

## 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 up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in it.

In the November 1970 Kickshaws, Dave Silverman cited the two-level acronym NADGE = NATO Air Defense Ground Environment, where NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Alan Frank has discovered the first a three-level acronym, MUG Quarterly, where MUG = MUMPS Users' Group, MUMPS = MGH Utility Multi-Processing System, and MGH = Massachusetts General Hospital. All together now: the full name of the magazine must be Massachusetts General Hospital Utility Multi-Processing System Users' Group Quarterly! He also calls the editor's attention to an artificially-created infinite-level acronym in Gödel, Escher, Bach: GOD = GOD Over Djinn, where GOD = God Over Djinn, and so on.

Two readers responded to Philip Cohen and Alan Frank's query for better examples of certain words containing four specified letters. Murray Pearce discovered aQuoPentammineCoBaltic chloride under aquo- in Webster's Second. Jeremy Morse mined the Oxford English Dictionary for PaCQet-Boats (in a 1668 quotation), WeaVing-Work, WaXY-Kernel (s.v. waxen-kernel), and WeXchaUndelerYe (quotation of 1398 s.v. wax-chandlery), and the English painter ZoFFany can be found in various encyclopedias.

Michael Ravnitsky and Philip Cohen both noted that William Safire (January 1983) has popularized a new -onym coinage which he attributes to Frank Manciewicz: RETRONYM. A retronym is a noun that has acquired an adjective in order to stay up-to-date: for example, **transmission** becomes **manual transmission** to differentiate itself from **automatic transmission**. Philip Cohen has found one overlooked by Safire: **penwrite**, as opposed to **typewrite**

Here are a few anagrams which didn't make it into "Four Anagram Challenges" in the February issue of **Word Ways**:

## HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

A "supernova" incest with Mommy (Harry Hazard)  
 Respite? CA, OH, NY, MO, WI, UT, MN, VA, MS (Mary Youngquist)  
 Hi! I went to some "sun" camp. Marvy! (Tim Wheeler)  
 Vi sent me to camp. I was, um, horny (Tim Wheeler)  
 Was in Communist Party move, eh? (Brian Barwell)

## HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST

O! It is the slow she hates! (Brian Barwell)

So haste with these oils (Harry Hazard)  
Last shot, so the wise hie (Tim Wheeler)

#### CORPORALS AND SERGEANTS

Dross no generals carp at (Harry Hazard)  
End: arrange troops' class (Tim Wheeler)  
Can stop general's ardors (Tim Wheeler)  
No strangers lead a corps (Brian Barwell)

#### COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

Mess potent circuits (Harry Hazard)  
Circuit sets' top men (Tim Wheeler)  
Top numericist's sect (Brian Barwell)

Ed Wolpow wrote Dr. Sonia Burst, the Oregon Health Sciences University researcher who was recently given a grant to study P-45 in persons exposed to Mount St. Helen's volcanic dust. She writes "I am actually dedicated to using short words whenever possible .. I use [the full word] more to amuse and get people's attention rather than a way of getting it into the medical vocabulary." So, P-45 will stay buried.

Robert Funt of Brooklyn follows up on his November 1981 *Word Ways* article on businesses with palindromic names: ARARA Gift Shop, LEPEL Corporation (electronics), NAVAN Carpet Company, AVIVA (a Hong Kong toy company), and AREMAC CAMERA (a camera store).

In the November 1982 *Kickshaws*, Ed Wolpow asked for long words that could be wrapped in a spiral to form a matrix of letters in which all across and down words are in Webster's. Tom Puliam constructs four 3-by-4 matrices based on the twelve-letter words *moderateness*, *nonoperating*, *recuperative*, and *militariness*.

T E N E	R A T I	R A T I	R I N E
A M O S	E N O N	E R E V	A M I S
R E D S	P O N G	P U C E	T I L S

Perhaps it's time for a counterclockwise spiral!

In the August 1981 *Word Ways*, Darryl Francis inquired after a reference to *ESCORTINA*, a plausible transposal of *ACEINORTS*. In the September 19, 1982 *Observer*, Eric Dymock describes the planned successor to the now-defunct Ford Cortina as a "stretched Escort with a separate, lockable boot" and proposes the name *ESCORTINA*.

