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An Atlas of Louisiana Surnames of French and Spanish Origin. By Robert C. West. Baton Rouge: Geoscience Publications, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, 1986. Pp. ix, 217. Maps, index. \$37.50, paper.

Maps are an underused clue to understanding. There is a geography of surnames, as of almost everything else, and their distribution can provide useful contributions to settlement history and the study of changing cultural landscapes. Robert C. West, a distinguished professor emeritus of geography at Louisiana State University, well known for his work on Latin America, here turns his attention to genealogical data and its utility in tracing the occupancy of the Cajun Country of southern Louisiana. This is a compendium of maps and historical vignettes of one hundred of the most common French and Spanish family names in his adopted state and immediately adjacent parts of Texas and Mississippi. The text emphasizes the time and place of initial settlement by families carrying the selected names, and the subsequent spread of each. Some data on lineages is presented, but the author warns that these are in no way to be regarded as thorough genealogical treatments.

Interest in American family history has experienced an impressive upsurge in recent years. Although genealogical studies of Louisiana families remain few, there exists an abundance of genealogical reference books and published calendars of colonial documents and civil and ecclesiastical records, as well as federal censuses and genealogical accounts in local historical journals. The author's judicious exploitation of these sources provides a new basis for the understanding of Latin Louisiana and its striking north vs. south cultural and political structure.

French settlement, of course, was overwhelmingly concentrated in the southern half of the state. It developed slowly, at first from France itself following the initial establishment in 1699 on the lower Mississippi River, then in much larger numbers from the Acadian provinces after the Acadian expulsion by the English in 1755. The colonization by Spaniards, both from the Iberian peninsula and the Canary Islands, of a lesser order numerically, came during the rule of Spain in Louisiana, 1766-1803, and especially between 1778 and 1783.

Of the hundred families considered in this work, 92 are of French stock while six are Spanish and two have gallicized forms of German and Scottish surnames. The author confines his investigations and mapping to the agnatic lines, of which surnames are, of course, the reflection, so that the female half of the picture remains unrepresented. But which surnames to focus on from the several thousand common in the state? West has chosen those most frequently encountered, as well as some less common ones that have striking clusters of distributions. For his maps of the contemporary distribution of each of the names studied, the outstanding feature of the volume for this reviewer, he employs the 1981 telephone directories of the state of Louisiana and adjacent southeastern Texas (Beaumont-Port Arthur-Houston) and the gulf coast of Mississippi (Biloxi-Gulfport).

Eighty percent of all households in the areas covered are estimated to be represented in these directories. For each of the hundred patronyms, he has mapped the distribution of households with telephones, indicating them by graduated red circles for every community in the state of Louisiana as well as in the coastal areas of the neighbor states. The computer-generated circles stand out sharply against the black parish or county boundaries. Placenames identify only the largest concentrations of each surname, so the maps, at either half- or full-page scale, are clean and easy to read.

Almost all of the individuals and families selected for study in this atlas arrived in Lower Louisiana in the eighteenth century. Of the hundred represented, all but nine are of French provenience, or of multiple ethnic origin of which French is one part. Twenty-five of the surnames can be termed exclusively Acadian, and the source of eleven others can be traced to both Acadian and other French areas. Martin is the most common of all names considered, with some 8,500 households mapped in Louisiana and southeastern Texas. It is of multinational origin, its presence in central and northern Louisiana reflecting mainly Anglo-Saxon and German settlement, in the southern areas that originated from French or Spanish source areas. The former occurred during the American period, which began with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

A particularly interesting map (Fig. 5) shows the provenience of the majority of the French colonists who came to Louisiana to have been west central France, in particular the Loudun area of the Loire River Valley and the coastal area between La Rochelle and Rochefort. Of the eighteen most common French surnames in Louisiana today (*Hébert, Landry, Broussard, LeBlanc, Guidry, Fontenot, Richard, Boudreaux, Breaux,*

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Thibodeaux, Trahan and *Guillory* lead the list, each with more than 2,700 telephone book entries) all but three (*Fontenot, Guillory* and *Dupré*) are Acadian. In the present "Acadiana" of the southwestern part of the state, families carrying non-Acadian patronyms of French or even German or Anglo origin have been "cajunized" for generations, and rarely realized that their ancestors may have been other than Acadian refugees.

Paradoxically, the influx of Acadians ejected from their Nova Scotia homeland came not during the period of French rule but only after the take-over by Spain in 1766. That country, desirous of consolidating its hold on the territory, pursued a vigorous policy of colonization, encouraging both direct immigration and, in 1785, the resettlement in Louisiana of a large group of Acadians who had been exiled in France after the expulsion of 1755. In addition, between 1778 and 1783 Spain sent some 2,500 of its own colonists to Louisiana, giving rise to the numerous surnames of Spanish origin (e.g. *Romero, Trujillo, Falcón*) found today in the rural southern part of the state, as around New Iberia and along the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs in St. Bernard Parish immediately south of New Orleans. However, during the forty years of Spanish rule, as Professor West notes, Lower Louisiana remained predominantly French in culture and speech, as it was to remain into the twentieth century.

The distribution maps of present-day French surnames reflect the gradual westward movement^t of French settlement over the past century, from the original core in the Lower Mississippi River-Bayou Teche-Bayou Lafourche area towards southwestern Louisiana and into southeastern-most Texas. The prairies of the southwest offered excellent year-round grazing: cattle ranching played a significant early role in this "frontier" movement; so in later times has irrigated rice cultivation. The shipbuilding and petrochemical industries, as well as on- and off-shore petroleum and natural gas development are recent contributors.

A lesser SE-NW axis of settlement on the fertile soils of the Red River Valley and the Avoyelles Prairies (Alexandria-Natchitoches-Shreveport) is indicated for a few of the family names plotted. The pull of job opportunities in the larger urban centers, especially Houston and New Orleans, is conspicuous for some families but not for others.

The maps offer many examples of the clustering of certain family names in one or more areas within the state. Sometimes such clusters correspond to a place or places initially settled by immigrants of that surname (*Dufrene, Roussel, Latiolais*); others exemplify the migratory character of those carrying certain patronyms. Clustering, the author points out, is related to the closely knit character of the extended family in pre-

industrial times, when children married young and settled down near their parents with no expectation or desire of leaving the area. Such group cohesion, characteristic until after World War I, was fostered by language, the Roman Catholic religion, a general lack of education, strong patriarchal controls, relative isolation, and perhaps the need of mutual assistance among family members. The practice of multiple inheritance, too, tended to keep blood-related families within localized areas.

This atlas and compendium may be the first serious attempt by a geographer to make use of genealogical sources to help explain the distribution of particular surnames and their significance as cultural indicators. West, who studied with the late John Leighly at Berkeley, is no stranger to the study of names (see, e.g., his "The Term 'Bayou' in the United States: a study of the geography of place names," *Annals, Association of American Geographers* 44:63-74, 1954). The present work, an elegant example of interdisciplinary scholarship, fits well into the productive pattern of research in historical and cultural geography pioneered at Louisiana State University. Those seriously interested in onomastics would do well to take heed.

