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Studies in Slang, Part I. Edited by Gerald Leonard Cohen. Frankfurt am Main, Germany: Verlag Peter Lang, 1985. Pp. vi, 164.

The back cover states that the purpose is to open a forum for a detailed discussion of slang items, "... an activity of worth both in itself and for the insight it can bring to broader issues in linguistics," for Cohen feels that slang has "greater potential for scholarly research than is generally recognized." Earlier he laments:

Slang etymology is one of the most interesting areas of linguistics, but receives just a minimum of scholarly attention. The entire field of etymology — a bastion of 19th and early 20th century linguistics — has receded to the periphery of modern linguistics; and of the little attention etymology receives, almost none is directed toward slang (156).

I would agree with Cohen's observation that the prestige of slang research and etymology research has decreased. But Cohen is evidently unaware of the reason for this decline in prestige, and the ways that the field will have to change in order to regain the prestige it once had.

Slang research, etymology research, dialect research, and names research were all offshoots of structural-descriptive linguistics. They were all developed in reaction to an earlier and inferior methodology of language investigation — subjective and prescriptive "purist" grammar, and they provided a necessary and significant link in the epistemological evolution of language research. But the objective and empirical bias that at that time was an advantage is now a disadvantage, for language research has gone beyond objective and empirical methodologies.

This is not to say that slang, etymology, dialectal, and names research are unimportant. In fact, such research is *extremely* important. What I am saying instead is that the researching of slang, etymology, dialects, and names should change its emphasis to become more elegant. In doing this it will need to become more cognitive and less empirical; it will need to become more patterned and less ad hoc; it will need to become more rule governed and more generative; and it will need to predict the future as much as it explains the past.

To illustrate what bothers me most about this type of research, consider what I will term the "teleological bias." Cohen is preoccupied throughout the book with determining the ultimate origins of the various expressions. A scholar will establish a particular etymology as being correct, and then another scholar will find an earlier citation which proves that the first scholar was wrong. The methodology of this type of research is to read old newspapers, and to read the articles of other scholars who read old newspapers. The irony is that the purpose of this type of research is to find the original source, and because of the nature of the material this source is very seldom available. No matter how many old newspapers are read, there is no assurance that someone else will not find a still-older newspaper with an earlier citation. And even if we could be assured that we found the earliest citation, even that would be largely irrelevant because the material being dealt with is colloquial, and probably existed in speech long before it ever entered into print. I am reminded of an earlier time in the history of linguistics when everybody was concerned with determining the origin of language. So many people insisted on pursuing this fascinating but futile search that the subject was actually banned in a number of countries as a legitimate linguistic research topic.

Another problem is that many of the expressions investigated are very infrequent and obscure to anyone but the people who dig in old documents and read articles by other people who dig in old documents. This may develop a close affinity among these researchers, but it outbonds everyone else.

But although the book has a number of shortcomings, these shortcomings are more an aspect of the empirical structural-descriptive methodology in general than of the book in particular. The book makes a significant contribution to slang, names, etymology, and humor research. Cohen is constantly aware of the patterning of evidence and how each piece of evidence interrelates with other pieces to give the total picture. He considers: (1) historical evidence (dates, sequences, etc.), (2) logical relationships (causes and effects, complementary and contrastive distribution, etc.), (3) social feasibility, (4) linguistic feasibility, (5) parallel examples, and (6) both primary and secondary written materials.

Since slang is basically an oral phenomenon, most of his citations come from the types of written materials which contain informal dialogue — Beetle Bailey, Doonesbury, Boner's Ark, Dear Abby, Brer Rabbit, etc.

In studying slang, Cohen constantly found himself also facing questions relating to humor. "Might slang, with its abundant humor, furnish us with some insight into the nature of language that Greek morphology

does not? (158)" and "Does humor belong only to psychology, or might it be an integral part of language? Humor fits into the broader category of attitude, and might attitude not be an essential part of language?" (158)

I was fascinated by the book. As a humor scholar, I felt highly rewarded to have read it, for slang is indeed a very important source of humor. As I discuss the various Cohen etymologies, I will consider only those which fascinate me, and which give some clues to the working of the human mind.

Cohen offers an incredible etiology for *ker-*:

The use of *ker-* before e.g. *blam* permits the speaker to spend one extra syllable on the sound being described and thereby underscore its importance. ... Notice also that adjectives in the positive degree may often consist of a single syllable but in the superlative will usually have several: *bad* vs. *miserable*, *terrible*, *awful*; *good* vs. *excellent*, *wonderful*, *marvelous*, *terrific*, *tremendous*, *fabulous*, *stupendous*, *fantastic*. In other words, the greater the required emphasis, the longer the speaker will dwell on the relevant word(s) (15).

Cohen continues with this line of reasoning: "In spite of the difficulties that the origin of *ker-* has thus far presented, its etymology seems fairly clear to me: *ker-* the *crrr-* of *crrrash!* and *crrrunch!?* The emphatic pronunciation of *crrrash* and *crrrunch* often entail an infix schwa-type vowel, resulting in *ker-* and *ka-* (of e.g. *ka-pow*); in *ka-* the "r" has been lost" (20).

There are many of us who would consider Cohen's explanation to be somewhat far-fetched and "fantastic" in both the good and the bad sense of the word. To his credit, however, he does give documentation for the more traditional etymologies: (1) sound imitation, (2) the German past participial prefix *ge-*, and (3) Gaelic *car* meaning "a twist or turn" (15-20).

Cohen likewise provided seven etymologies of *skedaddle*: (1) a Scandinavian origin, (2) English dialectal *sket* 'quickly' + *daddle* 'walk unsteadily', (3) fanciful formation, (4) Irish *sgedad-ol* 'scattered-all', (5) intensive *s-* as in *(s)mash* + *ke-*, (as in *(ka)boom!*) + palindromic *-dad-* (of *dodder*) + frequentative *-le*, and Scottish *skiddle* 'spill' + *skail* 'scatter, disperse' (29-30). Cohen takes exception to Onions, who says in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, "There are no forms in Swedish or Danish sufficiently near to be seriously taken into account." Cohen remarks, "If Onions feels that *skedaddle* 'spill' may have a different etymology than *skedaddle* 'leave hurriedly', he should say so" (30). I agree with Cohen.

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Cohen's book is an anthology, and J. Peter Maher is the author of an article on the etymology of *posh*. Though there seems to be no evidence from tickets or from stamped luggage, there was at one time an important steamship line named Peninsular and Oriental. Therefore, *posh* could have come from "Peninsular and Oriental Ships." Maher rejects this etymology. He also rejects the most popular and most fascinating etymology of this word, that it comes from "port out, starboard home," a choice of cabin which would have given the better-heeled travelers the shade as they traveled from England to India and back. But Maher says:

Now, sea-farers will readily know that ships ploughing the waves at twenty knots inevitably enjoy a brisk breeze, and that air temperatures at sea, even in lower latitudes, are never so beastly hot as on dry land. Such are not the only facts hostile to the going etymology of *posh* (64).

Maher has another etymology which he considers more sensible. He points out that in London speech the "l" is swallowed in such words as *milk, I'll, well*, etc. He continues:

Londoners, in particular the Cockneys, pronounce the verb *to polish* as *pawsh*, to write it in an American fashion, or *posh* to give the authentic, if nonstandard, British spelling. This verb is fully conjugated: "I, you, we, they *posh*; he, she it *poshes*; it is, they are *poshed* types, or live in *posh(ed)* digs (64).

Gary L. Bertrand has a fascinating article in Cohen's book entitled "Cajun Nicknames and Other Words." He points out that in Cajun country many names begin with the diminutive *ti* for *petit*. It could be seen in such Cajun names as *Teejoe Boudreaux, Teedon Fontenot, and Teeboy Derouen*. Bertrand then tells about his childhood:

My Aunt Mim (for Euphemie) always called me "Crotte" or "TiCrotte" (which translates to a small increment of excrement), though she was a most proper lady and would never have spoken the English equivalent (68).

Bertrand recalls that nicknames also came frequently from animals. Aunt Mim called his older brother *Croppo* 'frog,' and his younger sister *Zoozoo* 'little bird' (68). There is a certain amount of endearing flippancy in these usages. A woman may refer to her sweetheart as "Mon negre" ('my Nigger', perhaps meaning 'slave') (69). Bertrand says that when he was on a bowling team in New Orleans his team sponsor shouted happily when he bowled a strike, "That's my nigger." The fascinating thing is that Bertrand is white.

Bertrand also recalls being called *Ponya* by a patron of a Lake Charles grocery store where he worked. The patron spoke both English and

Cajun, and came from Abbeville, so Bertrand asked many Cajun speakers in Abbeville what the term *ponya* meant. Most of them didn't know, or said they didn't know. And a few said they knew but couldn't tell him. He finally asked his secretary to ask her mother, and the next day when the secretary came to work she handed Bertrand a note and quickly walked away. Her mother had written, "Little boy who plays with himself in his pants" (69).

