Reviews

Surnames and Genetic Structure. By Gabriel W. Lasker. Pp. viii + 148. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1985.

In their studies of human societies, population geneticists are interested in the analysis of the marriage structure of the group. For it is the marriage structure that determines, to a significant degree, the spread of genes through the population. For example, where there is inbreeding, the marriage of close relatives, genes and the traits they control tend to cluster within families.

Gabriel Lasker, the author of *Surnames and Genetic Structure,* is an internationally-known human biologist who has devoted much of his career to the study of population structure. In particular he has been a leader in the application of surname analysis to population genetics. This method is based upon the realization that the probability of marriage between two unrelated individuals with the same surname is directly proportional to the frequency of that surname in the population. Genes do not flow freely through a region where the frequency of isonymous marriages (both partners with the same surname) is greater than the expected. Maps of isonymy can tell us much about the marriage patterns of a society as well as allow us to develop models of the distribution of genetically-controlled traits for further study.

Lasker has refined this approach considerably and, in the current volume, discusses his analyses as well as those of other investigators in America and the British Isles. The results at this stage are still somewhat unclear because comprehensive analyses are few. Nonetheless, some tentative observations can be made. While clusters of isonomy do not exist in England and Wales, there is evidence for geographical gradients. Differences from region to region are found in the distribution of names. One investigator, studying names in Laredo, Texas, found 6,571 different surnames (considerably less if spelling variations were merged) in 140,560 baptisms. Lasker, on the other hand, catalogued 32,457 surnames in 165,510 records of marriage in England and Wales.

The book presents a detailed review of the literature on surname analysis. But there is more. After a career of teaching, Lasker is highly sensitive to the needs of students as they prepare themselves for their own futures as researchers. Consequently, he has made available an excellent teaching exercise on the analysis of isonymy in a hypothetical population. The exercise may be obtained by writing the author at his address, given in the book.

Surname analysis has been used widely in genetic studies, yet it has lacked a book which explains it and reviews the literature. Gabriel Lasker provides such a book, one which is rendered more valuable by setting the issue within the more general concern of population genetics. As such, *Surnames and Genetic Structure* is a valuable addition to the scientific literature as well as a significant publication

for anyone interested in the study of surnames. It is authoritative, well-written, and understandable by the professional researcher as well as the concerned layperson.

Francis E. Johnston

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What Does Your Name Mean? By Roberta Frissell Hitt. Parsons, W.Va. 26287: McClain Printing Co., 1984. Pp. 241. $9.95; paper.

A bare listing of several thousand names, those interpreted to be both forenames and surnames, the text perhaps has a problem for reason of being: It has to compete with many others that are more relevantly pictorial and more glowingly packaged for supermarket distribution. Hitt is somewhat austere with her cover design: a green tree brooding over a colonial portico, with an all-white background. The cover would do service to a brooding, Southern novel about miscegenation, antebellum romanticism, or other plantation shenanigans, but not the wrapping for a mundane batch of names with which babies might be burdened. The lack of an introduction does not push matters very far, either.

Still, the collection is a valuable one, listing variants, origins, and meanings. The glosses do not contain detailed etymologies; but the general, sometimes sublimated, meaning is listed after what is considered the original linguistic form. A typical entry but not a typical name follows:

Balcus
Balcusa
Balcusi
Balcusia
Balcusie (L) Well Balanced.

Although I have never known anyone by one of these names, the symmetry of the entry has its appeal. Other entries have an edge of uniqueness, such as *Babe* (ME) Naive Gullible; *Babel* (Heb) Gate of God; or one definitely wrong, *Gwendolyn* (Celt) Always Charitable and Understanding.

An emphasis on the odd name makes the list different and probably attractive for the parent(s)-to-be who now seem to chase after the stray name that will probably in the future set off a child as one with the mental-case parents who bestow on babies names such as *Zutli* (Treacherous as a Crocodile), *Zooya* (Animal-like), *Zif* (The Eighth), *Puce* (A Flea), *Lyle* and variants (A Wolf), or *Musette* (The Mouth). Such names are seldom seen or heard, at least now. The times are changing, however, and the name formerly considered odd has become faddish. *Sarah,* an old one, is making a comeback, along with *Emily, Edith* (with variant spellings), and *Lydia,* as well as such names as *Dakota, Megan, Leigh, Moira, Rachelle* (and vari-

ants), *Shannon,* and others that were not recognized often, if ever, in the 1930s and 1940s. From the 1930s to the 1970s, when the newfangledness began in forenames, the rock group stars and pop singers led the way with *God, Chastity, Jesus* (never very well accepted in English), *Prudence,* or *Moon,* among others, names used as much to shock what was considered a prudish audience as to name. Some of the rock children's names recall old Puritan names, although the rockers and punkers probably did not or could not recognize their puritanical inheritance.

Overall, the book is superior to those found for popular consumption, but it needs to be used with caution if it is taken too seriously. Any of the texts by Elsdon C. Smith should be consulted for more exact etymological meanings; but keep in mind that when naming the baby the connotation probably should be on the ameliorative side and that reality sometimes must be the servant to star wishes, presumed goodness, and parental satisfaction. Hitt has a bit of a hit.

Kelsie B. Harder

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Festschrift In Honor of Virgil J. Vogel: Vol. 5 of the Papers of the North Central Names Institute, 1984, ed., Edward Callary, DeKalb, Ill., Illinois Name Society, 1985.

Festschrifts are very hard to review. There are, of course, the usual difficulties in reviewing collections of unrelated papers that are generally of uneven quality prepared by authors who assume that theirs are entitled to equal consideration and respect. How do you do equal justice to each and still keep the review to a reasonable length? But when the authors, in their individual and collective efforts, have sought to honor a great scholar and seminal contributor to their discipline, the reviewer hesitates to speak unkindly of any of the papers; and if he truly respects the man they are designed to honor, he is careful not to disparage the total undertaking. It is not easy being necessarily selective and honestly judgmental while remaining fair and keeping to the spirit of the enterprise.

As I did in my review of Vol. 4 of the Papers of the North Central Names Institute (*Names,* Vol. 33, Sept. 1985, pp. 196-98), I will here devote my greater attention to the more appealing papers and simply acknowledge the others in passing. This may not please all of the contributors, but I doubt it will reflect unkindly on the image of Prof. Vogel whom I also highly esteem.

Regarding the first three papers, on literary onomastics, I continue to question the point of analyzing characternyms particularly if this is based on the onomasticians' ex post facto presumptions, which I have to assume is the case here. Incidentally, of the three papers, only Betty Irwin's and Stewart Kingsbury's were

sufficiently readable to hold my attention.

Of the two papers on Illinois place names, Timothy and June Frazer's discussion of McDonough County's names is the more useful. Though I would question their excuse of insufficient funds for their lack of field work in their own county and their exclusion of recent 7½ minute topographic maps, I praise their attempt to show patterns in the naming of settlements and features and to describe some of the problems involved in place name research in their county. This could serve as a model for a preliminary or summary report of an Illinois county's names. The other paper is a good start on the study of Kane County's place names.

Two papers deal with pronunciations. From the several regional linguistic atlases, Virginia McDavid analyzes and compares patterns in the pronunciation of *Washington* as a place name, and Thomas J. Creswell continues the discussion of the pronunciation of *Chicago.*

Sir Thomas Crapper, of toilet fame, is again featured, in two papers. J.P. Maher claims, from inconclusive evidence, that the word "crap," in its toilet usage, derives from Sir Thomas; and Kenneth John Grabowski simply substantiates Sir Thomas' existence (as if we had any doubts). The somewhat jocular tone of Maher's paper may reflect the embarrassment some of us still feel when dealing with certain topics.

The limited appeal of Jean Humphrey's survey of Chicago yacht names would justify its mere mention but for her cautionary statement about "subjectively assigning names to category types without precise information as to the concept of the owner in choosing the name." We place and literary name scholars often need to be reminded of this. Still, interviews with yacht namers might have revealed far more significant insights and been more useful than merely assuming the reason the names were given.

Raven McDavid, whose untimely and unexpected death came just a few days after the presentation of his paper at the Institute, deserves a Festschrift of his own and would that we had done this while he could still enjoy it. His paper on the terms used for the county seat is useful for its introductory description of American counties and their historic origins and governing functions. I would like to assume that he was going to develop this further, but now I can only hope that someone else will.

Festschrifts are expected to include testimonials to the object of veneration, and this is no exception. Yaroslav Theodore Petryshyn does a creditable job, extolling Prof. Vogel's broad knowledge and understanding of North American Indian culture and his in-depth treatment of Indian influences on American medicine and place names. To him, Vogel is more than just the collector and recorder of facts (which most onomasticians still seem to be) but the scientist who arrives at conclusions by analyzing carefully substantiated data from a variety of sources, historic as well as linguistic. He quotes Vogel (pp. 153-4): "I found that many mistakes in analyzing Indian names result from failure to use both historical and linguistic sources. For example, many name explanations by linguists are faulty because they looked for them in the wrong language, or because they failed to trace the historical evolution of the name." (In my study of Kentucky's place names I have learned only too well what he means; so many of our names have been wrongly ascribed to

Indian sources when the evidence has clearly indicated other derivations.)

Perhaps, as a reviewer, I can be permitted the liberty of acknowledging my own indebtedness to Prof. Vogel for his many personal kindnesses as I pursued my several research interests. On several occasions his detailed and obviously time-consuming suggestions led me to data sources and cases that otherwise I might never have found.

A festschrift does not often include a contribution by the honoree himself, but Prof. Vogel did make a presentation at the Institute whose collected papers were published in his honor. Continuing his study of Indian influences on American toponymy, Vogel examines a sample of topographic terms of undisputed Indian origin (*bayou, muskeg, pocosin, pokelogan, podunk, pampa,* and *savanna*) that have been preserved both as ordinary words in some European languages and as American place names.