Kyle Corbin calls the editor's attention to a typing error in Helen Motamen's second article on word square contests in the February *Word Ways*: the two *ENCYCLOPAEDIAST*s should have been given as at the right. And, in "An 1800-Point Scrabble Turn?", also in the February issue, the last words in the first paragraph should have been "triple-word squares".

E N C Y
P O L C
A E D I
S T S A

In the November 1982 issue, in "The Highest N-Move Scrabble Scores", the second turn of the two-turn Scrabble game should have included the word *XICAQUES* and scored 245 points.

Maxey Brooke's *Kickshaws* attracted more comment than any other article. In the November 1913 issue of the *Eastern Enigma*, the official publication of the National Puzzlers' League, Ernest Ager presented a bit of doggerel involving the asterisk which is remarkably similar to Maxey Brooke's example:

Pretty Lily bought some skates,  
Upon the ice to frisk;  
Wasn't pretty Lilly silly  
Her little \* ?

And Marjorie Friedman supplies doggerel for other punctuation:

Alas, poor Mary's woes are myriad:  
Forgot her pill and missed her .

Since my recent operation  
Had to give up golf and bowlin'.  
Not my sort of recreation  
Now that I've a ;

The editor apologizes for inadvertently omitting the Greek letters in Maxey Brooke's *The best fraternity I know* | Is good old ΔΣΡ.

Lee Dembart adds the term *lobster shift* to Maxey Brooke's list of words for night work; he notes that it is commonly used in the newspaper industry.

R. Merrill Ely suggests that Maxey Brooke may want to add *vice-roy/vicereine* to his list of male-female endings. Jeremy Morse comments that there are all shades of sex discrimination possible:

- 1) some pairs are non-discriminatory (uncle/aunt, boy/girl)
- 2) some pairs are formed by adding a suffix for the secondary sex (lion/lioness, hero/heroine, drum major/drum majorette, but widow/widower)
- 3) similarly, but more rarely, with a prefix (man/woman, nurse/ male nurse)
- 4) sometimes the male word is used also as the generic term, sometimes the female (god/goddess, man/woman, fox/vixen, but duck/drake, goose/gander)

Both Philip Cohen and the *Word Wurcher* take Maxey Brooke to task for saying there are only two Latin genders; actually, there are three (*hic*, *haec*, *hoc*). The *Word Wurcher* cites the startling Spanish gender-cross: *cunnus* (female pudenda) is masculine, but *mentula* (male intromittent organ) is feminine!

There is nothing wrong with terminal prepositions, says Jeremy Morse; they occur in three forms, two relative and one passive:

- 1) the secretary I dictated to (= the s. to whom I dictated)
- 2) the best secretary to dictate to (= the best s. to whom to dictate)

3) I won't be dictated to (= I won't have you dictating to me)

The parenthesized phrases err on the side of pedantry.

Jeremy Morse further notes that terminal prepositions can be confused in writing with adverbs, e.g., "Which team are you pulling in?" With a preposition the question is addressed to a tug-of-war contestant; with an adverb to a tournament organizer. In speech they are distinguished, the preposition being unaccented and the adverb accented. Churchill parodies pedantry by bringing forward the adverb as well as the preposition in "up with which I will not put". The strings of "terminal prepositions" quoted by Maxey Brooke are in fact made up of ordinary prepositions, terminal prepositions, adverbs, and nounal phrases made up of words which can be prepositions.

The Word Wurcher disagrees with Maxey Brooke that a hapax legomenon can be used only once. One can cite hapax legomena without destroying their unique character in the original work. Sometimes, it is a word restricted to a single author, even though it may be used more than once by that author.

Philip Cohen gives a long list of additions to Maxey Brooke's characteristic characters: tilde over a vowel in Portuguese, umlauts over various vowels in Finnish, Hungarian, Turkish and even English (coöperate, Möet-Chandon), hooks under a, e, i, u in Lithuanian, macrons over a, e, i, u in Lettish, haccs over c, s, z, j in many Eastern European languages, etc.

