

## Book Reviews

David W. Maurer. *Language of the Underworld*. Collected and edited by Allen W. Futrell and Charles B. Wordell. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1981. Pp. xi + 417. Introduction, Epilogue, General Index, and Key Word Index. \$30.

As Stuart Berg Flexner points out in his Foreword to this excellent collection, the late David W. Maurer's work has spanned fifty years and over two hundred books and articles. Now Allan Futrell and Charles Wordell have culled some of the best of Maurer's works and edited them into this useful book. Each of the book's twenty chapters is a lexical subset of the larger set of underworld argot. There are, for example, chapters on "The Argot of Forgery," "The Argot of Pickpockets," and "The Argot of the Faro Bank." Of particular interest to *Names* readers is the brief chapter "Place Names of the Underworld."

In this three-page chapter Maurer has compiled a list of seventy-four underworld nicknames, some of which have now entered legitimate society and Citizens' Band radio. Among these nicknames he lists "The Hut" for Terre Haute, Indiana. "The Morgue," the reader may not be surprised to learn, refers to Philadelphia. Brooklyn is known as "City of the Dead." Moreover, scattered throughout other chapters are occasional place names. In "The Lingo of the Good People" ("Good People" are retired old-timers or former criminals who have "packed the racket in"), "Sleepy Hollow" is a nickname for "the prison at Trenton, N.J." In "Criminal Narcotic Addict Argot," "Needle Park" is the nickname of New York addicts for upper Broadway and Sherman Squares.

Although perhaps not of direct interest to the linguist and onomastician, Maurer's introductions to his lexicons surely would interest social scientists and anyone wanting a glimpse into the underworld. His introductory remarks to "Prostitutes and Criminal Argots" are fascinating. "The old-time prostitute was," he writes, "with a few notable exceptions, a bovine type of low intelligence, no education, negative personality, and emotional immaturity." Perhaps reader skepticism is in order when Maurer writes, "in the 1930s . . . , incredible as it may seem, there were many middle-class women who hardly believed in [prostitution's] existence." Of the prostitute's language, Maurer says it is usually lacking in "the sinister vivacity of language found in so many groups operating outside the law." "Her vocabulary for discussing technique," he writes, "is no more adequate than that of the average semiliterate farm wife." When the prostitute does "step over the line into the salty language," such as recorded by Allen Walker Read in his 1935 book, "it is with a vengeance and a high art," (*Lexical Evidence from Folk Epigraphy in Western North America: A Glossarial Study of the Low Element in the English Vocabulary* — a title suggested in part by Joseph Schlueter Schick.) Social scientist or not, for the reader curious about the three-shell game, Maurer's introduction to "The Argot of the Three-Shell Game" is unique. Maurer says he knows of no other publication which explains the techniques of the game. He is surely correct.

One of the values of knowing words and their meanings is that previously unnoticed phenomena become noticeable. Thus can Maurer's lexicons improve his readers' eyesight. In "The Argot of the Racetrack" he defines "elbow ride" as "a deceptive riding technique by which the jockey seems to be using his hands to urge his horse but is only waving his elbows." In "The Argot of the Moonshiner" Maurer instructs as well as entertains with his humorous understatement when he defines "Horse-Blanket Whiskey" as "a crude form of liquor made by covering a boiling kettle of beer with a heavy, folded horse-blanket. When the blanket is heavy with condensed moisture, two men twist it to extrude the liquor. This technique," Maurer surmises, "is not approved by first-class moonshiners."

Maurer's "The Argot of Confidence Men" contains the most precise and accurate definition of the noun "sting" that this reviewer has found. Standard dictionaries, e.g., *Webster's New World*, and even special dictionaries, e.g., Wentworth and Flexner's *Dictionary of American Slang*, overgeneralize the meaning by defining the verb "sting" as "to cheat, to steal, to overcharge." Yet the movie *The Sting*, directed by George Roy Hill, which won the Best Picture Oscar award in 1973, uses the noun in the more limited sense as Maurer defines it: "The point in a confidence game where a mark's money is taken." And it is in this properly limited, substantive sense that many people now use the word. Parenthetically, the plot of this movie was taken from Maurer's own book *The Big Con* (1940); only recently does the movie now credit him.

As knowledge expands and specialities necessarily become more narrow, scholars and researchers are increasingly accused of dealing in trivialities. More and more the question is asked: "What is the value of this research?" In his Epilogue Maurer poses this very question. Setting aside Raven I. McDavid's essay "American Social Dialects" (1965), this Epilogue is one of the best answers to the question "Why study social dialects?" One of Maurer's answers is that criminal argot is currently moving "without precedence" into the dominant culture. For those of us who teach young college students, Maurer reminds us that ". . . we have seen within the last two decades the mass invasion of a definitely criminal subculture [the underworld narcotic addict] by teenagers . . . from the dominant culture." If we wish to understand this argot, now moving into our classrooms as well as the popular culture, this book is useful. When Kris Kristofferson sings, in "Me and Bobby McGee," the line "I took my harpoon out of my dirty, red bandana and was blowin' sad," only Maurer's book records that a "harpoon" is a "hypodermic needle" (Richard R. Lingeman's *Drugs from A to Z: A Dictionary* does not list the word.)