I now come to the paper which, for its message, merits the lion's share of my attention in this review—Kelsie Harder's survey and prospectus of the onomastic discipline in the 1980s. I am, at once, heartened by some of the "good news" he reports and clearly disturbed by his statements on the status of the *American Name Society,* the glue, as it were, that should be holding us all together.

The future of the Society is in doubt, Harder says; it is financially hurting. Publishing costs have soared and dues have not risen in proportion. But, above all, membership has stagnated; although he does not say so, I think most of us know why—we've reached the saturation point in approachable membership and have refused to even consider tapable a potential reservoir of new blood—those who are not in the language arts. We simply need to broaden our appeal and membership base to survive. If this means cutting our "apron strings" to MLA, so be it. Many of us non-linguistic plebeians simply cannot afford to pay the exhorbitant MLA registration tax and, what's more, we don't like the idea of having to do so.

I am also disturbed by Prof. Harder's mention of the termination or abandonment of so many important projects, research efforts, publications, institutes: *the Virginia Place Name Society, the Northeast Regional Names Institute, Names in South Carolina,* and *the ANS Bulletin,* to name a few, due to the loss of strong individuals who headed these up but failed to prepare for successorship, as well as to the discontinuance of academic institutional support. Any loss of an expressive outlet, especially in a discipline only coming of age, is to be deplored.

I share Prof. Harder's lamentation of the lack of an alternative to the conventional dictionary format in our several state place name publications, a continuing trend that may well prevent onomastics from achieving the degree of scholarly sophistication already reached by the older disciplines. However, as a "dictionary compiler," I must confess I was unsuccessful in convincing my publisher, who necessarily must consider the cost of such deviations, that in-depth and comparative analyses, variants, anecdotal accounts, and other cross-disciplinary concerns are useful and worth the additional expense. (This also answers other professional criticisms of the Kentucky volume.)

The "good news" that Prof. Harder reports includes the seminal USGS gazetteers, compilations of all names of all the states of the Union that will ultimately lead to a national gazetteer of the U.S. and provide a national standard for research on place names.

Also heartening is the trend away from compiling mere dictionaries of personal names toward social scientific studies of the naming process, motives for naming, the implications of names for personality development and inter-cultural relations, and the place of names in our country's history. In spite of apparent efforts of some of the ANS "traditionalists" to limit approbation to those in the language arts, social science research on names will undoubtedly increase. As a social scientist I am delighted. Curiously, though, for a social scientist, I too have been bothered by our abstruse expressive style, our use of technical jargon that seems to "grate on" so many of our "traditionalist" brethren. All I can say here is that the social sciences have their share of bad writers who apparently have never learned to clothe their data and interpretations in more conventional English. Surely we can improve in this area and thus overcome this objection to our contributions.

As Prof. Harder points out, the weakest area of American onomastic research involves American Indian place names. He implies this may be a thankless and even unnecessary pursuit since scholars have failed to agree on what constitutes an American Indian place name. Is it the name given to a place or feature by the Indians themselves? Or is it some Indian word or name, of historical or linguistic significance elsewhere, that the white settlers bestowed on some place or feature for commendatory or other reasons? Or is it an obvious European word or name that refers to some aspect of Indian occupation or relationship with whites during early settlement times? (I have never understood how *Indian Hills, War Branch,* and *Defeated Creek,* for instance, can be included in lists of "Indian" names.)

We can even, as Prof. Harder does, question the significance of the "genuine" Indian names that survive. I am in complete agreement with his contention that "Indians did not use place names in the sense that we do, as permanent sounds with a degree of stability," but merely as descriptives, that several Indians and even the same Indian tended to identify a particular feature in several different ways depending on the appearance and significance of that feature to them or him at a particular time. Indians were far more functional than Europeans in their use of place and personal names, alike; Indian names, as Harder points out, were "seldom, if ever, bestowed for commemorative purposes." Thus I continue to affirm Kentucky's dearth of "genuine" Indian place names.

Finally, I share Prof. Harder's confidence that the younger generation of scholars (perhaps even without the leadership of ANS) will recognize the value of onomastic studies and continue their pursuit long after we oldsters have passed from the scene.

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Les Noms de communes et anciennes paroisses de la Seine-Maritime. By François de Beaurepaire. Paris: Picard, 1979. Pp. viii + 183. No price listed.

Dictionnaire topographique du département de Seine-Maritime...élaboré...par Charles de Beaurepaire...revu, complété, entièrement refondu... By Dom Jean Laporte, O.S.B. and several monks of the abbey of Saint-Wandrille de Fontenelle. 2 vols., Paris: Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques, 1982-1984. P. lx + 469,718. 360 + 400 French francs.

The names of a few places in Seine-Maritime[1] are familiar to everyone: Rouen, LeHavre, Dieppe. Scarcely known are Fécamp, Etretat, Harfleur, and Tancarville. This minute sample happens to include one of the most ancient town names of the department (*Rouen* from *Rato-* or *rotomagus,* with an obscure first element joined to Gaulish *mago* "market, town") and one of the latest (*Le Havre,* founded by Francois I in 1516 though the site is already attested in 1489, as *le Hable*—"harbour"—*de Grace,* and might have been so designated for two or three centuries before). But, as M. de Beaurepaire explains and exemplifies in the admirable Introduction to his 1979 work (pp. 1-23), the vast majority of parishes in this part of Normandy originated between the Roman conquest and the 13th century.

The books reviewed here are the fruit of well over a century of scholarship devoted to the toponymy of Seine-Maritime. The foundation was laid by the 19th century archivist Charles de Beaurepaire (great-grandfather of François de Beaurepaire), who compiled an extensive *Dictionnaire topographique* for the department. But, as we shall see, his work was not finally accepted for inclusion in the official series of such dictionaries for French departments. Although it therefore had to be consulted in manuscript, it nevertheless provided the basis for a succession of valuable studies from 1956 onwards, especially those appearing in the periodical *Annales de Normandie* and elsewhere, by J. Adigard des Gautries, F. Lechanteur, and F. de Beaurepaire. Now we have to thank the Benedictines of Saint-Wandrille, proverbial guardians of so many of the building-blocks of history, for having finally made the elder Beaurepaire's work available to a wider public, in two large and densely printed volumes.

For his part, by concentrating on the names, both present and past, of major inhabited places (approximately one thousand in all: the 745 present-day *communes* of the department and some 270 lost parishes), Francois de Beaurepaire

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[1] This department was, until 1955, known as Seine-Inférieure. The change of name followed that from Charente-Inférieure to Charente-Maritime in 1941. And, in the avoidance of terms that had come to be regarded as having a pejorative connotation, it helped to pave the way for the new designations Loire-Atlantique (formerly L.-Inférieure) in 1957. Pyrénées-Atlantiques (formerly Basses-Pyrénées) in 1969, and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (formerly Basse-Alpes) in 1970. The department of Bas-Rhin remains faithful to its original name. (I am grateful to Madame M. Mulon for having supplied me with the dates cited in this note.

made use of the great compilation to prepare a more modest book[2] presenting the most significant early forms of each name, its pronunciation (where not obvious from the current spelling), and a careful appraisal of its origin, along with such brief discussion as is relevant. The English-speaking reader will be particularly interested to note how many of these names are explained as (to anglicize M. de Beaurepaire's term) Anglo-Scandinavian witnesses to settlement by Vikings who had occupied the Danelaw in England in the 9th century but were driven to the continent by the Anglo-Saxon kings of the first half of the 10th century. Along with the Vikings went a considerable number of Anglo-Saxons, as evidenced by the linguistic blend characteristic of Normandy (*Dieppe* is none other than the early English *deop* "deep") and most transparently in several examples of *Anglesqueville* and *Bretteville* found in Seine-Maritime.[3] Accordingly, there are many correspondences both with place-names found in Scandinavia (*Dalby, Sanvic,* and *Oudalle* in Seine-Maritime matching *Dalby* in Sweden and Denmark, *Sandviken* in Sweden, and *Uldall* in Denmark, with the first two types also represented in England) and with those otherwise peculiar to England: *Caudebec,* S-M., and *Caldbeck,* Cumberland; *Auppegard,* S.-M., and *Applegarth,* Yorkshire; *Tôtes,* S.-M., and *Tofts,* Norfolk (*topt* "homestead"); *Eslettes,* S.-M., and *Sleights,* Yorkshire (*sletta* "level field"). This list of Anglo-French correspondences can be extended considerably if one also includes names which have a first element (most frequently a personal name) in common—*Clasville,* S.-M., and *Clacton,* Essex; *Bermonville,* S.-M., and *Bermondsey,* London; *Pelletot,* S.-M., and *Pelham,* Hertford, *Pelton,* Durham, *Pelsall,* Staffs., etc.

On the other hand, I do not wish to give the impression that the toponymy of this department is exclusively Germanic in origin. On the contrary, Gallo-Roman names (*Assigny, Cressy, Gouy, Torcy,* etc.) and those of religious origin (*Dampierre* and the numerous Saints, Bonsecours, Mont-Cauvaire, and perhaps *Canehan, Mont-de-lIf-* if M. de Beaurepaire is right in thinking that this last may be an adaptation of *mont d'olives*) are well represented, as are French common nouns. Among these last we should probably include *fromental* "oat-grass (*avena elatior*)"—though Dauzat and Rostaing may be right in relating the place-names of this type directly to Latin *frumentum* "wheat"— as the origin of *Fremantel* in Seine-Maritime, shared with the widespread southern French type *Fromental.* For, as M. de Beaurepaire himself points out (p. 80), this place name cannot realistically be explained as

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[2] In 1981, with the same publishing house, M. de Beaurepaire brought out a companion volume *Les Noms de communes et anciennes paroisses de l'Eure.*

[3] Since so many place names in Normandy are of established Anglo-Scandinavian origin, I cannot help wondering if this category should not also include *Sasseville* and the two *Sassetot* in Seine-Maritime, the first element more likely deriving from the common noun *Saxon (seax-)* than the none-too-common personal names *Saxi* or *Sahsi* suggested by M. de Beaurepaire. (The uninflected *Seax* is attested by several place names in England.)

