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A Quarterly Journal of Linguistic Recreations

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Pfeiffer State Beach, California

In Memory of Susan Thorpe

INTERIM magazine

Volume 1, Number 1 (WW Series 54,1) **February 2021**

6 COLLOQUY

9 PRESIDENTIAL GRIDS
The first up-to-date crossword-style grid of the surnames of the American presidents to be constructed since 1994 is presented. (For further presidential wordplay, see the next article.)
By Darryl Francis

11 JOE BIDEN AND WORDPLAY
What, transpose a sitting president? Isn't that lèse majesté, or something?
By Darryl Francis

15 ALLITERATIVE PANGRAMS PERCEPTIBLY PROGRESS
Tristan Miller's inspired innovation expands the scope of the pangram by a factor of twenty-six. Caution, exploring all this new territory can be an addictively absorbing activity.
By Jim Puder

19 STRICTLY GERMPROOF
Antisepsis is scarcely a modern invention, as this century-old poem attests.
By Arthur Guiterman

20 PIZZA WORDS
No, not "mozzarella" or "pepperoni"; these "pizza words" are words encodable in a particular distributed-alphabet encryption procedure. **By Alan Frank and Chris Cole**

24 PARATRANSPOSITIONS
A paratransposition is a substitute-letter transposal with the added constraint that a substituted letter must be the alphabetical neighbor of the letter substituted for. In this article, words in which every letter can be paratransposed twice are sought. **By Darryl Francis and Jeff Grant**

31 NEW GERMAN TRIPLE-LETTER WORDS
Blast from the past or a bore of yore, this short spacefiller from 2003 was suggested by its topical kinship to the article that follows it. **By Jim Puder**

32 GOODDEED
"In truth," there is a major-dictionary-attested English word having three consecutive doubled letters that is even shorter than "bookkeeper." **By Darryl Francis**

34 FORK AND FIDDLE
Ever notice how culture and cuisine often seem to go hand in hand? **By Jim Puder**

35 EQUIVOQUE
"Equivocal" such writings certainly are, but as a name for the genre, "two-faced" might have been more to the point. **By Jim Puder**

37 CASEY TO HIS BAT: THE WORLD'S FIRST CONVERTIBLE SONNET
From the pen of a clever poet comes a single set of lyrics that can be used in two different rhymed poems—one of them a sonnet, no less! **By Daniel Galef**

38 AN IRREGULAR TALE
How fortunate the English language is to be enroach by its many colorful and distinctive irregular verbs. **Anonymous**

39 FIVE PRIZEWINNING PALINDROMES
Five especially memorable palindromes composed in a forgettable year. **By Jim Puder**

42 MISQUOTATIONS
A master puzzlist of the past sets us a literary quiz likely to stump even the most well-versed of modern readers. **By Hubert Phillips**

46 UNSPEAKABLE LIMERICKS
Laid up in hospital with only a pencil and paper for diversion, the author passed the time by composing limericks all of whose rhymes were sight rhymes—a more difficult constraint than one might suppose. **By David Shaw**

48 PUNS IN CONVERSATION
or, A Pun My Word **By Don Hauptman**

50 INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Back issues **of** *Interim* are available from the editor upon request.

All issues of, and articles published in, *Word Ways, the Journal of Recreational Linguistics*, may be read and downloaded free of charge at the website Digital Commons @ Butler University: digitalcommons.butler.edu/wordways/

COLLOQUY

Our community is saddened by the passing this month of Susan Thorpe, who was a prolific contributor of high-quality articles to *Word Ways* for many years. Although I never had the opportunity to become acquainted with Susan personally, I've frequently been inspired by the astonishing ingenuity and industry of her articles, which focused on the identification of letter patterns in words. No one else has ventured to explore this field with anything like Susan's thoroughness and productiveness, and the unaccustomed absence of her familiar and valued presence from these pages will be felt by all of us. Thank you, Susan, for all that you gave us.

Darryl Francis recalls his friendship with Susan: "Even though she lived in England, I'd never met Susan, and I'd never spoken to her, but we had exchanged emails over the years. I remember Susan writing that her interest in words, logology and puzzles was her "one big hobby". This was obvious from the number of high-quality articles which she contributed to *Word Ways* over the years. We shall miss her contributions as the successors of *Word Ways* progress. I particularly recall some of her earlier articles on words containing AEIOU – some very fine examples and extremely well-researched. And she devised this superb anagram to explain why **The chicken crosses the road - She checks corn at other side**.

"In the August 1994 Word Ways, Susan presented numerous anagrams of her name under the nom-de-plume NURSE PATHOS. She was especially amused by the fact that her name transposed to OUTSHARPENS. (It also transdeletes to NEUROPATHS and NEUROSPAST, and transadds to HOUSEPARENTS and SHARP-SNOUTED.) RIP Susan – you will no longer be able to SUPERASTONisH us with your wordplay."

Faith Eckler writes, "My relationship with Susan was financial: she was *Word Ways'* office in Britain. British subscribers (and there were quite a few of them) would send their renewal checks in pounds to her, and once a year she would add them up and send them to me in dollars. It saved a lot of effort in converting funds. I'm sorry that Ross and I never visited her in England, although he corresponded with her a great deal."

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In this issue of *Interim:*

Leading off *Interim's* inaugural issue, Darryl Francis, the dean of active wordplay writers (his first contribution to *Word Ways* was for its February, 1970 issue, 51 years ago) has constructed the first new presidential-surnames crossword grid to be published since Bill Clinton was in office. Darryl writes that he suspects that the 450-cell rectangle into which he has managed to pack his crossword might be further reducible, but one wonders. A quantitative measure of the relative compactness of such a crossword might be the total number of its intersections divided by the number of its names; we haven't calculated this figure for Darryl's crossword, but we note that one of its names, COOLIDGE, has no fewer than five intersections, and that another four, BUCHANAN, CLEVELAND, HARRISON and ROOSEVELT, have four intersections each, which is rather impressive. All in all, it seems unlikely that this particular set of presidential surnames can be crossworded into any smaller a rectangle than Darryl's.

Somewhat overshadowed by all of the discussion of *Word Ways*' discontinuance last November was a seminal article by Tristan Miller near the end of that journal's final issue which described an engaging new elaboration of the pangram, the alliterative pangram. This is a pangram in which every word of the sentence or passage must begin with the same letter. As there are 26 letters in the alphabet, there must be 26 alliterative pangrams, one for each letter, in a complete alphabetic set of the same. Although no complete set has yet been fabricated, the total letter count of a frugal complete alphabetic set of alliterative pangrams is projected to be around 1250. For an update on this ongoing project, see "Alliterative Pangrams Progress" in this issue.

Also working an elaboration on an old concept are Alan Frank and Chris Cole in their article "Pizza Words" in this issue. The concept is the venerable transposition and the elaboration, without getting into details, is that if impose certain rules upon the way you transpose and display a given long word or phrase, you can limit its number of possible sensible transpositions to one or two. You can then challenge someone else, who is aware of these transposition rules, to deduce from your transposition what the untransposed word or phrase must have been. A possibly more interesting challenge lies in identifying long words that can be transposed in this manner—"pizza words," as Frank and Cole call them.

A different kind of letterplay is undertaken by Darryl Francis and Jeff Grant in their further development of Dmitri Borgmann's 1978 invention, the paratransposition. In their article "Paratranspositions" in this issue they set themselves the task of assembling complete paratransposition sets for selected words of various lengths. What is the longest word in the language for which a complete paratransposition set can be assembled? That remains to be determined.

Elsewhere in this issue of *Interim* may be found two recently-composed examples of novel kinds of constrained poetry, both of them sonnets, never before seen in *Word Ways*. In his article "Casey to the Bat: A Convertible Sonnet," Daniel Galef presents the world's first and only equivoque sonnet, and the article "Five Prizewinning Palindromes" spotlights the world's first and only end-to-end-palindromic Petrarchan sonnet, composed by Britain's Anthony Etherin.

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We note that palindrome composer and illustrator Jon Agee recently won a SymmyS Award for this new Hootie palindrome: "Too fat, soldier Bob Reid lost a foot." (Let's hope it was only a foot off Bob's waistline which he lost when he dieted.) We don't know if Jon was inspired to compose this hootiedrome by reading our article "Hootie Palindromes" in last November's *Word Ways* (53,4), or if the timing of it was just a coincidence, but in any case his palindrome is one that is new to recorders of hooties.

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Don Hauptman wonders why *Interim* intends to maintain *Word Ways'* old publication schedule, and why its issue numeration includes a continuation of *Word Ways'* issue numeration. The answer is that this is partly due to a regard for tradition and partly owing to the archives issue. We

would all, it seems safe to say, wish to have what is published in *Interim* eventually to repose in a freely accessible and downloadable archive such as the one presently enjoyed by *Word Ways* with Digital Commons @ Butler University. *Interim* is unlikely ever to possess such an archive, but one expects that whatever more permanent journal succeeds *Interim will* have one. That is the chief reason for maintaining *Word Ways*' issue count and publication schedule in *Interim*—to stress the fact that *Interim* is effectively the continuation of *Word Ways* (just as its successor journal will be the effective continuation of *Interim*), and that whatever issues of *Interim* are eventually published are therefore fully deserving of being integrated into whatever archive the new or revived journal will be using. This is not an unreasonable request, and it seems like a small enough condition to ask in return for *Interim's* obligingly closing up shop when the new journal appears on the scene, and one that ought to be easily enough accomplished if the will to make it happen is only present.

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A reminder that there *will* be a Kickshaws department in the May *Interim*, so please send your Kickshaws items to May Kickshaws editor Darryl Francis at <darryl.francis@yahoo.co.uk> before the April 22 deadline (after which date we expect to be fairly busy for a time).



Engraving by Theodoor Galle (1571-1633); detail of "Impressio Librorum," ca. 1600

PRESIDENTIAL GRIDS

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In the February 1976 *Word Ways*, editor Ross Eckler called for the construction of a 'presidential rectangle', a crossword grid, containing the 33 different surnames of US presidents, all in interlocking fashion. At that time, the US president was Gerald Ford, the 38th president. The difference between Eckler's call for 33 and Gerald Ford's 38 is explained by the fact that there had been two presidents with each of the surnames Adams, Harrison, Johnson and Roosevelt, and that Grover Cleveland is considered both the 22nd and 24th president. Eckler also stipulated that the surname Van Buren should appear in the requested rectangle 'as two separate words'; this is unlike how multi-word names and phrases usually appear in crosswords (British ones, anyway) – I will return to this later in this article.

In the May 1976 *Word Ways*, Sam Harlan (of Mangum, Oklahoma) offered the first of the presidential rectangles. Sam's grid included the presidential surnames up to and including Ford. The grid measured 17 x 31, giving a total area of 527 squares. (Parenthetically, with reference to Sam's home city, I note that Lyndon Johnson once said of Ford "The man can't fart and chew gum at the same time.")

There were no further updates on the presidential rectangle for 17 years. The May 1993 issue of *Word Ways* contained a rectangle which I had constructed, by now containing 37 surnames, with the addition of Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton. My grid measured 17 x 29, giving a total of 493 squares. This was a reasonable improvement on Sam Harlan's grid, as my grid now had four additional surnames and was 34 squares smaller.

In the following edition of *Word Ways*, in August 1993, Lee Sallows (of Nijmegen, the Netherlands) offered a smaller grid measuring 19 x 22, for a total of 418 squares. Unfortunately, three of the surnames were unconnected from the remainder of the surnames in the grid. Sallows concluded by challenging readers to "go one better and produce a fully-connected layout of the same area".

In the February 1994 edition of *Word Ways*, Leonard Gordon (of Tucson, Arizona) offered two improved presidential grids. Both still contained 37 surnames. One grid measured 18 x 22 (396 squares in total), and the second grid measured 17 x

23 (391 squares). The first grid was perfect – all the surnames were interconnected. The second grid was defective (Leonard's word!) as one surname remained unconnected to all the other surnames.