There are annoying omissions in the book. In "Prostitutes and Criminal Argot," the entry "B. F." is defined as "a pimp. Also JELLY BEAN, P. I." Turning to "jelly bean," we find "See B. F." The Entry for "P. I." reads "See B. F." Nowhere is there any hint of what "B. F.," "P. I." or "jelly bean" mean, stand for as abbreviations, or what their origins are. There is a valuable Key Word Index (pp. 395-417), but there is at least one omission: it fails to index "B. F.," although "P. I." and "jelly bean" are listed. Occasionally phonetic spellings are given, e.g., "Shamus," but then sometimes they are not, even when pronunciations might be questionable. The chapters are arranged chronologically by their dates of original publication, but those publication dates are not indicated on chapter title pages (a seemingly easy addition by the editors). Hence the reader is forced to look elsewhere for the date — year — that Maurer wrote the material. Still, these omissions are minor.

This book should be a useful and, to some, even an indispensable addition to one's library, be it of the linguist, of the lover of words, of the onomastician, of the social

scientist, or of the incipient con man learning the three-shell game and a new way to “sting” his “marks” before he “cackle-bladders” them.

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*Bibliography of Place-Name Literature: United States and Canada*, Third Edition. By Richard Sealock, Margaret M. Sealock, and Margaret S. Powell. Chicago: American Library Association, 1982. Pp. xii + 435.

Bibliographers do not always receive the credit they deserve, an occurrence understandable, for plots and conspiracies are hard to come by in a compilation of titles. For practical hand use, a bibliography is fairly useless, being too small and blunt for a defensive or offensive weapon and hardly large enough to start a good fire. Although I have seen pretentious students and odd professors carry around a copy of *Fear and Trembling* (in translation), or *The Wall Street Journal*, or *New York Review of Books*, or some such status icon, I have yet to see anyone carrying around a book labeled *Bibliography*. A professional boxer needs gloves only to fight, and so the writer needs a bibliography only when invention flags and when facts to shore up a sagging opinion become necessary. A boxer, of course, could do without his (or her) gloves only in bare-fisted fighting, a messy affair now professionally outlawed, and used only in crude conflicts. The writer can ignore a bibliography, too, but either genius is required or ignorance and crudity will seep through.

Anyone, then, who pretends to write about place names in the United States and Canada should, indeed must, consult the Sealock bibliography. Now in its third edition, it also has grown in bulk and importance since the second in 1967 (reviewed by Francis L. Utley, *Names*, 17.164). The number of items is 4,830 compared with 3,489 in the earlier edition, while the number of pages has increased from 352 to 435. The new items reflect the enormous amount of publications in the study of place names since 1967, a period during which major studies appeared, including germinal articles and scholarly books by such outstanding onomasticians as Margaret M. Bryant, Frederic G. Cassidy, W.F.H. Nicolaisen, George R. Stewart, Allen Walker Read, and Wilbur Zelinsky, to name only a few who have listings in the “General” section. It is safe to say that the major works in the history of the study of place names were published during the 15-year period from the second edition to the third.

Each state and province is listed separately, with items continuing in sequence from earlier sections so that easy reference can be made without cluttering the text with a different set of numbers for each state. The section for Canada is listed separately, beginning on p. 310, but the items continue to be numbered in sequence from the section on the United States. The superb index is divided into “Author and Personal Name Index” and “Subject Index,” all covering 25 pages, double-columned. No doubt, this can be called a bibliographer’s bibliography. As an aid to place-name research, it is as nearly perfect as such a work can be.

In his introduction, Dr. Sealock acknowledges the aid of many members of the American Name Society and to the Canadian institutions that provided materials, especially items from the collection at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources of Canada in Ottawa. Also, he calls special attention to the contributions of the late Pauline A. Seely, who collaborated with Sealock to prepare and publish the first two editions. The amount of material to be sifted and processed required many hours and days of constant and tedious research, with the end in view of bringing some order to this mass and building it into the structure now published. The fact that articles on place names all too often appear in obscure magazines and newspapers added to the difficulty, but probably also contributed to the earnestness of the searches. Sealock is generous in his attributing help to so many who have provided material that led to such obscurities being listed.

The American Name Society and others are greatly indebted to Dr. Sealock and his collaborators for their important work and their contribution to the study of places. The rigorous standards set by the editors can only be a stimulation to everyone interested in the ongoing process of research and to adding to the knowledge of ourselves and our surroundings and the manner in which we try to make sense of them by naming.

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*Perkey's Nebraska Place Names.* By Elton A. Perkey. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982. Pp. 227. Paper cover. \$6.95, plus tax for Nebraska residents.

Here is an attractive, scholarly, illustrated, and readable dictionary-type compilation that has more value than as a show piece for a coffee table. According to the index, a 21-page, three-columned list, 3,857 names appear, keyed to counties. The counties are arranged alphabetically in the text, so it is easy to locate the town, even though it may now be a "ghost-town," or a city the size of Omaha.