"cold mantle" in line with the latinized form *Frigidum mantellum* of 1250 (or 1260?)[4]

While the great majority of the names included are explained in an entirely convincing manner, two other exceptions that are rather puzzling in formation seem worthy of comment. The author gives no etymology for *Capval,* attested as *Capet val* in 1043 and in 1107. But surely this must be a reflex of *caput vallis* "head of the valley"; for that is, in fact, the situation of *Capval* in relation to its immediate (larger and most likely older) neighbour *Wanchy.* Although in territory that is now dialectally Picard rather than Norman, the form *Capval,* dating from the parish's foundation, is typically Norman: it is unaffected by the phonetic changes which gave *chef* (cf. the parish name *Chef-de-l'Eau)* as the normal Picard (and standard French) derivative of *caput* and therefore obviously predates a westward extension of the palatalization of *c* before *a.* To explain the name of the town *Fécamp,* M. de Beaurepaire starts from the 9th-century attestation *fluvium Fiscannum* and invokes an "Indo-European" term *fisk* "fish." His arguments in favor of a hydronymic origin are, however, very scanty—a single early form (and not the first in date) and two rather dubious parallels elsewhere. Moreover, the *f-* development from I.-E. **p(e)isk-* is exclusively Germanic, whereas a Germanic origin for the element *-amnum* or *-annum* is no more likely than identity with the Latin *amnis* "water": some other term must be sought to explain *Fisc-.* Despite the difficulty posed by the second element (or is the traditional spelling in *-amn-, -ann-* here merely a scribal embellishment on the common Latin suffix *-anum*?), it appears very probable that *Fécamp* is actually a derivative of Latin *fiscum* "royal demesne."

Alongside this excellent interpretative study, we now have the complete *corpus* of information assembled between 1859 and 1890 by Charles de Beaurepaire. Or, rather, we have the Benedictines' earnest attempt to adjust Beaurepaire's compilation to the scholarly and critical approach of our own day by substantial editing and complementing.

While retaining the familiar framework of the official *Dictionnaires topographiques* (geographical and administrative introduction; alphabetical listing by modern names, adding localisation and early forms; cross-reference list from early forms to modern names), the archivist of Seine-Maritime aimed at exhaustivity. He therefore included a very large number of *lieux dits* (only loosely translatable as "field names") as well as the familiar complement of names of inhabited places, rivers (strangely, *Seine* itself is missing here), and divisions of feudal estates. And he sought to record *every* attestation, whether in printed or (much more generally, in his day) manuscript sources. To do this, he was willing to sacrifice the precise

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[4] This issue is, however, complicated by the existence of *Freemantle* in Hampshire, England, as well as of the modern transplantation *Freemantle,* Western Australia; the reason which Ekwall, in his *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names,* gives for accepting the "cold mantle" explanation seems rather implausible.

chronological order of early forms, a feature of virtually all other reference works of this type,[5] and drastically to abbreviate not only bibliographical references but sometimes even the place names themselves; moreover, alphabetical order suffered from repeated transcriptions of the data.

These considerations, which finally led to abandoning the project of publishing this dictionary in the 19th century, presented the revisers with a daunting task: the completed text from A to F required extensive corrections and rearrangement, while G to Z had to be assembled from thousands of sheets of handwritten draft. Innumerable references to source documents needed modification to bring them into line with published editions that have appeared within the past century. That the attempt to do this is not entirely successful is to be explained primarily by practical constraints, the circumstances and expenses of publication: reviewing this work in *Nouvelle Revue d'Onomastique* 3-4 (1984), pp. 186-7, M. P.-H. Billy relates the sorry story of the frustrations he personally experienced in the role of proof reader.

It would, however, be most unfair to overlook the great merits of the Beaurepaire-Laporte work. Its two volumes, comprising nearly 1,200 large two-column pages, list 30,000 to 35,000 names—or an average of some 40 per *commune.* With the possible exception, outside the official series, of J.-E. Dufour's *Dictionnaire topographique de Forez et des paroisses du Lyonnais formant le departement de la Loire* (Macon: Protat, 1946), this now stands as the most thorough topographical dictionary published for any department of France and it will be invaluable to generations of geographers and dialectologists as well as to local historians and, of course, other toponymists. By comparison with the vast store of information accumulated in this work, its occasional imperfections in detail are almost insignificant. It must rank as one of the finest, most complete source books available for any region of Europe. Both its late author and its editors in our own time deserve the recognition and thanks of all who share their dedication to the task of recording and interpreting the world's place names.

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Apport de la toponymie ancienne aux études sur le français québécois et nord-américain. By Suzelle Blais. Etudes et recherches toponymiques no. 6, Québec, Commission de toponymie, 1983. Pp. 105.

One can only marvel, as does Quebec philologist Marcel Juneau who wrote the preface for this book, at the extraordinary wealth of information contained in this

[5] Non-chronological order is also found in the articles of Lejosne's unpublished *Dictionnaire topographique du département des Hautes-Pyrénées.*

study. This linguistic investigation by Suzelle Blais into the choronymy of New France is actually the first truly onomastic study of the toponymic heritage of Quebec. It is an important work and deserves attention beyond the borders of Quebec.

Originally, an M.A. thesis accepted by Laval University, the study is essentially a glossary of terms, either generic or specific, which are to be found in the toponymy of New France and which may be considered as variants of standard French, dialectal or otherwise. This selective study is explained by the fact that it was undertaken as part of preparatory work for the future *Dictionnaire du français québécois,* a comprehensive dictionary of Quebec French. The corpus from which the data has been gathered comprises more than 150 maps of the XVIth to XIXth centuries, a list of which is to be found at the end of the study along with a very substantial bibliography.

The cartographic attestations for each entry are chronologically arranged. The notes provide information on the origin, meaning, evolution and actual usage of each toponym studied. Consulted sources are given at the end of each entry.

Philologists will not be disappointed. The methodology used is exact: rigorous treatment of the data, systematic references to sources of documentation, prudent interpretation and thorough analysis all indicate a high level of scholarship. Occasionally, one finds uneven linguistic treatment of some terms. This is particularly true of toponyms in the western part of New France, which at a later date came into contact with English. The author does mention some cases of translation, such as *Isle aux Loups Marins* (p. 49), known today as *Seal Island,* or *Cap Nègre* (p. 56), which became *Cape Negro,* but one wonders why nothing is said about other important feature names such as *Tête de Loutre* (p. 70) in the Lake Superior area, which is known today as *Otter Head.* Similarly, nothing is said of the survival, in Ontario, of the old French generic *islet,* as in *Deep River Islet,* or the adjective *pelé* (p. 56) meaning "bare" as in *Point Pelee.* Finally, the possible influence of English adstratum, as in the passage from *sauvage* to *indien* (p. 68), is not at all mentioned in some cases where it is rather obvious. Such is the case of the generic *concession* (p. 35), a homograph of the English word, where the only cartographic attestations given are from 1847, nearly one hundred years after the fall of New France. The author gives no evidence whatsoever that the generic *concession* was actually used in the toponymy of the French Regime.

The maps used to gather data cover New France in its widest extension, from Hudson Bay to Louisiana, and from Newfoundland to the Great Lakes. It is unfortunate Suzelle Blais did not include Bréhant de Galinée's 1670 map of Lake Ontario where the first cartographic use of the generic *rapide,* meaning "swift water," is recorded. This term, which eventually entered North American English under the plural form *rapids,* was originally an adjective in French, but became a noun at least 66 years before the date (1736) given in the Französisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch (F.E.W. 10: 66b-67a).

Toponymists will be somewhat disappointed at the lack of information given on the actual usage of place names, in sharp contrast with the abundant data given in the historical and linguistic analysis. The author explains (p. 1) that her study is meant to be more linguistically oriented, and this may be true, but the fact remains

that her study was published by the Québec Commission de toponymie in their toponymic research series. Accordingly, one would have expected more attention given to the choronymic dimension of the subject matter. For instance, greater care in the locating of features (coordinates are not given) and a more systematic use of the Commission's *Répertoire* (1979) would have considerably increased the quality of toponymic data.

When one assesses the global value of the work, the answer is, nevertheless, overwhelmingly positive. For instance, one can truly appreciate the importance of place name study in the more general framework of dialect analysis. In the case of Quebec French, this stimulating study of the toponymy of New France has yielded new information concerning dialectalisms, archaisms and loanwords. It has also provided new insights into some lexical items of standard French such as *calculot, forillon* and *marmette,* which are still designated as being of obscure origin in the previously mentioned F.E.W.

But mostly, this work is important for the numerous leads it provides for future research in Quebec toponymy: preposition syntax, contact with various Amerindian languages over time, translation and transfer problems, etc. Suzelle Blais' book has opened wide the doors to an exciting field of scholarship and as such should deservingly be considered a major contribution to French choronymy in North America.

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A Dictionary of Nicknames. By L.G. Pine. London, Boston, Melbourne and Henley: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984. Pp. viii + 207. £9.95.

What's in a nickname? Here's how *Webster* defines it: "1. a usu. descriptive name (as Shorty, Tex) given instead of or in addition to the one belonging to a person, place, or thing. 2. a familiar form of proper name (as Bill, Tommy)." I think few of us would disagree with that, at any rate at a general level, bearing in mind that the word itself arose as "an eke name," that is, an "also" or additional name, on top of an existing one.

In this book, the latest of a long line, L.G. Pine casts his net much more widely than the criteria outlined by *Webster* above, since he includes standard forenames and surnames that originally arose as "nicknames" (as the descriptive *Basil* and *Black,* respectively denoting a "kingly" or "dark-complexioned" person), as well as

a number of names and titles that are normally regarded as standard (as *Dead Sea, Vietnam, Communism, Mormons, Ursulines*). True, many personal names did indeed originate as nicknames (and the very word "surname" is a reminder of the fact that they were "super" or extra names), but they are hardly nicknames today in the modern understanding of the term, and Pine's inclusion of them in this book is debatable at the very least, and nowhere does he justify or account for his departure from the popular onomastic norm here.