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Klee as in Clay - A Pronunciation Guide. Edited by Wilfred J. McConkey. Lanham, MD 20706: Hamilton Press, 4720 Boston Way, 1987. Pp. 64. \$10.50; paper, \$4.50.

McConkey's brief reference suggests the problem of "correct" pronunciation of proper nouns. Nouns of this nature can cause discussion even on a national or regional level; in an international context, the confusion is overwhelming. The issues are two: Does the user pronounce the name according to the rules of place of origin, or does he surrender to a local but accepted "mispronunciation" that has currency? What sources lead the conscientious speaker to at least an authorized version of a proper noun?

Of the two types, place and personal, placenames are easier. Their number seems finite in that very few new ones enter the language each

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year. *The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer* has over 2,000 pages of placenames and phoneticized pronunciation. *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary* provides similar information in some 1300 pages. In addition to these, several other standard dictionaries offer solutions. For example, even *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* has the phoneticized pronunciation for 8,000 placenames.

Surnames do not fare as well. Their number fluctuates with the constant arrival of the newly famous, who may or may not deserve permanency in popular memory. By the time such stability has been achieved, perhaps a current pronunciation has usurped a more correct one. The punctilious here may have recourse to *Webster's* list of 6,000 names along with pronunciation, dates and profession. Other ubiquitous sources are the *World Book Encyclopedia*, the *Encyclopedia Americana*, and the *New Columbia Encyclopedia*.

In *Klee as in Clay*, McConkey isolates 450 names from the arts: architecture, literature and drama, music and dance, painting and sculpture. He gives the same data as *Webster's* but provides a more accessible form of pronunciation, a transliteration in English for his Canadian or U.S. public. His work highlights the problem of surname pronunciation and at the same time tacitly advocates that more should be done. His range is too limited, for the political world possibly has more names in oral use than any other field. Even within the arts, the compiler fails to include films, which surely reach a wider audience than the art forms he lists. Rather than a dictionary arrangement, he groups names by field of art. This forces the user to a preliminary step, an index that will guide him to the proper category of his search.

There are other complaints. In an introduction, any compiler has an obligation to note the lineage of his work. In other words, what other sources are currently available and how does the present work augment or obsolesce its predecessors? Failing to do this, McConkey focuses attention on the problem of regional acceptance, especially in German names. Never does he broach the issue of criteria for inclusion. Surely more than 450 personalities make up the world of art.

In spite of its defects, however, the present work may be seminal for the generating of a larger reference book, more inclusive and imitative of the more stable form of the proper noun, the placename. An exemplary reference book of this kind may serve as a model. Gabriel Lana's *Glossary of Geographic Names in Six Languages: English/French/Italian/Spanish/German/ and Dutch* lists the focused placename with the following information:

Mexico
 f Mexique [French]
 i Messico [Italian]
 e Mexico, Mejico [Español]
 d Mexiko [Deutsch]
 n Mexico [Netherlands]

Substitute an internationally important surname for *Mexico*, e.g. *Goethe*, and the pronunciation for this German author would be available in six languages. In its native form (d) the name could be rendered in the International Phonetic Alphabet. Thus the user would have an idea of how this name is pronounced in the original. With a hybrid verbalization, i.e. a mixture of the user's language plus German, the name is recognizable to disparate listeners, either of the same culture as *Goethe* or that of the speaker. Authenticity and regional standards are both served.

This, of course, is an ideal that would take the efforts of many linguists. Yet its value, especially in the internationalization of information, would be obvious. McConkey's *Klee as in Clay* may be the forerunner of a more comprehensive volume.

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Names and Nicknames of Places & Things. Edited by Laurence Urdang.
 Boston, MA 02111: G.K. Hall & Co., 70 Lincoln St., 1987. Pp. 327.
 \$39.95.

Laurence Urdang spins dictionaries out of his head with much more consistency than the myth makers spin Athenas out of the head of Zeus or Sins out of Satan's. The "special announcement" from G. K. Hall claims that he has edited more than 125 dictionaries, an open-ended figure that covers infinity. Not only has he edited (built, written, authored) many such texts, he has initiated many more and has further stimulated others to indulge in lexicography, albeit in my case in an amateurish way but developing nevertheless. As a famous old hacker wrote, a dictionary maker (lexicographer) "is a harmless drudge," so Urdang's influence

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probably has been harmless but pleurably time consuming. Besides, with a battery of computers, anything can be dictionaryized.

Urdang initiated *Names & Nicknames* no doubt because he is a long-time student of names, which are words, too, as they are ordinarily defined. Also, he invited all members of the American Name Society to contribute items. Not very many did, the actual number bending down to 43 noted in the list of contributors. Sadly and guiltily, I did not contribute. By the time I had accumulated my Skunk Hollers and Toad Sucks, the time had long passed. Happily, I can report that many of the more active members of ANS did contribute. For their names, see the front matter of the dictionary.

First, some disclaimers. Urdang takes care to admit that the 1,500 entries do "not reflect an attempt at completeness: there are far too many candidates for entry, and it is unlikely that such a book could ever be complete." This properly deflates the major complaint that will come from anyone who dips into the well-written, even sharply worded, entries, all provoking responses of recognition or added-on knowledge. The term used in the blurb is "fascinating," and that old carriage-horse of a word will do, blushinglly. Also, he notes the over-balance of names from Europe and the United States at the expense, of course, of Oriental, African, and South American ones. And, without excuses, he claims subjectivity, a good deconstructive way of controlling restraints of control and methodology.

As Urdang writes, "This is the sort of book about which almost any reader or reviewer will say, 'But it doesn't contain - ,' naming one of those places or things left out either deliberately or inadvertently." He does not write that the reader who already has the entry in mind and at hand does not need the glossary to find what is already known. The reviewer should write, "Wow (or equivalent), I did not know about that one," recording *Banzai Pipeline*, *Glamorous Glennis*, *Tolpuddle*, *Queen of the Cow Counties*, *Land's End to John o' Groat's Home*, and, perhaps, *Diddy wa Diddy*. Subjectivity being the order, any other list would do, except a great many of these are known by anyone who has dabbled in the study of names or is addictive to dictionary entries.

All the good qualities about this dictionary aside, a lesson clings to the pleasure of the text. As is known, placename glossaries have a blandness and sameness about them. Somehow, especially in the United States, a bare historical account is all that is considered appropriate for an entry, a condition that indeed trivializes the entry and grants little, if any, information about the act of naming, such as reasons, anecdotes, incidents,

non-restrictive information, and, yes, history. Urdang's entries contain information that breaks the historical trivializing restraint and erupts into it, introducing all the other culturally significant items that should contribute to the "meaning" of the name. Sometimes, however, Urdang can be economical to the point of triviality and obscurity:

"Mother of the West, the
A nickname of Missouri."

That leaves the entry open to some curious interpretations, especially if the reader is from, say, Carpentras, France, and has a map-concept of the United States that includes New York City, the Mississippi River, and Hollywood meshed into an area the size of Rhode Island. In addition, a bit of street language can do wonders to *Mother*.

