Book Reviews

From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho: A Place Name Dictionary. By Lalia Phipps Boone. A publication of the Idaho Place Name Project. 1983. Paperbound. Pp. 120. Selected bibliography. Distributed by Latah County Historical Society, 110 South Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Price $7.95 plus $1.00 postage.

Lalia Boone, a former officer of the American Name Society, began work on Idaho place names as a hobby when she moved to the state in 1966 as a professor of English at the University of Idaho. In the ensuing years she has collected a wealth of material which is soon to be published as a comprehensive place name dictionary for Idaho. The subject of this review is a separate publication, a detailed treatment of place names in the county of her residence, Latah, the county she knows best. It is not only a reference work but a treasure house of Latah County history.

This is the first name dictionary for the county. It includes data on 99 settlements, of which only 11 remain as viable communities; 140 schools; 122 creeks and rivers; 30 gulches and canyons; 24 meadows, flats, and hollows; 24 mines; 51 post offices; 72 promontories; 39 recreational sites; 13 registered farms; 20 trail stops; 10 cemeteries; and 7 historic sites. (Mines and cemeteries are listed only if they appear on maps.) In addition it lists many other points of historical or topographical interest.

For each item the location is given in Township, Range, and Section and also descriptively in relationship to the area within the county or to nearby features. Where it applies, the topography has been noted, as have such historic data as have been obtainable to this date. Information has been gleaned from maps, atlases, land records, early histories and newspapers, school records, records of the U.S. Forest Service and Postal Service, from diaries, personal memoirs, and publications of historical societies.

Latah County lies along the western border of the Idaho panhandle, about 160 miles south of the Canadian border. It has an area of 1090 square miles; in 1980 its population was 28,749. In altitude it ranges from an elevation of 1075′ to more than 5000′. The terrain is likewise varied and includes mountainous mining and lumbering areas as well as rich farm land. Historically it is not far removed in time from frontier days. Until miners came in the 1860s, the only white men to visit the area were trappers, traders, and missionaries.

The northern part of the county saw considerable mining activity in the late 1800s. Hardly a creek, ledge, or dry gulch exists that has not been prospected, sluiced, or mined. But miners tended to move on, looking for richer prospects. At present mining in the county is almost non-existent. Not until the 1870s did permanent settlers arrive in substantial numbers, seeking farm land. In the early 1900s lumbering came to play an important part as the white pine forests of the eastern part of the county were logged, and the Potlatch Lumber Company built a company town and what was then the largest sawmill in the U.S.

Because of the county's location, one might expect to find a large number of sites named by Indians, but such is not the case. Native Americans did not live there, though

the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes lived not far away. The Nez Perce, in particular, frequently traveled through what is now Latah County, camping in the area every summer to dig camas root, a staple of their diet. Vestiges of well-worn Indian trails can still be seen, and reservations exist today in two neighboring counties, Benewah and Nez Perce. Some Indian names are still current, but the sites were not named by Native Americans.

The north and northwest sections of the county are part of an area called the Palouse Country, which also includes part of adjacent Benewah County and the central part of Eastern Washington. It is an agricultural area of rolling hills which were covered with luxuriant grass when the first settlers arrived. It has long been accepted that French trappers gave it the name *Palouse* from the French 'pelouse', meaning 'grass, lawn, or a green.' Recent research, however, indicates that it may have come from the name of the major village of the Palouse Indians. This comes from the Sehaptin name 'Palus', which referred to a large rock the tribe believed to be the solidified heart of Beaver, an important element in their religious beliefs. In Latah County are found the Palouse River, Palouse Bridge, and the Palouse Range of mountains.

The name *Latah* is derived from Nez Perce roots, but it was created by white men. By combining the first syllables of 'Lah-kah', meaning 'pine tree,' and 'Tah-ol', meaning 'pestle' (the stone tool used to grind the camas root into flour), early white leaders came up with Latah, meaning 'the place of the pine and the pestle.'

Camas comes from a Chinook Indian word, 'quamash', but there is nothing to indicate that Indians gave the name to Camas Creek. Miners in the 1870s probably named it for the camas plant, which grew there abundantly.

Similarly, *Potlatch* derives from Chinook 'patshatl'. It signified a ceremonial gathering of tribes at which gifts were often exchanged. According to Dr. Boone, one site for a potlatch was on Potlatch Creek. "The name transferred from this creek to the river, to other large tributaries of the river, to the general area, and finally to the first very large lumber company in the area."