Nathan Susskind gives an interesting etymology for the term *shlemiel*. The story is that Phinehas caught Zimri in the act of fornication and thrust his spear through Zimri's genitals in the very act of fornication. A related story even has it that "he was able to expose the pair's guilt to the public by carrying the pair out speared and yet in their original sinful position with Zimri on top" (73). But what does this story have to do with the term *shlemiel*?

Pious Jews seized upon Zimri's predicament as a grotesquely humorous instance of a sinner receiving his just deserts; but a direct reference to Zimri would immediately stir thoughts of an almost pornographic story; and to keep such thoughts from those who were less solemn than they, the pious (and scholarly) Jews replaced Zimri's name with another: Shelumiel. This name was not chosen at random, however; note the assurance in Sanhedrin 82 that Zimri's real name was Shelumiel (83).

Two other eponyms which Cohen discusses are *smart aleck*, and *the real McCoy*. Both of these names come into being as the result of sophisticated and complicated puns. The term *smart aleck* is probably derived from Aleck Hoag, a thief, a pimp, and a pompous wise guy. He flourished under police protection in New York City in the early 1940s until, by being a bit too clever, he and his wife were sentenced to prison. The scam was that Melinda would entice a stranger to go down an alley at right angles to Broadway. And while engaged in amorous pasttime, she would pick his pockets and pass the booty on to Aleck who would happen to be passing by just at that time. Then Melinda would represent herself as a married woman whose husband is out of town, and invite the man to her apartment, but on the way she would see something in a shop window she wanted him to buy. The man searches for his wallet, but of course he is unable to find it, so he excuses himself and hurries off to his apartment to see if he has left it there. At first the police were in on the scam, but then Aleck and Melinda thought they could get along without the police. The police were, of course, furious at Aleck's decision to avoid paying the necessary bribes, and they took delight in his subsequent legal troubles, since he was suffering from the dire fate of being too clever (90). But

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there is a double irony here, for Aleck escaped from prison, and left the following note: "I am innocent – I have not been well treated since my confinement, and bid adieu to the city prison" (96).

According to Peter Tamony, there are five possible etymologies for *the real McCoy*:

- (1) it comes from an Irishman or an old Irish ballad; (2) it comes from Joseph McCoy, who promoted Abilene into the first cow town around 1867;
- (3) it comes from Kid McCoy, welter-weight champion 1898-1900, who was said to prove his identity by throwing punches at doubters until they admitted, "It's the real McCoy"; (4) it comes from a Prohibition rum-runner, Bill McCoy; (5) *McCoy* comes from Macao, whose uncut heroin had drug addicts in the 1930s asking for "the real Macao" (106-7).

Tamony adds, "All of these are interesting possibilities – and one of them may even be true" (107). Tamony is especially fascinated by source (3), Kid McCoy, the welterweight champion, and gives evidence that the expression may be based on a pun on the double meaning of the word *kid* 'not to tell the truth:' he cites as support such expressions as "He might Kid McCoy but he can't kid me," "This is no kid; this is the real McCoy," and "This is the real McCoy, no kidding" (114-5). If this is the correct etymology, it may help to account for the name *Josh Billings*, for *josh* is very similar in sense to *kid*.

All of the slang expressions discussed in Cohen's book have a humorous ring to them, and *hunky-dory* is no exception to this rule. Cohen feels that this expression comes from the name of a street in Yokohama, Japan, called *Honcho dori*. The story is that Honcho dori attracted the attention of foreigners, both because it was regarded as a collector's paradise and because a small street behind it was given over to public bathhouses: "Nude public bathing was an electrifying novelty for the Victorian-age Westerners, and presumably foreigners who participated in such bathing came away feeling just fine (hence *hunky-dory*) (125).

Cohen's book is fun to read. It offers many insights into the nature of people and the nature of language. Before reading his book, I was not aware that "Get your cotton pickin' hands offa me" was a racial slur (137), nor did I know that the expressions *wise crack* and *slapstick* originated at a time when rube comedians wore baggy pants and often cracked the slapstick as they told jokes (113). Nor did I know that English *ptui* was derived from Greek *ptu* 'spit' (1, 46). Nor did I know that some of the most common factors in the spread of slang terms are songs, anger, famous personages, and war (158).

The study of slang and names and etymologies is slippery. As Cohen himself says, "Controversy is a constant companion of etymological studies" (156).

I would like to conclude this review in the same way that Cohen concluded his book, but with an added comment. He said, "Research on slang ... proceeds along two lines: determining the origin of a given term or expression and staying alert for any insight that may emerge from the study of each item" (159). My only wish is that Cohen had concentrated on the latter rather than on the former.

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Toponomia Hiberniae. By Breandán Ó Ciobháin. Baile Átha Cliath (Dublin): An Foras Duibhneach [4 Faiche na Sceach, Casilean Cnucha, Dublin 15, Ireland]. Vol. II (1984): Kilcrohane Parish, pp. xv, 165; Vol. III (1984): Kilcrohane Parish, pp. xviii, 107; Vol. IV (1985): Templenoe Parish, pp. lxxii, 136. Maps, illustrations. Price per volume: \$40.00 (hardback), \$20.00 (paperback).

Several years ago I welcomed in this journal (*Names* 27 [1979], 198-9) the first volume in a series of studies designed to present "detailed information from oral sources, augmented by references to the original Ordnance Survey documents of c. 1840, on Irish placenames," and at the same time expressed the hope "that the remaining volumes will not be too long in coming." Well, three more volumes of a projected total of twenty-five have now arrived which is all the more laudable since the whole series has to be privately financed by the author, a High Placenames Officer in the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and a member of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences.

While Volume I covered the parishes of Aghadoe, Killorglin, and Knockane in the Barony of Dunkerran North, County Kerry, Volumes II and III deal with the western and eastern halves, respectively, of the neighboring parish of Kilcrohane, and Volume IV gives an account of the

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parish of Templenoe, both in the nearby Barony of Dunkerran South. Many of the names included are minor ones, speaking of a rich Irish Gaelic toponymic tradition in this part of Kerry and revealing the tremendous eye for detail required and acquired of those making a precarious living off a land often inhospitable and infertile. This is how familiar landscapes are made. As in the first volume, the field work behind the nomenclature presented is immaculate and worth imitating, especially when one considers that for most of the names recorded no earlier evidence exists in written form.

Although the text is still in Irish Gaelic — probably unavoidably so since *Toponomia Hiberniae* is obviously also intended as a cultural statement — this reviewer is pleased to be able to report that an earlier suggestion of his has been taken up by the author, so that Volume III now contains a brief English introduction to the parish of Kilcrohane, and Volume IV a substantial one to the baronies covered. Especially the latter provides for the non-Gaelic speaker a helpful and quite detailed account of the scope of the work and of the nature of the sources and the organization of the material, as well as an explanation of the author's editing practices, a short summary of the frequency and distribution of certain toponymic elements, a portrait of the informants from whom the information still in oral tradition was obtained, an outline of the status of Irish (Gaelic) in the community, and a full sketch of the general geological, climatic, ecological, pre-historical, historical, cultural, political, ethnic and ecclesiastical background. This information makes the marvelous toponymic riches contained in these four volumes so much more accessible to international scholars, especially since Volumes II-IV continue the practice, begun in Volume I, of offering an English translation of each Gaelic name.

These are welcome features which make the task of widely recommending *Toponomia Hiberniae* both desirable and easy. As fellow workers in the onomastic vineyard, we owe it to Breandán Ó Ciobháin to help him place his survey beside the well-established English one, on the shelves of our libraries and on our own. It would be a pity if such a splendidly begun series would have to be discontinued for lack of financial support.

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Dictionary of French Place Names in the U.S.A. By René Coulet du Gard. Newark, DE 1971: Editions des Deux Mondes, [P.O. Box 56], 1986. Pp. v, 431. \$39.00. (\$25.00 to ANS members).

French is no longer a language of demographic importance in the country, although it survives in some isolated pockets, especially in Louisiana (although arguably now in a separate language, a creole) and along the Canadian border contiguous with Quebec. Therefore the need for a definitive dictionary of placenames of French origin in the United States is great. The placenames that were originally French have, of course, been anglicized, and have undergone further changes through dialect pronunciations and English spelling forms until they are now English, with only an origin in French. Still, scholarly folklore causes them to be called French names. Coulet du Gard has published two editions of *The Handbook of French Place Names in the U.S.A.* (1974, 1976) and has now expanded the *Handbook* into a dictionary of approximately 2,800 names, glossed according to state and then etymologized or otherwise described. The format makes searches a bit awkward, but the index lists all names, keyed to the text by page number. The introduction is a capsule of the history of French exploration and settlement in the United States, three stages being delineated (trappers and wood scouts; missionaries; and servers of the Royal House of France).