27 years further on, I felt it was time to update the presidential rectangle. There have been four further presidents since 1994 (Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden), but only the last three of these would need to be worked into an updated grid. My grid below now includes 40 different surnames and measures 18 x 25 (450 squares). This is still substantially larger than Leonard Gordon's 396-square offering, given that I have only added three five-letter surnames. Note that my grid allows for Van Buren to be spelled both with and without a space – by just shifting the letters of Buren up or down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1		H	A	R	D	I	N	G			F	I	L	L	M	O	R	E		H					
2		A					I		T		O				O				J	O	H	N	S	O	N
3	G	R	A	N	T		X		Y		R		J		N					O					
4		R				C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E		R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		
5	L	I	N	C	O	L	N		E				F		O		B			E			R		
6		S				E			R				F		E		A		A	R	T	H	U	R	
7	P	O	L	K		V							E				M		D				M		
8		N				E				P	I	E	R	C	E		A		A				P		
9	G			W	I	L	S	O	N				S						M					E	
10	A		V			A				B			O		J	A	C	K	S	O	N			I	
11	R	E	A	G	A	N		T	R	U	M	A	N											S	
12	F		N			D				C				K				M	C	K	I	N	L	E	Y
13	I		B				B	U	S	H				E			C		L					N	
14	E		U							A				N		M	A	D	I	S	O	N		H	
15	L		R		W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N			R		N					O	
16	D		E							A		A		E			T		T					W	
17			N			B	I	D	E	N		F		D			E		O		H	A	Y	E	S
18												T	A	Y	L	O	R		N					R	

I suspect there is room for further reduction in the size of this grid. It feels to me that there is plenty of unused space, and that it may be possible to slice off a row or column. The fact that some surnames can be repositioned suggests this, too – for example, TAFT could be placed through the A of JACKSON; TYLER and WILSON can be interchanged. Can you get the grid down to less than 450 squares?

JOE BIDEN AND WORDPLAY

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A new President, a new area to explore some wordplay. With Joe Biden now occupying the office of POTUS, it's worth looking at some of the wordplay that can be put in place around his name. Like many of his predecessors, there are various forms of his 'name'. There's Joe Biden, Joseph Biden, Joseph R Biden, Joseph Robinette Biden, Joseph R Biden Jr, and Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. Other variations can probably be conjured up, too.

The longest word that can be spelled out from the letters of JOE BIDEN is the straightforward **joined**.

The shortest word containing all the letters of JOE BIDEN is **joint-bedded**, a masonry term in both *Webster's Third* (W3) and the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED). And without a hyphen, the shortest word is **unobjectified** (in the *Random House Dictionary*). Also note **Bridget Jones**, as in the book and film title ***Bridget Jones' Diary***. I like the place-name **Johnstonebridge**, a village in Scotland, which is only about 34 miles from where I live.

The longest word that can be spelled out from the letters of JOSEPH BIDEN is the girl's given name **Josephine**. But if you add in the President's middle initial, then the longest word spellable from JOSEPH R BIDEN is **shoebinder**, a worker who puts binding on shoes.

What about the shortest words containing all the letters of JOSEPH BIDEN? Not much to offer here. I note that the book and film title ***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*** contains all the letters, as does the name of his 19th century predecessor **President Benjamin Harrison**.

Biden's surname can be transposed. I've found three transposals of his surname. There's an easy find - both the OED and *Webster's Second* (W2) have **bedin**, to fill with noise, to make a din. A second transposal is **denib**, which although it doesn't appear in any of our regular dictionaries is listed on the internet website Wiktionary, where the definition is given as: to remove nibs (bits of trapped dust or foreign matter) trapped in a layer of paint or other finish. The third and difficult-to-find transposal of the President's surname may be an error! The OED lists the word **maneb**, a fungicide. Listed at the entry is a 1976 quote which runs

thus: “Tulips are particularly susceptible to tulip fire... Apply a fungicide such as maneb or dineb at seven- to 10-day intervals until flowering.” I thought **dineb** was a great find until I started to investigate it further. There is an insecticide related to maneb called zineb, which is in both W3 and the OED. I wondered if **dineb** was a typo for zineb, not so much on the part of the OED but in the original 1976 quote. Searching for **dineb** online drew a total blank; most of the chemical articles on maneb also mentioned zineb, but there was no sign of **dineb**. So is **dineb** for real or just a typo originating from 1976?

Biden’s surname appears in various dictionary-listed words. Here are some from the OED, W2 and W3:

- **abiden** & **abidenn**: obsolete inflections of the verb ‘abide’
- **bidene**: an obsolete form of the adverb ‘bedene’, in a little while, soon
- **bident**: an instrument or weapon with two prongs
- **bidental**: a sacred place where lightning has struck
- **bidentate**, **bidented** & **bidential**: having two teeth
- **bidenticulate**: having two small teeth
- **dawbiden**: an obsolete spelling of daubing

Any four letters from Biden can be rearranged to form a word – **bend**, **bide**, **bind**, **bine**, **dine**. Easy!

The letters of Biden can be arranged in 120 different sequences (from bdein to niedb). Words can be found with 26 of these sequences embedded somewhere in them.

	Word	Meaning	Source
bdeni	**molybdenite**	a mineral consisting of molybdenum disulfide	W3
bedin	**rubedinous**	reddish	OED
bendi	**bending**	flexing	W3
benid	**Benidorm**	a coastal resort in Spain	Collins English Dictionary
biend	**recibiendo**	a bullfighter’s stance in bullfighting	W3
binde	**binder**	one that binds	W3
bined	**combined**	joined together	W3
dbine	**woodbine**	any of several honeysuckles	W3
debin	**hidebind**	to render hidebound	OED
denbi	**Denbighshire**	a county in Wales	Collins English Dictionary
denib	**denib**	to remove nibs trapped in a layer of paint or other finish	Wiktionary
diben	**dibenzofuran**	an insecticide	W3

dineb	**Dinebra**	a genus of Asian, African, and Pacific Island plants	Wikipedia
ebind	**rebind**	to bind again	W3
edbin	**feedbin**	a bin for storing animal feed	W2
edinb	**Edinburgh**	the capital city of Scotland	Collins English Dictionary
endib	**vendible**	suitable for sale	W3
ibedn	**uncircumscribedness**	the state of being unbounded	OED
ibend	**cacoëthes scribendi**	an uncontrollable urge to write	W3
inbed	**inbedded**	an error for 'imbedded'	OED (see 1949 quote at 'iron cement')
indbe	**hindberry**	an upright red-fruited shrub, also called 'European raspberry'	W3
indeb	**indebted**	being under the obligation of paying or repaying money	W3
nbedi	**unbedimmed**	not dimmed	OED
nbide	**onbide**	to wait, to remain	OED
ndebi	**undebilitated**	unweakened	OED
nibde	**Domanibdellidae**	a family of leeches	www.inaturalist.org

Some of the missing 94 combinations can probably be found in obscure geographic names. One geographic name that contains two of the missing combinations (endbi & iendb) is **Kiendbingre**, a place in the African nation of Burkina Faso.

Joe Biden's middle name Robinette is interesting, as it transposes, transdeletes and transadds!

- it transposes to **Otterbein** (the name of a university in Westerville, Ohio, near to Columbus; the University was founded in 1847 and was named for Philip William Otterbein, a founder of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ)
- it transdeletes one letter to give **tenebrio** (an old word for a night-prowler) and **tenorite** (a copper oxide mineral)
- and it transadds one letter to give:
    - **berrettino** (a cardinal's scarlet skullcap)
    - **forebitten** (bitten in front)
    - **overbitten** (undefined)
    - **stonebiter** (a common finch of Europe and Asia)
    - **torbernite** (a mineral containing copper and uranium)

How about the longest word which can be spelled from the letters of Joseph Robinette Biden? It's looking like the 13-letter **endoenteritis**, which appears

undefined in a list of words beginning **endo-** in *Webster's Second Edition*. *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* helps out with a definition: inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestine. A commoner word is the 12-letter **repositioned**.

And how about the longest word which can be spelled from the letters of Joseph Robinette Biden Jr? A trio of obscure 14-letter words can be found in our regular dictionaries. There's **norethisterone** (a synthetic hormone)**, heteroproteide** (a complex protein; W2), and **phrontisterion** (a place for thinking or studying, a school, a college). Outside of our regular dictionaries, Wikipedia has the impressive 16-letter **Hibbertopteroids**, some very specific extinct arthropods.

Shiftgrams have been mentioned several times in *Word Ways*. Dave Morice's *The Dictionary of Wordplay* defines a shiftgram thus: a word formed by shifting the letters of another word an equal number of steps along the alphabet and then transposing the string into a new word. Taking this approach with BIDEN, there are a couple of valid if obscure shiftgrams. Shifting the letters 5 places further along in the alphabet gives the string GNIJS, which can be rearranged to give **jings**, a rare word meaning 'rings, jingles', appearing in *Webster's Second Edition* and the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Shifting BIDEN 16 letters further along in the alphabet gives the string RYTUD, which can be rearranged to give **turdy**, relating to excrement, so says the OED.

Unsurprisingly, there are several shiftgrams for JOE. There's **sin** (from a shift of 4), **jot** (5), **toy** (10), **yid** (20), **kaf** (22) and **din** (25). Even JOSEPH has one valid shiftgram – applying a shift of 25 gives INRDOG, which is rearrangeable to **roding**, the anchor line of a small fishing boat.

Okay, that's a start. There's probably much more wordplay that can be built around the President's name; please send your ideas to the editor.

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Editor's note: Yes, by all means, please do. In fact, here's a short palindrome that just occurred to me:

Ned, I bore home Demo hero Biden! *(From his victory party, perhaps?)*

ALLITERATIVE PANGRAMS PERCEPTIBLY PROGRESS

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A pangram is a complete grammatical sentence in which all the letters of the alphabet are used, preferably using as few total letters as possible. Numerous variations on the pangram theme have been devised, the latest of these being the alliterative pangram, which was introduced by Tristan Miller in his article "Alliterative Pangrams" in the November 2020 (Vol. 53, No. 4) issue of *Word Ways*. An alliterative pangram is a pangram in which every word must begin with the same letter, meaning that not just one, but 26 different alliterative pangrams must be composed in order to fashion an alphabetically complete set of alliterative pangrams. The overall object of the exercise thus becomes that of determining the lowest possible letter count (projected to be something around 1250) for such a complete set. For most, this won't be the project of a single afternoon.

In his article, Miller presented alliterative pangrams for twelve different letters, inviting readers to try to improve upon them (i.e., to find shorter but still coherent replacements for them), as well as to compose alliterative pangrams for any or all of the other 14 letters of the alphabet. This article accepts that invitation, with apologies in advance for any unavoidable violence done to Miller's pioneering compositions.

Here is the list of twelve alliterative pangrams presented in Miller's 2020 article:

A (37): Amplify and advect awrong Ajax's Abkhaz aqua.
B (46): Bipeds, bivouacking by Bamford, bequeath blowzy bijoux.
C (44): Crafty, cawing caziques carjacked complex, crafted Chev cabs.
D (47): DJ Dvorak deoxygenizes Depew's deformable discotheque.
E (48): Elfin Ezequiel extrajudicially embows evoked esophagi.
F (47): Faquir Fitzpatrick fed Freyja Fanshaw foxglove flambé.
G (66): Gretzky's grewsome glitchy genuflexion grieved gaping Garboesque Gujaratis.
I (45): Impawning idols infrequently inject Izhevsk ibexes.
J (45): Jock Japeth's jovial jerquing jynx jumboized jewfish.
Q (57): Qom Qajar Qadhafi quiveringly quizzes quixotic Quapaw Quebeckers.
X (57): Xerodermatic Xrowet xylographs xarif Xanakis's xvj Xuzhou xebeque.
Z (62): Zolaesque, zaftig Zhdanov zaps Zhangjiakou's zanthoxylum zebec Zionward.

Can improvements, either logological or literary, to any of these alliterative pangrams be found? Well, absolute perfection is rare, and the critic's task is always much easier than the artist's. To proceed: with only 37 letters, the alliterative pangram for "A" is by far the most economical of these examples, needing only 11 duplicated letters, six of which are compulsory due to the alliteration constraint. By any measure, this is an outstanding alliterative pangram. Even so, a minor makeover eliminates one additional letter:

A (36): Ajax, advected Abkhaz aquas amplify awrong!

Examination of the 46-letter pangram for “B,” above, discloses the presence of the two-letter word “by,” both of whose letters appear elsewhere in the pangram. Could “by” be dispensed with? Indeed it could, for a two-letter improvement:

B (44): Bivouacking, blowzy Bamford bipeds bequeath bijoux.

An odd problem with the 44-letter “C” pangram stands out: two such similar words as “crafty” and “crafted” do not belong in the same minimal pangram, and their duplicative presence together here is a puzzle. But it’s a fault easily fixed, for an effortless five-letter improvement in this now sub-40-letter (therefore excellent) alliterative pangram:

C (39): Cawing caziques carjacked complex, crafted Chevy cabs.

In the 47-letter pangram for “D,” dropping a superfluous suffix will lose a letter:

D (46): DJ Dvorak, deoxygenize Depew’s deformable discotheque.

In the case of the 48-letter “E” pangram, only this slight rephrasing is suggested, for improved lucidity:

E (48): Elfin Ezequiel evokes extrajudicially embowed esophagi.