Even if one accepts that historic nicknames can qualify for entry in a book that also includes such genuine nicknames as *Friend of the Helpless Children* (Herbert Hoover) and *Poor Richard* (Benjamin Franklin), the dictionary remains unsatisfactory at several levels. For a start, most of the personal names are not identified as such, giving such initially baffling (and mainly very brief) entries as "*BLIND* O.E. *blind,*" "*CURR* M.E. *curre* = cur," and "*ELDER, ELDERS* the elder." (Many of the personal names are hardly common, either, and a typical run, pp. 60-1, has *EASTMURE, ECKHARD, EDDOLILIS, EDRUPT* and *EFFEMY.*) Second, the wording and style in several entries is sloppy and sometimes disjointed, and a number of annoying misprints or errors make one become increasingly frustrated as one hunts up this name or that.

These are serious allegations, and I must support them. Here, for example, is a taste of the style: "*SWADDLER* a term of abuse applied to various Protestant bodies originally by a Catholic who was so ignorant of Scripture that he thought the term swaddling in St. Luke's Gospel to be ridiculous." (Who was the Catholic? And also might we not have the relevant biblical phrase?) Here is another: "*GO-LIGHTLY* = go lightly applied to a messenger." Apart from the tiresome lack of punctuation, one is left wondering in what sense "lightly" was originally intended (delicately? speedily? quietly?). Finally, here is a third sample: "*LATHYRUS* pulse or vetching. Ptolemy IX Soter II reigned 116-108 BC in Egypt." Mentally repunctuating and rephrasing this, one needs to know *why* Lathyrus was nicknamed "pulse or vetching": did he eat it? wear it? resemble it or what?

This last entry contains one of a number of the irritating misprints (or plain mistakes) that are scattered through the book, since "vetching" should be "vetchling." Even credited quotes from other sources become corrupted, as when under *CONNELLY* "O'Neills" becomes "O'Neilly" and the title of Edward MacLysaght's book *The Surnames of Ireland,* cited here, is itself incorrectly given as *Irish Surnames.* Non-English words and phrases are frequently garbled, especially in Greek. Under *PLON-PLON* one even finds a French misspelling followed closely by an English, when the nickname is explained as deriving from "Crait-plomb = fear-led" (for *craint* and *lead*), with no elucidation, incidentally, that the "lead" (French *plomb*) was that of the bullets from which Joseph Bonaparte was constantly fleeing in the Crimean War. Many Greek words are printed with a delta (d) for a sigma (s), so that one finds *gnodis* for *gnosis* (twice) under *GNOSTICISM* and *GNOSTICS, thaladda* for *thalassa* under *DEAD SEA, eudtachos* for *ustachos* under *EUSTACE,* and similar errors elsewhere (*kaphoroi* for *kathoroi, phiois* for *physis* and, under *CANNAN,* Irish *ceann fhlonn* for *ceann fhionn*). On p. 16, under *BENEDICT,* Latin *benedicite* is spelled *benedicte,* and on p. 55, under *DOCTOR ANGELICUS,* the title of Leo XIII's encyclical *Aeterni patris* appears as *Acterni patris.*

Treatment of native Old English words is hardly any better. All are printed with consistent lack of the "bar" that indicates a long vowel and with the digraph or ligature *æ* as separate *ae*. Under *FRIDAY* what should be Old English *Frigedæg* even has a further error, appearing as *Frigedaeq*. Even some headwords are wrongly spelled, so that one finds *ROINECKS* (p. 159) for *ROOINEKS* and *SMECTYMNUS* (p. 172) for *SMECTYMNUUS*, while the *BRYLCREAM BOYS* on p. 29 reappear on the front cover as *BRYLCREEM BOYS* (together with two other garbled entries of the fourteen reproduced there). Agreed, such things are small in themselves, but their cumulative effect is considerable and does much to shake the reader's trust in the reliability of the book as a whole. Nor should such slips or oversights be laid at the door of the dictionary's editor or printer, since the ultimate responsibility is that of the author, as both creator of the work and proofreader of the result.

In one or two cases the information in the entries themselves is incorrect or suspect. Under *WHIGS*, for example, we are given the extraordinary statement that although the *Oxford English Dictionary* describes the origin as unascertained, the word "presumably related to whey, i.e. part of milk which remains liquid when rest forms curds, applied to sour milk," Yet most dictionaries, including the *OED* itself, *Webster*, and four others I checked in, say that the name is probably a shortening of *Whiggamore*, itself from Scottish *whig*, "to drive" and *more* "horse," "mare," relating to a Scottish group that marched to Edinburgh in the mid-seventeenth century to oppose the court party. Similarly, the entry for *SKANDERBEG*, the Albanian national hero whose real name was George Castriota (misspelled by Pine "Katrioto"), makes no mention of the important fact that although the first part of his name was a tribute to Alexander the Great, the final *-beg* represents the rank of "bey" awarded him by Sultan Murad II. As suggested earlier in this notice, too, several entries while not giving inaccurate information omit essential facts, so that we are not told who the five writers were whose initials made the multiple pseudonym *Smectymnuus*, the origin of *Stinkomalee* as a nickname for London University is not given (and surely not every reader will associate the name with *Trincomalee*), and the reasons behind several well-known literary pseudonyms, such as *Mark Rutherford*, *Stendhal*, and *Mark Twain* are not supplied. More generally, and in my view almost more seriously, the book contains no Introduction (what a fine opportunity missed for an interesting and informative conspectus of nicknames as an onomastic phenomenon), and no Bibliography, although the author does mention various titles, not necessarily onomastic works, at certain points in the main text. (He is particularly fond of quoting, usually verbatim, from Reaney's *A Dictionary of British Surnames.*) Instead of an Introduction, the reader is offered a brief two-page Preface, where the author, in a curiously jaded and jaundiced manner, speaks of such "silly" nicknames as *Nobby Clark* and *Dusty Miller* and devotes well over a third of his space to inveighing against the wickedness of man and the turmoil of the modern world. This, to me at any rate, hardly suggests an enthusiasm for his subject, but a world-weariness and general absence of real "nitty-gritty" involvement or even interest.

The book thus comes over as not so much a labor of love but a labor of necessity, with all the shortcomings that that can involve. It is a great shame that a second

attempt at such a dictionary (the first was Vernon Noble's *Nicknames,* published by Hamish Hamilton in 1976) has once again failed to deliver the goods. Let us sincerely hope that to do justice to the fascinating world of nicknames, "third time lucky."

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Iowa Place Names of Indian Origin by Virgil J. Vogel (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1983), xv + 150 pp. Illus. Maps. Cloth: $19.95; Paper: $12.50.

As Longfellow knew in his 1855 *Song of Hiawatha,* there is the sound of poetry in Native American place names. Listen, just listen, to the mellifluous sounds of Ottumwa, Quasqueton, Wapsipinicon, Nashnabotna, Keokuk, Minnehaha, Wapello, and Oskaloosa. All are dealt with in Virgil Vogel's *Iowa Place Names of Indian Origin.*

As Neil Diamond sings in his hit song "A Beautiful Noise," these Indian place names were "begging for me just to give it a tune." There is much nonsense and noise—beautiful though it may be—surrounding the folkloristic origins of Indian place names. For example, there is *Lake Ahquabi* in Warren County, Iowa, whose meaning is, an official leaflet of the local park stated, "The Resting Place." Now Virgil Vogel, like Neil Diamond, brings, wherever reasonably possible, order out of chaos.

Also much needed is Vogel's castigation of "shallow" place name research which merely labels a name as being from an "Indian language," which tells a reader little or nothing. Quite rightly, Vogel demans that researchers should name the precise language from which the name is said to derive. This caveat should be repeated frequently.

In his preface, Vogel says he attempted to provide a "comprehensive list" of Indian names in Iowa, although he admits "it is likely some minor streams or other features have been overlooked." His alphabetical list includes approximately 200 Iowa names of Indian origin.

In this book we learn that *Iowa* comes from the name of the Iowa (or Ioway) Indian tribe "by way of the Iowa River." Of the several possible meanings which Vogel records, he tentatively suggests that the Dakota (Sioux) Indian name for the Iowa tribe *(Ayu Hba)* meant "sleepy ones."

Keokuk comes from the name of the chief of the Sauk tribe. Vogel records three possible meanings: "the beautiful fox," "he who has been everywhere," and

"one who moves about alert."

For *M*A*S*H* watchers, Radar O'Reilly's hometown of *Ottumwa* is given. Both George R. Stewart *(American Place Names)* and our editor, Kelsie B. Harder *(Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names),* have suggested that Ottumwa came from the Fox Indian word meaning "rapids," "swift water," or "place of the lone chief." Vogel lists at least four other possible meanings. "All guesses...," writes Vogel, "so far cited have no basis in fact." Then Vogel convincingly and decisively argues that Ottumwa is derived from "a somewhat corrupted version of the generic Fox word for 'town,' *otawen*...or *utotawen.*"

What Cheer, a town in Keokuk County and a favorite of "odd" name collectors, was "an old English greeting," found, for example, in the second line of Shakespeare's *The Tempest.* Vogel includes it among Indian place names because "what cheer" became what "may be termed a loan phrase among them." As evidence, Vogel cites the Roger Williams story of 1636 when the Narraganset Indians greeted Williams with "What cheer, Netop." In his 1970 *American Place Names,* George R. Stewart wrote that the name was given "apparently as a comendatory, by a Scottish miner who discovered coal here." Stewart's brief explanation, perhaps necessitated by an editor, leaves several questions unanswered. Why would a Scottish coal miner be familiar with the phrase? Had this unnamed miner lived in Rhode Island where the phrase was more familiar? And at least to this reviewer, the greeting "what cheer" simply does not seem to be the phrase that would leap to a Scottish mind upon the discovery of coal. (The reviewer wishes to point out that he is four-fifths German on his father's side; he also has a fifth of Scotch in him from his mother.)