Problems exist in trying to ferret out the origins, since a name may have survived in partial French form although it was originally a French rendering of an Amerindian word, the latter usually swallowed by the French, which in turn was sometimes translated into English, instances being *Erie*, several *Red Rivers*, many *Sandy Creeks*, and *Portages*, among others. Another matter to consider is the folk etymologizing of a word or name: *Fever*, from *Rivière des Feves* 'River of the Beans'; *Placentic Island*, from *Plaisance* 'beautiful, pleasing'; or *Cooter* from *coutré* 'plowshare.'

Actually, Coulet du Gard lists every placename that is remotely connected with any aspect of French. In doing this, he lists some that can be of French origin only by stretching castor hide just so far. Indeed, the name *Marion* itself can be claimed to be of French origin, but when the place was in fact named after Francis Marion, the famous American Revolutionary War leader, we have moved far from the French origin of the word. Many placenames taken from personal names really have nothing to do with direct French influence: *Annette*, Alaska (after the wife of W.H. Dall); *Estelle*, Alaska; *Audubon* (several places named after John

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James Audubon, the ornithologist); or *Calvin*, Louisiana (after Calvin Carter, "*Cartier* in French").

Translations are another matter, and it is good to have as many of these noted as Coulet du Gard does: *Weeping Water*, Nebraska (*L'Eau qui Pleure*, trans. from an Amerindian myth word); *Beef Creek*, Oklahoma (*La Rivière aux Boeufs*); *Sugar Loaf*, Oklahoma (*Pain de Sucre*); *Baton Rouge*, Louisiana (from Choctaw *istrouma* 'red pole'); or *Smoky Hill* (a very free rendering of *La Fourche de la Cote Boucanee* 'hill of barbecues'). Sometimes, he gives credit to French cities when the American form bypasses them and derives directly from another source: *Troy*, New York and other states (from Homer's Troy, not *Troyes*); or *Oran*, New York (from Oran, Algeria). Sometimes, he uses the suffix *-ville* as the criterion of French origin; *Zincville*, *Dixville*, or *Gastonville* (but Coulet du Gard claims *Gaston* as French-derived also). Occasionally, the entry is simply wrong, as in *Wilkes-Barre*, named for two English politicians friendly to the American cause, but given here as named for Colonel John Wilkes, "distinguished army officer, who fought against the British," "and his nephew Wilkes Durkee."

Many surprises appear. Somehow, we tend to forget that the famous *Bunker Hill* took its name from that of *Sieur de Boncoeur*, "a prominent French landlord." Where did Coulet du Gard find the information that *Plymouth*, Massachusetts, was named first by the French as *Port Saint-Louis*? *Necker Island*, Hawaii, was named for M. Jacques Necker, French Minister of Finance under Louis XVI. He enters ten instances of *Ver-sailles*, and it is here that pronunciations should be shown. *Toad-a-Loop*, Missouri, derives strangely from *Tour de Loup* 'wolf's trick,' and *Zile au Boy Creek* is a violated form of *Aux Isles au Bois* 'at the islands of the woods.'

Coulet du Gard has produced a book that deserves expansion into a survey of all French-derived placenames in the United States. Despite some shortcomings of an interpretative nature and some outright misconceptions, a massive amount of detail has been compiled — and when so much is done, a few errors are certain to occur. We should not let those detract from the germinal work that is presented here. The author states, "To the researcher, the historian, the curious reader, to anyone interested in interpreting the imprint of the past, we present this study in the hope that it will entertain and lead to many more discoveries on the subject." I add my hope, also.

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Cornish Place-Name Elements. By O.J. Padel. English Place-Name Society, Vol. LVI/LVII, for 1978-79 and 1979-80. Nottingham: English Place-Name Society, 1985. Pp. xli, 349. Maps, indexes.

Before the English Place-Name Society (EPNS) began its series of publications devoted to a survey of English place names county by county, one of the two introductory volumes provided a brief account, by Allen Mawer, of *The Chief Elements Used in English Place-Names* (1923). In 1956, A.H. Smith expanded this into a two-volume dictionary of *English Place-Name Elements*, published as Vols. XXV and XXVI of the EPNS. Both of these publications, especially the latter, contain some Cornish elements, but since Cornwall has not yet been included in the published series and since the Institute of Cornish Studies which houses the collections of the Cornish Place-Name Survey was not set up until 1972, the number of such elements listed is understandably quite small and insufficient. Oliver Padel has now remedied this unsatisfactory state of affairs by producing the first dictionary of placename elements in any Celtic language. His pioneering task was made even more difficult by the fact that Cornish as a living language has been extinct since the eighteenth century, that there exists at present no authoritative dictionary of Cornish, and that the history of Cornish phonology still awaits definitive treatment; in the face of such adversity, we must applaud him for his audacious determination.

In the absence of any systematic treatment of Celtic placename syntax, Padel has had to create his own classification. As a result, he has suggested three primary groupings: A (an element is used on its own to form a simplex place name); B (an element is used as a generic in a name with two elements); and C (an element is used as a qualifier or specific in such a name). Groups B and C are further subdivided into name compounds in which the qualifier precedes the generic, and — the most common — name phrases in which the generic is followed by the specific. There is a further group D in which the element is used as a suffix "to distinguish different places of the same name, or different subdivisions of a single place" (p. xvi). The alphabetical order in which elements are presented in the dictionary has also created considerable problems because Middle Cornish, which provides the majority of them, was itself not spelt consistently. Padel has tried to overcome these difficulties with the help of a separate alphabetical list of elements and generous cross-references within the text. He has also provided a very useful index of elements rejected by him because of lack of evidence or because of some considerable doubt,

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but included in other studies of Cornish place names.

A most helpful feature for those working with insular or continental place-nomenclatures that include names from other Brittonic languages (Breton, Welsh, Cumbric, Pictish) is the frequent mention and separate indexing of Breton and Welsh cognates, which are an aid in making connections across borders. The extensive index of all placenames quoted in the text is another important aid for comparative purposes. In order to open up the topographic sector of the Cornish lexicon for onomastic purposes even further, it might have been useful to include a list of elements that are used as generics, since these tend to be much fewer in number than specifics and also less diversified in meaning, but in several other ways the toponymy of Cornwall has suddenly become accessible as it has never been before, and for that we owe Padel collegial thanks, too.

The term *element* is, of course, somewhat imprecise, but in its time-honored vagueness – semantically, morphologically, grammatically – lies also its virtue, as it would be well-nigh impossible to find another umbrella term for the classes and usages of words incorporated in placenames. What the term designates in Cornwall is mostly nouns and adjectives, with a few prepositions and adverbs and several suffixes completing the roster. Missing of necessity, but leaving a considerable gap, is a list of the many personal names which occur as specifics, and one's perception of the total nomenclature on which this dictionary is based is therefore a little skewed. Apart from no clear indication of the different ways in which human beings relate to the landscape, the world view which emerges is, however, a fairly consistent one. Not unexpectedly, it is characterized by a discriminating awareness of a great variety of topographical features, sound knowledge of the regional flora and fauna, and sensitivity for the modes in which various perceived items in the landscape define and individuate each other. In its overriding emphasis on rurality it preserves, or at least is a reminder of, the Cornwall of a few centuries ago, effectively surviving its primary linguistic affiliations. For that reason, it is a world view worth investigating in greater detail.

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Hispanic First Names: A Comprehensive Dictionary of 250 Years of Mexican-American Usage. By Richard D. Woods. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press [88 Post Road West, Box 5007, 06881], 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, more so now when Spanish (in its several dialects) has become second to English as the most prominent language spoken in the United States. 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 caste. A sameness of names, especially for women, seems to occur within a caste, such as the economic classes which we call 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). Within the confines of that limitation, Woods notes further sources of restraint: Catholicism; a dialectal comprehension of the Spanish language; and the system of naming practiced by the Mexican-Spanish themselves. 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 nineteenth 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 tends 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,

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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 accentuated 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.*: Asoltacion, Esaltacion, Eximienio.

All the information is keyed to lists of abbreviations and explanations in the Introduction. Usually, parents or other name givers have a wealth of possibilities to choose from, although the rules for gender variants and for the forms of saints' names may require certain modifications. For instance, it is still difficult for the English name giver to understand why a female baby would be called *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. For example, the name *Jesus*, which does not occur in English, causes unfamiliar baseball announcers trouble. Other instances of such names are *Exaltacion*, *Sacramento*, *Conception*, *Custodio*, or *Expectation*.

Woods relies, on standard dictionaries of names for etymologies and is at the mercy of the ameliorative origins offered 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 provides a relevant connotation, but it 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 it must be consulted), an 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 (ten pages single-spaced). The apparatus of the text is formidable 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.