In the 47-letter pangram for “F,” a six-letter word, “faquir,” can be replaced by a five-letter word, “fique” (a type of tough hemp used to make rope), for a one-letter reduction:

F (46): Fitzpatrick fed Freyja Fanshaw foxglove fique flambé.

For the 66-letter “G” pangram, a general revision yields this 18-letter improvement:

G (48): Gawky, grotesque Gijón gazebo grump Givenchy genuflexed.

(“Givenchy” would be the noted couturier Hugo de Givenchy, Gijón is a city on the Bay of Biscay coast of Spain, and “genuflex” is labeled by the OED a “rare” variety of “genu-flect.”)

Dropping a superfluous suffix in the 45-letter “I” pangram pares two letters:

I (43): Impawning idols infrequently inject Izhevsk ibex.

Moving on to “J,” Japheth was one of the sons of Noah who somehow gave rise to the linguistic label “Japhetic” or “Japetic,” denoting an ostensibly related group of non-Indo-European languages. One finds no dictionary support, however, for the“Japeth” spelling of the biblical figure’s name, and its occurrance in the listed “J” pangram may be an error. Elsewhere in the pangram, is “jumboized” a reasonable inflection, or is it a

coinage? And is the OED word "jerquing" really a better choice for the pangram's requisite "j-q" word than, say, the name "Jacques"? All things considered, the less problematic vocabulary of a "J" pangram such as the following one may be preferable, even if it is two letters longer:

J (48): Jacques' jynx Jazzbow's joking jive jolted jewfish Jumper.

In the 57-letter "Q" pangram above, a slight semantic alteration can yield a three-letter improvement:

Q (54): Quiz, Qom Qajar Qadhafi, quiveringly quixotic Quapaw Quebeckers.

The recondite character of most of the vocabulary for the listed 57-letter alliterative pangram for "X" is testimony to the difficulty of devising a pangram for this letter at any letter count. Particularly resourceful, albeit irregular, is its use of the "word" "xvj" to represent a Roman-numeral "16." Resort to this expedient is unnecessary, however, as at least one suitable alternative exists. In the American Heritage unabridged dictionary one finds the boldface term **Xinjiang Uigur Ziziqu**, which the A.H. translates as "Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region," and in the Random House unabridged dictionary may be found the boldface term **Xinjiang Uygur**, which the R.H. translates as "Sinkiang Uighur." Clearly, "Xinjiang" and "Sinkiang" are variant spellings of the name of one of China's largest provinces, ergo "Xinjiang" is surely a sufficiently important geographical name to be acceptable in wordplay. Despite the letter-count cost of doing so, it seems artistically preferable to swap out the "xvj" in this pangram for "Xinjiang" and another "x"-word (to recapture the lost "v").

Manuals of style differ in their prescriptions for forming the possessives of plurisyllabic single proper names ending in a sibilant, but the one I'll cite here, Turabian's *Student's Guide*, says unequivocally, "add an apostrophe only." Thus, *Xanakis',* not *Xanakis's*.

X (66): Xerodermatic Xrowet, xylograph Xinjiang xarif Xavier Xanakis' Xuzhou xebeque.

Or, to slightly revise Miller's paraphrase of his pangram:

> "Dry-skinned Xrowet [the 18th-century porcelain painter], make a wood engraving of the xebec [sailing ship] from Xuchou [a Chinese city] owned by Sinkiang xarif [a Middle-Eastern money changer] Xavier Xanakis."

Lastly, by eliminating two unneeded "s" suffixes and exchanging "zaftig" for "Zif" (the second month of the ancient Hebrew calendar)," four letters can be trimmed from the 62-letter "Z" pangram above:

Z (58): Zolaesque Zhadanov, zap Zhangjiakou zanthoxylum zebec "Zif" Zionward.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The second part of the program was to try to extend Miller's list of alliterative pangrams to any or all of the remaining 14 letters of the alphabet. Accordingly, here are alliterative pangrams for "W" and "P" (which complete the set of my initials, "JWP"):

W (43): What Web wag, waqf wazir, wound wavy wax wejack wimples?

(This example illustrates a disadvantage of using many short words in an alliterative pangram: consisting of ten mostly short words, it is forced to take on, as sheer ballast, no fewer than *nine* duplicative double-yous.)

P (46): Poxy, public-pfennig pewit pyjamas piqued Przhevalski.

(The Webster's Third entry for "Przhevalski's horse" offers four boldface spellings of the Russian explorer's surname: **Przhevalski, Przewalski, Prejevalsky** and **Prjevalsky**, in that order. The biographical names section of the Merriam-Webster collegiate dictionary simply spells it **"Przhevalski"**.)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In summary, here's Miller's partial alphabetical list of alliterative pangrams, as tweaked and extended by Puder:

A (36): Ajax, advected Abkhaz aquas amplify awrong!
B (44): Bivouacking, blowzy Bamford bipeds bequeath bijoux.
C (39): Cawing caziques carjacked complex, crafted Chevy cabs.
D (46): DJ Dvorak, deoxygenize Depew's deformable discotheque.
E (48): Elfin Ezequiel evokes extrajudicially embowed esophagi.
F (46): Fitzpatrick fed Freyja Fanshaw foxglove fique flambé.
G (48): Gawky, grotesque Gijón gazebo grump Givenchy genuflexed.
I (43): Impawning idols infrequently inject Izhevsk ibex.
J (48): Jacques' jynx Jazzbow's joking jive jolted jewfish Jumper.
P (46): Poxy, public-pfennig pewit pyjamas piqued Przhevalski.
Q (54): Quiz, Qom Qajar Qadhafi, quiveringly quixotic Quapaw Quebeckers.
W (43): What Web wag, waqf wazir, wound wavy wax wejack wimples?
X (66): Xerodermatic Xrowet, xylograph Xinjiang xarif Xavier Xanakis' Xuzhou xebeque.
Z (58): Zolaesque Zhadanov, zap Zhangjiakou zanthoxylum zebec "Zif" Zionward.

As before, improvements to and extensions of this work in progress are invited.

Readers interested in reading more widely on the subject of pangrams are referred to the extensive bibliography of writings on this subject with which Miller concludes his article in the Nov. 2020 (Vol. 53, No. 4) issue of Word Ways.

STRICTLY GERMPROOF

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

Arthur Guiterman (1871-1943) was an American writer whose humorous poetry was highly popular in the early decades of the twentieth century. Remarking that its theme seems more relevant today than ever, Don Hauptman calls attention to the following Guiterman poem which was collected in a 1919 treasury of American humor owned by his family:

Strictly Germproof

THE Antiseptic Baby and the Prophylactic Pup
Were playing in the garden when the Bunny gamboled up;
They looked upon the Creature with a loathing undisguised; –
It wasn't Disinfected and it wasn't Sterilized.

They said it was a Vector and a Hotbed of Disease;
They steamed it in a vapor of a thousand-odd degrees;
They froze it in a freezer that was cold as Banished Hope
And washed it in permanganate with carbolated soap.

In sulphurated hydrogen they steeped its wiggly ears;
They trimmed its frisky whiskers with a pair of hard-boiled shears;
They donned their rubber mittens and they took it by the hand
And elected it a member of the Fumigated Band.

There's not a Micrococcus in the garden where they play;
They bathe in pure iodoform a dozen times a day;
And each imbibes his rations from a Hygienic Cup–
The Bunny and the Baby and the Prophylactic Pup.

Pizza Words
Alan Frank and Chris Cole

Alan has hosted a treasure hunt since 1980. The hunt started as a solo effort but turned into a group effort so Alan could take part in solving. On 3/14/15 the hunt had a theme pi and pie, which led to the idea of fitting a word into eight slices of a pizza. Eight slices divides the alphabet into groups of three letters with two remaining. The two remaining letters are usually from the rare letters JQXZ.

At a solving competition at the National Puzzlers' League 2020 online convention (Conline) Alan presented a solving competition where the answers included personal and place names, movie titles, and so on.

On National Pizza Day, February 9, 2021, the Beyond Wordplay newsletter contained eight pizza puzzles and a meta-puzzle.

Pizza Puzzles led to the idea of the "Pizza Word" which is a word that can be encoded in a pizza, i.e., a set of up to eight slices each containing up to three letters, to be read clockwise, with repeats allowed intra-slice but not inter-slice.

"Littleneck" was the first answer that Alan used. The Pizza Word is written LIT|ENC|K with vertical bars (|) separating the slices. There is usually some ambiguity, so LIT|EN|CK also is a possibility.

It's pleasing to avoid repetition in words, such as:

BZ|ARY|KT|L|O|M|I|CEJ	Bartlomiej Bartlomiejczyk
EN|D|U|C|A|T|I|O	Education, Education, Education
EIR|CN|G|O|L|D|S|T	Eric Goldstein Goldstein
EV|R|Y|T|H|I|N|G	Everything & Everything & Everything
F|L|IO|P|E|R|T|Y	flipperty-flopperty
R|E|P|U|AT|I|O|N	Reputation, Reputation, Reputation!
KW|E|IS|NT|C|A|BR|O	West Carbrooke in Carbrooke
ELU|NY|C|FMO|R|T|A|B	Uncomfortably Comfortable

In logology words that avoid repeated substrings are sometimes called "well-mixed" and in Pizza Words there is an analogous criterion that we will require for the remainder of this article.

One goal is to remove ambiguity, so that only one encoding of a word into the pizza is possible. An example is "Hugh Hefner" that can only be encoded HUG|EFN|R. Note that in this case not all slices areused, so this is a "Partial Pizza Pie." Other examples with sufficient internal structure to force uniqueness are:

C|OMP|U|NDI|G	compounding
CZE|H|OSL|V|AKI|N	Czechoslovakian
REB|O|ADC|ST	rebroadcasts
S|URO|DIN|G	surrounding

We will stick to complete pizzas for the remainder of this article. Some other long unique complete Pizza Words are:

AN|C|Y|L|I|BE|R|M	Nancy Lieberman
R|OU|S|AE|L|I|N|D	Rosalind Russell
LU|ENS|C|FMO|R|T|A|B	uncomfortablenesses

Note that these wrap all the way around the pizza. How long can we go without wrapping? Here is a long example:

T|CEH|BRY|L|MOS|FJ|AP|N	The Cherry Blossoms of Japan (1906 Japanese film)

The opposite of minimal wrapping is maximal wrapping. Here is an example that goes around more than twice:

BOY|UW|ILM|NP|GS|T|H|ER	Bobby Bumps Throwing the Bull

Note that this title has minimal ambiguity, there being only one other possible division:

BOY|LUW|IM|NP|GS|T|H|ER	Bobby Bumps Throwing the Bull

Other minimally ambiguous examples are:

AM|S|C|E|DIN|G|R|HTY,AS|C|E|DIN|G|R|HTY|M	ascending rhythms
CO|RX|ABE|ST|I|N|G|F,CRX|ABE|ST|I|N|G|F|O	crab-eating foxes
BD|EL|HIS|GKN|T|O|P|U,DEL|HIS|GKN|T|O|P|U|B	desktop publishing
EG|IR|ALN|DW|M|O|T|H,GIR|ALN|DW|M|O|T|H|E	grandmother-in-law
HJ|AP|NZ|ELS|W|I|T|C,AJP|NZ|ELS|W|I|T|C|H	Japanese witch hazel
KR|I|N|GS|O|F|T|EH,IK|N|GS|O|F|T|EH|R	king-of-the-herrings
LW|I|GNU|E|T|H|R|O,IL|GNU|E|T|H|R|O|W	line-throwing gun
MR|A|CP|HY|I|N|ELT|G,AM|CP|HY|I|N|ELT|G|R	machine telegraphy
MV|E|D|U|L|A|GRY|O,EM|D|U|L|A|GRY|O|V	medullary groove
EO|R|D|I|ALN|U|M|B,OR|D|I|ALN|U|M|B|E	ordinal number
MP|A|RT|EO|NU|CS|HL|Y,AP|RT|EO|NU|CS|HL|Y|M	parenchymatously
AR|GIM|HST|O|U|L|D|E,AIR|GM|HST|O|U|L|D|E	right shoulder arms
T|H|E|CWY|AIU|KL|DGO|FN,T|H|E|CWY|AIU|DKL|GNO|F	The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon
DOT|EI|GN|H|A|M|P|U,IOT|EGN|H|A|M|P|U|D	Tottenham pudding

Since a pizza has eight-fold rotational symmetry, additional ambiguity is created by relaxing the condition that words must start in the first slice. This additional flexibility can allow more insight into the structure of the pizza. For example, by shifting one slice and aligning the slices we see that

LW|I|GNU|E|T|H|R|O	line-throwing gun

has the additional solution

W|LI|GNU|E|T|H|R|O	line-throwing gun

created by moving one letter and starting the word in the second slice.