Now, however, cometh Vogel before the court. At length, Vogel points out that the coal mines had attracted people to the area prior to the Civil War. Then in 1865 Peter Britton platted a town, naming it Petersburg, after himself. In 1864 one Major Joseph Andrews, a Civil War veteran from Providence, Rhode Island, opened a post office in the area and named it What Cheer. It was not until 1879 that the town officially changed from Petersburg to What Cheer. As Vogel concluded his short dissertation on What Cheer, "the name of What Cheer is a brilliant feature of our colorful American nomenclature which should be preserved." And it should be preserved accurately.

Decorah, the county seat of Winneshiek County (named after a Winnebago chief) and home of Luther College, was named after Waudon Decorah (ca. 1775-1868), one of a line of Indians who descended from a Winnebago woman (Hopoekaw) and a French officer, Sabrevoir de Carrie, "from whose corrupted surname" Decorah derives.

We have only one criticism of this book: Vogel includes no pronunciations. In his Introduction, Vogel writes that he "claims no linguistic expertise, for my career has been that of a professional historian." Nonetheless, the pronunciation of *Decorah,* for instance, would surely be useful to non-Iowans who wish to talk about the name. One does not have to be a linguist to use the pronunciation symbols of virtually any standard collegiate or desk dictionary.

In his Preface, Vogel writes that his "book is intended for average folk." Indeed, it should appeal to non-academicians, for the book is written in a direct and honest style. But for the more academically inclined reader, Vogel has also included an

excellent and full bibliography. One is tempted to call it exhaustive. At the end of the gazetteer listing, he fully documents and footnotes his work.

In this book, Vogel displays, as in all of his previous works, including *Indian Place Names in Illinois, This Country Was Ours,* and *American Indian Medicine,* a consistently rigorous and careful scholarship. His well-developed sense of skepticism never allows him to fall for popular error. In this work, *Iowa Place Names of Indian Origin,* Vogel does not disappoint us.

We recommend this book for all readers: the scholarly, the "average folk," the Iowan, and the beginning place-name scholar who needs a model from which to learn the science of skeptical historical research.

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Norton, Thomas E., and Jerry E. Patterson. *Living It Up: A Guide to the Named Apartment Houses of New York.* New York, NY 10003: Atheneum Publishers, 115 Fifth Avenue. 1984. Pp. 451. $25.00.

In an era of the faddishly named High Technology, just about everything and everybody is numbered: humans, books, volumes, parts not named, roads, terrain features, and, of course, buildings. In the name of efficiency, numbers rule. Sometimes, seemingly in spite, old-fashioned names cling to people and objects. A few such still appear on logos, above porticos, or even on shingles out front as names for buildings. Some such still remain in cities, subsumed to be sure under an official number that serves more as the identification and, probably also acts, as a time-saver for postal and other delivery people.

Morton and Patterson have compiled and glossed an alphabetical list of every apartment, excluding hotels, in Manhattan that bears a name, almost 2,000 of them. The two introductions contain a history of apartment buildings and names from 1869 to the present, with the Stuyvesant Building (also known as Stuyvesant's Folly) at 142 East 18th Street being the first one, commissioned by Rutherford Stuyvesant, who had turned his name around in order to inherit the Stuyvesant fortune; hence the name Stuyvesant Building, no longer existing. Many of the early buildings have disappeared; they are listed in Section IV, "Names Writ in Water: Demolished Buildings." A few of these have survived under other names (Stevens House, now Victoria Hotel).

The main glossary begins with Abbey Towers (for its medieval motifs) and ends with The Zenobia (for the queen of Palmyra and influenced by the title of a best-

selling novel by William Ware). In between can be found original and informative, as well as entertaining, material on both the names and the apartments. The names were gathered from the buildings, real estate brochures, newspaper clippings, maps and other archival sources. Within each entry are the name, street address, architect, builder, date of construction, architectural style, remarks on condition, any special features, tenants, and derivation or definition of the name, "unless obvious or unavailable." The information is onomastically complete.

The authors write, "On the whole, names have been given to buildings to help rent them: They have been selling points." A name gives distinction to a building, especially if the name is associated with elegance and old money. Some exceptions occur for buildings on Fifth, Park, or Madison, since the street names exude sufficient onomastic fastidiousness. But *The Audubon* carries a different connotation from 2321-2339 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Boulevard, its postal address (and city directory listing). Collect Pond House, however, is at 366 Broadway and may gain by the numerical address—and the Broadway one. The building was originally the Bernard Semel Building, but was renamed by a new owner for "a body of water that was nearby in the colonial days." I like that.

A typology is difficult to establish, for the names came from many sources and held so long as they established a kind of chic that attracted residents (renters, occupants, tenants). In fact, the names can furnish sociological material for a study of what was more chic than something else, or perhaps what is the most chic of all. The answer may not be so obvious until it is noted that television sets, tableware, luggage, and shoes carry such names as Chatsworth, Carlton, Majestic, Olympic, Abingdon, Adrian, Adriatic, Ascot, Arlington, Galaxy, Gloucester, Gotham, Tiffany, and many, many more. Ladies' shoes also carry these names. Mossy, hardline, English names, with a Scots accent, dominate, but a few Italian ones, for taste and the arts, sneak in. Such apartments were built just before and just after 1900. An address that reflected stability, strength, and integrity was worth real money, and Marlborough, Tudor, York, Royal York, Raleigh, and Hudson provided the logo address.

No name connotes pejorative matters, other than perhaps a slight change in times, to excuse Horton Ice Cream Factory, Habitat, First Reformed Episcopal Church and Apartments, Hilda, Martha, Harfay, Nine-G Cooperative, and Romeyn, although these too have an element of swankiness. Many are named for women, usually friends or relatives of the owner, architect, or namer: Mildred ("Abandoned"), Isabelle, Elise, Rosalind (Shakespeare), Augusta (?), Paula, Pauline, Geraldine, Edith, Edna, and Mary Louise, plus many others. Origins of these names are not often given in the glosses.

Romantic names include the Italian and Spanish ones used before the mass immigrations of the late 19th century: San Remo, Palermo, Goya (belongs in the artists' list), Savoy (properly named for the Savoy in London), Della Robbia (Italian sculptor), and a goodly sprinkling of others. Names of states, usually western ones, some territories when named, also lent a romantic flavor: Alabama, The Nevada, Colorado, Maryland, Georgia (?), Florida, Montana, Nebraska, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Arizona (demolished), Tennessee (demolished), and the Wyoming. Noteworthies missing are Texas, Ohio, Missouri, and California.

Gracie Mansion and the others in the cluster derive from Archibald Gracie, a

prosperous shipowner. The Gramercy group deviates from the Dutch *Kron Moerasje* " little crooked stream" to *Crommeshie*, hence, *Gramercy*. The Griffon was named for either a breed of English hunting dogs or the mythical beast. The Cornwallis seems out of place here, Tory as it is, for it was built at the turn of the century and so obviously commemorates the British general. No source is named for Arnold Court, surely not for Benedict Arnold. Atelier Building, erected as an artists' apartment building, takes its name from *atelier* "studio."

While many of the buildings were named for owners or builders, the names seem to be generally appropriate as an address, although some of the buildings have now been abandoned. Even some of those recently built, *Taino Towers*, have not been completed and many become "the Versailles of public housing." The old names are disappearing as the buildings decay and neighborhoods change. Anyone who wishes to obtain more knowledge of Manhattan, especially, should own this tour of the buildings. Indeed, we are deeply indebted to the authors of this scholarly work which also has its own tasteful quality as well as popularity.

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William Camden: Remains Concerning Britain. Dunn, R.D., ed. Toronto, Ont., M5S 1A6: University of Toronto Press, 63 A St. George Street, 1984. Pp. 576. $75.

> Camden, most reverend head, to whom I owe
> All that I am in arts, all that I know.
> —Ben Jonson, *Epigrammes*

Jonson added that Britain owed her "great renowne, and name wherewith she goes" to Camden, too.

William Camden, (1551-1623), whom the *Biographical Magazine* (1794) called "the chaste model of all succeeding antiquaries," is of special interest to onomasticians because of his work in topology, his fascination with personal names and their fashions and origins, and the way in which he connected names and history and names and popular superstition, which we have since the Nineteenth Century come to call and respect as folklore. He was a man of myriad interests and talents, but it is as a scholar of names that he is of most interest here.

The *Remains*, which went through many editions and revisions, is a great storehouse of information about language (especially names) as well as landscape, artillery, clothing, customs, money, kings and commoners, and (in fact) a ragbag of

scraps and bits of verse and prose, proverbs, stories, facts and fictions, the raw materials of cultural history. It now appears in the first reliable edition, based on MS sources of all kinds and the three printed editions published before Camden's death, as *Remains Concerning Britain*, magisterially edited by R.D. Dunn, who has been a professor at various Canadian universities (British Columbia, Toronto, Laval) and who has enjoyed the support of The Canada Council and various other Canadian research grants. To Canada and to this distinguished Canadian scholar we owe this masterpiece of antiquarian study and history, with its important early contributions to the study of language and the specialty of onomastics, in a convenient and wholly authoritative form.