Kelsie B. Harder

The Book of Names. By J.N. Hook. New York: Franklin Watts, 1983. Pp. 288. \$17.95.

It's all here; everything you always wanted to know about names — the familiar and the exotic, the frivolous and the serious. J.N. Hook has collected and compiled a glittering potpourri of onomastic lore. All those newspaper clippings and magazine fillers that you so carefully tore out and filed away (and have been unable to find ever since) are here, along with new information to edify and delight anyone with even a passing interest in names. To sum up this book in one sentence: It is a thoroughly delightful romp through the pastures of onomastics, cow paties and all.

Quick! What do the following names have in common: *Fwick*, *Punge Finch*, *Twombley*, *Klink* and *Brown Burtl*? No, they're not new flavors of the month at Baskin-Robbins, but rather the names of cars that once graced the highways of America. There have been 2,200 such; Hook lists the names of forty.

The Book of Names contains list upon list of names and facts about names; it is concerned primarily with American names and their antecedents, but there is information aplenty concerning names and naming practices throughout the world. There are lists of the most common names, Spanish American names, Black American names, the most and least popular given names, patronyms, surnames derived from animals and from birds. There are surprises: The name *Onions*, as in Charles T.,

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is it pronounced the same as the plural of 'onion'? Not according to Hook, who says that the editor himself would have said o-NIGH-unz. There are accounts of the origins and histories of the names of the continents, of the fifty states, and of many American cities and towns, all presented in an enjoyable and engaging manner. Hook obviously had a great deal of fun researching and writing this book; wit, grace, and erudition are found on each and every page.

Probably the best way to present the flavor of *The Book of Names* is to offer a few samples, drawn from the book's four major sections, which deal with given names, surnames, and place names. The final section is a miscellany/conclusion.

In 1981, the most popular names for newborn girls were *Jennifer, Jessica, Melissa, Nicole, Michelle, Elizabeth, Lisa, Tiffany, Christina,* and *Danielle*, a far cry from the most common names of 1898, which were *Mary, Catherine, Margaret, Annie, Rose, Marie, Esther, Sarah, Frances,* and *Ida*.

For boys, 1898's popular *John, William, Charles, George, Joseph, Edward, James, Louis, Francis,* and *Samuel* give way to 1981's *Michael, Christopher, David, Jason, Joseph, Anthony, John, Daniel, Robert* and *James*.

Which names have the most variants, world-wide? I would have guessed *John* and *Mary* (and been right), but I had no idea of the extent of the variation. Hook mentions that *Mary/Maria* appears in over 200 versions and *John* in about 125, including *Zane* and *Ansis*. Apparently *Ann* and *Joseph* win second places in the variation derby.

There are approximately 1,286,556 different surnames in the United States (according to the Social Security Administration). Of these, the 100 most common (*Smith, Johnson, Williams(on), Brown* and *Jones* head the list) account for roughly one sixth of the population; the most common 3,160 account for 54. On the other end of the distribution, there are nearly one half million 'unique' names in the Social Security records, one of a kind that tie for least common honors.

The longest American surname? There is some dispute, but Hook offers for our consideration *Pappatorianofillosopolulus* and *Wolfeschlegelsteinhausenbergerdorff*. The shortest names? A 26-way tie among those consisting of only a single letter of the alphabet. All letters are represented with 24 *A*'s and 16 *M*'s and *O*'s leading the pack and *N*'s, *Q*'s and *X*'s at the end with two each. Unusual spellings of surnames? Try *Bpgen, Bschorr, Wg, Jn,* and *Nzumalo*.

Although there are several million Smiths in the United States, and millions of others world-wide, *Smith* is far from being the world's most popular surname. Some 75 million people answer to the name of *Chang*.

But we must be the poorer for all the surnames which have disappeared from the American scene. The first census in 1790 registered the following: *Beans* and *Lard*, *Humble* and *Toughman*, *Blister* and *Boils*, *Nuthammer* and *Nipper*, *Bearsticker* and *Cathole*, *Spitsnoggle* and *Fatyowant*. In addition, the 1790 also listed a *Peter Wentup*, a *Joseph Came*, a *Wanton Bump*, and a *Sharp Blount*. These make nice juxtapositions with the current *Clayton Crook*, a police officer in Ohio, *C. Sharp Minor*, an organist, and *E.Z. Filler*, dentist.

The five most common community names in America are (in order): *Madison*, *Clinton*, *Washington*, *Franklin*, and *Greenville*. There are also eighteen *Clevelands*, eight *Bostons*, and six *Omahas*.

At his serious/ironic best, Hook ponders the 'inhabitant of' question. What do (or should) the people of Moscow, Idaho, call themselves? How about those who live in Little Rock or Yellow Bluff? *Little Rockers* and *Yellow Bluffers*? This problem of course pales in comparison to that faced by the citizens of other communities. Do the people of Letcher, Kentucky, actually call themselves *Letchers*? And what of those living in Eros, Louisiana? Furthermore, it could be argued that the town of Ova, Kentucky, is already plural and that a single resident is an *ovum*. But these are only minor concerns, I'm sure, to the citizens of French Lick, Indiana, and Intercourse, Pennsylvania, who would be better advised to avoid the issue entirely.

In addition to the many lists of names and aspects of naming, Hook includes a great many delightful anecdotes involving names, the kinds of things that regularly appear as fillers in popular magazines and Sunday Supplements, such as the sign in front of the lending institution which read:

OUR CREDIT MANAGER IS HELEN WAITE.

WHEN YOU NEED CREDIT GO TO HELEN WAITE.

The major problem with *The Book of Names* is that it is far too short; a sequel is in order and the sooner the better.

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I will close this review with the names of Budd Zzzyp and James Zzzzee, who have the honor of last places in the Manhattan telephone directory.

Edward Callary

Northern Illinois University

Dictionary of Spanish Place Names in the U.S.A., Vol. V. By René Coulet du Gard. Newark, DE : Editions des Deux Mondes [Box 56, 19711] 1985. Pp. iv, 202.

Four previous volumes covered the Pacific Coast of North America (California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, New Mexico, and Texas). The fifth volume contains names of Spanish derivation in twenty-two states and is apparently the final one; the series will now be collected into one volume. Coulet du Gard (p. ii) intends the volumes to be "a research tool" for further investigations by scholars in Spanish onomastics.

The author claims that the "book is presented by state following an 'affinity order' by regions." He begins with Colorado, followed by Arkansas, then by Utah, but in no discernible pattern. This arrangement causes some difficulty in locating a state, unless the table of contents is examined repeatedly. Often it is necessary to go through twenty-two listings. An alphabetical index keyed to page numbers would have been a great improvement for the user.

Quibbles aside, the format follows the traditional dictionary entry (except for the confusing ordering of states), with toponym, county, zip code, translation from Spanish into English, origin of the name, date of founding (if a settlement), date of incorporation, population (last census), and former Amerindian name, if any. Some of the information borders on the encyclopedic, which will lead to a dating of the material. Since, however, the entries are, in a sense, preliminary notes for later work, this type of informational entry will do no harm. Actually, population is the only feature in the entry that could be eliminated. A short glossary of Spanish and Mexican words rounds out the volume: *alcade*, *arroba*, *asistencia*, and a few others that contribute to meanings found in the entries. Some are

worthy of mentioning: *gachupin* (nickname given by the Mexicans for men born in Spain; a pejorative name to suggest smug superiority), *gente de razon* (Spanish for colonials who were not Amerindians), and *Californios* (persons of Spanish or Mexican heritage born in California, or resident of the territory, mostly used about 1830-1836). Curiously, several terms pertain only to the Pacific Coast area, which is not covered in this volume.

With so much material at hand, the author can hardly avoid entering questionable names. One way of checking these is to examine the names, purportedly of Spanish derivation, found in states far removed from areas historically influenced by Spanish or by Spanish settlements or domination. In Pennsylvania, for instance, only two geographical names definitely have Spanish origins; and these came about secondarily, by transfer: *Sacramento*, after the California city; and *Saltillo*, probably by veterans of the Mexican war. The others listed hardly qualify as Spanish: *Anita*, no doubt for a settler's daughter or wife; *Columbia County*, ultimately from *Columbus*, by way of *Columbia*, a poetic allusion to America; *Isabella*, possibly from the wife of a president of a coal company; and *Salunga*, certainly of Amerindian origin.