A good many streams have names derived from Chinook jargon, the *lingua franca* of Pacific Northwest tribes. This was a pidgin language consisting of a simplified form of the Chinook language mixed with vocabulary elements from English, French, and neighboring American Indian languages. It was used for communication between the northwest Indians and early American fur traders, trappers, and settlers. W. H. Daugs, a U.S. Forest Service ranger, had the task of naming some of the streams flowing into the Palouse River system. For many of them he chose Chinook words which he judged to be appropriate to the character of the various streams. So today the maps show creeks named Hyack, 'swift'; Ipsoot, 'hidden'; Kiwa, 'crooked'; Klawa, 'slow'; Sypah, 'straight'; Talapus, 'coyote'; and Wepah, 'dry'. Yakala was formed from Chinook meaning 'here' and 'surprise'. Daugs named a well hidden stream Pardus Creek, a corruption of the French *perdu,* 'lost'. Still another he called Olevan Creek, a corruption of French *au le vent,* 'toward the wind'.

It is interesting to note that Daugs did not limit himself to Chinook jargon but dipped into other languages in his quest for appropriate names, into Italian for Laguna Creek, 'swampy', and into Latin for Secunda Creek, the second stream of a series. Some of his choices were from English. Dual Creek and Triplet Creek indicate the number of streams forming drainage patterns; Torpid Creek shows the nature of the stream. Arson Creek was so named because of a number of man-caused fires which occurred in the area. Daugs is credited with having named some twenty watercourses, surely more names on the land in Latah County than were the work of any other single person.

A book of this kind throws valuable light on how names are chosen and how they mirror the character of the area and its inhabitants. The author writes, "The place names of Latah County are more than mere identifiers. They reflect all that has happened here over a very long period of time." Not surprisingly, many of them are names of persons. Schools often acquired the names of the settlers on whose land they were located; a post office was often named for its first postmaster; a village took on the name of the first settler. Often the names remain, although the people may have been forgotten.

Some names denote physical features, for example, Basalt Hill, Swamp Creek, or Bedrock Gulch. Such names as Pigeon Hollow, Moose Meadow, and Gray Eagle School reflect the wild life found in the area, while Wild Rose Cemetery, Cedar Grove, and Fern Hill School give an idea of the vegetation.

The early mining activity left many evidences of its extent in the place names: Gold Hill, Hope Creek, Micaville, Emerald and Ruby Creeks, Eldorado Gulch, Placer Creek, Garnet Gulch, Quartz Creek, Mineral Mountain, Prospect Peak. Mines were named Copper King, Gem Lode, Gold Bug. Names specific to the lumber industry are fewer, though tree names frequently appear in the county. Aspendale, Cedar Creek, and Pine Creek were settlements, but they may have been so named simply because of tree varieties common to the area. Slabtown, however, was a community in the heart of the timber country. The largest remaining stand of white pine in the U.S. inspired numerous names: White Pine Creek, White Pine Flat, White Pine Gulch, White Pine School, and White Pine Scenic Drive. A tree reputed to be the largest white pine in the nation was felled in 1911. It was 425 years old and scaled out 28,900 board feet of lumber. It was called White Pine King.

Place names can often give clues to the origins of early settlers. Thus communities called Little Sweden, Norwegian Ridge, and Swedetown tell something about the many Scandinavians who settled in the county by 1910. The numerous Chinese, however, who worked the mines in the late 1800s have left no names on the land, perhaps because they were resented and looked down upon by Caucasians. Most Chinese had moved on by 1900.

A few settlers nostalgically named new communities for home towns in the Midwest. One named his for Princeton, Minnesota, setting in motion a chain of events which resulted in one of the most interesting series of names in the county's history. When the Potlatch Lumber Company built a railroad to serve its new lumber mill and company town, the next station after Princeton was named Harvard. It was chosen by a man from Massachusetts who was mindful of the rivalry between the two Eastern colleges, Princeton and Harvard. Intrigued by this development, college students from the East who worked on the railroad in summertime managed to get other rail stops named for Yale, Stanford, Vassar, Cornell, Wellesley, and Purdue.

The author's treatment of the 140 schools and the 51 post offices (of which only 11 are now active) is unusually detailed. In sparcely settled rural Latah County schools were often only one or two miles apart, so that pupils could reach them on foot. Hence the large number of one- and two-room elementary schools appearing on maps. Consolidation, which began in the 1930s, has reduced the number of districts to five. Unfortunately, early school records, like files of early newspapers, are incomplete, but Dr. Boone has drawn on school censuses, state education directories, and county financial records, as well as on personal memoirs. Many teachers are listed by name, as are families served by rural schools. Because schools played such an important part in the social as well as the educational life of early communities, this information deserves to be preserved.