Contrast the entry with the one closely following, *Moulin Rouge*, which is given a fuller informational treatment, enough certainly for identity without too much open-endedness for imaginative free play. Other nearby entries that have a sufficiency about them that satisfies are *Muscle Shoas Area*, *Mrs. O'Leary's Barn*, *Mother of Presidents*, *Museum of Science and Pndustry* and *Namibia*. Generally, the entries show care and stylistic concern in their framing. Still, bare entries such as *Mushroomopolis* 'a nickname of Kansas City, Missouri'; *Nail City* 'a nickname of Wheeling, West Virginia'; or most of the nicknames. Urdang probably did not attach too much importance to nicknames, and I tend to agree; but such names do have much anecdotal background - as well as a lot of Chamber of Commerce public relations. After all, free publicity bankrupts the publicizer. But then L.L. Bean receives full treatment, as does Tiffany's.

The few quibbles are translated into praise for this dictionary which provides entertainment and knowledge - both the same in the transcendental sense. It can lead to further studies, and surely will. It also provides a model, if we interpret it correctly, for further name glossaries. Above all, it is an excellent addition to the increasing number of texts that center on the study of names.

Kelsie B. Harder

Acts of Naming: The Family Plot in Fiction. By Michael Ragussis. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1986. Pp. x, 244, 23 (index). No price listed.

Readers of *ELH* will recognize the name of Michael Ragussis of Georgetown University, as will those of *Nineteenth Century Fiction*: he has written on George Eliot and other writers. Now he incorporates some of those articles into a book which the blurb announces as "the first comprehensive study of names and naming in fiction."

That, of course, is not what we find in the 250 pages or so of the book. Its subtitle shows its focus. The book is called *Acts of Naming: The Family Plot in Fiction*.

Professor Ragussis asserts that Richardson's *Clarissa* begins a new trend in the novel: the philosopher's insistence that we "call everything by its proper name" becomes the novelist's concern with the story inherent in the search for or the concealment of names:

Characters are brought into relationship with each other - as friends, as enemies, as family members, as lovers - insofar as they meet, takes sides, and clash on the battleground of names. *Clarissa* presents a culture in search of itself through the corroboration of the names of value, or what Hume was to call ... the shared language of morals, whereby a community constitutes itself in publicly recognizing the meanings of certain key names. But in *Clarissa* the characters take their cue from Locke's famous dictum of the previous century: each person seems at liberty to mean by any name only what he or she chooses.

Professor Ragussis gives an interesting reading of that classic, *Clarissa*, a classic too often being defined as "a book everyone is supposed to have read but no one has read - and no one will admit that," but he fails to notice the extent to which the book continues (rather than creates) the use of multiple aliases for characters, what I have elsewhere called the "distancing" effected by the obviously significant name in a fiction (here *Lovelace*, for example), the withholding of real names to build suspense and produce some kind of Greek recognition scene, and other age-old literary devices.

He moves on to names in nineteenth- and twentieth-century fiction. In *Oliver Twist* we have the naming of the mysterious orphan ("all of a twist") and the eventual revelation of his real name, once again with names so apt that the reader is alerted that the novel is fantastic or allegorical, not truly realistic.

The name lost and the name found - such are the end-points of the murderer's and the child's stories in *Oliver Twist*, and more generally, of the naming plots of fiction

He is on less familiar ground, and more interesting, with "the American myth of the name transcended" in Melville's *Pierre, or The Ambiguities*.

In *Pierre* the hero declares that the goal behind ... name changes is to rewrite the family text in order to redeem it ... [although] Melville undermines such a view by questioning the pure and single motive of his hero ... Pierre's motivation [is] to fictionalize This ambiguity makes *Pierre* a dark and self-perplexing mockery of the work that Melville so praised

That work being, of course, Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*; and now we are back on well-trodden critical paths again, with the brand and the identity, the "guilty name," the moral fable effect of names such as *Pearl*, and the way that names can point up significance and turn history into fiction.

Back then to Dickens and such "names" as *no one* and *everyone* and mysteries built upon secret, identities and all the "had I but known" melodramatic clichés, echoed, reversed, manipulated, and so on.

Then George Eliot and *The Mill on the Floss*, though I read somewhere recently that "the true test of the sadism of a school system is whether it has *The Mill on the Floss* in the curriculum." Professor Ragussis argues that in *The Mill on the Floss*, as in *Bleak House*, the daughter discovers a form of self-naming that represents a particular narrative strategy for the novel at large, and in so doing illuminates the motives and ends of the entire fictional enterprise.

Then Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, where the way names function has surely already been more than adequately outlined, just as just about everyone (myself included) has had a shot at the way names are earned and bestowed and mark stages in fictional careers (as in *The Deerslayer* by Cooper, my obvious example). Here Professor Ragussis, characteristically, broadens the concept of "name" to include "reputation," "term" ("in the name of our love"), and other common meanings, which allows his criticism to wander between denotation and definition, proper names and proper readings, persons and topics, specifics of plot and universal statement, etc. This leads to occasional fuzzy thinking and concomitant fuzzy writing. That is a serious charge, so let me ask you to re-read the snippets I previously quoted (for other purposes) above and this time to consider how you would clarify "Characters are brought into relationship ...," whether you might not believe (in connection with the *Oliver Twist*

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remark) that "the name lost and the name found" could be not only the "endpoints" of fiction but on occasion the beginning of a narrative, and whether (just one more example) if Melville in *Pierre* is "questioning the pure and simple motive of his hero" or really questioning whether Pierre's motive *is* "pure and simple."

This fault mars but cannot vitiate (the material is so good) his last section, which deals with Nabokov's *Lolita* in the light of Cleland's *Fanny Hill*, but when we get into "allegory, meta-allegory, and parody," and when we are dealing with clever writers of fiction who are very much in command of all the effects in their products, any failure of precision in perception looks all the worse in comparison with the artistic material being discussed.

There are some tasty raisins in this rice pudding of a book. I liked the bit on "the science of pleasure" in *Fanny Hill*, "the erotics of naming" (though that could be named better) in Proust, the excursus on etymology in *The Enlightenment* which turns up in the commentary on *Lolita*, and a number of earlier passages in *Acts of Naming*. But it is not what the blurb promises:

... the first comprehensive study of names and naming in fiction, rereading the novelistic tradition to show that acts of naming - bestowing, revealing, or earning a name; slandering, protecting, or serving a name - lie at the center of fictional plots from the 18th century to the present.

They lie at the center of *some* fictional plots, of course, and the ones examined in this brief but not terse study are representative enough, though arguably not the *loci classici*.

What, apart from the critic's previous published work, can account for the examples chosen and the points made in *Acts of Naming*? Some hint may possibly lurk in the emphasis on what I call the "MLA Dickinson" or feminist passionate concern with those two pop topics, sex and power, and the discussion of what the jargon-lovers are now calling "privileged texts" and "discourse." Here is another piece of the blurb:

Against a philosophical background that ranges from Plato to Wittgenstein, the book explores the ways in which systems of naming to appropriate characters, both in the British novel ... and the American novel The author identifies unnamings and renamings as the locus of power in the family's plot to control the child - particularly the daughter - and he extends the concept of the naming plot to re-imagine the traditions of the novel, suggesting, for instance, that the plot of seduction (what could be called "losing one's name" in *Clarissa*) and the plot of inheritance (or "finding one's name" in *Oliver Twist*) are both versions of naming

plots. Ragussis concludes his study with a theoretical exploration of the "magic" power of naming in different eras and in different - even in competing - forms of discourse.