We can count the number of times that each letter is used. If we view these counts in one dimension, it allows us to define the area under curve (AUC) which is the sum of the letter counts. If we view it in eight dimensions, we can define the volume under curve (VUC) which is the product of non-zero letter countsBelow is a list of words in each of three categories, sorted by wrap count, AUC, and VUC.

#wrap	AUC	VUC	Pizza Word	Dictionary Word or Phrase
2	23	512	BEM|LR|O|C|K|I|GN|STY	block interlocking system
2	20	192	BO|NS|E|QR|UV|A|T|I	observation equations
1	21	64	COP|TY|A|NS|IMU|DF|E|R	potassium ferrocyanide
1	20	64	A|DHN|OT|IR|BQ|LU|E|S	antiques and horribles
1	19	48	BIL|ENS|U|P|O|R|T|A	insupportablenesses
1	19	48	O|UV|ENS|R|A|M|B|IT	overambitiousnesses
1	19	36	AJP|NZ|ELS|W|I|T|C|H	Japanese witch hazels
1	19	36	LU|ENS|C|FMO|R|T|A|B	uncomfortablenesses
1	19	32	EIS|M|U|N|OPR|H|Y|ALX	immunoprophylaxises
1	19	32	HIN|EGS|D|B|A|C|K|ORT	hinged-back tortoises
1	19	32	IN|CG|EHR|STU|B|L|O|M	night-blooming cereus
1	19	16	ABL|UW|ENS|IKR|C|H|O|F	bunsen-kirchhoff laws
1	19	16	ADM|EGN|IST|CY|F|L|U|X	magnetic flux density
1	19	16	CEL|IPS|ANT|GR|D|O|U|B	eclipsing double star
1	19	16	MOS|CHR|ADI|N|G|E|B|L	orange-blossom orchid
1	18	64	IT|ES|M|P|O|ARY|N|U	temporary annuities
1	18	48	HR|STY|A|L|I|EN|O|C	hyalinocrystalline
1	18	36	IL|ENS|C|O|M|U|T|AB	incommutablenesses
1	18	36	LU|ENS|M|O|D|FI|A|B	unmodifiablenesses
1	18	32	HNO|ABR|GL|E|D|I|S|C	honorable discharge
1	18	32	L|O|C|KSY|AET|MN|D|B	lock-and-block system
1	18	32	SU|B|J|E|ACT|L|O|GIN	subject catalogings
1	18	24	ACL|UY|S|T|R|HOP|B|I	claustrophobically
1	18	24	OP|ART|ES|I|U|M|C|HL	potassium chlorates
1	18	24	TU|CHR|AES|F|O|L|D|P	threefold purchases
1	18	18	BLU|ENS|PR|O|F|I|T|A	unprofitablenesses
1	18	18	EHV|BLR|OY|M|I|N|G|C	everblooming cherry
1	18	16	ANV|LO|MUY|ES|T|R|I|C	volumetric analyses
1	18	16	BOP|MSU|HT|A|I|L|E|D	bush-tailed opossums
1	18	16	BSU|CO|IP|T|A|L|N|ERV	suboccipital nerves
1	18	16	CHI|ENS|F|L|U|GOR|A|P	cinefluorographies
1	18	16	CV|ANO|LU|MY|ES|T|R|I	volumetric analyses
1	18	16	ELM|GO|CR|AP|HS|I|N|T	moccasin telegraphs
1	18	16	EMS|IR|CF|LOY|N|B|U|T	semicolon butterfly
1	18	16	GNS|AMU|PRY|O|C|E|D|I	summary proceedings
1	18	16	L|AD|FW|IR|CEN|HS|G|O	lawrence's goldfinch
1	18	12	ACI|DNS|LO|E|B|U|T|RY	indolebutyric acids
1	18	12	DPU|IRS|GH|T|Y|E|L|OW	upright yellowwoods
1	18	12	O|BR|DL|IN|AQ|TU|ES|C	oblique coordinates

#wrap	AUC	VUC	Pizza Word	Name
2	23	64	IRS|KU|HN|EL|GV|AB|DJ|OT	Sunneva Bjork Helgadottir
2	22	320	DMO|ER|NP|A|K|S|H|I	Meenakshi Deepak Shidore
2	21	32	FS|PR|A|GN|OT|EU|L|IKZ	Fragoulis Pantelikizis
2	21	16	QR|OUV|IMS|GT|L|AE|NY|DP	Quigley Provost-Landrum
2	20	32	FLM|IO|NR|EG|S|T|AC|UY	Forest Cummings-Taylor
2	20	32	NS|EY|LV|IW|AK|MO|BD|U	Sylvia Mdunyelwa-Kobus
2	20	16	BC|H|AO|FR|GT|EKM|I|LNS	Chorgemeinschaft Kilb
2	20	16	CDS|RT|A|GN|LO|J|EU|BIV	Dragolljub Stanojevic

#wrap	AUC	VUC	Pizza Word	Name
2	19	256	EIK|MV|A|T|S|H|O|Y	Kimatshoy Imatshoyev
2	19	64	CS|H|AI|FR|JL|O|NT|E	Charlotte Shiff Jones
2	19	48	AP|R|EI|S|DT|OU|N|HL	Preston Harris-Dunlap
2	19	32	DTZ|E|R|IS|CK|HV|U|LN	Derick V. Underschultz
2	19	16	DIN|JR|AE|GP|LO|S|C|HZ	Dragos Czinjepolschi
2	19	16	JR|PU|AS|GT|I|LN|EM|KO	Justine Krupa-Gillmor
2	19	8	AHM|KN|FO|RW|EI|DT|SU|C	Manfred Duchkowitsch
2	19	4	CMN|IKO|GS|TU|E|LR|VW|AY	Miguel Van Oosterwyck
2	18	32	ANP|DT|R|I|C|K|HS|EO	Patrick Hendrickson
2	18	32	DH|A|ER|LY|NS|M|I|CT	Darryn Michael Smith
2	18	24	A|LS|FT|R|E|CD|HO|IM	Alfredo Mastrecchia
2	18	16	EJS|LO|A|NR|MT|I|GQ|U	Joan Miquel Artigues
2	18	16	RS|I|C|K|HY|OP|AL|EMT	Ricky Patrick Holmes
2	18	8	KNS|DIU|MT|BH|E|R|L|AY	Kimberly Sutherland
2	18	4	GR|IU|DT|OS|CL|FH|MN|AE	Rudolf Maritschnegg
2	18	2	AI|LN|DU|CR|HZ|EO|JW|KPS	Andrzej Paluchowski
2	18	2	DIT|R|AP|CG|EO|LV|JS|BKU	Dragoljub Trpcevski
2	18	2	DMZ|A|NS|IK|EY|BL|TU|HOR	Daniel Thomas Kyburz
2	18	2	IOR|AW|CJ|MZ|UY|N|DS|GKL	Rajmund Glowczynski
2	17	16	DK|O|W|AF|L|CI|NZ|TY	Dow Flint Kowalczyk
2	17	16	FK|HR|A|NV|LT|I|CS|E	Frantisek Havlicek
2	17	6	A|DG|NO|BI|ER|SU|CZ|K	Agnieszka Dobrucka
2	17	2	ST|HP|AE|CR|KL|OY|IU|DN	Sparky in the Clouds
1	24	24	DOV|MST|CIN|AHQ|KLU|EY|P|R	Dominique Provost-Chalkley
1	23	2048	ADP|EM|T|R|I|O|U|S	Demetrious Papademetriou
1	23	96	BEH|RTU|AMN|DPY|I|L|C|O	Hebert Randy Pillco Huaman
1	23	48	EGI|L|ADH|MPY|BRS|NO|K|F	Gladys Brookfield-Hampson

#wrap	AUC	VUC	Pizza Word	Title
2	29	1296	T|H|E|CWY|AIU|DKL|GNO|F	The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon
2	25	160	BOY|LUW|IM|NP|GS|T|H|ER	Bobby Bumps Throwing the Bull
2	25	64	JNX|DI|MS|KT|EPV|RY|O|ACU	Jim Kerouac and Steve Peyroux
2	24	192	ARU|ST|I|N|GP|LO|DW|BEM	Austin Powers in Goldmember
2	23	64	MST|H|BEL|D|AI|NY|GO|FU	The Day of the Bleeding Gums

PARATRANSPOSITIONS

Darryl Francis
and
Jeff Grant

The term ‘paratransposition’ was coined by Dmitri Borgmann in his article ’The Paratransposition’ (*Word Ways*, May 1978). He described it as ‘one letter of the original word being replaced by the letter immediately preceding or following it in the alphabet before the letters are rearranged. For example, GENITALS is a paratransposition of STEAMING (L changed to M), TRIANGLE (S changed to R) and INFLATES (G changed to F).’ As Dmitri explained ‘Notice how much more restrictive the paratransposition is: for every 25 letter replacements allowed in a substitute-letter transposal, only two are permitted in a paratransposition. This makes paratranspositions 12.5 times more difficult to find, elevating them to the status of challenging logological problems.’ Dmitri offered many examples of paratranspositions in his article. Ross Eckler and Darryl touched on paratranspositions in an article ‘Word Transposability’ (*Word Ways*, Nov 1978). The term ‘paratransposition’ is listed in Dave Morice’s *The Dictionary of Wordplay*, 2001.

In this article, we explore paratranspositions considerably further. Where a word is composed of all different letters, the maximum number of paratranspositions is theoretically twice the word length – a word of length n has a maximum number of 2n potential paratranspositions. We asked ourselves if it was possible to find words where all 2n paratranspositions are real words, names or terms.

Let’s look at some simple examples. We’ll begin with two-letter words. It’s fairly obvious that any potential starting word has to be composed of two vowels, words like AE, IO, and OE. These each have a full set of four valid paratranspositions:

AE > ze, be, ad, fa
IO > ho, jo, in, pi
OE > en, pe, do, of

How about three-letter words? Any potential starting word has to have at least two vowels. Here are some examples where each has a full set of six valid paratranspositions:

EGO > dog, fog, foe, hoe, gen, peg
SOU > our, out, sun, pus, sot, sov
GUE > feu, hue, get, veg, dug, fug

Before going further, it’s worth pointing out that where a starting word has any repeated letters, then the maximum number of potential paratranspositions is 2m, where m is the number of different letters. Let’s look at a three-letter example to demonstrate this. Assume the starting word is SEE. Then:

SEE > ere, tee, sed, efs, sed, efs

We could amend this to:

SEE > ere, tee, sed, efs, eds, fes

But essentially each of the sed/eds and efs/fes pairs are just the same set of letters. From here on, the starting words will have all different letters, no repeats.

The exploration of full sets of paratranspositions for four-, five- and six-letter words is left for the reader to explore. We continued our investigations with seven-letter words. We felt that any seven-letter starting word probably should have three or four vowels - two seemed too few, because once one of the vowels is swapped out, that only leaves one vowel for a seven-letter paratransposition.

As the starting words get longer, we recognised that the presence of an A or Y will generate a paratransposition containing a Z; the presence of an I or a K will generate a paratransposition with a J; and the presence of a P or R will generate a paratransposition with a Q - difficult letters all. So it is probably best to avoid starting words having any of A Y I K P R. Unless of course, we could work backwards from a J Q or Z word to find an appropriate starting word. This is what we did. JANGLES suggests a starting word SEALING, because when the I is swapped for a J, then JANGLES is a valid paratransposition. Note, too, that when the A is swapped out for a Z, then ZINGELS is a valid paratransposition. Here is a full set of 14 paratranspositions of SEALING (with only one obscure word needing a definition):

SEALING		
REALING	**realign**	
TEALING	**genital**	
SDALING	**ladings**	
SFALING	**falsing**	
SEZLING	**zingels**	
SEBLING	**bingles**	
SEAKING	**sinkage**	
SEAMING	**seaming**	
SEALHNG	**hangles**	Hooks from which kettles can be suspended over fires [*English Dialect Dictionary*]
SEALJNG	**jangles**	
SEALIMG	**milages**	
SEALIOG	**goalies**	
SEALINF	**finales**	
SEALINH	**inhales**	

For the remainder of this article, we are only going to define uncommon/unfamiliar words, names and terms. Onwards and upwards to 8-letter words. As the word length increases, the task of finding genuine dictionary words for some of the letter combinations becomes more challenging, and we have had increasingly to dredge the internet to find suitable paratranspositions. Nevertheless, here is a full set of 16 paratranspositions based on the word LATRINES:

LATRINES	
KATRINES	**narkiest**

MATRINES	**minarets**	
LZTRINES	**Strzelin**	A town in Poland [Wikipedia]
LBTRINES	**blinters**	Flickers, glimmers [Webster's Third]
LASRINES	**rainless**	
LAURINES	**lunaries**	
LATQINES	**nestaliq**	Variant of 'nastaliq', a Persian script [OED]
LATSINES	**saltines**	
LATRHNES	**enthrals**	
LATRJNES	**Jantlers**	A jazz band from Elkhorn High School, Omaha, Nebraska [Facebook]
LATRIMES	**misalter**	
LATRIOES	**soterial**	
LATRINDS	**trindals**	A variant of 'trindles', old term for wheels [OED]
LATRINFS	**Finstral**	One of Europe's leading window makers, based in South Tyrol, Italy [www.finstral.com]
LATRINER	**ratliner**	A ropemaker [Webster's Second]
LATRINET	**rattline**	A variant of 'ratlin', any of the small lines forming part of the rigging of ships [Chambers English Dictionary, 12th edition]

Having conquered a full 16 paratranspositions for an 8-letter word, we moved up to 9-letter words. We had a few false starts for our starting word, but eventually settled on RETINULAS, which gave us a full set of 18 paratranspositions.