The strength of this book lies in the depth of the author's research and in her eye for historical detail. In addition to bringing together valuable information about how place names came to be, it sheds light on the social history of the place and time and on some of the enterprising men and women whose vision shaped the course of the county's development. Softbound, with an attractive cover design and large, readable type, this dictionary is a fine reference work and can be read for enjoyment by those with no experience of Latah County. It should be in the library of anyone who has ever lived there.

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Arizona's Names: (X Marks The Place). By Byrd Howell Granger. Foreword by Senator Barry Goldwater, Illustrations by Connie Asch, Maps by the Author. The Falconer Publishing Co., 1983. Distributed by Treasure Chest Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 5250, Tucson, Arizona 84703. Appendix, Bibliog. Pp. viii + 824. $29.95. Cloth.

This is a "must" book for anyone interested in the history and names of Arizona, or in names in general. A prodigious amount of scholarly work and care went into the compilation and editing. It is an obvious labor of love on the part of the author and those who helped her.

The book has many virtues. Not least of them is that the reader does not have to take the author's statements on faith. Sources are meticulously documented; informants are identified; and practically everything can be checked. To be sure, some origins are ascribed to local legends; but even in those cases the source, usually published, is cited. Speculations are explicitly so. The bibliography lists 361 books, articles, reports, museum notes, and whole collections. One item, numbered 242, covers "National Archives of the United States . . . Military and Postal Maps and Record Groups, including papers related to Surveys and Explorations, etc." Item 329 is to the *Arizona Archives* of the US Geological Survey. Will Barnes's 1935 book is number 18d.

There is a separate list of contributors, four double-columned pages of them – old timers, children of pioneers, government officials high and low, archeologists, ranchers, business men, and people inspired by Byrd. Two of the latter, Clara Woody and Jeanne Younggren, did a great deal of research on their own that added much useful information. Though P. Hudgin is not in this list, his single contribution is identified in the following entry: "Hudgin Mesa. Santa Cruz T 15S R15E. When Paylin Hudgin was courting, he and his fiancée used to land his plane here on the east side of the Santa Rita Mountains for a picnic. Ref: P. Hudgin."

The alphabetical listing for the whole state allows for easy reference. Relegation of hundreds of obscure and variant names to the Appendix with cross reference to main entries makes the text mostly "meat" provided by the anecdotal entries. The format also permits browsing without loss of continuity. Location of named entities by township and range is the right way for Arizona, the way it is done there. For those not familiar with

T&R (Township and Range), there are county maps ruled off and numbered. The maps do the job after a fashion but could be better. The principal meridians and standard parallels are not labeled, and the state map showing the counties does not show T&R. This became evident when the reviewer sampled some locations. Most seemed in order, but *Reimer Peak* was listed in Yavapai county in T2N R3E, which would put it in Maricope County. Since there is listed a *Reimer Draw* in T12N R3E, the peak is likely to be in T12N also. Similarly *Prairie Tank* is listed in Yavapai County, T20N R22W, which puts it in Navajo County. Pronunciation is offered only where it is not obvious. If there are multiple Indian tribal names, all are given.

The accuracy of individual textual entries can be checked, but checking all the entries just to see how well they are supported is not demanded of a reviewer. Some definitions of terms raise questions, e.g., in the *Potrero Canyon* entry a *potrero* is defined in an unidentified source as "a canyon flanked by high, narrow mesa points." In most places in the United States where the term is used, it refers to a horse pasture. The canyon attribute could well have been irrelevant to the naming. However, the overall impression is one of careful checking and cross-checking of an enormous amount of material. This, of course, is what we have come to expect of Byrd Granger. To say that she is extraordinarily able, enterprising, energetic is to grossly understate the case. She organized and was first director of the National Place-Name Survey. She was a former President of the American Name Society, former professor of literature and folklore at the University of Arizona (where students repeatedly voted her Most Outstanding Professor), Woman of the Year in Research in Tucson, elected to the University's Hall of Fame, and more. She calls this book her gift to Arizona. She is now working on a new book – *Legends of Arizona*. She might well. She is one.

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The National Gazetteer of the United Sates of America – New Jersey 1982 (Geological Survey professional paper, 1200-NJ). Prepared, in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, by the U.S. Geological Survey. U. S. Government Printing Office: 1982. For sale by the Distribution Branch, U.S. Geological Survey, 604 South Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304. Pp. xvi + 220. Paper. $7.50.

Donald J. Orth, Roger L. Payne, Sam Stulberg, and other staff members of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) deserve special commendation for producing the present volume on New Jersey which will save countless hours of labor for anyone investigating or collecting data on placenames in the State. It also stands as a model of accuracy and thoroughness.