North Dakota is another state worth examining. *Adrian* derives from Adrian, MI; *Alkabo* was coined from *alkali* and *gumbo*, not from *al cabo* 'at the end'; *Amor*, ultimately for the Roman god of love, came by way of Amor, Michigan; *Arvilla* memorializes Arvilla Estella Hersey, wife of a landowner and founder, not Jose Arvilla. *Mantador* is glossed as "a corruption of Spanish *matador*," but this is untenable, as is the story that an early settler who lived near the railroad kept coming to the door to watch the trains go by, causing railway men to say, "There's a man at the door" — hence, *mantador*. *Monango* is certainly of an Amerindian origin; *Havana* derives from Havana, Illinois; *Juanita*, for nearby Lake Wanitah (possibly an anglicized spelling), was influenced no doubt by a far-removed Spanish first name, or an Amerindian name; the town of Minto, settled by Canadians, was named for an Ontario town; and *Ramona*, literary, for the novel by Helen Hunt Jackson. Other names that seem to be derived from Spanish have some aspect that keeps them from being primary, that is, not directly named for reasons of Spanish occupation or of spontaneous naming.

The existence of problem entries for these two states underlines the need for caution, and a thorough checking of sources. As I have learned to my sorrow, requests by mail for information from harried postmasters, pompous village officials, or sublimated and romantic local historians (women or men) can lead to some strange answers and some howlers for origins.

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Nevertheless, Coulet du Gard has managed to move through these booby traps with scholarly carefulness. Occasionally, however, the oddity occurs, especially when he attempts to give the origins of what look to be Spanish-derived names in places where historically Spanish explorers and settlers never set foot. He is on much safer ground in the Southern states where the names are primary.

This compilation of about 2,400 names adds considerably to the available listings of Spanish-derived geographical and habitation names in the United States. Since Spanish (in its attendant varieties of Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican, and Spanish Spanish) has become the strong second language in the United States, such studies as have been and are being done by Professor Coulet du Gard will contribute to the recognition of the trend, and will be a valuable document in the beginning of linguistic and cultural studies of Spanish influence. Indeed, these volumes are very important in both onomastic studies and in the interpretation of the Spanish impact in the United States.

Kelsie B. Harder

Literary Onomastic Studies, Vol. IX, 1982. By Grace Alvarez-Altman and Frederick Burelbach, co-editors [both contributors]. Series published annually by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature and the Department of English, State University College at Brockport, Brockport, NY 14420. [\$5.00]. Pp. 247. Paper cover; photograph.

One of the extra dividends of doing research in literary onomastics is that while investigating technical elements on a scientific basis one can also enjoy the inspirational and other appealing qualities of the material. Although other types of name studies certainly have their own rewards, turning from the collection of map names (for example) to the examination of names in literature is, generally speaking, like going from the encyclopedic world of facts to the more exhilarating world of emotion. By analyzing how authors name characters and places, not only do we gain additional insight into the workings of the mind, but we have the added fun of reading the subject matter, much of which may already be familiar to us. The study of literature has (for me) always been great fun, and discovering the symbolic significance of the names found there is yet

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another way of combining labor with pleasure.

What I have just written may have long been recognized, but comparatively little onomastic research has been attempted by first-rate American scholars of past generations, partly because most literary specialists are not drawn to linguistics. Fortunately, some exceptions such as Louise Pound and George R. Stewart do occur. A couple of others come to mind: While Kemp Malone was President of the American Name Society (ANS) he had to be absent from the annual meeting, since he was on a special cultural assignment to Turkey for the U.S. Government. He delivered his presidential address anyway, by means of a tape recording, and spoke on characternyms in *Beowulf*, an extremely difficult though fascinating subject, as the professor himself noted in the tape. Sometime during the same period Leslie Hotson, who was known as "the detective" because he discovered the legal record of the murder of Christopher Marlowe, entertained the Shakespeare division of the MLA convention by reading a paper on a number of curious names such as *Malvolio*. Other literary scholars must have turned out similar items — an area that we hope some graduate student may someday investigate for us.

The preface to the present volume (the ninth in a series of annual publications) begins with a quote from William Blake's "Infant Joy:" "I happy am, Joy is my name." The main reason for jubilation was the first announcement in print of a series of publications under the general editorship of Leonard R. N. Ashley, to be known as *The International Library of Names*, the first volume of which probably will be *Names in Literature: the Best of Literary Onomastics Studies*, edited by Grace Alvarez-Altman, Walter P. Bowman, and Frederick M. Burelbach.

The articles include a 1981 banquet address, in which Professor William F.H. Nicolaisen attempts to answer his own question, "Why Study Names in Literature?" He says that scholars should be "less concerned with what Literary Onomastics can do for the study of literature and ... more attuned to what it can do for the study of names." He urges higher standards and greater sensitivity to, sympathy for, and understanding of names rather than cold and scientific dissection of their elements. He concurs with Leonard Ashley, who (two years previously) had pointed out that, although we had to start somehow, we were in error merely to continue to multiply examples instead of analyzing our own analyses.

While I believe Dr. Nicolaisen (and Professor Ashley) is basically correct, I cannot agree with his position on the "essence" of names. Faulkner's *Light in August*, he believes, illustrates and defines one of the foundations of onomastics: "A man's name, which is supposed to be just the sound for

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who he is, can be somehow an augur of what he will do, if other men can only read the meaning." A name, then, does not just identify, but carries its very essence "like a flower its scent or a rattlesnake its rattle." Professor Nicolaisen's contribution to Scottish placenames and other related fields (including literary onomastics) is monumental, and his emotional regard for names (which do have both denotational and connotational meanings) is admirable. But as a "practicing semanticist" myself I do not accept the belief that meanings are inherent, or that words have an "essence." (How many Adolphs do we know that are most unlike Hitler, or how many Johns are pope-like?) Also, according to the semanticists, words (including names) change their meanings with their contexts. Nevertheless, Dr. Nicolaisen's article is clear, polished, and thought-provoking — qualities which we have come to identify with the author.

Allen Walker Read's key-note address at the 1980 Literary Onomastics Symposium (LOS), which is printed in this volume, clearly illustrates the warm approach to names in literature "with more sympathy and understanding" that is advocated by Nicolaisen. Professor Read discusses names "used not in the normal way, to impart information about geographical whereabouts, but for the love of the names themselves."

For example, he tells us about Ladora, Iowa, which was named by a local music teacher from the notes of the music scale, la, do, and ra — "perhaps the only coinage of this type in American naming history." Other examples from American authors are *Alabama* (an early suggested name for New Jersey, which at one time was the proprietary domain fo the Duke of Albany), and the "lordly" *Hudson*; "Romantic *Wyoming* and "my own romantic *Bronx*" [the stream]" — both used by the poet Joseph Rodman Drake in 1835, and "O rushing *Contoocook*" (Ralph Waldo Emerson); the exotic names of H.W. Longfellow: "the *Dacotahs*, / Where the Falls of *Minnehaha* / Flash and gleam among the oak-trees" and "thus sailed my Hiawatha / Down the rushing *Taquemenaw* / Forth upon the *Gitche Gumee* [Lake Superior] / On the shining Big-Sea-Water;" and Walt Whitman's dithyrambic style as he exults in his native terrain: "*America* always! ... / Always *Florida's* green peninsula! [I wonder if Whitman was familiar with the palmetto-covered rattlesnakeland of my own early memories of Florida!] / Always the priceless delta of *Louisiana* ... " In Whitman's long poem "Salut au Monde!" he answers the question, "What do you see, Walt Whitman?" with a citation described thus by Professor Read: "Page after page is packed with long lists of names — mountains, deserts, oceans, lakes, capes, rivers, cities, ethnic groups — in an overwhelming avalanche."

"Onomastic Devices in the Poetry of Rupert Brooke" is Professor Read's contribution to the 1981 Symposium. Brooke's love for English placenames is illustrated over and over; e.g. here are a few lines from the 1913 poem "Motoring": "The part of motoring I like is luncheon near the Devil's Dyke. — The country's really very fair, / From beyond Tichling Beacon there ... " The author's onomastic devices are complex: in the sonnet "The Soldier" he writes, " ... if I should die, think only this of me; / That there's some corner of a foreign field / That is for ever England." Regarding these lines Read says, "In a way, it is a form of personification, raising 'England' into an anthropomorphized being." Shortly before his death in 1915, at the age of twenty-seven, Brooke wrote to a friend that he was working on an extensive "Ode-Threnody on England," which contained the line, "In Avons of the heart her rivers run." The onomastic devices, Read observes, are hard to analyze. "A river name (in itself meaning 'river' in Celtic) is generalized into a plural and then attributed to the human heart." In combining humanity and scholarship with readability Allen Walker Read is simply unique.

In "Naming Would-Be Overthrowers of Men in the Novels of Michele Perrein," Martha Onan explains the significance of three potential overthrowers of men and the degree to which each succeeds in fulfilling the mission implied by her name. Her heroines differ "from the docile little girl mama wants to train and the adoring inferior the man wants to possess." The article illustrates the psychological and onomastic insight we have come to expect from Dr. Onan.