RETINULAS		
QETINULAS	**quantiles**	
SETINULAS	**insulates**	
RDTINULAS	**laundrist**	Someone who takes the chore of laundry seriously [various websites]
RFTINULAS	**trainfuls**	Quantities that fill a train [OED]
RESINULAS	**Russelian**	Pertaining to Patrick *Russell* (1727–1805), a Scottish physician and naturalist [OED]
REUINULAS	**Leiuranus**	A genus of eels [Wikipedia]
RETHNULAS	**Lutherans**	A follower of the German reformer Martin Luther [OED]
ditto	**unhalters**	Loosens the halter of [Webster's Second]
RETJNULAS	**Jauntlers**	A travel company [Facebook]
RETIMULAS	**limatures**	Metal filings [Webster's Second]
ditto	**mulierast**	A heterosexual man [OED]
RETIOULAS	**sailroute**	A sea route navigable by a ship with masts [Wikipedia]
RETINTLAS	**rattlines**	Plural of 'rattline', a variant of 'ratlin', any of the small lines forming part of the rigging of ships [Chambers English Dictionary, 12th edition]
RETINVLAS	**intervals**	
RETINUKAS	**Tuskerian**	A native of Tuskeria, a fictional country used in the novel referenced here [*Clap for the Murderers*, by Choubby Champo]

RETINUMAS	**ruminates**	
RETINULZS	**Lunitzers**	People surnamed Lunitzer; there are 19 records for this surname on myheritage.com
RETINULBS	**Burnstile**	A minigame in Mario Party 6 [www.mariowiki.com]
RETINULAR	**retinular**	Relating to a retinula, a group of cells in the retina of certain invertebrates [OED]
RETINULAT	**tautliner**	A type of lorry trailer with curtain sides [OED]

Above, we have offered two good paratranspositions for each of the sets of letters RETHNULAS and RETIMULAS, because we thought they were too good to pass up.

Not content with just one set of 18 paratranspositions, we tried for another, this time using LEGATIONS as our starting word. Success!

LEGATIONS

KEGATIONS	**Kagonesti**	Wild elves in the Dragonlance fantasy universe [Wikipedia]
ditto	**goateskin**	An old spelling of 'goatskin' [several internet quotes]
MEGATIONS	**neogamist**	A newlywed [OED]
LDGATIONS	**toadlings**	Young or little toads [OED]
LFGATIONS	**floatings**	
LEFATIONS	**folinates**	Any salts or esters of folinic acid [*Stedman's Medical Dictionary*, 26th edition]
ditto	**felonista**	A person with a criminal history [Urban Dictionary]
LEHATIONS	**hailstone**	
LEGZTIONS	**Sotzeling**	A community in the Grand Est region, north-east France [Wikipedia]
LEGBTIONS	**ignoblest**	
LEGASIONS	**gasolines**	
ditto	**sloganise**	To express in a slogan [*Collins English Dictionary*]
LEGAUIONS	**Angelious**	A given name and surname recorded multiple times on Facebook
ditto	**Eulogians**	Members of the Eulogian Club at Yale University [*Skulls and Keys: The Hidden History of Yale's Secret Societies*, by David Alan Richards]
LEGATHONS	**Songthela**	A spider genus with species found in China [Wikipedia]
LEGATJONS	**Galtsjoen**	A lake in Innlandet county, east Norway [Wikipedia]
ditto	**Jongastel**	One of the minor planets of the Solar System, number 24215, discovered in 1999, named after Jonathan Gastel [Wikipedia]
LEGATINNS	**gantlines**	
LEGATIPNS	**pasteling**	
ditto	**pleatings**	
ditto	**splintage**	

LEGATIOMS	**megalotis**	The species name of the shell-cracker or red-ear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* [OED, at 'shell-cracker']
LEGATIOOS	**Togolaise**	Part of the official French name of Togo (République Togolaise), a country in west Africa [Wikipedia]
LEGATIONR	**granolite**	Any granular igneous rock [Webster's Second]
LEGATIONT	**Angelotti**	The surname of Cesare Angelotti, a character in Puccini's opera 'Tosca' [Wikipedia]

Could we get anywhere near a full set of 20 paratranspositions based on a 10-letter word? Our best effort is below, but it contains an increasing number of proper names, two-word terms and items taken from obscure internet sites. Readers are invited to improve on the offerings here.

GRANULITES		
FRANULITES	**funeralist**	A funeral director or one who arranges a funeral [Wiktionary]
ditto	**unfrailest**	The superlative of 'unfrail' [Webster's Second]
HRANULITES	**Lutherians**	Followers of the German reformer Martin Luther [OED]
ditto	**Thaurilens**	A genus of worms [www.marinespecies.org]
GQANULITES	**Angel Quist**	The name of several people on Facebook
ditto	Quiet Slang	Almost since the group Beach Slang came into being, its bandleader James Alex has taken to performing his group's anthems as solo renditions; appropriately dubbed "Quiet Slang" [www.polyvinylrecords.com]
GSANULITES	**Stagnelius**	Erik Johan Stagnelius (1793-1823) was a Swedish Romantic poet and playwright [Wikipedia]
GRZNULITES	**Lutzingers**	People with the surname Lutzinger [www.ancestry.co.uk]
GRBNULITES	**blustering**	
GRAMULITES	**guiltmares**	Guilt-laden nightmares [www.fangsforthefantasy.com]
ditto	**multiagers**	Pupils in a multiage class [www.conestogavalley.org]
GRAOULITES	**trialogues**	Colloquies between three persons [OED]
GRANTLITES	**slattering**	Splitting, shivering [OED]
GRANVLITES	**starveling**	A starved person or animal [OED]
ditto	**travelings**	Actions of making journeys [OED]
GRANUKITES	**Kurganites**	Inhabitants of the city of Kurgan in Russia [*Early Riders: The Beginnings of Mounted Warfare in Asia and Europe*, by Robert Drews]

GRANUMITES	**argumentis**	An obsolete plural form of 'argument' [OED, 1384 quote]
GRANULHTES	**Shutlanger**	A village in Northamptonshire, England [*Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain*, 3rd edition]
GRANULJTES	**jungle rats**	A synonym for 'gibnuts', large rodents native to Central and South America [Wiktionary - entry at 'gibnut']
GRANULISES	**singulares**	An obsolete spelling of 'singulars' [OED]
GRANULIUES	**Luisa Unger**	There are 4 people with this name, 2 each from Germany and Mexico [www.LinkedIn.com]
GRANULITDS	**transguild**	Across guilds [*Chinese Studies in History*, Volume 19, 1986]
GRANULITFS	**faultrings**	An obsolete form of 'falterings' [OED, 1621 quote]
ditto	**Straufling**	A variety of apple, an old autumn Baltic variety [www.iqtester.ru]
GRANULITER	**intergular**	A plate of bone in the jaw of a bowfin [Webster's Second]
GRANULITET	**a-luttering**	From the verb 'lutter', to fall into a state of ruin [*English Dialect Dictionary*, 1880 quote]

Could we get anywhere near to a full set of 22 paratranspositions based on an 11-letter word? With this length of word, it's only to be expected that we had to resort to several proper names, multi-word terms and non-dictionary items. Even so, we feel pretty pleased with this offering, our best so far:

REGULATIONS

QEGULATIONS	nostalgique	French for 'nostalgic'; used as a musical direction, in a sad, weary style [*The Pianist's Dictionary*, M Hinson, 2004]
SEGULATIONS	**outleasings**	Leasings out of land, etc. From this quote: 'All sales,… and all outleasings of land for residential, commercial, industrial [purpose]…' [*Hearings and Reports on Atomic Energy*, Vol 94, US Congress, 1946]
RDGULATIONS	**dingulators**	Guitar sculptures made out of recycled steel [Wikipedia]
RFGULATIONS	**outflarings**	Flarings out, glaring displays. From this quote: 'Medievalism was one of the last great outflarings of the religious spirit.' [*A Dream of Order*, A Chandler, 1970]
REFULATIONS	**fluorinates**	Treats with fluorine [Webster's Third]
REHULATIONS	**Authorlines**	An early tool for visualising the activity of individuals in conversational cyberspaces [www.researchgate.net]
REGTLATIONS	**toleratings**	Plural of 'tolerating', an act of toleration [OED]
REGVLATIONS	**oversalting**	Salting to excess [OED]
REGUKATIONS	**outreakings**	Plural of 'outreaking', the making ready, fitting out (of ships), and equipping persons for an expedition, troops for military service, or seamen for the navy [*Dictionary of the Scottish Language*, www.dsl.ac.uk]
REGUMATIONS	**mangueritos**	Stringed musical instruments of Bolivia [Wikipedia]

REGULZTIONS	**Loutzingers**	People surnamed Loutzinger; there are 13 Loutzingers recorded on ancestry.com
REGULBTIONS	**lignotubers**	Woody growths on some shrubs and trees [*Oxford Dictionary of English*, 3rd edition, 2010]
ditto	**blouterings**	Plural of 'bloutering', an act of boasting or bragging [*English Dialect Dictionary*]
ditto	**boulstering**	Singular of 'boulsterings', padding, shown in 1578 quote at 'bolstering' [OED]
REGULASIONS	**soul-searing**	Marked by extreme intensity or emotional power [OED]
REGULAUIONS	Lou Guinares	A New Zealand weightlifter [Wikipedia]
REGULATHONS	onslaughter	An onslaught [Wiktionary]
REGULATJONS	**Jungle Roast**	Coffee crunch chocolate bar, infused with cannabis, made by Blue Kudu [www.massroots.com]
REGULATINNS	tailgunners	Homosexual males [*Cassell's Dictionary of Slang*]
REGULATIPNS	**peanut girls**	Girls who sells peanuts and other wares [OED]
REGULATIOMS	**glamourites**	Glamour-seekers, socialites. From this quote: 'Britain's glamourites and sports stars come flocking.' [*The Sirtfood Diet*, A Goggins, G Matten, 2016]
REGULATIOOS	**taurologies**	The plural of 'taurology', which is both the study of bulls (the animals) and the study of Irish bulls (inconsistent statements); examples of the singular form for both definitions can be found in these quotes and sources: 'The veterinarian, Reicher, had talked further about bulls during the ride back to the hacienda. He was a long time student of taurology, he told her.' [*Taurus*, George Wells, 1982, page 60] and 'An instance of an Irish bull, which was of so natural a kind…, occurred when the Bishop and some of his sons were waiting at Athenry Station… There are in the note-book a large number of entries under the heading "Taurology", but most of the stories are already well known.' [*Lighter Moments from the Notebook of Bishop Walsham How*, William How, 2017]
REGULATIONR	**oriental rug**	A hand-woven or hand-knotted one-piece rug or carpet, made especially in central or southern Asia [Webster's Third]
REGULATIONT	**out-triangle**	An equilateral triangle in which a circle fits exactly, as opposed to an 'in-triangle', an equilateral triangle which fits exactly in a circle [csidemedia.com]

Readers are encouraged to improve on any of the more obscure paratranspositions that we have offered above. Readers are also urged to have a go at finding a full set of 24

paratranspositions based on a 12-letter word – but we warn you, you will need to resort to several obscure words and multi-word terms.

