LANGUAGE CORNER: Ask George. May 2009.

Zillion Symmetries...

The intense interest aroused by my last month's discussion of large and very large numbers encourages me to continue! In fact, we were scrutinizing together only two words—<u>billion</u> and <u>trillion</u>.

But can you count beyond them? Have you ever asked yourselves what may come after? In other words, can you count beyond trillion? If you are not so sure, let's do it together! Let's count up to **centillion** and see what happens.

G1: one thousand is followed by 3 zeros, or 10 to the power of 3.

O 1.	one thousand is followed by 3 zeros, or to to the power of 3.		
	million	6	6.
	billion	9	9.
	trillion	12	12.
G2:	quadrillion	15	15.
	quintillion	18	18.
	sextillion	21	21.
	septillion	24	24.
G3:	octillion	27	27.
	nonillion	30	30.
	decillion	33	33.
	vigintillion	63	63.
G4:	centillion	303 zeros	303.
OT.	Continuon	303 LC108	303

So many new words! And all of them, if they were to be accepted by the Chambers Dictionary, would be a treasure trove for the playing of Scrabble!

But from my own *egoistically literary* point of view, they are all tantamount to <u>zillion</u>: a fuzzy, indefinable, most remote sum—quite unencompassable...

ends