Jesse Levitt's "The Adaptation of Names from Classical Mythology as Scientific Terminology" is a clearly written collection and explanation of the numerous scientific terms taken directly from classical names (e.g. *psychic*, from Psyche, the beloved of Eros; *ammonia*, from the Egyptian and Libyan god Ammon; etc.). Together with the names of heavenly bodies, four months (January, March, May, and June), six days of the week (all but Sunday), the fields of chemistry, physics, geology, and biology, these terms permeate our technical vocabulary. A list of variant forms in French, Spanish, Italian, and German is also provided.

In "Cuculcán and Company: Indian Names Used by Miguel Angel Asturias," Margaret V. Ekstrom deals with the work of the Guatemalan Nobel Prizewinner for Literature (1967). Asturias has demonstrated once again the wonder of native names and their evocative power which adds to the attraction of a "magical realism." He also illustrates the intercommunications between Spanish and the major American Indian languages, such as Aztec and Maya. Professor Ekstrom includes euphonic and vivid names

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in her analysis, such as Cuculcán, the god of the sun whose name has several interpretations: *Kukulkán*, the yellow lord, the serpent-bird; *Gucumatz*, the green snake-bird; and *Quetzalcóatl*, the feathered serpent god. Latin American authors are becoming more and more important, and very little onomastic research has as yet been done in their body of literature.

"Is Tiamat Really Mother Hubur?" is a scholarly presentation by John R. Maier of portions of the Old Babylonian poem, *Enuma Elish*, sometimes called "the Babylonian Creation Epic." The central character in the work has two names, Tiamat "the great mother," and Mother Hubur. Tiamat is the great sea, but Hubur is the river of the nether world. The extended footnote #16, which includes a discussion of the origin of Mother Hubbard, originally the patron saint of the chase, is especially interesting to the student of names.

Thalia Phillis Feldman's "Odysseus' Well-Named Libidinal Encounters" is possibly the best example in the volume of technical scholarship combined with readability. Whereas too many onomastic writers devote more time and space to literary analysis than is essential, Dr. Feldman keeps the running commentary to a minimum. Refreshingly, she questions traditional interpretations, such as the derivation of *Penelope* from a species of duck, and carefully provides a much more plausible etymon: that the name signifies a female who literally "rips off the woof of a weaving" (as Penelope did, stalling her undesirable suitors by promising to choose a husband when the work was finished).

In "An Introduction to Naming in the Literature of Fantasy" Frederick M. Burelbach has brought to our attention still another vast area of onomastic inquiry. Admittedly, he reminds us, part of the enjoyment of Alice in Wonderland stems from the unusual names which seem most appropriate in the world of fantasy (such as the Mad Hatter and a lizard named Bill, to mention only a couple out of many). Professor Burelbach offers us a theoretical guide to the selection of names one might use in creating a literary fantasy. He analyzes names already in use, e.g. historical names (mythological or remote, such as *Harun al-Wathik*, a historical caliph of the Abbasid dynasty, who is the hero of William Beckford's *Vathek*) and invented imitations of historical names; unusual letter/sound combinations; class names (e.g. *the Snow Queen*, *the Maid*, *the Wizard of Oz*, *the Cheshire Cat*); or "paronomasic names" (*Crayola Catfish* from R. A. Lafferty's "Boomer Flats," *Habundia* from William Morris's *The Water of the Wondrous Isles*, and *Saltheart Foamfollower* from Stephen R. Donaldson's *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever*).

Betty J. Davis writes skillfully and right on target in her article "From Précieuses to Peasants: Names in Molière's *Les Femmes Savantes*." She writes, "In two comedies, *Les Précieuses Ridicules* ... and *Les Femmes Savantes* ... , Molière satirized the exponents of *préciosité* The Précieuses regarded themselves as women of great worth, in other words 'precious.' Molière found their use of elaborate periphrases and euphemisms absurd and their rejection of physical love contrary to the interests of society."

In "The Onomastic Devices of Casmilo José Cela," Luis A. Oyarzun discusses a novelist unknown to the general student of names. His analysis, which is clear and readable, is limited to two works, *The Family of Pascual Duarte* (1942) and the author's masterpiece *La Colmena* (*The Hive*, 1945). He tells us that in the name of the protagonist of the first novel occurs the greatest of all the onomastic ironies in the volume. *Pascual*, which is charged with religious significance, comes from Aramaic *pascal*, which in turn comes from the Hebrew *pasah*, the name of the Passover feast commemorating the Exodus. St. John and St. Paul refer to Jesus as the "Paschal lamb," since he was crucified at Passover time. However, on the surface, Pascual Duarte is anything but a sacrificial lamb.

Hilda Radzin's "Names in the Mythological Lay 'Rigsthula'" is a brief but masterful essay on Old Icelandic names. Thus, "Heimdal — who, as the warder of heaven, is here a symbol of the sun — wanders, under the name of Rigr, over the earth" The god cohabits with Edda 'great grandmother' and sires Thrall 'slave'; Amma 'grandmother' produces Karl 'freeman'; and Mothir 'mother' brings forth Jarl 'noble'.

In "Literary Onomastics Typology of Relevance to Ontology in *The Miracle of Aunt Beatriz* by the Dominican Dramatist Manuel Rueda," Grace Alvarez-Altman says that "a Golden Age" of literature is now flourishing in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Alvarez writes on a lofty plane probably well suited to philosophers, but, I confess, not always crystal clear. Here and there the technical polysyllables obscure the intended meaning of a passage. As she says, "Through the symbol of a MIRACULOUS DEATH-BODY THAT DOES NOT DECAY [sic; not a title] literary onomastics plunges us into an Ontological typology of names in the one-act drama by Manuel Rueda. Onomastic concepts cannot be disassociated from respective philosophies. Manuel Rueda's heritage reflects in this macabre tragedy an onomastic melting pot" There is meaning here, but some readers will have to work for it. The result is a fantasy neatly interpreted through onomastics: In her will Aunt Beatriz — the three-day

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corpse that shows no signs of decomposition — provides wealth to her two nephews, one niece, the priest, the governor, the community and the church, on condition that her body never be buried. Daily she will be placed in her favorite armchair and will silently preside over events. (However, the audience never sees any part of her except the lace of her right-hand cuff, as the chair faces away from the front of the stage.) The entire community cooperates in order for all of them to become millionaires. The onomastic analysis consists of an explanation of the names of the individuals involved and an identification of their roles in the macabre drama.

For sheer vigor and versatility I know of no onomastic scholar superior to Leonard R. N. Ashley. "'The Hum of Mighty Workings:' Publication Needs and Plans in Literary Onomastics and Onomastic Science in General" deals with a mighty subject, and deservedly is given a position of special importance in the volume — last, but not least. He is well aware that some of the publications he mentions may be many years in materializing, but believes it is not too early to make careful plans. In fact, some of these projects are in preparation, such as the forthcoming many-volumed International Library of Names, of which Professor Ashley himself is the General Editor. While paying tribute to the Conference on Literary Onomastics (now designated ICLO and raised to international significance as one of the official ICOSO committees) and other ANS achievements, Dr. Ashley pinpoints certain onomastic research areas which are greatly in need of exploitation. Scholars in the field of names who are seriously looking for publication opportunities would do well to note carefully Professor Ashley's essay on practical avenues to follow, such as monograph possibilities, textbook needs, etc. [Another helpful source should be Walter M. Brasch's "Producing and Marketing a Place Name Study," as yet unpublished.] This article is yet another worthwhile contribution by Leonard Ashley to onomastic research.

E. Wallace McMullen

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Urdang Reference Books

Allusions – Biblical, and Historical: A Thematic Dictionary. Edited by Laurence Urdang, and Frederick G. Ruffner, Jr. 2nd ed. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Co. [Book Tower, 48266], 1986. Pp. 634. \$68.00.

-OLOGIES and -ISMS: A Thematic Dictionary. Laurence Urdang, Editor-in-chief, with Anne Ryle and Tanya H. Lee, eds. 3rd ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1986. Pp. 795. \$90.00.

Picturesque Expressions. Laurence Urdang, Editorial Director, with Walter W. Hunsinger, Editor-in-Chief. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1985. Pp. 770. \$75.00.

Laurence Urdang, editor of *Verbatim*, has become more than a cottage industry in the publishing of dictionaries. Having been editor of *Random House Dictionary*, he now practices his lexicographical trade in almost multitudinous directions and with an energy that seemingly has no truck with flags. The three listed here indicate that they are in second or third editions, but an edition coming from Urdang is an original, having little to do with previous editions except title and a semblance of format.

The study of metaphor has achieved linguistic acceptance, especially as the concept relates to meaning. Evidence exists, one might say facetiously, that metaphor is fundamental to understanding, to experiencing, and to development of skills; some would say begin with the fingers, while others accept eyesight as a base, understanding, of course, that the cognitive area of the human mind has a device that allows us to structure the image. As Ted Cohen, "Metaphor and the Cultivation of Intimacy," writes, "These are good times for the friends of metaphor." Lexicographers have been good friends with metaphor since the days of listing and defining began.

