

# IMPEACH!

## JEZEBEL Q. XIXX

From time to time, a relatively plebeian English word, sheltered from prying eyes by hordes of more active companions, catches the attention of the public. At such times, the obligation devolves on logologists to examine the word of the moment from their special point of view, reporting their findings to an interested public.

In recent months, for obscure reasons that need not be explored here, the word IMPEACH has become a center of attraction. Accordingly, I have subjected the word to a searching analysis, the results of which it is the purpose of this article to summarize. My conclusion is that the word IMPEACH best lends itself to what is known as transposition or transposal.

Naturally, anyone at all can transpose IMPEACH into APHEMIC, a medical term defined as "suffering from aphemia, a form of motor aphasia in which the power of expressing one's ideas in spoken words is lost". For the dyed-in-the-wool practitioner of logology, that triumph is only a starting point. To show what is possible with diligent, unrelenting inquiry, I have pursued the problem much further, and offer an additional dozen transpositions:

- CHAMPIE     An affectionate diminutive form of CHAMP ("champion"). The word is frequently used by sports writers and boxing managers.
- PICEHAM     A parish in Suffolk, England, on the River Alde, between Farnham and Rendham. It is the site of a castle now in ruins.
- MIPACHE     An alternate spelling of MAPACHE ("raccoon"). Coming into English from Spanish, the name is ultimately derived from Nahuatl. MIPACHE is a form found in the Tezcucan dialect.
- PHAEMIC     An older, but etymologically more correct, spelling of PHEMIC ("pertaining to, or like, speech").
- MICHPAE     In the Pseudepigrapha, a town some ten miles northwest of Bethel, conquered by Ijusasael, in the apocalyptic 3rd Book of Enoch.
- HEI CAMP     A location near the northwest coast of Oahu Island,

Hawaii, about midway between WAIMEA CAMP and OPAELUA CAMP. The first word of the name is pronounced "hay'-ee".

- MACPHIE Evan Ramsay MacPhie, Scottish Presbyterian divine and antiquary, 1857-1942.
- CHIMEPA A typographical error for CHIMERA, in the First Edition of An Universal Etymological English Dictionary by Nathan Bailey, published in 1721. The error was corrected in the second and subsequent editions.
- MAPICHE A variant spelling of MAPUCHE, an Araucanian people of southern Chile. It exemplifies the philological "ablaut" phenomenon as observed in some South American Indian languages.
- CEPHAIM In the Old Testament, a station in the wilderness journeyings of the Israelites, located in Moab, in the foothills of the mountains of Abarim.
- PEACH, MI A hamlet in the northern part of Luce County, Michigan, on the Two Hearted River. It receives its mail through the Post Office in Newberry, the county seat.
- HIP-MACE A rod with a flat wooden head, formerly sometimes used instead of a billiard cue, when shooting from the hip.

Can any reader identify the one reference from which all twelve transposals have been taken?

#### A NEW GAME OF GHOST

In the Forum (letters to the editor) section of the November 1973 British monthly magazine *Games & Puzzles*, Robin V. Evans of Reading, England points out the existence of an interesting generalization of the game of Ghost (see the November 1971 and February 1973 issues of *Word Ways*). Players in turn add letters to the end of a sequence in such a way that the letters can be imbedded in that order in a word (thus, XYYY in xylopyrography or OOOOO in monocotyledonous). Letters are added to the sequence until (1) the sequence itself forms a word or (2) a challenge is issued to produce a word satisfying the sequence under consideration. The objective is to add a letter to the sequence in such a fashion that your opponent cannot add to the sequence legitimately.