We all know that the author of a book may not be the writer of the blurb and that *Acts of Naming* cannot be instantly judged as an attempt to "reimagine the entire enterprise of fiction in terms of naming plots and indeed to see fiction as an attempt to revise the way naming functions in the family." For what *Acts of Naming* actually says you will have to read the book. And I agree with the publishers that you will find the book "provocative"; but it is only fair to say that *Acts of Naming* is, in essence, simply another collection of onomastic and semi-onomastic essays on some few familiar (or "privileged") novels and from these studies neither the critic nor the reader can formulate the general principles that we are promised.

Professor Ragussis has another (and better) book on *The Subterfuge of Art*, on language and the Romantic tradition. In *Act of Naming* we have, unfortunately, a sort of subterfuge of popular criticism: that one point of view (whether it be feminist, hermeneutic, reader response, Marxist, psychological, or characteristic of any of the other armed camps of critical skirmishing) can explain everything.

We still lack a sufficiently large, scrupulously unbiased, interesting and disinterested book - profusely illustrated with insightfully and fairly chosen examples from numerous fictions, good and bad, famous and obscure, but concentrating on universals rather than consisting of entertaining rides on various attractive hobby-horses - that specifically and scientifically outlines the onomastic devices employed in fiction, their motives, their methods, their effects.

It is time for us to move from the partial and the subjective to the general and the scientific. We need to place literary onomastics not merely in the history of the politics of power or the development of narratology but to collect and codify all the work that has been done since the *Cratylus* of Plato on the philosophical, psychological, artistic and other aspects of names, we must create a theoretical model and anatomize for writers and those rewriters we call readers the methodology of names and naming.

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Clues to Our Family Names. By Lou Stein. Bowie, MD 20715: Heritage Books, Inc., 3602 Maureen Lane, 1986. Pp. 196, paper. \$10.00.

Authors tend to explain what is opaque, no doubt hoping thereby to illumine the milky murkiness that both hides and exposes kinds of clarity. Lou Stein wrote, "[The book] was designed singularly for the young adult (a.k.a. teenagers!) market. (My research convinced me that no such type was ever published.) My publisher is promoting the book for the adult market as well, and it is working." Well, whatever the market, the book is different from the several other generalist books that attempt to explain the phenomenon of naming. As Stein notes in another letter, the book is not unique research, but rather "it represents an informal arrangement of medieval language and history which hurriedly shaped today's family names in our phonebooks. Those pale name-shadows therein (of our ancestors) will never fade away from behind our permanent telephone book listings."

It is good to have Stein review his own work. Such saves wear and tear, time and woe, of the reviewer.

But the reviewer must try to earn keep. First, Stein has a style of writing that attracts immediately, an ability to cause the reader to want to know what happens next, a dramatic movement more apt for good short stories. Indeed, the reader does not have to be enthusiastic about names to want to continue reading this text. For instance, Stein asks several leading questions in the Preface, such as "Could these really be family names? What did they mean? How did they come into usage?" He then proceeds to answer the questions with specifics. Short, concise paragraphs inform Chapter I, "They had to Call us Something!" These trace name origins through occupation, physical description, address, Latin trail of words, Celtic trail of words, and other trails that lead to our names today.

Stein claims that 10% of our names originated as nicknames. He lists unkind, ancient, and personal appearance nicknames, with explanations. Next, he claims that 15% come from occupations, a few examples being *Dickman* 'ditch digger,' *Gandy* (in charge of the castle gander pens), *Marshall* (caretaker for horses), and *Day* 'cheesemaker.' From the first names of parents come another 35% of our surnames. A few subtle ones would include *Bartholomew* (the farmer's son), *Catterson* 'son of Catherine,' and *Atkins* (ultimately, son of Adman). The last 40% comes from address names (which I call placenames), but address will do and has an aptness about it. Many of these are obvious: *Atgate*, *Atlee*, *Atwater*, *Kirk*,

Eastwood, Ford, and Woods. Some not so clear are *Gatton* 'home near the goat pen,' *Hardwick* 'home at a sheep farm,' *Wrigley* 'home in a clearing below a ridge,' and *Raleigh* 'home in a clearing below a ridge.'

The text is rounded out with a chapter on what to do if your name is not found in the text, a bibliography of books on surnames, and an index of all names appearing in the text. The foregoing makes the text seem similar to others that cover much the same territory. The difference lies in the selection of examples, the deftness of style, and the way Stein introduces incidental information, such as the origin of *bon fire*, *whipping boy*, *caught red-handed*, *halibut*, *Robin Hood*, *The Cursing Well*, *falsehood*, *piggy bank*, and many others with enlightening origins. All these good points aside, the text is also packed with handy information for a quick fix on the origin of a name.

Kelsie B. Harder

Place Names of Washington. By Robert Hitchman, edited by Brenda Peterson and Linda Hillesheim. Introduction by author. Tacoma, WA: Washington State Historical Society, 1985. Pp. ix + 340. \$24.95.

Place Names of Washington is the latest addition to the growing list of state placename books. Edmund Meany's *Origin of Washington Geographic Names* in 1923 was one of the earliest, and Hitchman's updated and vastly enlarged book has been long overdue. The new volume has almost 7000 entries giving the origin of the bulk of the important names in the state, and should be a required addition to all libraries concerned with Washington history and geography. The listings are alphabetical by the state as a whole. The features are located by section, township and range, the cadastral standard for the western United States. In addition, the text usually includes the county and, in many cases, the position relative to some well-known feature.

Robert Hitchman was an insurance company executive with a life-long interest in Washington history and toponymy. In a second, and volunteer, occupation, he amassed a vast amount of material, intending, when time permitted, to compose a Washington placename book. His unexpected death in 1981, while attending a meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, left the project in the formulative stage. At the time of his death, Hitchman was president of the Washington State

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Historical Society. His wife, Helen, turned over his files to the society along with a generous bequest. In the early 1980s, after style and graphics had been determined, Brenda Peterson and Linda Hillesheim did the actual composition and keyboarding, working from Hitchman's notes. This results in a general uniformity of style and context, a help when one is seeking basic facts. On the other hand, it is not the style that causes the reader to open the volume just to browse. Your reviewer has not seen the original notes, but there are occasions when interesting or humorous comments, obviously Hitchman's, are incorporated in the text.

Washington has many Indian names. A large number are included and defined by tribe and meaning. As with most western Indian words, exact rendition in the English alphabet is impossible, but the current accepted spellings are used along with well-known variations. A linguistic study of Washington's Indian names, classified by race, language, and tribal dialect, would be a major addition to this field of knowledge. *Place Names of Washington* provides a solid base for such a project.

Hitchman's demise was most unfortunate for this book. Peterson and Hillesheim have performed admirably, but they cannot substitute for fifty years of study. Bits of arcane but interesting information that Hitchman would undoubtedly have included, appear to have been omitted. An inexplicable, but certainly not arcane, omission is the lack of an entry for Columbia River, the Pacific Northwest's most important stream, and numerous entries should have additional explanatory text or updated current information. The book suffers from poor proofing. There are ordinary typographical errors as well as errors of type font and paragraphing. Inconsistencies occur in names that appear under more than one heading along with different spellings of names mentioned in both the Introduction and the text.