The book has indexes of mottoes and proverbs and much else, but is full of many other things, and those are not the mere "rude rubble and out-cast rubbish" which he humbly says he omitted from *Britannia*, "a greater and more serious worke." In some cases (as when he discurses on Roman coins in Britain), his *Remains* are fuller than the material he put into an earlier *Britannia.* As Clarenceaux King of Arms and as scholar, he traveled the countries he wrote about and he collected bits and pieces wherever he went. He was the truly enthusiastic scholar, excited by any piece of information that came along; he was an archivist by nature, hoarding everything he could collect. The result is a quirky but invaluable mass of detail. " 'Tis reported," gossiped John Aubrey, "that he had bad eies (I guess lippitude) which was a great inconvenience to the antiquary," but he pored over books and artifacts and missed little, supervised secretaries, scribbled furiously in three different handwritings. Four chapters (Britain, Money, Armories, Epitaphs) exist in more than one MS of the *Remains.* Language was supplied by Richard Carew, an essay closely written on both sides of three large folio pages, corrected and added to by Camden. The work was always in progress, as it were, during Camden's lifetime; and Dunn has used the 1605 *editio princeps* as his basis, but has had to take into account the *addenda* and *gorrigenda* of 1614 and 1623.

Readers of *Names* will be especially interested in the onomastic topics. These constitute about a third of the book or about 120 pages (not counting copious notes). Dunn rightly says, "They represent a remarkable achievement in the study of British personal names," unequalled until at least the nineteenth century. The two chapters in Richard Verstegan's *A Restitution of Decayed Intelligence* were easier to use but not as extensive as Camden's, and Dunn says that Camden really did something to delay the serious study of names after himself by inspiring "a succession of dilettantes and arm-chair theorists whose work was largely derivative and whose speculations about etymology were often as far-fetched as any found in Camden." These, like the poor, we have always with us; today the study of onomastics is severely criticized for the presence of just these amiable but amateur writers on the subject. The fact is that even "serious" scholars of names were still using the *Remains* about a century ago, as for instance M.A. Lower's fourth edition of *English Surnames* (1875). In our century Ernest Weekley and others continued to draw on *Remains,* uncritically.

Naming his sources, including "old English-Saxon treatises, as I have happened upon heere and there," he lists the elements most common "in the compositions of our meere English names": *Ael, Al, Aelf, Ard, Ar, Bert, Bald, Cin, Cuth, Ead,*

Fred, Gisle, Gund, Hold, Helm, Hulph, Hare, Here, Leod, Leof, Mer, Mind, Rad, Red, Rod, Ric, Sig, Stan, Theod, Ward, Wald, Wold, Wi, Will, Win, etc. He lists and comments on the "usuall Christian names" from Aaron ("Teacher, or Mountain of Fortitude," Hebrew) to Zachary ("Memorie of the Lord," Hebrew) for men and Abigail ("Father's Joy," Hebrew) to Winifred ("Win, or Get Peace," Anglo-Saxon). In his extensive chapter on surnames, he goes from Roman times to the surnames, *cognomina,* soubriquets and nicknames of the British, dating surnames from about 1000 in France and about 1066 in England; he notes "the very primary beginnings as it were" of many surnames. He quotes old verses about Cornish names:

By Tre, Ros, Pol, Lan, Caer, and Pen,
You may know the most Cornish men.

He shows how every "town, village, or place...hath made names to families." He tells of surnames from *at* and *ap* and of names taken from rivers, trees, foreign names and places, how princes took names "from natal places," how lower classes got surnames from occupations or offices or functions, how nicknames and other descriptions led to new surnames, how people were named for fish and birds and animals, how surnames came from Christian or other given names unmodified or modified, how nursenames and other familiarities became hereditary formal names, and how some were named for their mothers. Did you know that the Emperor Vespasian was named for his mother? Do you know the naming customs of Scotland, Ireland, Wales? If not, you might deserve to be surnamed *Malduit* (ill-informed, ill-taught). Did you know that anciently the heralds were sort of re-baptised on taking office "with a bole of wine powred upon their heads by the Prince or Earle Marshall, when they are invested, and the Kings crowned?" Did you know that *Zouche* in *Ashby-de-la-Zouche* was "the stocke of a tree in the French tongue" or that *Ash* was *De Faxinis* in Latin or that Latin title pages rendered *Brooke* as *Torrentius* or that pompous Roman names such as *Naso* and *Galba* mean no more than "bottle-nose" and "maggot"?

Of course a King of Arms (chief herald) would be steeped in surnames and genealogies, familiar with parish records, pipe rolls, writs, charters, chronicles, patents, rolls of arms, and more interested in legal and genealogical matters in *Remains* than he had been when he wrote *Britannia,* where names were taken as evidence of early settlement of Britain by various peoples. Though Camden takes a crack at the desire of the Ramists to reduce everything to system and states that the origins of surnames are too varied to admit of any rigid categorization, he does much to organize his material and even a modern book such as P.H. Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames* (1958, revised 1976) has to echo some of his material and its arrangement.

Whether for gossip about Roman naming (Tiberius had a dwarf called *Trocongius* because he downed three gallons of wine at one shot; Commodus gave "beastly names" to his minions, including *Onos* to "a man with a male member larger than that of most animals"; Servillius was called *Ala* "for carrying his dagger under his arm-pit" and one Cornelius *Asina* "for that when he was to put in assurance for payment of certaine summes in a purchase, hee brought his Asse laden with money;" etc.) or details about British surnames derived from local or foreign places, Camden's *Remains* remain full of delight both for the serious scholar who wants to

see English onomastics in its infancy and for the dabbler in name trivia.

We must remain grateful to Prof. Dunn for the industrious and intelligent editing of Camden's *Remains.* I hope he may be persuaded to provide a biography of this great man, though Sir Maurice Powicke (1948) warned:

> A great book might be written about Camden, his life and his works, his wide circle of friends and correspondents and his humanity. It would be a very difficult book to write, for its author would have to be steeped in the social history of the time and to be familiar with the personal life , the friendships, and all the correlated activities of scholars all over the western world in Camden's day.

One hopes that readers of *Names,* if they think the price is high for their personal libraries, will encourage the colleges and universities where they may work to acquire this extensive but monumental work of scholarship, one that will be consulted by historians and many others, I should think, with no interest in onomastics. With enough success for *Remains,* Toronto or some other press may back a new *Life of William Camden,* one of the truly great men of Elizabethan and Jacobean English literature.

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Swedish Place-Names in North America. By Otto Robert Landelius. Trans. Karin Franzen, ed. Raymond Jarvi. Southern Illinois University Press, 1985. Pp. xv-372. $24.95.

According to the publisher, the purpose of this book is to "identify and document as comprehensively as possible those place-names in the United States and Canada that directly or indirectly originate from pre-existing place-names in Sweden, from Swedish people, or from Swedish culture." With several exceptions, it succeeds remarkably well.

The book's 372 pages (all double-columned) include 26 pages of notes (for the most part documentary), a 6-page bibliography, and a comprehensive 24-page index listing both persons and places referred to in the text. The organization is state-by-state and province-by-province, in alphabetical order. For the most part the 1,000 plus entries identify geographical areas, topographical features, communities or other political divisions.

As we might expect, Swedish place-names appear in nearly direct proportion to the numbers of Swedish settlers in given areas. Thus it comes as no surprise that Minnesota sports the largest number of Swedish-derived names, a whopping 310, or about one third of all entries. Other large concentrations are found in Alaska (121 entries), Wisconsin (96), Washington (78) and California (51). No place-

names of Swedish origin are listed for nine states, located primarily in the South or extreme Northeast. British Columbia and Saskatchewan combine for more than one half of the Canadian total of 240 plus entries.

Each entry includes, following the name listing, its geographical location, physical features and a discussion of the origin of the name and its subsequent history. Some of these annotations are quite extensive and contribute considerably to the pleasure of using this book and to our general edification. Landelius is especially good at discussing eponyms and his capsule biographies of Swedish sailors and explorers whose names live on the North American land are especially well-done.

The single most common place name appears to be *Swede,* used in conjunction with some identifying feature, usually geographic. There are nearly one hundred such entries, including 14 Swede Lakes, 17 Swede Creeks, 4 Swede Gulches, 4 Swede Hills, and assorted Swede Points, Swede Islands, Swede Domes and Swede Basins. There are 6 Swedens and 6 New Swedens, 20 Stockholms (but no New Stockholms). Communities named after particular Swedes dot the American landscape from Maine to Alaska. There are Lindberghs in Alabama, Alberta, Kentucky, Missouri and Wyoming; Carlsons in Colorado, Michigan, Texas, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Washington; Lunds in British Columbia, Idaho, Nebraska, Texas and Wisconsin; Lindgrens in Florida and Louisiana; and Lundgrens in Iowa and Minnesota.

While the book is generally well-documented throughout, there are two unfortunate tendencies which detract from its overall consistency. The first is the overly-broad definition of "Swedish place-name" which Landelius employs. This leads him to include names of quite questionable direct (or even indirect) Swedish origin, and the second is the piecemeal inclusion of names drawn from one domain likely to be rich in names with undisputed Swedish pedigrees.

Two examples will serve to illustrate the first point. There is a promontory on Kodiak Island with the less than likely Swedish name "Chernof Point," this alongside a Chernof Glacier and the town of Chernofski. Landelius claims that these features were "presumably" named after Ivan Chernof, a captain for the Russian American Company whose surname "might be a Russianized form of the Swedish noble name Stiernhoff."

Primus Creek, also in Alaska, is said to be named for a camp stove. Landelius says, "This is undoubtedly a reference to the well-known Swedish Primus stove..." and includes Primus Creek as bearing a Swedish place-name. In this, and in the example above, it appears that Landelius, in an attempt to include all place names of even remotely Swedish origin, has cast his name net a bit too widely. Instances such as these (there are others as well: Alpha, Wisconsin, was apparently named after a cream separator imported from Sweden, and Vega was named after Nordenskiold's ship) might have been reserved for an "indirect" category, or better yet, have been eliminated altogether.

I mentioned above that the material for this compilation was drawn primarily from the names of communities, political subdivisions and landscape features. Occasionally, however, names from another domain creep in and Landelius would perhaps have been best advised to include these in full, rather than one here, two there and none elsewhere, a very curious practice given the meticulous scholarship

which characterizes the book as a whole. I am referring to the names of streets, of which less than a handful appear here. It seems as though Landelius included those which were most easily accessible but did not do a thorough search of the available materials.