NEW GERMAN TRIPLE-LETTER WORDS

Jim Puder

A supplement to *The Pocket Oxford-Duden German Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1997) reports that the governments of Germany, Austria and Switzerland agreed in 1996 to reform the spellings of about two thousand words in the German language. Of logological interest is the fact that the spelling changes resulted in the creation of over one hundred new triple-letter words. These oddities came about in three ways. First, a number of formerly hyphenated words were consolidated: "See-Elefant" [elephant seal], e.g., became "Seeelefant." Secondly, letters dropped from some words in earlier consolidations were restored: "Bettuch" [sheet], for instance, was stretched into "Betttuch." Why? Because under the old rules, words such as "Bettuch," when divided at the end of a line, would regain their lost letters ("Bett-tuch"), a practice which complicated electronic text manipulation. Lastly, the eszett (ß) character was replaced by a double-s in hundreds of words, with the result that a number of words such as "Miß-stand" [a deplorable state of affairs] now more than ever seem begging to be hissed: "Ein Missstand!"

Eleven different letters occur as triplets under the new spelling rules; here are all of the instances reported by Oxford-Duden:

E Armeeeinheit, Kaffeeernte, Kaffeeersatz, Kleeeinsaat, Kleeernte, Schneeeifel, Schneeeule, Seeelefant, Teeei, Teeernte
F Dampfschifffahrt, grifffest, Großchifffahrtsweg, Kunstofffolie, Küsten schifffahrt, Luftschifffahrt, Personnenschifffahrt, Schifffahrt, Stofffarbe, Stofffetzen, Stofffüle, Tifffelsen, Werkstoffforschung, Zelstofffabrik
I Hawaiiinsel
L Balllokal, Bestellliste, Eisschnelllauf, Falllinie, Fußballländerspiel, helllicht, helllila, Kontrolllampe, Kontrollliste, Kristalllüster, Metalllegierung, Mullläpschen, Nulllage, Nullleiter, Nulllosung, Rollladen, Schalllehre, Schallloch, Schnellläufer, schnelllebig, Schnelllebigkeit, Stalllaterne, Stillleben, stilllegen, Stilllegung, Wolllappen, Wolllaus, Zechenstilllegung, Zelllehre
M Kammmacher, Kämmmachine, Kammmuschel, Klemmmappe, Programmmusik, Rammmaschine, Schwimmmeister, Stammmutter, Stemmmeißel,
N Brennnessel, Gewinnnummer, Kennnummer
O Zooorchester
P Krepppapier
R Geschirrreiniger, Sperrriegel
S Basssänger, Dasssatz, Delikatesssenf, Einschussstelle, Flusssand, Flussspat, Fresssack, genusssüchtig, Haselnussstrauch, Imbissstand, Komisssteifel, Kongresssaal, Kongressstadt, Lössschicht, Messstab, Nassschnee, Nussschale, Nussschinken, Nussschokolade, Nussstrudel, Ölmessstab, Passstelle, Passstraße, Presssack, Pressschlage, Pressspan, Reißverschlusssystem, Schlisssatz, Schlussspurt, Schlussstrich, Schlussswäche, Stresssituation, Verschlusssache
T Balletttänzerin, Betttuch, Bitttag, Schmuckblatttelegramm, Schritttempo, Werkstatttage, Wettteufel, Wettturnen

The only triple-double-letter word created was "Flussschifffahrt," which means "river navigation."

This article first appeared in the February 2003 [36,1] Word Ways. *With triple-letter words being so numerous in the German language, one wonders whether German-language wordplayers even bother to track them. We note that there is one "full house" word in this group, i.e., a word in which a double letter and a triple letter are adjacent to one another; can the reader spot it?*

GOODDEED

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Logologists will be familiar with the fact that the ten-letter word **BOOKKEEPER** contains three successive sets of doubled letters, as do its inflections **BOOKKEEPING** and the plurals of both words. These common words can be found in modest collegiate dictionaries, as well as the larger unabridged dictionaries. The existence of **SUBBOOKKEEPER**, with its four sets of doubled letters, in *Webster's Second Edition* has also been noted in earlier editions of *Word Ways*.

I recently discovered an eight-letter word in the *Oxford English Dictionary* which also has three sets of doubled letters. The word appears twice as a main entry in the OED, once as an obsolete noun and once as an adverb. To have three sets of doubled letters in a word of only eight letters is pretty amazing. The word is **GOODDEED**.

As an obsolete noun, **GOODDEED** simply means an act of goodness, a good deed, a favour, or an action which is pious, virtuous, kindly or helpful. The noun is marked as obsolete, and the OED's most recent quote is dated c1390 (about 1390).

As an adverb, **GOODDEED** means in truth, truly, indeed. The OED's entry notes that the adverb is Scottish, and was still in use in Orkney and Shetland (parts of Scotland) as recently as 1955. One of the OED quotes for the adverb is from Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*, written in 1623. Shakespeare wrote:

> When at *Bohemia*
> You take my Lord, Ile giue him my Commission,
> To let him there a Moneth, behind the Gest
> Prefix'd for's parting: yet (good-deed) *Leontes,*
> I loue thee not a Iarre o'th' Clock, behind

Rewritten in modern English, this becomes:

> When at Bohemia
> You take my lord, I'll give him my commission
> To let him there a month behind the gest

> Prefix'd for's parting: yet, good deed, Leontes,
> I love thee not a jar o' the clock behind

Associated with every main entry in the online version of the OED is a brief entry history. For both the entries of **GOODDEED**, the entry histories note that the words appeared in the OED's first edition of 1900, the second edition of 1989, and that the entries were fully revised for the OED's third edition of 2014. My paper copy of the *Compact Edition of the OED*, published in 1971, which is simply a micrographically reproduced copy of the 1900 edition, shows the word spelled with a hyphen. Whether the hyphen disappeared with the 1989 revision or the 2014 revision, I don't know. *[Editor's note: In my 1993 printing of the 2nd Edition of The Compact English Oxford Dictionary, the word is spelled "good-deed" in both of its iterations, so it must have been in the 2014 revision that the hyphen was eliminated.]*

What I find surprising, apart from the word's existence, with or without a hyphen, is that it has appeared in a major dictionary since at least 1900, over 120 years ago, and has remained unremarked amongst logologists.

As far as I can determine, no other paper dictionaries list **GOODDEED** as a solidly spelled word. They either show it with a hyphen or as two words. Spelled with a hyphen, **GOOD-DEED** appears in *Webster's First Edition*, *Webster's Second Edition*, and the *Century Dictionary*. Shown as two words, **GOOD DEED** appears in the *English Dialect Dictionary* and *Chambers Scots Dictionary*.

My 1947 *Funk & Wagnall's Unabridged Dictionary* lists the word both with a hyphen and spelled as two words. As two words, it marks the term as Irish, defining it as a well-deserved punishment for a bad or foolish action. It's strange that other sources refer to the word as being Scottish, although the *Funk & Wagnall's* definition is different to that of the Scottish word. The dictionary website www.lexico.com does indeed list the word and spells it solidly.

FORK AND FIDDLE

JIM PUDER
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The Culture Corner: Logology in the Arts

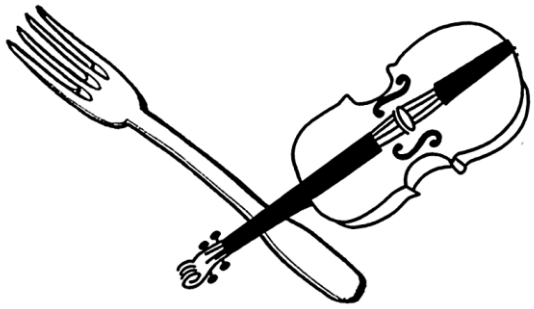
From the Essen, Germany, *Daily Sustenance:* "From all corners of Germany and Austria they came with relish, hearty Hamburgers, Frankfurters, Wieners and many others, classical-music-loving gastronomes drawn to this city to attend the famed annual charity concert given by the epicurean musicians of the Westphalia Fork and Fiddle Society. As always, the music for the evening's entertainment was selected by the Society's longtime pastry chef and concertmaster, Fran Gipani. And as always, Fran's list was both impeccable and decidedly peckable.

"The program began with a gingery rendition of Beethoven's 'Eggplant' Overture, then settled down with Barber's soporific 'Adagio for String Beans,' only to jolt us wide awake again with Orff's pounding choral work, 'Oh, for Tuna!' The concert's first half then closed on an aptly anticipatory note with Debussy's sapid symphonic poem, 'Prelude to the Aftertaste of a Prawn.'

"Highlights of the elaborate intermission repast included such dishes as Salome sandwiches, Sieg–fried onion Rings, Barca rolls, Bach bacon with a little mushroom, the leftover flour suet from a production of 'Lakmé,' and for dessert, five flavors of Fran's sherbet. Gudunov!

"Once most of us had managed to stagger back to our auditorium seats, the second half of the program got off to a spicy start with Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasonings,' but soon turned to meatier fare with Bach's 'Sheep May Safely Braise' and Mozart's "Eine Kleine Knackwurst." Cleaving to the sausage theme, the orchestra then proceeded to pour on the pork, showing off its chops with Richard Strauss's 'Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Franks' before finishing up, accurately enough, with Johann Strauss Jr.'s 'Wiener Glut.' Hog heaven!

"Unhappily, the gala mood of the concert was dampened somewhat when it was discovered that a prankster had cut the tails of Hoffman completely Offenbach. Not funny! The obvious suspect was the barber of Seville, who indeed was soon discovered Haydn under a Kreisler, the thieving magpie. The judge could only sigh 'Figaro, Figaro, Figaro...' ere he sentenced the miscreant to the damnations of Faust, Essen's caustic public castigator. 'Just my Gluck!' Fig harped. 'But I can Handel it—I'm like a Rach, maninoff for anything!' What brass."



EQUIVOQUE

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Equivoque (pronounced "ek'-wi-voke"or "eek'-wi-voke") is a form of wordplay which may have reached its height of popularity in the latter part of the nineteenth century, only to fall into desuetude subsequently. It's actually an umbrella word for several dissimilar kinds of carefully-phrased writing which is capable of being read or understood in two different ways, ways which often have two very different meanings.

One kind of equivoque involves taking a passage of writing and altering either its punctuation or its accentuation when read aloud, or both, to produce a message that differs radically from the writer's intent. In his notes to Dover's 1961 reprint of C. C. Bombaugh's *Oddities and Curiosities of Words and Literature*, Martin Gardner describes a well-known example:

> A remarkable ambiguous love letter is featured in the third act of Nicholas Udall's famous sixteenth century play (the earliest known English comedy) *Ralph Roister Doister.* The letter is from Ralph to the widow Christian Custance, whom he is courting. Matthew Merygreek, a practical joker, reads the letter aloud to the widow, but by altering its punctuation he completely reverses the sentiment.

Another kind of equivoque, of which Bombaugh cites several examples in *Oddities and Curiosities*, is the coded message which both the sender and the intended receiver know must be read in a certain way to reveal its true meaning, but that an unauthorized reader would not. This poetic example from Bombaugh's book supposedly originated in a newspaper in British-occupied Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War; readers who penetrate its superficial veneer of political correctness soon perceive that it's actually three rhyming poems in one:

> Hark! hark! the trumpet sounds**,** the din of war's alarms,
> O'er seas and solid grounds**,** doth call us all to arms;
> Who for King George doth stand**,** their honors soon shall shine;
> Their ruin is at hand**,** who with the Congress join,
> The acts of Parliament**,** in them I much delight,
> I hate their cursed intent**,** who for the Congress fight,
> The Tories of the day**,** they are my daily toast,
> They soon will sneak away**,** who Independence boast;
> Who non-resistance hold**,** they have my hand and heart.
> May they for slaves be sold**,** who act a Whiggish part;
> On Mansfield, North, and Bute**,** may daily blessings pour;
> Confusion and dispute**,** on Congress evermore;
> To North and British lord**,** may honors still be done,
> I wish a block or cord**,** to General Washington.

Metrical rhymed poems also figure in a difficult third kind of equivoque in which one such poem is transformed into another, often with a different meaning, by changing where in the poem the line breaks occur, thereby converting a poem with fewer but longer lines into one with more but shorter lines, or vice versa. The purest way to do this is by changing the locations of the line breaks alone, but often the poet finds it necessary to alter the punctuation also in order to make the transformation work in the manner desired..

Until recently, the best available example of an equivocal poem of this kind was the following Jekyll-Hyde specimen, entitled "Optimist"/"Pessimist," composed by Mary Youngquist for *Word Ways* in the 1970s, and subsequently selected by Willard Espy for reprinting in his 1975 Clarkson Potter book *An Almanac of Words at Play* (at 22 January):

THE PESSIMIST

That deep red rose—I see its thorn.
I just ignore the scent that's borne.
To me it's nothing. I deplore
Those scratches that I got before.
I just complain about the pain,
A lot I think if beauty's gain.