New placename books continue to fill existing voids, and *Place Names of Washington* is a welcome addition. Formats vary, and while your reviewer must admit prejudice, he cannot help but compare such disparate styles as the dictionary-like *Place Names of Washington*, the more narrative *Oregon Geographic Names*, and Don Clark's new encyclopedic and linguistic *Santa Cruz County Place Names*. An analysis and comparison of this country's many extant works on toponymy would be a fascinating and worthwhile project.

Lewis L. McArthur

Portland, Oregon

Arkansas Place Names. By Ernie Deane. Branson, MO 65616: The Ozark Mountaineer, 1986. Pp. 201, paper. \$8.00. Also available from the author, 910 Arlington Terrace, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Arkansas needs a good placename text, and Deane's work is a good beginning. As he writes in a personal letter, "this is the first work of its kind that attempts to cover the entire state" from the point of view of placenames. Also, he explains further that the text "is not presented as a scholarly work, but as a collection of information gathered from numerous sources, folklore included, with sincere effort to determine accurately the origins of some six hundred placenames." He further writes that he holds hope that "the book will stimulate interest among scholars in doing serious and detailed investigation of Arkansas placename origins." The publication also squares with the sesquicentennial celebration of Arkansas's statehood.

From the compilation of 20,000 Arkansas geographic names by the U.S. Geologic Survey, Deane has chosen his few hundred for a full, encyclopedic glossing. Having one time collected the origins of about 2,500 Arkansas names, I can empathize with the task that Deane set for himself. In a small text, only those that have something deviant to recommend them can be chosen. And Deane handles all this wisely.

First, he thoroughly explores the origins of *Arkansas* and *Ozarks*, including the many variants of the former and the confusion informing the latter, which he correctly identifies as originating from the French *aux arcs*. Next, he gives the origins of all seventy-five counties, sixty of them named for individuals. All the county seats, plus a few former ones, are listed with the counties and origins noted. Pictures of the courthouses of some of the seats add diversity - and invited some comments on architecture, but the variety of styles do not lend themselves to a blanket generality. Seemingly, each county committee responsible for the building had its own opinion, based possibly on some previous concept, especially modification of Greek styles. The section of county and seat names is outstanding, being factually correct, fully glossed, and well written.

The longish section on "Unusual and Amusing Names" is a sop to the public; but since I too like "two-headed calves" and other curiosities, I found it to be trivially enjoyable and quite frankly informative. Here, also, different versions of origin exist. Deane generally gives all that have come his way, something all of us who dabble in origins should remember to do. What we believe is too often more important than what is true. Many of these names are incidentals, focusing on a time and place and a

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happening. *Accident School* came about because a cynical citizen claimed that it would be an accident if a school could ever be established there. Some names resulted from scribal errors: *Agnos* (*Agnes*), *Nail* (*Neal*), and *Snowball* (*Snow Hall*), among others. Folk etymology plays a role, too: *Pair o' Geese Lake* (*Peeregeethe*, *Pirogue*), *Smackover* (*chemin couvert*), and *Palarm* (*Place des Larmes*). Others that tickle onomastic fancy include *Ink*, *Nellie's Apron*, *Apt*, *Marche*, *Maumelle Mountain*, *Toad Suck*, and *L'Eau Frais Creek* (also known as *Low Freight Creek*).

The last section works through names with themes, such as language origins (Spanish, French, English, Amerindian), religious derivations, post-master names, railroads, descriptions (*Belle Vista*, *Boiling Springs*, *Bull Shoals* (boil), *Cerrogordo*, but not *Crabtree* (after Jim C.). Nostalgia, commemoration, and transfer cause such names as *Fairfield*, *Princeton*, *Prague*, *Kokomo*, *London*, but not *England* (John C.E.), or *Hollywood* (for the holly bushes), or *Tokio* (after Tokio Huddleston, farmer). An index to all the names rounds out this attractive volume.

Overall, the text is most valuable for its coverage of the county and seat names, certainly as good as any discussion I have seen for such units. I miss some kind of pronunciation scheme that would describe the names of French origin (ones still spelled in French), especially *Vache Grasse Creek*, *Terre Noir Creek*, *Terre Rouge Creek*, and *Fource LaFave River*. But the completeness of the glosses make this quibble of small importance. Within the scope set by the author, this placename text is a very worthy one.

Kelsie B. Harder

From Oz to the Onion Patch. Edited by Edward Callary. Publications of the North Central Name Society, No. 1. DeKalb, IL: North Central Name Society, 1986. Pp. xiii + 186. \$10.00, paper.

From Oz to the Onion Patch: a titillating title, accurate in spirit if not in fact. The book is a collection of articles, mostly sketches, without a general theme, everything from *Oz* to the *Onion Patch*, justification for the *Oz* being in John Algeo's "The Names of Oz," and for the *Onion Patch* in Betty Irwin's "But Never Onionville" (which so excludes *Onionville* from a list of Chicago's malodorous nicknames and then says no more about it).

Included in the collection are a history of name study, studies of names, of naming, and of namers. Also nicknames, baseball, 1763, and John Steinbeck. Some big problems touched on, a few small ones covered thoroughly. Most onomasts (onomasticians, onomastologists) will find something useful in isolated bits of information and tentative conclusions.

The first would be in Kelsie Harder's history of onomastics. (How old do you have to be to have a history?) He traces name study from its beginnings, sees it stabilized in this country by the establishment of the American Name Society in 1951. The early years of this country were a feast for namers. Explorers and settlers found a whole new continent for naming, gave out descriptive names, metaphoric names, possessive names, names related to incidents, commemorative names, and transfer names. Early studies located, listed, and categorized them. More recently, efforts have turned also to other namings, trade names, acronyms, nicknames, and so on, as well as toward theories of naming and discovery of the powers of names. Literary onomastics has shown effects of names and naming to be important not only to literary criticism but also to understanding of other human activities.

Harder sees a division now in modes of scholarship, arising from this expansion of interest: those which look upon it as a "benign, humanistic avocation," and those with a more scientific view, "eliminating all irrelevant commentary, using discrimination in choice of material, and sticking to the geographical or etymological fact and leaving the implications to others."

A textbook example of this scientific mode is demonstrated in this volume by a report from Eric Hamp and Virginia McDavid on the names of Illinois counties and their seats. Theirs is primary research, all the counties accounted for, not an exemplary few. Just the facts, ordered and complete; but from their brief, nonspeculative conclusions, the differences in classification that they discover between sets of counties and sets of county seats, a more general truth becomes clear: the value of studying names in sets.

Appropriately following Harder's history, W.F.H. Nicolaisen writes a declaration of independence for the science of onomastics. He would establish a "name-centered concept of onomastics," would set the study of names on a course directed by its own concerns, rather than by those of other disciplines. He projects onomastic fields which are independent of, but parallel to, semantic fields, and onomastic dialects corresponding to, but not leaning on, linguistic dialects. He would not sever connections with linguistics, but would "obliterate the notion that names are nothing

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but linguistic items." As a step in that direction, he looks at the relationship between the process of naming and the notion of abstraction: he finds them to be "diametrically opposed intellectual activities."