As explained in the Introduction, this work is part of a series of State, territory, and other listings of geographic names collectively titled "The National Gazetteer of the United States of America." Up-to-date at the time of publication, provision is made in this series for periodic revision and addition of new material available to the general public through the BGN quarterly reports. A brief history of both the BGN and the USGS is included in the Gazetteer: the former being created in 1890 and the latter being

established in 1879. (Much of what I have to say here applies to the national series as a whole as well as to New Jersey itself.)

Besides the street and road names (which have been omitted), about 10,000 geographic names found within or partly within New Jersey are listed. Source materials consist of the most recent 175 topographic maps published by the USGS, the National Ocean Survey charts, and other published documents.

The "Guide to the Use of the Gazetteer" explains clearly and specifically (with examples) the eight (not seven, as stated) categories of information accompanying each entry:

(1) The proper NAME is listed in alphabetical order, with exceptions being illustrated – e.g., where the generic element precedes the specific, as in "Lake of the Lillies" which is listed as "Lillies, Lake of the"; but where a populated place ("ppl") has a descriptive generic preceding the specific, such as "Mount Holly," the normal order is preserved, whereas a physical feature with the same name is listed as "Holly, Mount," which is the name of a summit. Fortunately, the chance for confusion of names is minimal because of the convenient and excellent cross-references, which apply not only to exceptions but also to the numerous variants.

(2) Kinds of FEATURES are broadly identified (streams, e.g., which include all kinds of flowing water – creek, branch, river, etc.). However, the page reference to the list of terms and their definitions is slightly in error: "page XVII" should read "page XV."

(3) The official STATUS is given with an abbreviated reference – "BGN (date)" signifies the form and application of the name has been determined by the BGN; "US (date)" means that the matter was established by an Act of Congress; "ADMIN" designates the official Federal names for counties, parks, forests, and townships, namely, those "geographical entities" which logically fall within administrative jurisdiction of Federal, State, and local governmental organizations; "UNOFF" signifies that the BGN has not established these names as official, and that their inclusion here is for reference purposes; and "VARIANT" refers to a written variant for which a cross-reference to the official form is given together with location.

(4) The COUNTY in which the item is located, or the one in which the center of a feature – or its head or mouth – is located, is specified.

(5) The GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES are one of the most useful features of the volume. The pinpointing of location removes much confusion, such as identical forms which exist in several counties – for example, "Friendship" is a locale (accepted by the BGN) in three different counties.

(6) The SOURCE or heads of streams and valleys are specified by geographic coordinates. It is often impossible to get this information from one map; often researching several maps is neccessary.

(7) Specific or average ELEVATIONS are given for peaks and other rising terrain, the surfaces of lakes and reservoirs, the low points of passes and basins, and populated centers.

(8) The name of the MAP on which a named place or feature can be located is given in the last column. The comment here, "All names are not shown on the topographic maps," is not clear, unless the editor felt it was necessary at this point to say once again that some of the information is derived from published documents other than maps.

One more observation about the editorial system outlined above: It seems to me that the BGN and USGS staffs have evolved a very useful method of categorizing. Not infrequently in poring over maps by the hour I have come across numerous puzzling placenames, those which did not fall readily into the common classifications. [Pete Burrill and I discussed many such problems when he introduced me to scientific map scrutiny, in the year, (1955), that I worked over the "prairie" maps on a national scale]. While the categories dealt with here may not answer every purpose of such research, they do establish a standard that placename scholars might very well follow. I realize that specialists often go into greater detail, and, necessarily, greater categorization. Still, a good number of problems can be handled on this model. Schools, churches, and parks can thus fit appropriately into a convenient system.

Another brief but very readable discussion follows the "Guide to the Use of the Gazetteer," namely, "New Jersey and Its Capitals." Then comes a "Glossary" of terms used to categorize geographic names. It is a general guide, and should not be considered a dictionary of precise terminology. Although the glossary consists of only two pages, it is very helpful. One clarifying feature is a list of commonly used generic terms given at the end of each definition. Perhaps the editors should consider a further separation of natural geographic features, as contrasted with those that are man-made. Possibly a sentence or two in the introduction to the glossary would do. But where do we draw the line? Named streets and roadways are there on the maps, deserving some attention; but so far scholars have treated them as special studies rather than include them in general placename studies. Why should schools and churches be included in a gazetteer, and not streets and roads?

Another question needs to be asked about the glossary. Some of the terms do not apply to New Jersey, which has no "oilfields," "arroyos," "glaciers" or "levees." Why are they included in this volume? Or should the glossary be clearly noted as national in scope? Personally, I would prefer to have each gazetteer printed with such inappropriate terms excluded.