THE OPTIMIST

That deep red rose I see;
Its thorn I just ignore.
The scent that's borne to me–
It's nothing I deplore!

Those scratches that I got–
Before I just complain
About the pain a lot,
I think of beauty's gain.

–Mary Youngquist

(Note the different rhyme patterns of the two poems—"The Pessimist's" six lines rhyme *AABBCC* and "The Optimist's" two quatrains each rhyme *ABAB*. For both grammatical and semantical reasons, punctuation too had to be altered for the conversion to work.)

Now Daniel Galef has further elevated the state of the art of this kind of equivocal poetry with nothing less than the composition of the first full-fledged equivoque sonnet, and done so the hard way—without changing the punctuation. His article, "Casey to His Bat," is waiting in the on-deck circle.

CASEY TO HIS BAT: THE WORLD'S FIRST CONVERTIBLE SONNET

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The following equivoque sonnet, which was previously published in the literary journal *Able Muse*, is possible only because of the happy coincidence that there are exactly seventy metrical feet in both one sonnet and 20 lines of ballad meter, which suggested to me the possibility that a single lyric might be contrived which could serve unaltered in both capacities. I selected Thayer's poem as the prototype for my experiment largely because of its metrical suitability and because of its familiarity:

CASEY TO HIS BAT
(in the meter of Ernest Thayer's 1888 poem "Casey at the Bat")

You're swell! No wizard's-wand or rod of Aron with this ease
Can whack one past the glove the way a sparrow weaves through trees.
No baron wields your power—you're the scepter of a king,
And blood descendant of the club that Hercules did swing.
That bat was blessed! It knocked the blocks off lions– (Not a cub–
A full-grown beast.) Herc wore its skin, the rest cooked up for grub.
My point: We'll stand immobile. It's beneath us—just a dud.
To swing at these poor lulus would insult your noble blood.
One pitch will come—the air will sing— we'll know that *this is it*.
We'll swing. We'll hit! The crowd will cheer! We'll run! We'll win!—Oh, *shit.*

CASEY TO HIS BAT
(as a sonnet after Eugene Lee-Hamilton's 1888 collection "Imaginary Sonnets")

You're swell! No wizard's-wand or Rod of Aaron
With this ease can whack one past the glove
The way a sparrow weaves through trees. No baron
Wields your power—you're the scepter of
A king, and blood descendant of the club
That Hercules did swing. That bat was blessed!
It knocked the blocks off lions. (Not a cub—
A full-grown beast.) Herc wore its skin, the rest
Cooked up for grub. My point: We'll stand immobile.
It's beneath us—just a dud. To swing
At these poor lulus would insult your noble
Blood. One pitch will come—the air will sing—
We'll know that *this is it*. We'll swing. We'll hit!
The crowd will cheer! We'll run! We'll win!—Oh, *shit*.

As far as I know, this is the first poem of its kind, which I tentatively call a Convertible Sonnet, ever written, although a few similar experiments have been carried out on a smaller scale. Mary Youngquist composed a short verse readable as eight lines of six syllables or six lines of eight syllables which was first published in *Word Ways* and then collected in Willard Espy's 1975 book *An Almanac of Words at Play*. Previously, the French surrealist Louis Aragon reportedly toyed with similar four-six/six-four patterns in the 1940s, and Tad Richards is said to have later written a poem of the same form and dubbed it an "aragon." I do not believe, however, that the device has been maintained over more than a few lines or with more than three end rhymes until now, or ever involved a sonnet.

AN IRREGULAR TALE

Parodies of the English language's irregular verbs, by serious linguistic reformers and idle humorists alike, go back for more than a century. This example of the latter variety was collected by C. C. Bombaugh in his 1874 book Gleanings for the Curious from the Harvest Fields of Literature *and was presented, sans author's name or provenance, under the title "The Lovers, in Different Moods and Tenses." (In a later era, he might have added, "As Told by Dizzy Dean.")*

Sally Salter, she was a young teacher who taught,
And her friend, Charley Church, was a preacher who praught!
Though his enemies called him a screecher, who scraught.

His heart, when he saw her, kept sinking, and sunk;
And his eye, meeting hers, began winking, and wunk;
While she, in her turn, fell to thinking, and thunk.

In secret he wanted to speak, and he spoke,
To seek with his lips what his heart had long soke;
So he managed to let the truth leak, and it loke.

He asked her to ride to the church, and they rode,
They so sweetly did glide, that they both thought they glode,
And they came to the place to be tied, and were tode.

Then homeward he said let us drive, and they drove,
And soon as they wished to arrive, they arrove;
For whatever he couldn't contrive, she controve.

The kiss he was dying to steal, then he stole;
At the feet where he wanted to kneel, then he knole;
And he said, " I feel better than ever I fole."

So they to each other kept clinging, cnd clung;
While Time his swift circuit was winging, and wung;
And this was the thing he was bringing, and brung:

The man Sally wanted to catch, and had caught—
That she wanted from others to snatch, and had snaught—
Was the one she now liked to scratch, and she scraught.

And Charley's warm love began freezing, and froze,
While he took to teasing, and cruelly toze
The girl he had wished to be squeezing, and squoze.

"Wretch!" he cried, when she threatened to leave him, and left,
"How could you deceive me as you have deceft?"
And she answered, "I promised to cleave, and I've cleft."

FIVE PRIZEWINNING PALINDROMES

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The Palindromist Magazine has given to *Interim Magazine* the list of its SymmyS Awards for the year 2020, which it announced in January (on 1-20-21, of course). The SymmyS (from the word "symmetry") are awarded annually to the composers of the best new, original palindromes, as adjudged by the magazine, to have been published in any of several categories during the previous year. This article highlights five of the 2021 award winners. (To peruse the entire list of 2021 SymmyS winners, contact the magazine at <palindromistmag@gmail.com>.)

Two of these five are commentaries on the times. Notable for its technical proficiency is "2020," a ten-word palindromic passage composed by Anne Tenna which caricaturizes the angst-ridden tenor of the year past:

Moody, Tim? A lackluster few, we fret, sulk. Calamity! Doom!

Notice that practically every word contributes to the passage's theme of societal dysphoria, not an easy achievement in a palindrome as long as this one. Well done.

A more specifically COVID-themed palindrome is the poem at left below, by Anthony Etherin. A bare-bones verse, it leaves room for easy elaborations, such as the one at the right:

Facemask	Who IS that Masked Man?
Put it on.	"Put it on!
Knot it up.	Knot it up!"
Walks a man,	On walks a man
in a mask….	in a mask…Law?
Law:	No.
Put it on.	
Knot it up.	"Put it *on*, knot it *up!* …"

Key to this palindrome must have been the author's perception that the phrase "put it on" is nearly the reversal of an apt companion phrase, "knot it up."

Aptness is also a salient characteristic of the two shortest palindromes. The first of these, by Martin Clear, is entitled "Yule," in reference to the venerable Yule log tradition:

Golden, ruby-red: nice cindery burned log.

As in Anne Tenna's composition, there are no wasted words here. Can this be turned into a more regular sentence? Certainly, but only at the expense of its crucial conciseness:

"I'm a 'golden ruby-red, nice cindery burned log,' am I?" (Said the ember to the andiron?)

The second short palindrome, by Malaki Stahl, is accurately entitled "FACT":

Tonsil is soft, fossil is not.

It's rare to encounter a very short palindrome that is both as detailed and and as sensible as this one. It can serve as the launchpad for many a longer flight of palindromic fancy, e.g.:

"Sal, a tonsil is *soft,"* I prate, not sane. (Mad am I—mad! Amen!) "A stone tar-pit fossil is *not*, alas…"

The final SymmyS winner to be discussed here, an end-to-end-palindromical Petrarchan sonnet by Anthony Etherin entitled "War Ends War," will likely hold more interest for students of complex palindromic poetry than for other readers. This is because, owing to the difficult constraints under which composers of complex rhyming, end-to-end-palindromic (RETEP) verse must labor, such compositions can seldom make more than local sense, and so are apt to disappoint uninitiated readers who can see little to remark in them other than a lack of lucidity. "War Ends War" is no exception to this rule, but it is nevertheless very likely the best-executed of the three extant letter-unit RETEP sonnets of which I have any knowledge:

War Ends War

Tao may be now a sign I knell afar.
A wasted act in killing is to die.
To newer awe, be sure now, onward eye.
Defer old loss — I kill it. So, I mar….

It's one to me, revolt: a devil's tar.
Erupt it. Fight life. Rot. Dirt up, I lie —
vast sacredness, raw rats, a noose I tie
(of redder foe, I tie so, on a star.)

War's sender casts a veil I, putrid, tore.
Filth! Gift it. Pure rats lived at love remote.
No stir, am I — O, still I kiss old lore.

Fed eye, draw now. One ruse beware, we note.
I dot, sign ill, I knit cadets a war —
A fallen king? I saw one, by a moat….

The two other RETEP sonnets that I know of are both of the Shakespearean or English variety. One was composed by J.A. Lindon in 1972 and the other by me in 2017; they are displayed together in the article "A New Letter-Unit RETEP Sonnet" in the November 2017 issue of *Word Ways* (50,4). Of the three sonnets, "War Ends War" is the one that flows most smoothly and that reads most like a palindromically-unconstrained verse. "War Ends War" is thus not only the first end-to-end-palindromic Petrarchan sonnet ever composed, but is also probably the best RETEP sonnet of any kind to be published to date.

What exactly is RETEP verse? For anyone wishing to delve into the subject, here's a brief explanation: Some years ago it occurred to me that it would make sense to consider all varieties of rhyming, end-to-end-palindromic verse of least four rhymed lines expressing two or more rhymes as constituting a single category of palindromic verse, complex RETEP verse, which was distinct from other less complex and less challenging varieties of rhyming palindromic verse. It seems reasonable to recognize ten main categories of complex RETEP verse, namely, the letter-unit and word-unit varieties of: quatrains and longer stanzas of ABAB-rhymed verse, quatrains and longer stanzas of AABB-rhymed verse, limericks ("palmericks"), Shakespearean sonnets and Petrarchan sonnets. Some other, less common verse forms may also qualify as complex RETEP verse.

Some other *Word Ways* articles featuring complex RETEP verse include:

J.A. Lindon. A Wry Look at Palindromic Verse. *Word Ways*, 5(4), November 1972.
James Puder. Palimericks. *Word Ways*, 30(4), November 1997.
Jim Puder. Palindromy's Unseen "Virtual Verse." *Word Ways*, 35(3), August 2005.
Jim Puder. Return of the Palimerick. *Word Ways*, 40(2), May 2007.
Jim Puder. Rhyming, End-to-End-Palindromic Verse. *Word Ways*, 43(2), May 2010.
Jim Puder. All the Brave New Palindromes. *Word Ways*, 49(2), May 2016.
Jim Puder. Howard Bergerson's Surprise Symphony. *Word Ways*, 50(3), August 2017.
Lori Wike. Palimerick Experiments. *Word Ways*, 50(4), November 2017.
Jim Puder. A New Letter-Unit RETEP Sonnet. *Word Ways*, 50(4), November 2017.
Jim Puder. Two Word-Unit RETEP Sonnets. *Word Ways*, 50(4), November 2017.
Tim Heath. Return of the Magnificent Seven – as Palimericks. *Word Ways*, 51(3), August 2018.
Tim Heath. A Collection of Rhyming Palindromes. *Word Ways*, 52(1), February 2019.
Jim Puder. Six-Line RETEP Verse. *Word Ways*, 52(2), May 2019.

(All issues articles published in *Word Ways, the Journal of Recreational Linguistics*, maybe read and downloaded free of charge at the website Digital Commons @ Butler University.)

MISQUOTATIONS

HUBERT PHILLIPS

In this quiz taken from the great British gamesman and puzzle master Hubert Phillips' 1945 Penguin book Word Play, *anywhere from one to four incorrect words have been substituted into each of the twenty literary quotations which follow; the reader's task is to identify, from memory, the incorrect words and to name the words for which they were substituted. For the modern reader, the most interesting aspect of the quiz may lie in simply seeing the sort of literary quotations that Phillips apparently assumed that any well-read person of those times might reasonably be expected to know by heart. Moderns, by contrast, may consider themselves acceptably literate if they can merely identify the origins and authors of half a dozen or more of the quotations; if in addition they can identify and correct the deliberate errors in as many of these quotations, they may consider themselves relicts of a bygone era.*

I

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing kine wind slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his dreary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me."

II

"To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow
Creeps in this paltry pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The path to dusty death."

III

"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a little cabin build there, of clay and wattle made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the honey'd glade."