Picturesque expressions are metaphors; otherwise, they have no excuse for existing. Urdang et al. have included about 7000 metaphorical phrases from many specialized fields, such as sports (where so many expressions originate), politics, entertainment, history, and just about any area that happens to have an expression that has snagged print or has become commonized through use. Many have become clichés; but that makes them no less important, for we live by the cliché and, from what I gather from my reading of obituaries, die by them. Then we have the so-called dead

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metaphor, an image that has lost its physicality, but still is no less effective.

The format of the expressions book is thematic and indexed, so that the user can move from both directions, that is, from subject or from the alphabetical index. Each entry is well explained, sometimes fully. Dates of first appearance in print — where known and when — are given, along with some incidental information that will be either of interest or of trivial delight. For instance, *true grit* 'unflinching courage' came into existence as a slang term in the early 1800s, but achieved a kind of notoriety (or patriotic fame, depending on whether John Wayne is considered a real, honest-to-goodness hero) when someone lucked into naming one of John Wayne's movies *True Grit*. *To grease the palm* dates from at least early 16th century, appearing in John Skelton's *Magnificence*.

Many of the expressions have become dated, have lost their meaning, or do not exist in American English (but may have currency in England). Under *omen*, the only recognizable expression to the American would be *handwriting on the wall*, while *my little finger told me that*, *speak from the tripod*, and *stormy petrel* hold as either literary or English. Under *ostentatiousness*, Americans would recognize *cut a swath* (but *cut a path* would be the common usage), *drugstore cowboy*, *English* (put spin on a ball), *Ham*, *grandstand*, *hot-dog*, and *play to the gallery* would be acceptable, but *flat hat*, *fine feathers make fine birds*, *foofaraw*, *froufrou*, and *fuss and feathers* probably would belong elsewhere.

Closely akin to *Picturesque Expressions* is *Allusions*, a glossary of more than 8,700 allusions arranged under some 700 thematic categories., such as Abduction, Adolescence, Age, Ambiguity, Boredom, Bravery, etc. Within each category, several allusions are given. The allusions usually are eponymic, with *Horatio Alger story*, *Midas touch*, or *another Edsel* serving as examples. They can come from many sources, however, even the comics: *Superman*, *Mickey Mouse*, or *Popeye*. Legend and myth (*Hercules*, *Paul Bunyan*) and literature (*Scrooge*) provided many, although they can come from brand names, places, real persons, buildings, music, symbols, animals, "and every other classification of information associated with culture." It is an excellent complement to *Picturesque*.

The third edition of *-OLOGIES* contains more than 17,000 entries, making it essentially a completely new work, one also more usable than earlier editions because of the inclusion of numerous cross references within the 430 thematic categories, and within the entries themselves where synonymous concepts occur. The index lists all headwords and variants. Of course, the entries are not restricted to words ending in the suffixes

-ology and -ism. Many end in -graphy, -mancy, -phobia, -metry, -ics, -philia, -ist, -ry ('Englishry'), and probably several others.

A problem for those of us who have to make a decision between what constitutes a "proper" name and what does not is not solved here, but many onomastic items occur. In a dictionary of hard words, proper name items would ordinarily be eponyms or eponymic. A cursory examination of the index shows that words deriving from personal or placenames appear: *Abderian* 'relating to foolish or excessive laughter' (allusion to Democritus, the laughing philosopher, born in Abdero), *Adamite* (and others derived from *Adam*), *Berengarianism* (the beliefs of Berengar de Tours), *Bergsonism*, *Berkeleyanism*, *Bonapartism*, *Arnoldist* (follower of Arnold of Brescia, 12th century Italian political reformer), *Castroism*, *Cobdenism* (the political doctrines of Richard Cobden), *Fayettism* (from the Marquis de Lafayette), and dozens more.

Words often omitted from standard dictionaries are entered: *haruspicy* 'divination involving sacrificial remains or sacred objects;' *holomany* 'form of divination involving the use of salt;' *odontalgia* 'toothache;' *erotographomania* 'an abnormal interest in erotic literature;' *frottage* 'the act of rubbing against another person for sexual gratification;' or *elinguation* 'the process of removing the tongue.' Probably several hundred others could be singled out as seldom occurring in current dictionaries of the collegiate type. That we do not need to use the words because of kategelo-phobia (fear of ridicule) is beside the point. The fact that they have been used and could conceivably be used again (some are still in use) is reason enough to record them for some kind of cultural permanency. In addition, where else can a logophile with verbal legerdemain or logodaedaly find a state of ataraxia while practicing grammatolatry as well as sesquipedalianism, the love and use of words a foot and a half long? Psychobabble has its uses, including floccinaucinihilipilification (valueless trivia).

Urdang does so much for the study of language use and for recording words and their backgrounds, and for this we must be most grateful. It is also fortunate that Urdang and Gale Research Company have joined in some of the ventures, for the later productions and publications by Gale have been outstanding and useful for scholarly work and for reference. It is to be hoped that many other dictionaries will be published under Urdang's editorship.

Kelsie B. Harder

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Gale Research Company Publications

International Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary. Ellen T. Crowley and Helen E. Sheppard, eds. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Co, [Book Tower, 48226], 1985. Pp. 730. \$140.00.

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: 1984 Supplement. P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, eds. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1985. Pp. xxvi, 616. \$120.00.

Biography and Genealogy Master Index: 1981-85 Cumulation. Barbara McNeil, ed. 5 vols. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1985. Pp. 4,177. \$750.00/set.

These handsome and expertly machined dictionaries continue Gale Research Company's valuable compilations of raw data that would otherwise not be made available for investigatory and research purposes. For instance, the proliferation of shorthand writing (acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations) has probably changed the reading and speaking habits of most of us, especially if we have to work in (have contact with) the masses of information [sic] that constantly inundate us. Keeping to the surface is manifestly impossible; hence, we live under it, and obtain the help provided by Gale Research to find some way to survive it. Of course, sometimes we drown in the overwhelming flood. Recently, I walked in on a discussion of "gen ed" and had to take some moments to realize that the subject under discussion was not about an electric company but about general education.

The *IAIAD* deciphers over 90,000 non-English shorthand types "found in foreign periodicals, government publications, and scientific and technical literature, with no limit on the subject areas covered." The dictionary focuses on "those countries in which English is not the major language," which means that the material does not normally duplicate items found in the *Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary* [Gale Research, 1984; reviewed in these pages March, 1986]. The editors claim that abbreviated forms "seem to proliferate as rapidly in foreign languages as in English," a statement that one would like to challenge not just to be obstreperous or plain cranky. The evidence seems to confirm what Crowley and Sheppard state, although I still believe that the Americans, with our obsession with efficiency and time-saving, furnished the catalyst,

spread the plague for this kind of strange behavior.

Most of the entries are initialisms, but a few become acronyms in English: DUET = Diplome Universitaire d'Études Technologiques; FLIRT = Free Language Information Retrieval Tool; GONG = Groupe d'Organisation Nationale Guadeloupéenne; HARP = High Altitude Research Project; or SAD = Servicios de Accao Directa. Many more could be exhumed. Since the entries come mostly from foreign sources, acronymic situations are accidental. Of course, they may also be acronyms in the foreign language. The coverage includes African, Russian, Latin American, Asian, Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. A list of sources provides background for the entries.

The 1984 supplement to the *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* adds 125,000-plus citations to the more than 850,000 entries in the earlier editions, still only a fraction of the 20 million immigrants to North America from 1538 to 1900, most of their names to be entered in the annual supplements planned for publication. The *PILI* indexes only published materials, lists found in sources (here, 115), with all entries keyed to the sources. Each entry contains the name of the passenger (spelled as in the source), age, place of arrival, year of arrival, key to sources, page number, and names of all accompanying passengers, if any, taken from the published source.

Generally, sources are from genealogical magazines, naturalization records, or ethnic publications with lists of arrivals and dates. Ships' lists that have been published also have been emptied into the index. Parenthetically, one recognizes the amount and kind of research that has been done to obtain the sources, probably not so easy to find. For instance, several citations mention *Tree Talks*, the journal of the Central New York Genealogical Society, in which lists of persons intending to become citizens have appeared, one entitled, "British Subjects Who Registered in Onondaga County 1812-1813."

Probably the greatest value of this enormous project will be to genealogists. The names also could furnish material to sociologists who are working out cultural patterns, or to researchers into names (both first names and surnames) for incidence, variety, or ethnic associations. This is the kind of document that needs to be in all reference libraries.