The Word Wurcher disputes that the -ess ending is Anglo-Saxon (it came from Greek through Latin and French), points out that gematria is indisputably from the Greek geōmetria, the etymon of geometry, and syne is not Anglo-Norman (Old French) but rather a Germanic word whose present form in English is 'since' and which has cognates in Gothic. (In fact, auld lang syne was never borrowed by Gaelic-speaking Scots or anyone else - it never left English in the first place!)

Finally, Philip Cohen observes that the Czech and Polish sneezes are verbs rather than interjections; one means "to sneeze", the other apparently is "you (pl.) sneeze".

Cynthia Knight of Chicago writes "My heart really went out to poor Richard Lederer. In case he and Carol have a squabble again, this thought might cheer him up: Zephyrs, young xenophile, will very usually turn shy, retiring, quiet (Pembroke or noncollegiate) maidens - let's keep joyful - into happy girls for ever. Don't crawl back abjectly!"

In the August 1982 *Word Ways*, Tom Pulliam listed 22 transadditions of the letters AEINRT, each with a different letter, forming words. Darryl Francis fills a gap with either RANTJIE (var. of randjie, a narrow ridge of rocky ground, in the OED Supplement) or NARTJIE (var. of naartje, a tangerine, in Webster's Third).

Helen Gunn has noted a hairdresser with the name Hair-Eddity; Louis Phillips discovered Cut Loose and Heads or Nails in Honolulu; Joan Griscom forwards a clipping from the Bergen County NJ Record citing a hair establishment in Denver named Go de Locks. All of these, I believe, are new to *Word Ways*. Some other choice specimens from the Record: Floral 'n Hearty, the Salvador Deli, Specs Appeal, Avant-Card (greeting cards), Noah's Bark (a pet store), and Cheap Skates (used car rental). In similar vein, Judith Tarutz of Waltham, Massachusetts passes along a Boston Globe column by Robert Taylor featuring a wide variety of punning business establishments: Stick 'Em Up (advertising), Cheapskate (skating equipment), Carrier & Ives (delivery service), To A Tee (shirts), Bough Haus Interior Planting, The Pan Handler (gourmet food shop), The Chipyard (cookie store), My Square Lady (square dance clothes), Suit Yourself (clothing), and Pauper Bostonian (used furniture).

Ed Wolpow writes "Espy's Acronyms of Ailment could be expanded with ease. The Central Retinal Artery Pressure is CRAP, and for DIP there are two choices: Desquamative Interstitial Pneumonia and Distal Inter-Phalangeal." BILG (Boston Interhospital Liver Group) and CABG (Coronary Artery Bypass Graft), pronounced "bilge" and "cabbage" respectively, are near-misses. He corrects Espy's Acute Myocardial Infarction to Anterior Myocardial Infarction. The acronym AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been much in the news lately.

In patient dictionary-searching, Kyle Corbin has discovered another improvement for Ralph Beaman's longest beheadment-words in the November 1973 *Word Ways*: (O)ENANTHALDEHYDE in Webster's Third.

Philip Cohen asks what the first entry in Teck Nishan's anagram dictionary (in "Wordplay by Computer" in the February issue) should have been. In the transposal dictionary based on Webster's Second compiled by Dennis Ritchie of Bell Labs, Teck Nishan's BANJOIST/BOSTANJI anagram (ABJOINTS, a plural, is not listed therein) is about 20 per cent of the way along in the 8-letter list, with 674 transposal-pairs (or triples, etc.) preceding it. The first entry is, in fact, ARACANGA/CARAGANA.

Following up on Ed Wolpow's new palindromic coinages in the November 1982 *Word Ways*, Mary Hazard noted the interesting coinage *aibohphobia* in her local newspaper. What does it mean? Obviously, fear of palindromes.

Paul Hellweg's -omancy words in the May 1982 issue remind Philip Cohen of an eccentric who did divination by using John Horton Conway's game of Life; would this be VITALUDOMANCY? And still another addition to Paul Hellweg's "Pick a Government" in August 1981: MEDIOCRACY, government by the mediocre (in Webster's Third).