On May 30, 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed a bill passed by Congress which created the Territory of Nebraska. In 1867, Nebraska became the thirty-seventh state of the Union by proclamation of President Andrew Johnson. Its name comes from the Otoe Indian name of the Platte River, "flat water," the body of water that crosses the entire state, west to east. Two branches of the river come from the west and meet at North Platte, approximately the center of the State. The Platte is sometimes described as being "a mile wide and an inch deep," a colorful exaggeration, but it does indicate the rather flat, "gently rolling," terrain.

The book also includes four pages of bibliography. The author and his wife spent more than 17 years putting the book together. It took ten of those years just to assemble the list. The author, a retired employee of the Los Angeles Post Office Registry Service, has served as historian of the Southern California Chapter of the 41st U.S. Infantry (Sunset Division Association), and his avocation has been Nebraska and Western American history. In 1977-78, *Nebraska History* published Perkey's list, and readers were invited

to comment. More data were thus received are incorporated in the text, making it the "most thorough work done to date in this field, based upon present research," according to Marvin F. Kivett, Director, Nebraska State Historical Society, who wrote the "Introduction."

Thirty-six photographs are included, in no particular order. These depict historical scenes or ones that point up the cultural and social conditions of earlier times. Some of the more important ones include a photo of the famous North Platte Railroad Station, of a pioneer family before their home on the shores of the Niobrara River about 1880, of Nebraska's then-Governor, Samuel R. McKelvie at the (hand) plow, "Breaking ground for the new" State Capitol, Lincoln, 1922, of the crowd that turned out to view the Liberty Bell on July 9, 1915, when it was shown at Fairmont, Fillmore County, of a sod house about 1887, of Willa Cather's home in Red Cloud, and of the "largest round barn in the nation," or one of them anyway, east of Red Cloud.

A bit of history concerns the town of Savage, and can serve to illustrate the type of lore to be found in the compilation. It was established October 29, 1880, and named for an Iowa physician who promised to "build a school in any town named for him along the railroad." However, Mr. Bear, a local minister, objected to his Sunday School being called the "Savage Sunday School." Dr. Savage had not fulfilled his agreement, so the town changed its name to Royal, July 15, 1881.

This book can be picked up and opened to any page, and be read with enjoyment. Mr. Perkey and the Nebraska State Historical Society have produced a valuable, long-lasting addition to Nebraska's history.

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*Toponymie française en Ontario.* By André Lapierre. Montréal: Éditions Études Vivantes, 1981. Pp. 120. Price \$6.50.

André Lapierre proceeds methodically: definition of toponymy, its evolution, origin and meaning of names. The author groups the toponyms into three categories based upon their origin. The first deals with commemorative or dedicatory designations, for instance, honoring the memory of illustrious men or saints, referring to historical facts (example: Ile du Massacre, Massacre Island), transpositioning of toponyms in different areas. The second category concerns the descriptive toponyms such as Rivière du Détroit or Baie Noire." The last category deals with anecdotal or legendary situations. All Ontario naming is under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Geographical Names Board.

Professor Lapierre explains that toponymy in Ontario Province has been constituted by the linguistic layers which followed one another. In most instances the first French missionaries and explorers translated "à la française" Amerindian names, often literal translations, an example being the present Thunder Bay, translated from the French *Baie du Tonnerre*, translated from Amerindian *Animikie WekWed*. French toponymy played a very important role in Ontario over a period of 140 years.

The French toponyms are commemorative (Rivière des Français, French River; Ile du Massacre, Massacre Island) others are descriptive (Gros Cap, Big Cape; Rivière au Raisin, Grapes River). During British domination, the French toponyms for a great part are literally translated into English (Deep River, Lake of the Woods, Thunder Bay); at times the French toponym has been simply replaced by a British name; thus, the former Rivière la Tranche has become Thames River. In some instances one witnesses a bizarre association of French and English as Belle River, Chaudière Falls, Dalles Rapides . . . in which the generic is English and the specific is French. Sometimes there has been a fusion of French elements to create a new English designation: Pointe à Binaux changed to Point Abino; Rivière aux Sables, to Ausable River. However, some toponyms from the Old Regime have survived, such as Pointe Mouillée, Pointe aux Pins, Chenaux and Sault Ste Marie.

During the XIXth century one witnesses the arrival in Ontario of French Canadians from Quebec Province. Thus Prescott-Russell counties welcomed French-speaking colonists who named their settlements after the first pioneers (Lefavre, Lemieux, Fournier) or after their parish (Saint-Isidore-de-Prescott, Saint-Albert).

This repertory is used as a dictionary: the toponyms are presented in alphabetical order, in French. The toponyms of the "Old Regime" which have evolved towards an English form have been presented first in the French original form, then in today's official naming, the latter given in parentheses. Examples: Chien, Lac du (Dog Lake); Tonnerre, Baie du (Thunder Bay).