These demurrals are not meant to detract from the value of the work, but merely to suggest ways in which it might be augmented. Certainly *Swedish Place-Names in North America* is a major work of scholarship and a welcome addition to place name literature. It is a well-made book, handsomely bound and printed, and should remain the standard reference work for many years to come.

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Place Names of the Sierra Nevada. By Peter Browning. Berkeley: Wilderness Press, 1986. Pp. 253.

The California scholar of mountain names, Francis P. Farquhar, once wrote: "No compiler of place-name lists is entitled to consider himself an authority; the authority is the man who gave the name, and it is up to the compiler to find him, and when he has found him tie him down with a precise reference, date, page, and all. Even then errors will lurk undetected, but one can at least reduce the risk." It's appropriate, therefore, that Peter Browning in his introduction to *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada* acknowledges his debt to Farquhar for much of the inspiration and information of this book, for Farquhar would have been well pleased with his progeny.

Place Names of the Sierra Nevada, detailed and comprehensive, will likely stand as the definitive guide to the names of California's most famous mountains. Farquhar began the work with his 1926 *Place Names of the High Sierra,* but while acknowledging that this provided the nucleus for his book, Browning has expanded considerably upon Farquhar's work. Like Farquhar, Browning is a researcher and a scholar; his book is not one of those little chapbooks that appear in tourist shops and repeat, without documentation, the legend of Indian Leap. Browning's bibliography lists more than 150 references; these include early maps and diaries, local historical society records, guidebooks, scholarly journals, and personal correspondence. Further, Browning gained access to Farquhar's files. Those familiar with Farquhar's work, not only in the Sierra Nevada but also in Alaska and elsewhere, know that he was a scholar who tested every assumption and left no source unexplored. Browning, clearly, is a worthy successor.

This approach to names is reflected in Browning's style; he is not given to leng-

thy subjective impressions of a place, nor does he impose upon the reader his personal opinions of a name. Rather, his style is sparse, objective, direct; his entries—and they total almost 3,000—are tight and compact, dense with facts and documentation. Example: Jennie Lake. "S.L.N. Ellis named the lake for his wife, Jennie, in 1897. (Farquhar: Versteeg, from Ellis.) (SeNF)." Moreover, Browning has the researcher's commendable penchant for letting sources speak for themselves rather than paraphrasing or interpreting their words. Thus, quotations abound in his entries, further enhancing their variety and historical interest. Hear, for example, one Art Schrober describe the origin of the name of Baboon Lakes: "My brother John stocked them. There was a bunch of CCC boys on the other side, and they hollered and waved about what way to go. They started in shedding their clothes, and John said they looked like a bunch of baboons going over the rocks." Or the words of three climbers who explained, in a note left in a can, how they named Disappointment Peak: "The undersigned made a first ascent of this peak this day and were disappointed not to find it the highest point of the Middle Palisade. We hereby christen this summit 'Peak Disappointment.' " Or the words of the biologist Scott M. Soule who named Foolish Lake: "It would be foolish for anyone to revisit it."

Two particularly valuable features are that each entry includes: 1) reference to the specific 7 1/2" and/or 15" USGS map on which it appears; and 2) a reference to which source supplied the information for the entry. Not only does this latter make the work more useful as a scholarly reference, it also amplifies the historical interest of the entry. For example, when Browning says the name Mount Gayley was proposed by the Sierra Club sometime before 1939, he adds parenthetically that this information came from a 1951 letter from David Brower to C.A. Ecklund of the USGS, a letter found in Farquhar's files.

But Browning is almost too sparse. For example, when discussing the name *Sierra Nevada* he is content merely to explain its Spanish meaning, to mention that the Spanish applied it liberally, and to quote the Spanish explorer who gave it. But *this* Sierra Nevada isn't just *any* Sierra Nevada, and John Muir was so enchanted with these particular mountains that he called them "the Range of Light." The name hasn't stuck anywhere, but it nonetheless reveals something of the unique attraction these mountains have had for at least some of the people who have known them.

And in his brief introduction, Browning, who so generously allows others to speak throughout his book, does himself a disservice in not allowing himself to speak more here but instead limits himself to presenting the historical context of the names and explaining his sources and methodology. What correspondence, if any, exists between the unique physical character of the Sierra Nevada and the names that have been created there? How do the few Indian names reveal how these people viewed the mountains? and how does this contrast with how later white settlers viewed them? What kind of onomastic tradition produced men like Josiah Whitney, Clarence King, William King, John Muir, and the members of the Sierra Club? What conflicts of traditions have existed in the region? Browning's observations on questions such as these would have been of great interest to scholars and enlarged the context for the names.

Despite this, the reader of *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada* will come away

with a remarkably complete picture of a very interesting assemblage of names. As Browning explains, the names are relatively recent; "None of the place names in the Sierra Nevada has been handed down from antiquity." In fact, anyone perusing the names cannot help but notice how few are Indian or Spanish. Of the nearly 3,000 names Browning includes, only approximately twenty are of Indian origin; of these half were bestowed by whites, often in ignorance of their sounds and meanings, while most of the rest merely preserve the names of tribes that lived in the region. Only a handful of names—Hetch Hetchy Reservoir/Dome, Kolana Rock, Muah Mountain, Pohano Trail, and Tueeulala Falls—preserve what *might* have been Indian place-name elements. As Browning summarizes: "In only one limited area—Yosemite Valley and vicinity— has a considerable number of Indian names survived. Most of those names are mispronounced due to difficulties of phonetic spelling, are applied to the wrong features because of ignorance and arrogance, and have been subjected to multiple interpretations."

The situation with Spanish names is even more extreme. This reviewer could find only six names of Spanish origin; of these three were given by English speakers, leaving only three given by the Spanish themselves: Sonora Pass, Sacatar Meadow/Canyon/Trail, and of course, the name of the range itself, Sierra Nevada. Browning clearly is correct when he says, "The Spanish had no interest in exploring the mountains."

So the responsibility and prerogative of naming in the Sierra Nevada fell to people speaking English: explorers and surveyors, sheepmen and cattlemen, homesteaders, packers, and mountaineers and conservationists. Indeed, an interesting onomastic feature of the Sierra Nevada is the relatively large number of names bestowed by this latter group. The Sierra Club was founded in 1892, and from its beginning its members have been extremely active in exploring the mountains and creating names there. For example, three Sierra Club members in 1934 made the first ascent of a remote peak and named it for Ansel Adams, photographer, conservationist, and director of the Sierra Club fof thirty-seven years. Adams and his wife that year participated in dedication ceremonies on the peak's summit, but the name could not be accepted by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names because of their regulation prohibiting naming a feature for a living person. Formal approval came in December 1984, following Adams's death that year.

Place Names of the Sierra Nevada is illustrated with photographs of many of these important early explorers and namers, reminding us that names come not from maps and ledgers but from the minds of humans like us. It's unfortunate, however, that more maps were not included. A place-name guide can hardly have too many maps; this book has two, both reproductions of early maps, but their interest would have been enhanced by some explanation of their significance. A current general map also would have been useful as a reference. For example, Browning says in the introduction that his boundaries do not quite coincide with those established for the Sierra Nevada by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names; his area is somewhat smaller, and a map would have been useful in knowing by how much. Browning admits some of his boundaries resulted from what he calls "the author's arbitrary decisions." This, however, should not be construed as a confession of guilt, for everyone who has done comparable work knows that such "arbitrary decisions" are inevitable, indeed often desirable.

Place Names of the Sierra Nevada is a very solid book, one Farquhar would have been pleased to see. And even persons with no intrinsic interest in names should find Browning's book exccedingly interesting and informative, for in it they will hear, speaking through the names, the voices of the people who have traveled and lived in the Sierra Nevada and become a part of its history.

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Hispanic First Names: A Comprehensive Dictionary of 250 Years of Mexican-American Usage. By Woods, Richard D. Westport, CT 06881. Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, 1984. Pp. xviii + 224. $35.00.

A major study, *Hispanic First Names* contains several thousand names, many variants, to be sure, but sometimes it is not certain which is the base name and which is the variant; consequently, an exhaustive listing is appropriate. Such a study has been needed for years, moreso now when Spanish (in its several dialects) has become second to English as the most prominent language spoken in the United States. The first language of millions, it is time that studies in the language begin. Definitely, Woods has made an important beginning.

Lest we forget, first names in Christian cultures, which include most of the Western European nations and the Americas, excluding the Amerindians, have characteristics in common. Certain restraints within freedoms occur. Surnames are subject to traditional beliefs; that is, generally they are not now changed from generation to generation, but inherited, as it were. First names or forenames seem to be reinvented with each change of scenery, bearing in mind that they are also restrained by the caste. A sameness of names, especially for women, seems to occur within a caste, such as the economic classes of what we call the middle and upper. Still, within such a restrained group, a Jennifer will occur in one family but not in another. Forenames, then, are not inherited; to the contrary, they are scattered.

Woods uses *Hispanic* to refer to Mexican-Spanish (Mexican-American) and not specifically to the other varieties of Spanish used in the United States (i.e., Cuban, Puerto Rican, or other Spanish-American types), although they are mentioned in the coverage. Within the confines, Woods notes the restraints of Catholicism, comprehension of the Spanish language, and the system of naming practiced by the Mexican-Spanish. Linguistic concerns appear, such as endings, stress patterns, and syllabics, all implying ethnicity. Furthermore, names are subject to temporal conditions. For instance, *Juan, Carlos,* or *Francisco* betray no age group, while *Eustorgio, Eufemio,* or *Ildefonso* "label the bearer as elderly and dating back to the nine-

teenth century." In addition, the degree of anglicization can be determined by the choice of, say, *John* over *Juan* or *Charles* over *Carlos.* Some sections prefer to remain under Spanish dominance; others tend to opt for English, especially within economic areas where the Anglo name will be more beneficial. Woods summarizes by claiming that "the first name is almost a code word that communicates nationality, religion, age and even degree of Americanization of its bearer."

