Word for Word (Putnam's, 1986), Andrew Rooney reports that the National Association of Teachers of Speech about 1965 came up with gripe, plump, plutocrat, crunch, phlegmatic, flatulent, cacophony, treachery, soup and jazz as the ten ugliest words in English. Rooney himself votes for cuspidor and flaccid.

The rather common neologism IRAQGATE should be added to the type-collection of bigrams in "676 Bigrams" in the November 1982 issue of **Word Ways**.

Sir Jeremy Morse notes that Richard Lederer et al. should have included the five-way homophone AIR E'ER ERE ERR HEIR since they allowed O'ER, another contraction, AI AY AYE EYE I, and RAISE RASE RAYS RAZE RES. (RES means "notes", although sometimes this has the Anglicized spelling of RAYS.) Michael Helsem contributes the following bit of verse illustrating the same point:

Against your will you're tender; now I do not think I err.
But though we fan the tinder lacks there still sufficient air.
So courtesies I tender, slighter than those given ere
You turned a garden-tender who uproots the seedlings e'er.

Ed Wolpow writes "I'd like to read more by Maxim on the Mallarmé Cryptopuzzles...I believe I'd find it more intriguing than, say [word-support statistics]." Nyr Indictor adds "I take little stock in this sort of thing, but would definitely read it if you printed it. I enjoy reading conclusive proofs that, say, Japanese and Tamil are historically related, or that all Hebrew words come from one root, so I'm probably not the person to ask."

A recent Garfield cartoon takes note of comic-strip onomatopoeia (**Word Ways**, May 1991 and May 1992) with a picture of the dog, Odie, landing with a CRASH and Garfield tabulating this in a table containing 5 SPLATs, 4 BONKs and 5 previous CRASHes. The comic strip B.C. recalls Don Laycock's May 1985 fable "A Rude Word in the Alphabet Soup" with a picture of Peter in the ruins of his lunch-stand, just demolished by the Fat Broad. Shaking his head in disbelief, he cries "Imagine the odds against a phrase like that coming up in a bowl of soup!"

Hans Havermann questions the 39 self-descriptive German number names in "Rare Maps for Collectors": the umlauted vowel in fünf is not the same as the unumlauted vowel in neun (Germans without umlauts would write the latter u as ue). He wonders whether number-names like einenzwanzig are dialectic variants; he recalls einundzwanzig from his German days.

The book Metapunctuation is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. For another view of metapunctuation, see "On Beyond Zebra" in the February 1990 Kickshaws.