The toponyms of the French Regime which have survived to the present day are given under the official form. Example: L'Orignal; Sault-Sainte-Marie. The toponyms whose specific French terms were associated with English generics "after the Conquest" are presented only under specific French terms, followed by today's official form in parentheses. Examples: Fénelon (Fenelon Falls)

Antoine (Antoine Creek)

Integral French toponyms are presented under their official form: Examples: Eau-Claire; Val-Caron). When a toponym is formed by a substantive followed by an adjective, the entry appears under the adjective followed by the substantive, the two separated by a comma : (Examples : Noire, Baie; Seul, Lac). When a toponym is formed by an adjective followed by a substantive, the entry appears under the adjective followed immediately by the substantive. (Examples: Belle Rivière; Petite Côte). An index gives the toponyms by geographical entity. For instance, the East Castor River, Little Castor River, Middle Castor River, North Castor River are found under "Castor."

The book has two maps. The first deals with toponyms of the Old Regime; the second concerns the period following the "Conquest." *Toponymie française en Ontario* is very well presented, easy to follow and usable as a teaching device, thanks to the clarity of its explanations and the "questionnaire" as well as to the wealth of information which is given. The layman fond of French heritage in North America will enjoy reading the 120 pages of this informative work.

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*Wyoming Post Offices 1850–1980.* By John S. Gallagher and Alan H. Patera. Burtonsville, Md.: The Depot, 1980. pp. 176. Price \$18.00 for this and following publication.

*A Checklist of Wyoming Post Offices.* By John S. Gallagher and Alan H. Patera. Burtonsville, Md.: The Depot, 1980. Price \$4.00.

Two publications intended primarily for postmark buffs are nevertheless of considerable interest to place-name researchers. The first and longer publication provides a short history of Wyoming, maps showing county changes in number and name, a statement of research methods, and a brief bibliography. The main portion of the book is the list of post offices, past and present, by county. Under each county entry there is a brief county history, a county map, and the post office list. First postmasters for each post office are listed separately. There are some photographs of places in almost every county. A series of appendices provide additional useful information such as local names existing in competition with official names, population figures, an alphabetical post office list, and pre-territorial post offices. One imagines that most statistics concerning Wyoming post offices are present in this volume.

The second publication, i.e., the one paginated 153–168, appears to be an abridgement of the first, and probably a part of the series listed on the inside back cover. This series includes post offices in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Utah, Minnesota, Ohio, a part of Washington, and California. It is not possible to say whether these offerings are of the unabridged or abridged variety, but similar information undoubtedly can be assumed in each one. The abridgement lacks the explications and maps and merely lists post offices with dates, counties, etc. For someone who wants only this information, it is an important resource.

Both book and pamphlet show clearly the advantages of mechanized information management, and alternative presentations of data. Neither publication qualifies as inspirational reading, but they do meet the goal of concise information presentation very admirably. Either one would be especially helpful in the early stages of research.

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*Character Names in Dostoevsky's Fiction.* By Charles E. Passage. Ann Arbor, MI, Ardis 2901 Heatherway, 1982. Pp. 40.

The notes and comments in the “Nauka” edition of Dostoevski’s works (of which half of the 30 projected volumes have appeared from this Leningrad publisher since 1972) and articles such as S. V. Belov’s “Imena i familii u F. M. Dostojevskogo” (*Russkaja reč*, V, 1976, 27–31) have made the onomastic aspects of this great Russian writer’s “fantas-

tic realism” known to foreign readers, but the English-speaking world has until now had to be content with passing references in general studies such as R. A. Peace’s *Dostoyevsky: An Examination of the Major Novels* (Cambridge University Press, 1971) and narrow names studies of major works such as “The Meaning and Symbolism in the Names of Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment* and *The Idiot*” by Ervin C. Brody, published in this journal (*Names*, XXVII, 1979, 117–140). Now 513 family names in Dostoevsky’s fiction are elucidated for English readers in Charles E. Passage’s *Character Names in Dostoevsky’s Fiction* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Ardis, 1982). Author of *Dostoevski the Adapter* and *The Russian Hoffmannists*, translator of Goethe, Schiller, and other German authors, Professor Emeritus Passage was once my valued colleague at Brooklyn College CUNY, and I am very pleased to be able to say at the start that his high scholarly standards are everywhere in evidence in this work, a very sound and useful book that in no way needs embarrass this admirer as he writes in praise of it.