Three of the papers see history in placenames. The first, Virgil J. Vogel's "The Influence of Historical Events upon Place Names," makes the statement and gives examples. Placenames may memorialize "anything significant enough to be recorded in a history text book." The second is André Lapierre's "A Linguistic Assessment of Some French Naming Practices in Ontario," which sees the map as layers of history, leaving placenames as evidence. He finds that during times of exploration, when the land was opening up, names were largely descriptive, that during times of settlement when permanent homes were being built names were mostly commemorative.

In a third regional study, Frederic G. Cassidy reports on French placenames in Wisconsin, the time frame roughly parallel to that of the namings in Ontario reported by Lapierre. Like Lapierre, he finds the majority of the early names to be descriptive. Cassidy remarks on a number of language problems in name transfer from one language to another, and argues for Anglicization of foreign names: "English orthography is already irregular enough without importing into it the differences in spelling and sounds of the many foreign names we have to deal with." [So it's all right to pronounce *Cairo*, in Illinois, like the syrup. Good.]

The growing interest in literary onomastics is a healthy addition to literary criticism. John Algeo, ordering the names used by L. Frank Baum in the *Oz* books, shows what can be generalized from categories, but raises questions of consistency in categories and of topic definition. His categories are unique to his topic: real names used with their known referents, real names applied to fictional persons, odd names, characterizing names, punning names, names of a miscellaneous category, and, the largest group, appellatives used as proper names. Some of the last named appear first in lower case (a shaggy man) but later achieve individuality (the Shaggy Man). What then is to count as a name? "The distinction between an appellative, 'the scarecrow,' and a proper name, 'the Scarecrow,'" says Algeo, "is a continuum, not a sharp categorical one."

Other literary concerns are voiced by Marcia D. Yarmus and Glen Meeter. The former, in "John Steinbeck's Toponymic Preference," sees his use of placenames in novels as both indicators of place and as evidence for the character of the namer. Meeter writes a how-to article for writers of fiction, how to name your characters, which spills over into advice for parents on infant naming. For him the interesting question is not what

the name does for the character but what the character may do for the name.

Collectors of trivia may find something new in the Chicago name studies in this volume. Ken Grabowski records names of neighborhoods, Betty Irwin nicknames for the city, James J. Skipper, Jr., nicknames for its baseball teams.

Myra J. Linden is looking for patterns in inscriptions on tombstones for married women. Her report is of an on-going study.

Stewart and Millie Kingsbury create an expression of the close ties between names and culture: between the 1920s and nicknames in the U.S. Naval Academy at that time. In the Academy, the nickname is a part of "a sense of solidarity, a common identity rooted in tradition." The Kingsburys show the nicknames as a reflection of the times. Their categories: "Lovers and Playthings" includes *Jazz Baby*, *Flying Sheik*, and *Shimmy*; "Comic Strip Names" include *Jiggs*, *Moon* (Mullens), and *Google Eyes*. Where there's a nickname there's a story; a Commander called *Gorilla* and *Lucy*, an Admiral called *Squeak*; but you may not get the story. The Commander carried the secret of *Lucy* to his grave.

Onomastics doesn't need to be dull.

E.J. Hols

The Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families. By the late Lewis C. Loyd, edited by Charles Travis Clay and David C. Douglas. Leeds, England: Vol. CIII of Publications of the Harleian Society, 1951. Repr. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1985. Pp. xiv + 140, with end map of Normandy. \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

A valuable text for genealogists, it also has real onomastic merit in that it traces 315 "Anglo-Norman" families to their Normandy origins. All the families "became possessed of land in England" after the loss of Normandy. The time limits are between 1066 and 1205. Not all the families had origins in Normandy, and some families were omitted because Loyd placed such strict restraints upon his evidence, insisting that each name be verified beyond any doubt. Within Normandy, the origins were the departments of Calvados, Seine-Inférieure, Manche, Eure, and Orne.

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Outside, some were from Brittany, Somme, and Pas-de-Calais.

These family names are, of course, placenames in Normandy and other nearby areas; for instances, *Abernon* (Roger de Abernon), *Abetot* (Urse de Abetot), *Toreigny* (Peter de Toreigny), and all the others. Many of the families were subjects of overlords and did not amount to much in the way of fortune until they came to England, where many of them achieved greatness in what we would call in near-modern times carpet-bagging. Most of them, if not all, followed in the wake of the Conquest of 1066, for many were established in 1067 in positions of importance. Urse de Abetot is first mentioned in 1066, possibly as a member of the first wave of families following William. He served as a witness to a charter signed by William in the year of the Conquest, and served as tenant-in-chief and sheriff of Worcestershire. Guibert of Auffay fought with William at the battle of Hastings but refused an offer of lands by the Conqueror; in later years, however, his descendants came to England and prospered. Hamo Dapifer served as provider of meat for the table of the Conqueror and was rewarded with the position of Sheriff of Kent. Hamo was from Torigny-sur-Vire and served as dapifer, an important royal position that kept him on intimate terms with William. His lands were held in 1086 by the Earl of Gloucester, the heir through the marriage of the earl with the daughter and heir of Robert, son of Hamo *dapifer*. Such be the ways of lordship.

Most of the names survive as surnames. Some of the more common ones are *Tracy* (the exact place of Tracy is in doubt, perhaps Tracy-sur-Mer, but claims can be made for Tracy-Bocage and Tracy in Neuville), *Vernon*, *Tilly*, *Talbot*, *Stafford*, *Haig* (The Hague), *Quincy*, *Patric(k)*, *Percy*, *Montgomery*, and *Beaumont*. To be sure, others have traced the names for both origins and "meanings," but no one, except for isolated purposes of family histories or by some genealogical purpose, has searched the geographic origin with such care, hence the importance of this contribution to research.

Kelsie B. Harder

Computer Software Review

Namer by Salinon. Dallas, TX 75231: The Salinon Corporation, 7430 Greenville Ave., P.O. Box 31047, 1986. Two disks (PC and PC/compatible), 98p. manual. List price \$235.00.

The world of computer technology has recently begun to affect onomastics. This is, as far as I know, the first commercial software package designed to create names. It is of interest not only because the programs create names but also because study of the programs gives us some insight into an actual naming process.

Until you have been called upon to suggest a name for a child, you don't really know how difficult it is to please people. When it comes to choosing names for business or commercial purposes, the task becomes even more difficult. Fortunately, four enterprising computer experts have developed a computer program (or rather a series of computer programs) to serve people with varied naming needs.

The programs appear primarily designed to meet the needs of those in business and industry who wish to have the names project desired images for their companies or products. There is also some use for the programs to assist selection of a name for a person, a pet, a gem, or an animal. But the main thrust of the programs seems to be applications for some aspect of business. When companies such as United States Steel and Esso change their names to USX and Exxon, the choice is made carefully. Consultants who help a company select a name can and do charge as much as \$50,000 or more for a name. The *Namer by Salinon* approach is somewhat less expensive, and the range of possibilities is tremendous.