Limitations have to be set, and it is too bad that there are not more funds available so that etymology could be included, even in skeleton form. [What does "Awosting" come from? Indian, perhaps.] (Please note, however, that a great many variants are included, probably most of them historical and thus in a loose sense, "etymological.") Also, it is regrettable that no pronunciation has been included. [What is the correct local pronunciation of "Totowa"?] True, these two projects are enormous, and will have to wait for some independent research.

A few mistakes are inevitable in a work of this extent. Thus, "The Tarn" is listed as a lake in Morris County, and so it did appear on an earlier map, more like a small artificial pond on the side of a small mountain. On the most recent map I have seen of this area [Boonton] the pond has been removed, and the mountain is labeled, "The Tourne." Several other peaks in this region, mostly in New York, are also called "The Tourne," and there is a Dutch word of that spelling which means "the steeple," which seems a valid etymon to me. However, I have inquired in this area and can locate no documentation; the maps appear to be the only evidence of the term. [I thought I had written the BGN about this problem; but that was years ago and I could be mistaken.] One other detail: "Hammonton Lake" is not cross-referenced to the "lake" entries and therefore might be overlooked. Perhaps this omission was an oversight.

The reader should bear in mind that this gazetteer is "part of a computerized Geographic Names Information System developed by the Geological Survey." The data base

consists of about 2 million names used throughout the United States and its territories, and can be "retrieved, manipulated, and arranged" to meet special needs. Anyone seeking information on "creeks," for example, on a state, regional, or national basis now has access to such print-outs. Inquiries may be addressed to the "Chief, Branch of Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092."

Turning to the gazetteer itself, I can only say that the possibilities of fruitful study here are vast. Pennsylvania is not the only State to have a "Blue Ball" and a "Paradise." In New Jersey the former is a variant of "Adelphia," a populated place in Monmouth County. I could multiply the examples, but for the time being must absent myself from such a thorough undertaking.

At the 23rd Names Institute (May 5, 1984) one point of discussion was that the time seems to have come for us to go beyond the simple and terse dictionary form; the feeling was that now we need more of the encyclopedic approach. The point here is that a gazetteer of this type constitutes an enormous saving for the researcher (as I have already said) so that productions of encyclopedic dictionaries are much more practical to execute. We hope that subsequent gazetteers will not be long in appearing. In the meantime, the potential joys of research on just this one volume are great.

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A Concise Dictionary of Modern Place-Names in Great Britain and Ireland. By Adrian Room. Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press, 1983. Pp. xliv + 148. Bibliography. £8.95.

To date, the purpose of most place-name dictionaries, at least in the British Isles, has been historical and their chief strategy etymological. Ever-increasing exploitation of place names as important, sometimes unique, raw material for the elucidation of linguistic history and prehistory has demanded that, mainly on the basis of early name spellings, the "original" form of a name be reconstructed, its linguistic affiliation be determined and its lexical meaning be recovered. Such utilization and its accompanying methods have worked particularly well for earlier phases of English, as well as for the Scandinavian and several Celtic layers in the linguistic stratification of Great Britain and Ireland; it is not surprising therefore that for most name scholars the cut-off date for their special interests has been about 1500 A.D., a time largely regarded as the beginning of what is generally, though somewhat euphemistically, called Modern English. As a consequence, some of the best compendia on the subject, like Ekwall's otherwise magnificent *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, do not even include names which did not exist before that date.

The structuring of the landscape through naming is, however, a process which is continuous and endless. The need to create new names or replace old ones never stops, even in landscapes seemingly saturated toponymically; the map as linguistic and onomastic palimpsest always has room for yet another overlay. For these reasons, it is greatly to be welcomed that Adrian Room has produced a dictionary which directs our attention

almost exclusively to place names coined in the British Isles after that "watershed date" 1500 and to offer us not only over one thousand names in this category but also hints as to their function, nature and associations and suggestions as to potential criteria for classifying them. In calling such place names "modern," Room, in addition to accepting the usual term for the post-1500 linguistic period of English, makes reference to the fact that the spellings of many of the "old" names had been fixed by 1500 or are at least easily recognizable, and that the political and economic developments were beginning to change greatly the status and constitution of all parts of the British Isles. "Modernity," to him, is therefore, for the purposes of his Dictionary, not just a linguistic phenomenon but also a political and economic one.