Analyzing every name in Dostoevski’s early and late fiction, short stories and novels, Professor Passage demonstrates fully how the maser selected and invented character names, as when the midshipman turned shyster lawyer in *A Raw Youth* is called Osetrov (“sturgeon” or “pike,” both marine and voracious) or the central character in *Crime and Punishment* is named Raskolnikov (a name suggesting “split asunder,” a key to his schizophrenic personality). He shows us the odd combination of “lion” and “mouse” in Lev Myshkin of *The Idiot*, how Stravrogin of *The Possessed* is “born of the cross [of Christ],” how Versilov of *A Raw Youth* has a name that hints at *verzila* (“oaf”), how Belmesova in *The Brothers Karamazov* would have triggered in a Russian reader’s mind the colloquial expression *on ni belmesa ne smyslit* (“he doesn’t know a damn thing,” *belmes* being said to be Tatar for “fool”). As for the three brothers:

To come back to the three brothers of the novel’s title, we feel that it is not extravagant to hold that the ‘earthly’ ‘Dmítri,’ whose name comes ultimately from the goddess Demeter, quite possibly in the erroneous interpretation of ‘earth mother,’ stands for ‘the body of man’; or to hold that the intellectual Iván stands for ‘the mind of man’, and that the spiritual Alyósha, who is named for ‘Aleksii, the man of God’ [‘defender’], stands for ‘the soul of man.’ In short, Dostoevski has, in the book, created a mighty, tripartite ‘myth of mankind.’

You will note that Professor Passage has provided accents to convey the Russian pronunciation of names in this paragraph, and this is so throughout the book. Intended as it is for English readers, the book’s going to extra trouble and expense to offer this accurate information on a difficult topic will be, I think, especially appreciated. It is probably well known that primary accents are greatly stressed in Russian — and among English readers it is not at all well known where they ought to fall. We might guess at the accent of Marfa (Martha) but what would the average person do, without help, with the name of Iván Ilyích Tvorógov (related to *dvarógov* = “two horns,” that is, a cuckold, not *tvoróg* = “cheese curd”) of *Another Man’s Wife* or Sófyá Matvéevna Ulítina (the Gospel Woman of the epilogue of *The Possessed*, whose truth travels at a snail’s pace: Greek *sophía* = “wisdom, Russian *ultíka* = “snail”)? It is also helpful to learn that the serving woman in *White Nights* is ‘Fékla (pronounced Fyókla)’ and so on. Throughout, in connection with pronunciation as well as meaning, we can rely on Professor Passage’s expertise, assisted as he was by Professor Yvette Louria of Queens College CUNY and other native speakers of Russian. Professor Passage briefly notes that “rules about



placement of Russian accent are difficult to formulate” and non-Russians need all the help we can get.

In addition to the etymologies and implications of every name in Dostoevski’s fiction, the book offers brief summaries of all the tales and novels, which will highly recommend it to students who need convenient potted versions of the plots. The plot summaries are of course only incidental to the discussions of names, but they are concisely and intelligently done, the care with which (for instance) the allegorical interpretation usually given the grotesque story of “The Crocodile” is handled being typical: no more is made of the standard, if strange, reading of the text than can be made of the names Strizhov (*strizh* = “sand-martin,” a shore bird one cannot well see relevant to the narrator who bears the name) or *Skapidarova* (*sakpidar* = “turpentine”).

Part II of the study deals with the types of family names (“son” names such as *Efimovich* and *Stephanov*, occupational names such as *Plotnikov*, from the word for “carpenter”; topographically-derived names, such as *Radomiski*; names based on personal peculiarities, such as *Korotki*, from the word for “short”; and names derived from animals, such as *Valkovski* from “wolf,” *Sokolski* from “falcon,” and *Elkin* from “fir tree”), the relationship of names to social classes, and the groups of names for doctors (many Germano-Russians), the English, the French, the Germans, the Poles, the Ukrainians, and the Jews. There are comments on the names of servants, of narrators, and useful lists of forenames for Russians and non-Russians, etc. Oddly, the master’s own forename Fyodor is borne only by “base and unsympathetic characters,” whether in that form or as a nickname (Fedka = “Teddy”). English names get more than usually mangled: witness *Smith* as both *Smit* and *Shmidt*.

I believe that more could be made of what I have called the “distancing” effect of obviously significant names, and I wonder if we ought in translations to have the names translated as well, where a point is being made in the original, or (since that would considerably alter the credibility, as one might say, of a story) at least footnotes explaining the author’s intent and the effect upon his native-speaking readers.

Old Maximov in *The Brothers Karamazov* (where the surname, by the way, suggests “black smear”) comments on the “allegory in Gogol”, where “all the names have meaning.” Today when literary onomastics is now on some fronts being challenged as “unscientific,” it is worth noting that (as Coleridge said) in great works of art there must be for every single detail a reason why it is “thus, and not otherwise” — all names in all fiction must function one way or another, to attract attention to themselves or just to appear “ordinary” and give the semblance of reality. How names function, especially those that do attract attention to the “cortex” of the text and hint at important analogical matters in the “nucleus,” in literary onomastics require sensibility as well as scientific method, and we must not forget that literary onomastics is part of the art (not science) of criticism. There must be leeway for opinion, and so long as conjecture (when required) is handled with the taste and responsibility we see in Professor Passage’s book readers will in no way be tempted to dismiss criticism as hopelessly subjective.