When the user first begins, a menu shows the eleven major types of programs that are offered (most have additional features as well). The most important programs will be described.

Original Name Generator.

This is a basic approach. It builds spontaneous combinations of at least three letters. There are also filters which follow linguistic rules to screen names for pronounceability and acceptable English letter sequences.

Examples of names I generated include:

NEM	FECT	ZUGAD
DALCEPY	ZOROM	LAROTIX

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The *Original Name Generator* produces names all over the spectrum, and most users will probably have a specific product or idea which they wish to represent. So, in order to save time and sharpen our focus, we turn to other programs.

Connotation Synthesizer

This program is helpful when the user has some notion of the ideas or images that are meant to be conveyed by the name. In constructing the program, the authors have used roots from Greek, Latin, and contemporary usage along with phonetic considerations. The menu shows fourteen descriptors or categories. These categories include: High Tech, Powerful, New, and Analytic. The user is to pick between two and four of these descriptors. I imagined naming a new computer program that would solve problems. I chose Powerful and Analytic and generated names such as:

SUPERWISE	ERGEWIT	SCIFANT
WISEPLUS	TOPAC	ALLISTRA

At least a few of these make some sense. Work and practice could probably produce a great many more candidates.

Phrase Maker

This program is used when the task is a phrase or slogan. For example, you might be interested in developing a name for a gift shop whose proprietor is named Dave (Dave wants his name first). A few of the many results are:

DAVE'S NOVEL BOUTIQUE	DAVE'S SHOP FRESH
DAVE'S HARBOUR SHOP	DAVE'S SHOP NOUVEL
DAVE'S SHOP MODERN	DAVE'S SHOPPE MODERNE

Examination of Name Lists

Lists of existing names may help to check what we think is new. A name which we might think is original may already belong to a corporation. There are eight lists of known names: for Services, Companies, Boys, Girls, Pets, Rare Gems and Colors, Flowers, and Animals. The searching system allows for specification of particular letters of the alphabet as well as other restrictions. Besides being useful for checking whether a given name has already been used, the procedure would probably stimulate most users to develop some original ideas. There are thousands of names in the bank.

Dodging Profanities

Not only is it important to develop a name, it is also important to develop one that doesn't have an unforeseen off-color or unpleasant meaning in English or in another language. For example, Pet Milk is not marketed in the Province of Quebec. The *Profanities* program checks the name in five languages for suitability and indicates whether there is a potential problem. Thus PET is a possible problem in English; it is OK in Spanish and German but a definite no-no in Italian and French.

Forming Palindromes

Sometimes a person wants to use a palindrome (a word or phrase that spells the same way forward as it does backward, such as *Eve*, or *Madam I'm Adam*). The program will develop names of from three to eight letters. Here are a few I was able to come up with:

DARRAD	DEMED	EXOPOXE
SKEEKS	HOZEHOH	OVO

Of course, not all of the names which are generated are good, but if you are looking for something in the way of a palindrome this program will help.

Permuting Given Letters

Sometimes there might be a need for doing a recombination of existing letters. You might be interested in developing a name for a product, a business, or a person which is an anagram of an existing name. Thus, the name *Connie* could be recast as *Noince*, *Nocine*, or *Nicone*. I chose the name *Kelsie* and got over two hundred combinations, including:

KIESEL	KISELE	SIELEK
SEIKEL	SEIKLE	SIEKEL

Lisa, since it is only four letters, yielded fewer combinations, including:

SIAL	ALIS	SALI	SLAI
------	------	------	------

Alternating Character Strings.

Instead of checking the permutations of letters of a name, you might be interested in rearranging parts of a name. Again, you are allowed up to five categories which can be combined with each other. Each category is allowed up to ten strings of letters. In this case I thought of a small, new, powerful, electrical gadget. For one category I used "parts" such as POWER, DYM, and FORCE; for a second category, MITE, MINI, and

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MICRO; for a third category (to be suffixes), ICS, X, and S. The program came up with items like:

MITEDYMICs MICRODYMICs MICRODYM

Not too bad.

There are a few more programs. One is fairly sophisticated, *Adaptive Learning Method*. It builds on specifications the user selects. The program also "learns" from categories of names that are rejected. The remaining programs have fairly limited specific purposes.

In addition to the programs, the manual contains a useful chapter on trademark information. This is helpful to someone who does develop a new name and wishes to determine whether it is legal to use the name and how to protect ownership.

Namer by Salinon can be helpful for someone who is trying to develop names for consideration for new products or companies. The package will, in a short time, generate hundreds of possible choices. The odds are overwhelming that they will be interesting and the odds are that most will be original. While at first glance the purchase price of the programs may appear high, and the user will have to make some investment of time, the package could very well be a real bargain if it helps in name selection. For onomasticians, study of the programs can furnish valuable information on the naming process as a whole.

Edwin D. Lawson

State University College at Fredonia

Short Reviews

Gerald Leonard Cohen, ed., *Interesting Missouri Place Names*, Vol. 2 (Rolla, MO 65401: pub. by the editor, Department of AACs, University of Missouri-Rolla, 1987, pp. vi + 84, no price listed) has again brought together a valuable and entertaining set of materials, supplemented by a general article by Al Carlson on Missouri County Names and Thomas

Murray's folk etymologies of some Americanized St. Louis street names. Cohen adds scholarly notes on *Doolittle*, *Bourbon*, *Jerktail*, *Woopup*, *Enough*, *Henpeck Creek*, *Hang Dog School*, *Damfine*, and some items from the Ramsey file (*Pay Down*, *Shavetail Creek*, *Tribulation*, among others). All the entries are fully discussed, both on historical principles and through linguistic changes and shifts of meaning, the treatment of *Jerktail* being an excellent example. The volume is dedicated to the indefatigable researcher into Missouri placenames, Arthur Paul Moser, whose copious collections of oral and written materials are stored in Missouri libraries, all listed in the dedication on p. iii, along with a photograph of Mr. Moser.

Don L.F. Nilsen, ed., and Alleen Pace Nilsen, co-ed., *Whimsy V: American Humor* (Proceedings of the 1986 Conference, Tempe, AZ 85287: W.H.I.M., English Department, Arizona State University, April 1, 1987, pp. 342, no price listed, have created a conference that has become so important that after six meetings at Tempe it is going on the road and will be held at other universities in the United States and outside also. More than 1,000 persons participated in the Sixth International Conference on World Humour, all listed in the two-columned index as front matter, for this is an upside-down event, April 1 being its magic date, with covers on backwards and pagination moving in reverse order. This appropriate cuteness must not detract from the heavy seriousness of scholarly articles on kinds of humor, its effects, its whimsy. Randomly, I have selected a few titles to whet the appetite (tickle the funnybone): "Mutability in Fabledom," "Comparative Analysis of Russian and American Humor," "Humor and Related Phenomena in 20th-Century Art," "Basketball Comic, Football Heroic, and Basketball Dance: The Use of Myth and Metaphor in Our Great American Games," "Sex, Attitudes Toward Women, and the Appreciation of Sexist Humour," "The Laughter Project: Training College Students to Utilize Laughter as a Means of Reducing Stress," "Comprehension and Utilization of Humor Forms in the Emotionally Disturbed Preschooler," "Pulling the Chair from Under: A Study of Empathy for Victims of Practical Jokes, Pranks, and Hoaxes," "Acoustic Correlates of Young Adult Laughter," "Sign Language Humor Used by Deaf Children," and "Pecker-Pool and Cockalizers: Erotic Folk Elements in the Humor and Play of Adolescents." And there are many more. For a copy of this compendium of scholarly work and sometimes provocative giggling, contact the Nilsens, whose contributions to humor's lightness have lessened life's heaviness.