What emerges from his published researches is not just a fascinating list of names with varying degrees of documentation (complementing Ekwall, as far as England is concerned), for he also provides a fairly systematic review of the types of names to be coined, and of the motivation behind their coining. As he demonstrates through numerous examples, there has, over the last five hundred years, been a continuing need to give new names to new settlements, including the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century "planned villages" of Scotland (*Gardenstown, Macduff, Campbelltown,* etc.), industrial towns and cities in England (*Nelson, St. Helen's, Queensbury,* etc.), seaside resorts and ports (*Maryport, Blackpool, Peacehaven,* etc.), fortifications (*Fort George, Fort William, Fort Augustus,* etc.), railway and underground stations (*Redhill, Haywards Heath, Oakwood, Victoria,* etc.), and the post World War II "New Towns" (*Peterlee, Telford, Newtown, Glenrothes,* etc.). There have also been deliberate, official renamings by the post-office and in the wake of administrative reorganization, especially in the 1970s.

The resources on which these new names draw – their derivations, so to speak – are varied but not unlimited. What becomes very clear from Room's compilations is the observation that many of the "new" place names are transferred names of one kind or another, whether from natural features (*Box Hill, Thornton Heath, Peterhead, Cowes,* etc.), from inns (*Halfway, Six Bells, Crosskeys, Beeswing,* etc.) or prominent houses (*Seaview, Branksome, Highcliffe,* etc.), from older settlements, with the addition of the epithet "new," either nearby (*New Deer, New Keith, New Pitsligo*), or at some distance (*New Birmingham, New Brighton, New York, New Geneva,* etc.), from other parts of the world (*California, Mount Vernon, Portobello, Waterloo, Dresden,* etc.), from the Biblical "landscape" (*Bethel, Bethesda, Hebron,* etc.), or, often with commemorative or adulatory connotations, from personal names (*Helensburgh, Pentonville, Port Ellen, Treharris, Telford,* etc.). Some major generics employed are *Port-, -town, -burgh,* and *-ville*, and in this respect Room's suggestion is intriguing that the last of these – *-ville* – may be, in these "modern" names, an import from the New World, the morphological equivalent of *California* and *Mount Vernon.*

Whether this theory is provable or not, the fact remains that the transferral of place names from one side of the Atlantic to the other has not been in one direction only, although the numbers of names involved are, of course, not at all comparable. It is, on the other hand, also true to say that what is an essential cultural factor – almost a part of a survival kit – in the emigrations from Britain and Ireland to North America, is, to all intents and purposes, no more than a small and somewhat amusing aspect of American influence on the toponymy of the British Isles. The real significance of Room's *Concise Dictionary* for North American readers (name scholars and laymen alike) lies in the realization that naming has not stood still in the "old country" but has continued quite extensively during the periods of British colonization, of the weaning of the United States and Canada from the homeland and of the formation of

independent countries, right to the present day. What Room describes and documents is a small-scale parallel to the naming practices of English speakers in North America more or less during the same span of time, and it is instructive to discover that the types of names created, the resouces employed in their creation and the motivation behind it are not very different on either side of the Atlantic. Maybe in colonial territory, names are needed faster and in greater numbers but their basic qualities remain the same.

Room's book therefore casts illuminating sidelights on North American naming and name usage and should, for this reason alone, be of considerable interest to those studying the place names of the U.S.A. and Canada. In addition, it reminds us that there are no self-explanatory names, however "late" they may have been coined and however accessible they may be to us linguistically. If we are prepared to acknowledge that potential historical importance is not the only characteristic which makes a place name worthy of attention, then *Peacehaven, Seaview and Beeswing* (and, of course, *Springfield, Lafayetteville,* and *Turtle Pond*, too) also provide intellectual challenges to the student of names. This means further that we must document them as reliably as we are used to documenting names of medieval or even prehistoric origin. An indispensable part of such documentation would be the search for the earliest recorded mention of each name in question, whether in government reports, newspapers, or local authority minutes. Room quotes from quite a few of such seemingly mundane, yet extraordinarily helpful souces but for many names gathered in his dictionary that kind of evidence is still lacking. It may take extensive, time-consuming, mechanical (and often frustrating) searching to obtain it, but this is a chore which cannot be avoided – on either side of the Atlantic. We owe the same rigor and scholarly integrity to the study of "modern" names as to the investigation of names come down to us from pre-modern times, particularly since Room's book is in so many other respects such a remarkable eye-opener as far as the value and satisfaction of the collection and interpretation of place names created in the last half millennium are concerned. I am glad to have it at my elbow.