Professor Passage’s interesting but brief references to Gogol as a master of the Russian literary onomastic technique, as well as A. F. Coleman’s comments *en passant* on this topic in *Humor in the Russian Comedy from Catherine to Gogol* (Columbia University Press, 1925), suggest still another application of *Character Names in Dostoevsky’s Fiction*: Professor Passage’s book, the most complete work in any language on the names in Dostoevski, valuable in itself, can also serve as a model for someone to follow to

produce for English readers *Character Names in Gogol's Fiction*. That would be, also, a very promising project, and Gogol's rich name-play to date has been touched on only very briefly by Russians such as V. N. Michailov (in *Russkij jazyk v škole*, XV, 2, 1954, 40–48) and B. M. Eichenbaum (in Streidter and Kośny's *Texte der russischen Formalisten*, I, 1969). *Character Names in Dostoevsky's Fiction* is precisely what studies of this sort ought to be. It is an achievement and an inspiration.

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*The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*. By Alberto Manguel and Gianni Gaudalupi. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1980. Pp. 438. \$24.95, list, before being remaindered.

Launched with some fanfare and a few favorable reviews in mass media magazines, this dictionary should have appealed to science fiction devotees as well as to the fantasy mongers of the Tolkien stripe. Unfortunately, it just never caught on and was remaindered in short order and, comparatively, for a cheap price. Perhaps its coffee-table format, its rather steep asking price, and its quite scholarly bent kept those whose visual abilities move slightly beyond the Pac-man stage to a smidgen of putting together letters from buying these insights into and knowledge of byways of escapist realms.

Those addicted to the marvelous without ever experiencing it other than in imagination, however, can relish the descriptions and origins of skull places such as Land of the Glittering Plain, without being hazed by the fogs and bogs of Scotland; Nexdorea, without marrying the beautiful girls who are allowed to grow up without being taught their own language; the land of the Chitterlings, where tourists of the mind can mingle with "the hereditary enemies of King Quaresmeprenant of Sneaks Island"; Satinland, where all roads are made of cloth and trees never lose their leaves; or Tallstoria, where the people never have desired to increase their territory. Many of these exotic places are mapped, with guide markers and legends of real distances from the workaday world of measurement.

The authors, who must not be confused with mere compilers, found themselves with such a wealth of fantasies and landscapes that they had to restrict the number of entries. For instance, heavens and hells are omitted, but these can be supplied in plenty by the haunted reader educated enough to read this dictionary and who has consort with enough spirits of good and evil persuasions without adding more. Pseudonyms of existing locales are omitted, such as Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha, Trollope's Barchester, and Hardy's Wessex. Sometimes the scapes of nightmare were invoked to help decide whether to include, say, Dickens' Satis House or Doyle's Baskerville Hall, the latter winning for its deranged descriptions. And so on. What is omitted becomes in its way as important as what was admitted.

Capillaria was admitted but should not be visited by men; if they do dare, then they should not reveal their sex lest they be eaten by the women who inhabit the extensive

submarine country on the ocean bed thirteen thousand feet beneath the surface between Norway and the United States. Here, women over six feet tall and blonde, "hair that floats around them like a cloud," live as perfections of nature. Being self-impregnated and self-propagating, they have eliminated from their body politic the ugly organ that originally "performed the function of impregnation." Still, that terrible parasite lives as a *bullpop*, itself reproduced by the women. Bullpops are obnoxious vermin that try to compete with the women but always lose. Their towers are constantly demolished, reduced to flab and soft gristle. All this nonsense can be found in logical form in *Capillaria*, by Frigyes Karinthy (Budapest, 1921).

The fantasies of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Edgar R. Burroughs, Ursula Le Guin, Lloyd Alexander, Edward Lear, Howard Lovecraft, and a few hundred other purveyors of creeping frights and subliminal erotica occupy page after page with their placenames and thorough and very exact descriptions of the deviant events that occur in them. The index of authors and titles contains the wealth of teasers that lead on to other places, other escape communities that somehow fulfill more than just a desire to replace real place, perhaps a beyond that even Jungian psychologists never penetrated. Of course, analyses always suggest practicality, sanity, and unedged clarity. But these novelists are different in their creations, perhaps dangerous in the implications of their spaces and characters, yet not moreso probably than those addicted to "logical and sane" plots.

Entries include generics such as lakes, fields, caves, peaks, and others, but the more provoking and hairy entries are for imaginary countries in which the authors have created their own brands of utopias or dystopias, depending on the mind bents. These extensions do little more than redraft real cultures, making them palatable for the senses if not for the sensation. Nova Solyma may be taken as an example, a rather mundane one but typical. Here no fraud, gambling, secret lawless love, or hypocrisies exist. Just good old traditional straights thrive here where each year takes place a "pageant on the anniversary of its founding and a virgin is chosen to represent the daughter of Zion," A Miss Zion, for sure. In passing, we note that boys are taught to worship God and love their country — nothing about mothers —, and girls get no education. In general, women do not fare well in these "topias."

Authors are not the only ones who invent "good lands." Some of our better citizens and heroes need their places of fulfillment. For instance, John Lennon, *Mind Games* (London, 1973), created Nutopia, a country with no land, no boundaries, no passports, and an embassy with an address. Then for the grown-up younger set, there is Pepperland, where the Pepperlanders "are players and lovers of music," and where the Blue Meanies are overcome by the Beatles' music and driven off to Argentina, a real place with real tragedies, but not so believed by the director of *Yellow Submarine*. Yes, we act out our vendettas, hatreds, and murderous schemes in our imaginary worlds, but only artists seem to be able to make them somehow real, a kind of reverse logistic, almost a plain dyslogistic situation.