Since the cost of furnishing review copies of the *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* prohibits the indiscriminate handing out of review copies, I will refer both to the Gale Research Co. release and my odd copy of the earlier edition (1981) to comment briefly on this — literally — wonder of

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wonders among reference books. The *Cumulation* "makes available in one alphabetic sequence all of the more than 2.25 million citations found in these annual updates," and with the eight-volume *BGMI* (1981) brings together in thirteen volumes more than 5.50 million biographical sketches. A lot of names! All are keyed to sources where additional information can be found on each name entered (and a person is behind each name), although some variants will cause one person to be listed several times. Subject areas include law, science, medicine, dance, photography, politics, theater, social science, and anyone listed in the many biographical dictionaries of professions.

The 1985 supplement adds over 260,000 citations to biographical sketches in over thirty-five biographical dictionaries, including *Dictionary of National Biography*, *Standard and Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors and Executives*, *Contemporary Theatre*, and biographical dictionaries in film, medicine, journalism, children's literature, folk music, and literary biography. The format is the same as that of the *Master Index* itself.

All of the volumes noted contain onomastic material, albeit in the rawest of forms, bare listings in most instances. Their primary uses will remain in other areas; but for the sheer numbers of names from which to make onomastic studies, only telephone directories can compete with them. They have the added merit of providing information for specific areas (biography, passenger and immigration persons, and types of abbreviations) that can be studied from several perspectives. Indeed, these are valuable reference books.

Kelsie B. Harder

The Landscape of Thomas Hardy. By Denys Kay-Robinson. Salem, NH : Salem House Limited [99 Main St., 03079], 1984. Pp. 240. \$24.95.

This beautiful book, filled with illustrations and photographs (some in color), goes beyond the ordinary coffee-table curiosity. For anyone interested in the placenames in Hardy's novels, this work is indispensable, although it is not in any way a study of names in the sense of a dictionary or a narrative that treats names for literary meaning or for etymological analysis. What we have is a figuring of landscape, a mapping of the areas covered in the novels, and explanations of how Hardy transformed

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space to fit his creative needs, keeping pretty much to the original territory — which, by the way, is still original, although inroads of modernity have rutted some of the heaths that made up the mythical Egdon Heath.

The contents cover all of Wessex, with every identifiable place mentioned in the novels and poems surveyed as described by Hardy and as it looks today. An added feature is the "title-by-title" index to the Wessex places mentioned by Hardy. The novels are listed alphabetically with "references to the pages on which all the scenes are dealt with or illustrated." Also, each section is keyed to Hardy's places, with keys to the originals. A complete work for the Hardy buff, this text is also a golden find for the literary onomastician turned critic. I recommend it in the strongest terms.

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Le Mots du vin et de l'ivresse. By Martine Chatelain-Courtois. Paris: Belin [8, rue Ferou, 75006], 1984, in the series *Le Français retrouvé*. Paper.

The text is a mine of information on the many French equivalents of our *sozzled*, *pissed as a newt*, and similar terms and expressions for being intoxicated. Moreover, it is comforting to learn that the French, too, experience pink elephants: *l'apparition d'escadrilles d'éléphants roses*. In addition, the "green language" of French slang is both extensive and inventive, often the best example of Gallic wit. Any person who calls the indentation at the bottom of a wine bottle seen through the sides when the contents are gone "the Mount of Despair" has the soul of a poet. *Le mont du Désespoir* is but one of the brilliant names to be found in this book on the words for drinking and drunkenness, and anyone who can imagine the language should buy and enjoy this book.

Leonard R. N. Ashley

Revisits

American Surnames. By Elsdon C. Smith. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. [1001 N. Calvert St., 21202], 1986; originally published Philadelphia, Chilton Book Co., 1969. Pp. xx + 370. \$12.95. Paper.

Nevada Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary. By Helen S. Carlson. Reno, NV : University of Nevada Press [89557], 1974; paperback reprint, 1985. Pp. xiv + 282.

When paperbacks of studies of names begin to appear, onomatologists can begin to believe. The two reprints by Smith and Carlson bring back to us the works of two of the American Name Society's most dedicated members and authors. Both texts are replicas of the originals, although formats differ. The Carlson text has a more attractive cover, while the Smith one is redesigned with a red, white, and blue motif. Since both texts have been reviewed before, little more can be said here, other than that these are attractive and very important texts that are now available for those who did not obtain copies of the originals. The Smith book (a narrative) was reviewed by me (*Names* 18 (1970), 57-61; Carlson was reviewed by T. M. Pearce (*Names* 23 (1975), 45-46).

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Publication Notes

The Domesday Book is now available in the first complete translation (40 volumes) from The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202 (hardcover, \$650.00/set + postage and handling charge of \$17.50; paperback, \$425.00/set + postage and handling, \$15.00). Also provided are statistical summaries, descriptions of local places, indexes of names and places, maps, and an explanation of technical terms. The book is published by the same firm that has reprinted *American Surnames*, by Elsdon C. Smith (see above).

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We are reminded that the following are still in print:

Thomas M. Paikeday, *The Native Speaker is Dead!* Toronto & New York: Paikeday Publishing Co., 1776 Chalkdene Grove, Mississauga, Ont., Canada L4W 2C3, 1985. \$10.50 (in Canada); \$7.50 (U.S.).

Claude Henry Neuffer, ed. *Names in South Carolina*, Vols. I - XXX (1954-1983). The Reprint Co., Pubs., P.O. Box 5401, 601 Hillcrest Offices, Spartanburg, SC 29304. Paperbound. Vol. I (I-XII), \$20.00; vol. II (XIII-XVIII), \$25.00; vol. III (XIX-XXIV), \$20.00; vol. IV (XXV-XXX), \$20.00.

Some books that have been received for review include the following:

G. P. V. and Hewlen B. Akrigg, *British Columbia Place Names*. Victoria, B. C., Canada V8W 2J8: Sono Nis Press, 1745 Blanshard St., 1986. \$16.50. Pp. xxx + 346.

Kelsie B. Harder, *Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names: United States and Canada*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1976; reprinted and republished New York: Facts on File Publications, 1985. Pp. xiii + 631. \$19.95, hardcover; \$12.95, paper.

John M. Carroll, *What's in a Name? An Essay in the Psychology of Reference*. New York, NY 10010: H. Freeman and Co., 41 Madison Ave., 1985. Pp. 208. \$23.95.

John A. Wolter, et al., *World Directory of Map Collections*. New York: K. G. Saaur, 1986. Pp. xl + 405. \$36.00.

Vol. XIII (1986) of *Literary Onomastics Studies*, edited by Grace Alvarez-Altman, will be reviewed by Wayne H. Finke. It contains the proceedings of the conference held in Rochester on June 3 and 4 under the auspices of the State University of New York, Brockport.

Canoma 11, No. 2 (December 1985), Secretariat, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 6th Floor, 615 Booth St., Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1A 0E9, contains "Names Along Ontario's River Parkway," "Some Fur Trade Place Names of the Yellowhead Pass," "Le Blason Populaire au Québec, un Phénomène Révolu?" and reports on advisory committees.

Reviews

Recent publications of ANS members that do not directly bear on onomastics but have great value as reference works are David Sagiv, *Hebrew-Arabic Dictionary of the Contemporary Hebrew Language*, distributed by Zohar Inf. & Technology, 32 Alfandari St., 94353 Jerusalem, Israel (180,000 shekels, incl. v.a.t. per copy); and Sol Steinmetz, *Yiddish and English: A Century of Yiddish in America*, The University of Alabama Press, Box 2877, University, Alabama 35486 (\$20.50 + \$1.00 handling).

NAMER by SALINON is a computer system for naming things with a personal computer. The ad claims, "Composed of over a hundred different programs, subroutines and databases, it offers professional, sophisticated naming techniques never before available to the business executive. Given the importance of first impressions and of names that communicate and are easily remembered, NAMER by SALINON gives you a decisive competitive edge for building exciting, on-target names." For information, write The SALINON Corporation, 7430 Greenville Ave., P. O. Box 31047, Dallas, TX 75231. The system is scheduled for review in *Names* by E. D. Lawson.

Don't Blame the Stork: The Cyclopedia of Unusual Names, by Barbara "Rainbow" Fletcher (18916 68th Ave., NE, #E101, Bothell, WA 98011), is back in the news again, and available. Rainbow continues to make TV appearances and hold radio interviews. The price is not listed, but the 1981 edition was \$8.95.

For those of us who have been or still are involved in competitive sports (or even spectator sports), ANS member Alan Dundes has published "The American Game of 'Smear and Queer' and the Homosexual Component of Male Competitive Sport and Warfare," *The Journal of Psychoanalytic Anthropology* 8, no. 3 (Summer 1985), 115-129. Not for your ordinary lineman or basketball scrub, it nevertheless has some insights that might be of importance to the onomast, if only to aid interpretation of nicknames in sport. The reader will find other uses, including the enjoyment of understanding.

Please send information on publications about names to the Editor of *Names*.