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Dictionary of Spanish Place Names in the U.S.A., 4 vols. By René Coulet du Gard. Newark, DE 19711: Editions des Deux Mondes, P. O. Box 56, 1983. Vol. I, *California,* pp. 134, $24.00; Vol. II, *Oregon, Washington State, British Columbia, and Alaska,* pp. 107, $24.00; Vol. III, *New Mexico,* pp. 383, $39.00; Vol. IV, *Texas and Arizona,* pp. 147, $28.00. Set/$100.00. Hardbound.

The ambitious undertaking of Coulet du Gard has now been completed, although not necessarily complete in recording all the placenames in the United States that are derived from Spanish. Nevertheless, he has brought together a mass of material from those areas that are considered to have been most influenced by those who speak Spanish or one of its dialects. Not only that, but he has also, whether consciously or not, reminded all that the Spanish influence is open ended, since varieties of Spanish now constitute a major language concern in the United States, with Spanish being the primary language in many

states, or at least parts of states, including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Florida. Estimates range as high as 40,000,000 persons for those who speak Spanish, although no firm basis can be found for such a figure. Still, the Spanish-speaking persons rank second to English speakers in the United States in number, and their influence is growing rapidly, so much so that English speakers worry about such matters and has caused many to want English to be declared as the "official language of the United States." It is doubtful that the passing of laws will eliminate a language, English or otherwise.

In contrast with French, which also is the language of derivation for thousands of placenames in the United States, Spanish, then, is still with us and is also contributing names to the area known as the United States. Except for some pretentious name-givers in real estate, no one now gives a French-derived name to a place. Spanish, however, is very much a developing language in the United States and is therefore one that deserves study. Coulet du Gard has definitely provided a step in the direction of forcing upon us a foundation for the study of Spanish-derived placenames, and his volumes attest the richness of such names in the United States.

Perhaps it was scholarly inevitable that the compiler begin with California, a state that is permeated with Spanish-derived placenames, including all the major cities: San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento. The introduction serves as a recounting of the history of Spanish exploration beginning in the XVth century. By 1530, the Spanish had formed their base in the Americas. Despite the land coverage and geographical touchpoints, the Spaniards did not develop the land areas in what is now the United States. Much of the settlement history of the country belongs to the English. The Spaniards, much as the French did later, came to convert the natives, the Amerindians, which meant that settling and naming were left to the missionary priests. The names they bestowed differed from the coastal names so easily sanitized with saints' names given by the illustrious navigators. Coulet du Gard makes much of the adventurous side, but he omits in his introduction the mundane, everyday naming of places that had to be done by the missionaries who were faced with delimiting space (earth) by giving it something to make it discernible – a name.

They named locally: *Abalone,* a place where sea snails were abundant; *Agua,* and many additions and variations, for a place where water can be found; *Alamo* 'cottonwood'; *Canada de la Campana* 'Canyon of the Bell'; *Arroyo de los Baños del Padre Arroyo* 'Creek of the Baths of Father Arroyo'; *Pico Blanco* 'White Peak'; and hundreds of others. These names occurred early. Later placenames reflect the age of commemoratives, with *Balboa* (1905), *Mendocino County* (1855), *Cabrillo* (1870), and Andrade (1907) serving as examples.

Names were translated or derived from Amerindian languages: *Tulare,* Aztec *tullin* 'reeds'; *Alcodones,* from *Achedomas,* Yuman tribal name; *Aptos,* from Costanoan village or chief; *Apache; Batequitos,* Cahita *batequi* 'water hole'; *Calabasas,* Chumash *Calahoosa* 'place of wild gourds,' with Spanish form influenced by *calabazas* 'pumpkin'; *Huasna,* a Chumash village; and *Gualala,* Amerindian ? *walali* 'river mouth.' Probably color names, hydronyms, descriptives, and spirit names (the many *Diablos*) were direct translations from local Amerindian names, the sort of abrupt translations that can be seen in French and English names in the Midwest and the East.

The English translated most of the color names (*Blanco, Azul, Verde,* etc.) into the present versions; but in one instance, *Blanco* was a translation from English, the name of Thomas White becoming Tomas Blanco. *Spanishtown* was chauvinistically changed to

Yankee Hill when the English speakers outnumbered the Spanish ones, although the name was already anglicized. *Bloody Island* translates *Isla de la Sangre; Mare Island was Isla de la Yegua,* possibly because of an incident involving the animal; and *Feather River* is also known locally as *Rio de las Plumas,* from a time when the Indians walked around profusely decorated with feathers. *Hospital Creek* ultimately derives from an "Indian sweathouse" (*temescale*) in the area, possibly through some quirk becoming *Ospital,* the name of a creek, hence *Hospital. Hackamore* is a folk-etymologized form of *jaquima.*

The volume has as end matter a chronological index of the Spanish influence on California onomastics, beginning with 1510, when California was mentioned for the first time "as a fictitious place in Montalvo's *Las Sergas de Esplandian.*" An interesting bit of trivia is that in 1838 "the first child born in San Francisco is Rosalia Leese." A glossary of Spanish and Mexican words is most helpful. A bibliography of more than 100 items rounds out the California dictionary. Although the compiler has made use of local records and informants, much of the onomastic material is derived from Erwin G. Gudde, *California Place Names* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962), a source that has to be used by anyone who studies California toponyms.