The languages of the countries have their uniqueness, but not much. Strangely, all the languages encountered in these "topias" are possible, while the lands are not. Although all places are extensions of human cultural habits, the authors of imaginations par excellence usually attempt to make language a "ladies' jewellery capable of speech," if I may invoke Diderot's *Les Bifoux indiscrets*. Despite attempts by the authors, the languages fit our own universal patterns, a reflex of the human mind, perhaps. Still, not enough has been made of the structure of the lingual inventions that occur in these imaginary countries.

In sum, the dictionary is more than a romp through the spaces between ears. On the contrary, it is a serious attempt to place before us summaries of some of the best cultures that man never lived.

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*Philadelphia Naturalization Records, 1789–1880: An Index to Records of Alien's Declarations of Intention and/or Oaths of Allegiance, 1789–1880.* By William Filby, ed. Detroit 48226: Gale Research Co., Book Tower, 1982. Pp. xx + 716. \$145.00.

The editors at Gale Research Company continue to provide vast amounts of material that can be used by onomatologists, historians, and genealogists, as well as by those who are concerned only with the social and cultural aspects of American culture. The publication of the Philadelphia naturalization records is a case in point. They were deemed of sufficient importance to have been made a project for compilation by the Works Projects Administration (WPA), an undertaking which in a sense was successful in that it culminated in an eleven-volume index (finished probably in 1940) under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Now, Gale has published in one volume the index that had until now existed only in carbon-copy, typed form, and not known by many as existing at all. Had it not appeared as the result of an entry number in *A Bibliography of Ship Passengers Lists, 1538–1825* (New York: The New York Public Library, 1963), it probably would have disappeared.

The importance of the index was first publicly illustrated by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of about 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, 3 vols. (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981), the preliminary volume of which was reviewed in *Names* 28 (1980), 293. About one-fourth of the names they indexed came from the unpublished and almost unusable index. When researchers began to look forward to working with the source, they found it practically unavailable for any kind of use, much less extensive handling, a necessity if the material was to be of any value. The result of this frustration and need is the present publication of all the records.

Filby has done a remarkable job of editing, enough so that each entry provides the surname, first name or initial (if that only is available), the country of former allegiance, court of disposition, and date of declaration or of oath, all usually on one line, the only departure from the method occurring if there is a variation in the name. In the introduction, the editor presents full-size examples of the petitions (both declarations and intents) that were actually used by petitioners. He also gives a historical account of the types of naturalization laws in effect during the dates covered.

The court record can be easily found from the information furnished in the index. Often, the date of birth of the petitioner and other incidental information can be found on the court document. A guide is also provided so that a researcher can find the present

location of the papers and “a full address of all court records cited in the index.” The courts covered are the United States Circuit Court, United States District Court, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Quarter Sessions Court, and Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia. The index has approximately 120,000 entries, some 7,000 of them duplications, the latter cross-referenced.

One interesting observation is that very few female names appear in the lists. A spot check revealed that there are probably fewer than an average of one a page in the 700-plus pages which average a bit more than 170 names to a page. Filby provides a partial answer: “. . . until 1922, married females automatically became citizens when their husbands received citizenship . . .” No law existed to prevent females from going through the system; but from the lists noted here, few apparently did.

Although 92 “countries” of former allegiance” are abbreviated, many of these were no more than recognized regions. The “melting” had not begun, if we may use the names as observation points. Page after page of entries contain only West European names, such as Great Britain, Germany, England, Scotland, with an occasional France, Italy, Russia listing. The flow of immigrants from the Eastern European countries and from the Mediterranean areas was still to come. The extremely large number of German immigrants who petitioned for naturalization can be culturally revealing but hardly surprising. Some enterprising social historian should make a study of the ethnicity of the persons behind the names in the index.

The compilation is an imposing and valuable document that will find many users — and uses. No doubt, Gale will follow up with naturalization records of other regions, although it can be safely doubted that a mother lode of such magnitude and richness will be uncovered. We can only wonder what other compilations await either the garbage can or the care of an editor such as Filby with the backing of a publishing company that cares.

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#### REVIEW NOTES

It is no longer astonishing to find in the mail new works on names, old ones with current material, venerable ones with well-reasoned articles, or those in between. Age somehow becomes current when these items arrive. Although *Names* does not usually contain reviews of magazines devoted to names, many of the publications deserve as much review space as do books. For that reason, some will be noted, not extensively. Such comments will not preclude a full-length review later if the Book Review Editor deems so. Generally, here will be only observations, listings, and enthusiastic approval.

A new publication has just appeared under the editorship of the indefatigable Gerald Leonard Cohen, *Interesting Missouri Place Names*, Volume I (Rolla, MO, 1982, pp. v + 76, paper cover, \$3.00 for individuals, \$5.00 for libraries), and can be obtained from The Editor, Humanities Department, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO, 65401. Professor Cohen also publishes *Comments on Etymology*.