IV

"Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!
No hungry generations tread thee down;
The voice I hear this stilly night was heard
In ancient days by conqueror and clown."

V

"Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where gold accumulates, and men decay;
Princes and peers may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroy'd, can never be respied."

VI

"Just for a handful of silver he left us,
Just for a favour to stick in his coat."

VII

"While the earth remaineth, springtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

VIII

"In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and tranquillity:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the fierceness of the tiger."

IX

"I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship, and a star to steer her by."

X

"The slender acacia would not shake
One soft milk-bloom on the tree;
The white lake-blossom fell into the lake
As the pimpernel dozed on the lea;
But the rose was awake all night for your sake,
Knowing your pledges to me."

XI

"Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits and
Are faded into air, into thin air;
And, like the tenuous fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The stately temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this immaterial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind."

XII

"The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,
And his legions were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee."

XIII

"And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came churgling through the branksome wood
And burbled as it came!"

XIV

"Ah, did you once see Shelley plain,
And did he stop and speak to you,
And did you speak to him again?
How odd it seems, and new!"

XV

"The tumult and the shouting dies;
The Warriors and the Kings depart:
Still stands thine honoured sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!"

XVI

"A man so various that he seem'd to be
Not one, but all mankind's epitome.
Tough in opinions, always in the wrong,
Was everything by starts, and nothing long;
But, in the course of one revolving moon,
Was chemist, scribbler, statesman and buffoon."

XVII

"The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why loiter the wheels of his chariot?"

XVIII

"The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Toiling and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a dismal boon!"

XIX

"The friends thou hast, and their allegiance tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with bands of steel."

XX

"Calm Soul of all things! make it mine
To feel, amid the city's jar
That there remains a peace of thine,
Man did not make, and can not mar."

BONUS QUESTION (added by the editor)



This is a portrait of

(A) The author of quotations II, VIII, XI and XIX

(B) Sir Thomas Overbury

(C) Some other dude

(D) No one knows for sure

ANSWERS

I. Thomas Gray, *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*, for KINE read HERD; for DREARY read WEARY.

II. William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, for PALTRY read PETTY; for PATH read WAY.

III. W. B. Yeats, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, for LITTLE read SMALL; for HONEY"D read BEE-LOUD.

IV. John Keats, *Ode to a Nightingale*, for STILLY read PASSING; for CONQUEROR read EMPEROR.

V. Oliver Goldsmith, *The Deserted Village*, for GOLD read WEALTH; for PEERS read LORDS; for RESPIED read SUPPLIED.

VI. Robert Browning, *The Last Leader*, for FAVOUR read RIBAND.

VII. Genesis, for SPRINGTIME read SEEDTIME.

VIII. William Shakespeare, *King Henry V*, for TRANQUILLITY read HUMILITY; for FIERCE-NESS read ACTION.

IX. John Masefield, *Sea-Fever*, for the first SEA read SEAS.

X. Alfred Tennyson, *Maud*, for SOFT read LONG; for CENTAURY read PIMPERNEL; for PLEDGES read PROMISE.

XI. William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, for FADED read MELTED; for TENUOUS read BASELESS; for STATELY read SOLEMN; for IMMATERIAL read INSUBSTANTIAL.

XII. Lord Byron, *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, for LEGIONS read COHORTS.

XIII. Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking-Glass*, for CHURGLING read WHIFFLING; for BRANK-SOME read TULGEY.

XIV. Robert Browning, *Memorabilia*, for ODD read STRANGE.

XV. Rudyard Kipling, *Recessional*, for WARRIORS read CAPTAINS; for HONOURED read ANCIENT.

XVI. John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel*, for TOUGH read STIFF; for SCRIBBLER read FIDDLER.

XVII. Judges, for LOITER read TARRY.

XVIII. William Wordsworth, *The World Is Too Much With Us*, for TOILING read GETTING; for DISMAL read SORDID.

XIX. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, for ALLEGIANCE read ADOPTION; for BANDS read HOOPS.

XX. Matthew Arnold, *Lines Written in Kensington Gardens*, for REMAINS read ABIDES.

BONUS QUESTION: The safe answer is (D); the identity of the sitter for this portrait (often called the Cobbe Shakespeare) remains a matter of controversy. A goodly number of Shakespeare scholars say that it probably is, in fact, a life portrait of Shakespeare, while a similar number assert that it's not. Readers are referred to the "Cobbe Portrait" article in Wikipedia.

UNSPEAKABLE LIMERICKS

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These verses do not rhyme, although the end syllables are spelled the same – hence 'unspeakable'. Each one is headed by the letter group that ends its triplet of three non-rhymes: non-rhyming pairs are too common to be noteworthy. The first example has an ending that serves all five lines.

-ough

There was an old fellow from Slough
Who contracted a serious cough.
He said "Now although
It;s not quite so rough,
I doubt if I'll ever pull through."

-one (UK only)

An idle sixth-former called Bone
Was kept in to get his work done.
But his A-level grades
Nearly all went to Hades
So chances of Uni have gone.

-eat

A man who claimed sausage was great
Said sausage was all he would eat.
It was far from ideal
What he ate every meal
And he's known for the stink of his sweat.

-eat

A farmer who mostly grew wheat
Saw the market collapsing, whereat
He went town to town
Selling beans he had grow,
And that's how he countered the threat.

-our

A lady of seventy four
Embarked on a cultural tour.
She collapsed while in Rome
And before help could come
She died within less than an hour.

-oes

A lady with misshapen toes
Found a cobbler to make her some shoes.
He said it would cost
Seven hundred at most,
And she said "I don't care if it does"

-ole

A Mexican shouted "Ole!
I have made the supreme guacamole"
The product was good
But they said his whole brood
Was given to gross hyperbole.

-over

A German residing in Hannover
Had plans to instal a new lover.
But seeing a message
From men twice her age
He declared the relationship over.

-ier

A sheriff defending the frontier
Must have needed a new magnifier.
His first shot went over.
The next killed his lover.
"This won't look too good on my dossier"

-ely

For a young office worker from Ely
Promotion was rather unlikely.
She had glandular fever
And wasn't *that* clever,
So not one on whom to rely.

-ache

When starting to paint with gouache
This artist developed an ache.
  He tried orthopaedics
  And other fine medics
But was cured by a native Apache.

-ina
.
A Cornishman selling bone china
Had eaten too much semolina.
  He'd set off that day
  From St Mawes to Newquay,
But found that he hadn't the stamina.

-uet

A man at a charity banquet
Became ill when they played a duet.
  "Was it music or food
  Made you feel not so good?"
"The food – I'm allergic to suet"

-ood

An elderly patient called Good
Was unable to keep down his food.
  The doctor said "Sorry,
  But try not to worry.
You have a disease of the blood"

-ear

"The Dodgem I purchased last year"
Said the showman "has broken a gear.
  My insurer has said
  That my claim won't be paid.
I'm not covered for *Fair* wear and tear"

-ater

Said an over-stressed Scotsman from
Ballater
"I must hurry to go and pass water.
  Therefore if anyone
  Should happen to phone,
Say sorry, I'll call them back later"

-ose
A fellow from old San Jose
Was found with a large overdose.
  He'd been on a jaunt
  With his favourite aunt,
But this wasn't the outcome he chose.

-al

A man with a friend in Nepal
Said "I'm rather worse off than my pal.
  My left leg is weak
  And the right has a break
So the lengths of the two are not equal"

-ut

A budding young actress was put
In a film, but her lines were them cut.
  She said "Damn. Oh dear,
  This is so hard to bear,
I was hoping to make my debut"

This last one is a bit Dodgy. It depends how you pronounce 'year'.

TAKE THE MONEY AND PUN
Wordplay Deployed in Real-Life Circumstances

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I once purchased a yogurt-smoothie snack in a squeezable plastic pouch. I dubbed it a *tubal libation*.

When I Googled, I discovered that I had been beaten to the punch line by famed author Harlan Ellison (1934-2018). In a 1977 essay, reprinted in his cleverly titled 1984 book, *Sleepless Nights in the Procrustean Bed,* he recounted the occasion when "tubal ligation" came up in conversation, and "I chose to hear it as tubal *libation* and proceeded to run half a dozen horrendous puns" on the term.

Elsewhere, Ellison confessed a longstanding habit of mishearings, officially called *mondegreens*: "a desire to hear things a little stranger than the speaker intended." A connoisseur of humor, he called puns "a sadly misunderstood delicacy in the confectionery of humor." (Sidebar: Online search also produced *tubal libation* multiple times as a typo.)

Echoing discussions in previous pun compilations, this case raises the eternal conundrum of whether that witty remark you came up with is truly original, or if you've been anticipated. When searching, one usually hopes to find a match. In these situations, perhaps ironically, one hopes *not* to!

For example: A while back, I thought I had invented the arch query: "If something is 'as easy as pie,' does that mean it's 'a piece of cake'?" Then I discovered that several hundred people created it "first." On the other hand, when I titled an article "Ma is the Measure of All Things," I found zero matches. It can sometimes prove impossible to obtain a definitive confirmation either way. For instance, when an email correspondent ignored the substance of my message, I puckishly accused him of "substance abuse." (Cited in *Word Ways,* May 2014.) But given 45 million matches, how would one disambiguate the pun from the literal uses? And of course, not everything ever coined is on the internet.

Following is a new collection of puns in quotidian situations. In many cases, though not all, I was anticipated; see credits and notes on antecedents at end.

- Invited to a party, I quipped: "Like the turtles, I'll be there with shells on!"

- Recently, TCM cablecast the classic horror movie, *The Thing* (1951; remade in 1982). That inspired me to imagine a prequel set during the monster's formative high-school years. Proposed title: *The Principal of The Thing.*

- A milk delivery arrived totally spoiled. I complained: "This is beyond the pail."

- Last year, a newspaper columnist wrote about the 19th-century statesman-philosopher Edmund Burke, emphasizing the relevance of his ideas to current political and social issues. I pictured readers rushing into brick-and-mortar bookshops, inquiring: "Do you have Burke in stock?"

- Regarding minor disagreements, it is better to hash out than lash out. Still, when kerfuffles become unresolvable, I comment: “There are none so blind as those who are not . . . *me*!”

- And continuing on that theme: I sometimes offer advice to selected eleemosynary organizations, without charge. But when the panjandrums ignore my guidance, *pro bono* becomes *pro oh no*!

- Reading the print edition of a weekend newspaper, I spotted an item of interest to a friend and attempted to find it online and supply the link, but without success. I sadly reported my failure, along with the excuse that I had searched six ways from Sunday.

- In related news: A fellow writer asked me to pass along literary allusions I spotted in my reading. Alas, I was unable to discover examples that met his specifications. The allusive proved elusive!

- Though retired as an advertising copywriter, I can’t resist generating ideas gratuitously. When I sampled British crackers made with, of all things, charcoal, I wondered if the manufacturer should adopt the slogan: “Charcoal is the new black.” And I once coined a promising brand name for bullhorns: *Portobellow*.

- At a conference, I was disappointed by the keynote presentation of the famous speaker, who struck me as unprepared and lazy. I suggested to the event planner that as a security measure, the venue should install mental detectors.

- A while back, while writing an online article on punctuation, the editor told me I had to delete the explanation of em dashes (—) because some subscribers received the newsletter in plain text, which garbled certain characters. Of course, I was disappointed. In fact, my hopes were dashed.

- Recently, the elevators in my high-rise residential building were renovated, a major project that took almost a year. Yet after completion, the doors seemed to open more slowly than before. I griped: “What’s up with that?!”

- A friend asked for help with a business proposal. I told her that more examples and success stories should be included. She objected, citing time constraints. Ultimately, I conceded that it was OK to omit them. Tweaking a bromide, I added: “Perfection is the enemy of the *should*.”

- An article referred to a biblical injunction to the effect that wisdom is often to be found in silence. My reaction: “You don’t say!”

Finally, there was the occasion when I was tempted to share the link to an online concert, for which I had paid. Not only was I hesitant to violate the terms, but the site said the link would work on only one device. Imagine my surprise when I began streaming the event on my phone—and heard the program playing simultaneously on my computer in another room. I had left the tab open and it had started automatically. Thus, in a sense, the performance was left to its own devices.

Acknowledgments and credits: For his insights and information, thanks to longtime Harlan Ellison enthusiast Robert Lerose. Title: references going back to 1972, though some are apparently typos for the 1969 Woody Allen film. The following were found, though usually in other contexts: shells (name for earrings), principal, pail (brand of a beer), Burke (headline of a book review in National Review, April 29, 2014), pro oh no, charcoal (many uses for cosmetic products and foods) mental detector (song by the pop group Hyperbole), hopes, what's up, devices.

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