Volumes I and II carry an overall title of *Dictionary of Spanish Place Names of the Northwest Coast of America,* a somewhat misleading labelling of the area, especially for the first volume which treats California only. The second volume concerns itself with many Russian-derived names that have filtered through Amerindian names and vice versa and then anglicized. The pattern of naming parallels that of California, with many of the same names occurring (*Adobe, Alamo, Altamont, Buena Vista,* etc.) except in Alaska where the Russian influence overshadows that of the Spanish or anyone else except the natives. The Spaniards did not venture inland, leaving names along the coast. The inland Spanish names resulted from the activities of the gold panners or from U. S. Geological Survey crews. The former contributed *Bonanza, Eldorado, Manila, Mariposa, Nevada, Oro,* and others that alluded to gold and its metaphoric allusions. The survey personnel usually had a logical reason for recording Spanish names, *Linda* being an instance, a local name obtained by USGS in 1956. It is doubtful that the naming was influenced by anything remotely Spanish, other than the rather popular name of *Linda,* perhaps from a prospector's girlfriend, wife, or dog. *Lindita Peak* (note the Spanish name + English generic, a common occurrence throughout the Spanish-influenced regions) was so named by L. E. Nelson (USGA?) in 1955. The primary sources for the names contained in Volume II are listed in the bibliography (see Akrigg, Meany, McArthur, J. W. Phillips, and Orth).

Volume III parallels Volume I in that it covers only one state, New Mexico. The major source here is T. M. Pearce, *New Mexico Place Names* (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1965), although the text is not listed in Coulet du Gard's bibliography. Several articles by Pearce are listed. Although the contents of Volume III depend heavily on Pearce's work, the compiler has added other information obtained from informants and also has omitted many names that occur in Pearce that are definitely Spanish. The names show one difference from those of California: names pertaining to the sea and coastal features naturally cannot occur among inland names.

The last volume covers Texas and Arizona, with Byrd H. Granger, *Arizona Place Names* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1960) as the major source for Arizona, although the text is not listed in the bibliography. The earlier volume by William Barnes is noted. The Texas material did not come so easily, since no state gazetteer exists for the whole state, although parts are represented (see *Texas Almanac*, Tarpley, and Madison).

Some names are not so obviously Spanish derived; for instance, *Martin Dies Jr. State Park* has no reference to its being named to honor the rather famous U. S. Representative from Texas, but whose Spanish ancestry was muted if it ever existed, since it could be German or French, the family having moved from Jackson Parish, Louisiana, to Texas in 1876. Another is an initialism, *Talco* (*T*exas, *A*rkansas and *L*ouisiana *C*andy *Co*unty), an oil town, although the resulting acronym has a Spanish look and a meaning of "tinsel." Professor Coulet du Gard has recorded many similar names, all worthy of investigation.

The four handsomely bound volumes do not, of course, constitute a dictionary of Spanish placenames in the United States, but they serve as a beginning for a major dictionary of Spanish-derived toponyms. For that matter, a dictionary of French-derived placenames would be an excellent addition to our placename studies. Coulet du Gard has also devoted many years to a French dictionary of placenames in the United States, but that work does not have the scope that the four volumes noted here have. Still, greedy as I am, I wish for more. The few thousand names collected and glossed here constitute only a fraction of those available for study, even from the sources that he used. The names listed are highly selective. They cover an important Spanish-influenced region, the Southwest and the West Coast, but all other areas are omitted, unless he intends to cover the rest of the states in another volume. Indeed, Florida deserves attention, as do the states Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Still, it is too much to ask of one man to make such a survey. In making this compilation, Professor Coulet du Gard has performed a great service for placename studies in the United States. In addition, the volumes are a necessity for the scholar who wishes to delve further into Spanish influences.

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*For more than 25 years I have benefitted from the advice and critical judgment of Dr. Meredith "Pete" Burrill. A genial host, he was always eager to explain the ways of places in the United States and was tolerant of ignorant questions from one not knowledgeable. I am sure that he knows more about placenames than any other person, and he has always unselfishly shared this knowledge and fascination. I look forward to many more years of learning from him.

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