Missouri has long been a vanguard name in place-name study, with Robert L. Ramsay and Allen Walker Read leaders without peer. Their models have inspired and stimulated many to work in onomastics, for Ramsay and Read were teachers first, then researchers and writers. In fact, it might be said with good evidence that they contributed more than any others to the continued interest in American place names, although this must not detract too much from the catalytic early work by George R. Stewart, who surveyed a much larger landscape. Still, the work by Ramsay and Read may have ultimately been more important in involving others to look at the immediate surroundings and identify the trees that make up the forest.

The first article by Adolf Schroeder, "Robert L. Ramsay and the Study of Missouri Place Names," details the work that Ramsay and the young Read did for place names. From Ramsay's infectious inspiration, several theses were completed. Further, he planned the first survey, which Schroeder calls "undoubtedly one of the most thoroughly planned, best sustained, and most fully realized research projects never to be published." The recent work of Cohen and others is also discussed. This article is an important contribution to the history of place-name study in the United States.

The bulk of the publication is taken with discussion of the origins of "interesting" place names: Rat, Ink, Impo, Old Dishrag School, Hickory, Bucksnot Creek, Tightwad, Needmore, Racket, Peculiar, Shakerag, Safe, Monkey Run, Crybaby Holler, The Twilight School, The Forum, Three Johns School, Waterloo School, Nogo, and Barely Do. Good material can be found here, added importance being that the stories behind the names are recounted, avoiding the sanitized emasculation of the dictionary entry. A final article, "Checking on Whether the Washington Postal Department ever Ordered Postal Names to be Short," investigates the rumor that such a directive did appear. It did. This bit of information may help others account for early place names that have few letters. A bibliography of works on Missouri place names is appended. Altogether, this is an impressive beginning for a place-name publication.

Another member of the American Name Society who has contributed consistently to the study of place names is Alan Rayburn, the moving force behind *Canoma*, the latest issue — at ANS press time — being Vol. 8, No. 1 (July/juillet 1982), available from the Secretariat, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 6th Floor, 615 Booth Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A, OE9, Canada, and edited by Helen Kerfoot and Denise Patry, with assistance from Alan Rayburn, René Leduc, and Kathleen O'Brien. *Canoma* contains "news and views concerning Canadian toponymy compiled by the Secretariat," all well edited and published in a pleasing format. Parenthetically, the United States should also have such a national publication, but we probably have our priorities in other places, one being the lack of someone with the energy and the intelligence of a Rayburn to initiate it.

The first article, "Developments in Canadian Toponymy: 1977–1982," by Jean-Paul Drolet, is the "Report for presentation on behalf of Canada to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, August 24–September 1982." Others are Alan Rayburn, "Reflections of Switzerland in Canadian Toponymy"; William B. Hamilton, "Canada and its Provinces: The Naming of their Capital Cities"; La Commission de toponymie du Québec, "La Toponymie Québécoise au Rythme des Régions"; Alan Rayburn, "Chief Geographer's Place Name Survey: 1905–1909, V. Northern Ontario"; G. F. Holm, "Further Aspects of Manitoba Place Names"; and C. S. L. Ommanney, "Toponymic Recognition for Glaciologist Fritz Muller." Maps and very clear photographs serve as illustrations. This is a classy publication, indeed, and one that should be known by American Name Society members.

*Onomastica*, founded by J. B. Rudnyčyj in 1951, has just published No. 61 (Ottawa: Canadian Society for the Study of Names, 1982), obtainable from Secretary-Treasurer, Box 6626, Postal Station J., Ottawa K2A 3Y7, Canada. Professor Rudnyčyj, a former President of the American

Name Society, is represented here by "Cape Khromchenko — a Ukrainian Toponym in Alaska." The other articles are Jean-Yves Dugas, "La Problematique Terminologique en Toponymie Québécoise," and Michael Nogrady, "Selected Hungarian Place Names in Canada." Reviews of recent onomastic publications round out the number.

The oldest and until very recently the only state placename publication in the United States is *Names in South Carolina*, edited from its beginning by Claude Henry Neuffer, the founder. Published at the Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, it is now in Vol. XXIX (Winter, 1982). The contents are strictly South Carolinian, with articles and notes on plantations, ferries and landings on Black River, streets of Florence, Chester names, Pinopolis Village, and South Carolina names in West Alabama.

Two books of interest by members were recently published: Burton R. Pollin, *Word Index to Poe's Fiction* (Staten Island, NY 10304: Gordian Press, Inc., 85 Tompkins Street, P.O. Box 304, 1982), \$25.00; and Walter M. Brash, *Black English and the Mass Media* (Amherst, MA 01004: The University of Massachusetts Press, Box 429, 1982), \$25.00.

The Editor of *Names* would appreciate receiving from members signed reviews or notices of items such as theses, dissertations, books, and other publications that do not often come to the Book Review Editor. Especially needed is information on theses and dissertations.

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