The format is traditional—lexicographic, alphabetic, with a stock entry covering many varieties. The main entry is written and accented in Spanish. Some names have variant pronunciations; these contain no stress markings. A transliteration, not in the International Phonetic Alphabet, is rendered into English. Following in each entry are gender, English equivalent, description (etymology), diminutives, variants, and "see also" references.

Within this format, Woods amasses an enormous amount of detail. A typical, short entry follows:

> *Exaltación* (aayks ahl tah see own') f. EE: Exaltacion. Lat. "To Glorify." Refers to feast, Exaltacion de la Santa Cruz commemorating holy cross miraculously immovable from Jerusalem. F. 9/14. *Dim:* Salto. *Var:* Asoltación, Esaltación, Eximenio.

All the information is keyed to abbreviation and explanatory lists in the "Introduction." The name would be a feast-day name, September 14. Usually, the name giver (parents or others who can choose a name for the newborn) has a wealth of possibilities as far as names are concerned but with restrictions on saints' names on a gender, both of which may modify the form of the name. For instance, it is still difficult for the English name-giver to understand why a female baby would be given the name of *Petra,* feminine of *Pedro.* Within the Spanish system, it is quite possible and religiously appropriate to give such a name if the female baby is born on the saint's day. Furthermore, cross-lingual connotations are not the same. Also, the name *Jesus,* which does not occur in English, causes strangely educated baseball announcers trouble when they have to refer to a player of Spanish descent with the name. Cultural differences penetrate when name interpretations and connotations fall into different systems. Instances of such names are *Exaltación, Sacramento, Concepción, Custodio,* or *Expectación,* which do not occur in the English system of naming.

Woods relies on standard dictionaries of names for etymologies and is at the mercy of the ameliorative origins noted in so many of such dictionaries, despite demurrers on the part of the compilers. For instance, Woods lists *Amarilis* from Greek "sparkling stream," as it is glossed by Evelyn Wells, *Treasury of Names.* No doubt, the glossing gives a good connotation but needs some hedging. Still, in the packed detail of the text, such a slip really does no harm. Also, the use of many assistants to work through different sources will lead to miscopying, typos, and creation of other blue devils that somehow sneak into texts, as I too well know. Faced with so much material, Woods has done a magnificent job of avoiding any serious errors of any kind.

The text is accompanied with a list of abbreviations (and they must be used), explanatory and descriptive introduction, a frequency count of Mexican-American baptismal names, a glossary of Spanish and English equivalencies, and a bibliography of all materials (10 pages single-spaced). The apparatus of the text is formid-

able and scholarly, as befits the work of Woods.

Finally, the work is germinal, a great contribution to onomastics and, probably as important, to the study of Spanish life and culture in the United States. After all, Spanish (in its many varieties) is a living language and is growing fast in numbers of users. It is time that such studies as this receive wide recognition and attention.

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Origin of the Term "Shyster," and *Origin of the Term "Shyster": Supplementary Information.* By Gerald Leonard Cohen. Frankfurt, Germany: Verlag Peter Lang, 1982 and 1984. 128 plus 112 pages.

These two monograph-length books represent volumes 12 and 13 in the "Forum Anglicum" series by Lang Publishers. The research here is as thorough as it's possible for research to be. In ways the two volumes read like a detective novel. Very much in the manner of Sherlock Holmes, Professor Cohen collects, codifies, and labels even the most insignificant of clues. He is conducting an investigation on who it is that is responsible for the term "shyster" in our English language.

Suspense is built:

> *Shyster* has been one of the most difficult items for etymologists of English, but a Rosetta Stone to its origin exists: the previously overlooked 1843-1844 material in a New York City newspaper. This material contains an all important conversation on *shyster* at the moment of its inception and permits the unearthing of the detailed story behind this term (back cover).

Cohen's two-volume treatise on the term *shyster* is a bold illustration of the in-depth scholarly research that a single slang term can call forth. It also attests to the drama that can underlie the investigation of the etymology of such a term. Each etymology is sensible and we accept it as truth until the next etymology comes along. Then we must readjust our thinking to accommodate the new etymology, sometimes discarding the old one as impossible, sometimes keeping it around as a possible alternative. But Cohen has shown us even more. He has successfully ruled out all of the etymologies but one, and he has developed that one etymology in complete detail.

He considers the following alternatives, all of which have been proposed by reputable linguists:

1) *Shyster* is derived from *Scheuster,* the name of a nineteenth century New York lawyer.

2) *Shyster* is derived from Gaelic *siostair* meaning "barratry," a type of fraud involving constant litigation.

3) *Shyster* is derived from *shy* which had an earlier meaning of "disreputable, cunning."

4) *Shyster* is derived from *shy* meaning "short of money" in racetrack betting.

5) *Shyster* is derived from *shy* meaning "avoid," as in the expression "to shy away from something."

6) *Shyster* is derived from the German word *Scheisse* meaning "excrement."

7) *Shyster* is a blend of the first part of the name *Shylock* from Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* plus the derogatory *-ster* suffix that can be seen in such words as *trickster, gangster, mobster,* etc.

8) *Shyster* comes from a Gypsy word, but correspondence by proponents of this theory is sketchy. As Cohen states,

> This etymology can command no credence at least until a Gypsy source word is located for ***shyster.*** And just for good measure, any future researchers who might wish to defend it will have to answer Eric Hamp's objection (letter to me, 12/27/78): "The Gypsy origin can't be so; it belongs to the wrong social source" (20).

9) *Shyster* comes from German *Scheussal* meaning "horrible creature."

10) *Shyster* is derived from Yiddish *sheister,* meaning "excrement."

11) *Shyster* is derived from Dutch *shuyster.* This etymology is supported by the Dutch "shuyster" spelling of the word in *Knickerbocker Magazine.*

12) *Shyster* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *chichester.* In Anglo-Saxon, *chiche* meant "stingy," and *-ster* was a suffix having a sinister sense, as in the word *gamester.*

Cohen investigates each of these possible etymologies, considering phonological similarity, semantic similarity, linguistic processes, and possible cultural and linguistic contacts at various historic periods. The collection, cataloguing, and labeling of evidence is excellent, and the reasoning of the various linguists who make each of the above twelve proposals is adequately represented and critiqued.

As an illustration of Cohen's methodology, consider what is probably the most frequently supported of the theories above—that *shyster* is derived from *Scheuster,* a nineteenth century New York lawyer. Cohen traced this theory to its origin, an 1897 article by Frank Moss in *Collier Magazine* entitled "The American Metropolis from Knickerbocker Days to the Present Time." Cohen quotes Moss:

> The term shyster had its origin in the Essex Market Police court fifty years ago, when Justice Osbourne dispensed (with) justice. There was a Clinton Street lawyer named Scheuster, whose practices were reprehensible and were obnoxious to the judge, and when another lawyer played a mean trick, the judge would call it "Scheuster practice." Soon those lawyers who emulated him were called shysters (Moss 183, Cohen 4).

Cohen reacts to Moss' statement:

> Moss is annoyingly silent on the source of his information....There is indeed, however, serious reason to question it. Barnabas Osborn became a police justice (1845) only after ***shyster*** originated (1843 or earlier), and Scheuster furthermore turns out to be almost certainly a fictitious character; we deal, in other words, with a folk etymology (5).

The 1843 date mentioned above by Cohen is the date of an article which was written by Mike Walsh in a newspaper he edited named *The Subterranean.* The article

was dated June 29, 1843, and was gleaned from *Sketches of the Speeches and Writings of Michael Walsh Including His Poems and Correspondence.* These sketches were collected by a committee of the Spartan Association, and were published by McSpedon Press in New York. The relevant section reads as follows:

> ...The Counsellor expressed the utmost surprise at our ignorance of the true meaning of that expressive appellation "shiseter;" after which, by special request, he gave us a definition, which we would now give our readers, were it not that it would certainly subject us to a prosecution for libel and obscenity (Cohen 3).

Cohen goes on to explain the reason for their disc
Cohen goes on to explain the reason for their discretion: "This discussion is a clear reference to *shyster* deriving from German *Scheisse* (= excrement; vulgar). And all the etymologies proposed for *shyster* must now be re-examined in the light of the above quote (3).

The second Cohen volume on the origin of the term *shyster* is a thorough explication of the Walsh-origin of the term. It paints Walsh as a "raving, ranting demagogue and a wild-eyed genius whose only contribution was the introduction of gangs into New York City's political process (back cover,) but it also suggests that Walsh may have been "...a crusader for various noble causes (including legal reform)" (5).

Whatever else might be said of Walsh, two things are certain: 1) he was dynamic and dedicated, and 2) he had a sense of humor. In the January 24, 1846 issue of *The Subterranean,* which he edited, for example, Walsh has a large picture of an eye which is an effective visual pun. The picture of the eye is in the position of the blank in the following sentence: "KNAVES AND TYRANTS BEWARE, THIS_ IS UPON YOU" (6). This pun functions at many levels. It reinforces the image of the "Private Investigator," which becomes "Private I," through the process of clipping, and which then becomes "Private Eye," by way of the rebus principle. The visual pun also works in two directions. Not only are we looking at the reified "eye," but the reified "eye" is looking at us as well.

Mike Walsh felt that it was his responsibility to observe and correct social injustices. Cohen is not sure that Walsh coined the term *shyster,* but he *is* sure that it was he who made the term effective as a weapon against unscrupulous lawyers:

> The origin of ***shyster*** (= pettifogging lawyer) and its wide acceptance (in New York City) was the single-handed accomplishment of Mike Walsh. It must be emphasized that ***shyster*** did not just happen to appear in the ***Subterranean,*** but arrived there as a result of Walsh's fiery, crusading spirit for legal reform and the strange libel suits that arose from the crusade (13).

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