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Sister M. Christopher Pecheux, *Milton: A Topographical Guide* (Lanham, MD: 4740 Boston Way, 1981, pp. vii + 139, paper, \$12.50) presents "accurate and up-to-date information on the places in England that are of special interest in the context of Milton's life and works." No places are listed from the works; only those where he lived, places in the immediate area, or other places (churches, monuments) that can be connected to Milton's life. Bread Street, dating from its earliest mention in print in 1285, is the place of Milton's birth. Other places nearby and on the street are noted, including the Mermaid Tavern (the oldest one of many in London and favorite watering spot of the dramatists, including Shakespeare and Jonson). Milton's home on the street was destroyed in the fire of 1666, and now a supermarket and a widened Bread Street cover the space where Milton was born. Other names and places discussed include *Church of All Hallows, St. Paul's School, St. Paul's Cathedral, Christ's College, Cambridge, Jewin Street, California St. Giles*, and many more. A full index and an excellent bibliography (with placename texts noted also) round out this informative monograph.

P. William Filby and Dorothy M. Lower, eds., *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: 1987 Supplement* (Detroit, MI 48226: Gale Research Co., Book Tower, 1987, pp. xxii + 645, hardcover, \$135.00) continue their important lists of arrival of passengers and immigrants (both the same at times) to the United States, Canada, or the West Indies from the sixteenth through the early twentieth century. The supplement (the sixth one) adds more than 100,000 new names, bringing the total now to more than 1.4 million names indexed from over a hundred additional published sources. The entries contain the name and age of the passenger as given in the original source, date and place of arrival, code indicating the specific source containing the arrival record, page number on which the name occurs in original source, and names of all accompanying passengers together with their ages and relationships to the main passenger. These raw data provide information for genealogists, material for ethnic studies, sources for name changes, and uses that onomasticians can improvise.

Louise Nicholson, *The Baby Name Book* (New York, NY 10016: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Ave., 1987, pp. 255, \$7.95, paper) has compiled an attractive, tastefully illustrated volume that lists over 3,000 names for prospective parents to pore over and maybe choose a name from, plus a horoscope for the superstitious and the curious. Many names that almost certainly will not find their way to attachment to living humans are noted, along with their origins and historical items connected

to them. For instance, I cannot imagine an eager young new mother naming her daughter *Yullis*, but I am glad that the name was included to inform me about its connection with some feast days, possibly an Old Norse calendar date, and with *yle*. Surely, too, new fathers would not indulge themselves in *Alphege* 'elf-high,' but the gloss about the Archbishop of Canterbury who was killed by the Danes is worth the sight price. On balance, the book is just about the best one I have seen, although I am certain that much of the material is derived from other sources. Still, it is well bound, durable, and somehow useful for us who have passed the breeding prime and have resorted to reading names instead of giving them.

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Publication Notes

Several items have come to my notice, some to be reviewed later in *Names*. A major item is *Personal Names and Naming: An Annotated Bibliography*, by Edwin D. Lawson (Westport, CT 06881: Greenwood Press, Inc., 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, 1987, pp. xiii + 195, \$35.00). It contains approximately 1,200 items covering research in ethnic names and the psychological aspects, including naming methods and processes. It is indeed essential for the study of names.

Insights and Outlets: Essays on Great Writers, by Burton R. Pollin (Staten Island, New York 10304: Gordian Press, Inc., 85 Tompkins Street, 1986, pp. xii + 239, \$17.50, hardcover) contains excellent critiques of works by Shakespeare, Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley, Charles Lamb, Poe, Hawthorne, Kipling, Thomas Mann, Henry James, Oscar Wilde, and Coleridge. My purpose here is to note the great amount of onomastic material in the text. Pollin, long a member of ANS, has constantly used names to point his interpretations. Extensive use is made in "Mary Shelley as the Parvenue." Several discussions (articles) serve as models for articles in literary onomastics: "Rappaccini's Daughter: Sources and Names," "The Rue Morgue Murders: A Web Unravelling," and others. The fourteen essays are interrelated, each contributing to another, usually through the use of names or key nomenclature, for instance the tracing of *alastor* to its use by Poe and others. Pollin has published in *American Notes and Queries* a short study of the Gaelic background for Poe's coinage of *Ulalume*. Gordian Press has already published many of

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Pollin's works and is continuing to publish others under the title of *Collected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe*, edited with full annotations and notes, many of them onomastic. Volume 1, 1981, \$55.00; Vol. 2, 1985, \$45.00; Vols. 3 and 4 (as a set), 1986, \$70.00.

Naming of Rolla, Missouri, by Gerald Leonard Cohen (Rolla, MO, 65401: University of Missouri-Rolla, Dept. of Humanities, 1987, pp. 51, no price listed) is a monograph that exhaustively lists all references to the name *Rolla* that Cohen could find, all treated with the thoroughness that we have come to expect from the research of Cohen. In the end matter are included forty-six annotated sources and an index of over a hundred names of persons who have made some kind of an attempt to unravel the source of the name. The possibility that the name came somehow from *Raleigh*, NC, so far seems to have the most validity, but Cohen is far more cautious, sensibly so, than I.

René Coulet du Gard, Department of Languages, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 29716, has made available his five-volume set of *Dictionary of Spanish Place Names in the USA*, \$50.00; *The Dictionary of French Place Names in the USA*, \$9.00; and *The Handbook of French Place Names in the USA*, \$8.00. They can be obtained from the author or from Editions des Deux Mondes, P.O. Box 56, Newark, DE 19711.

The Native Speaker is Dead, by Thomas M. Paikaday, 1776 Chalkdene Grove, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 2C3, is still available, with proper blurbs by several members of ANS. Whether one has an interest in linguistics or not, this entertaining and informative text has a pertinency. Anyone studying the work will never again use "native speaker" in the same way. Write to Paikaday for information on the publication.

The monograph-length article by Ralph Slovenko, "Unisex and cross-sex names," *The Journal of Psychiatry and Law*, Spring/Summer 1986, 249-326, is an extensive survey of epicene names, as well as those that cross sexes. Besides the careful scholarship, the article also contains names discussed by those who have them (some of the discussants and confessors are members of ANS).

Leonard R.N. Ashley, 1901 Avenue H, Brooklyn, NY 11230, chaired the literary onomastics section of the Northeast Modern Language Association, April 4, 1987. Papers were presented on names in the fiction of John Steinbeck, Marguerite de Navarre, Mary Wilkins Freeman, and Henry James. For copies of the papers, request them from the readers through Ashley.

Another study by Bernard C. Peters, "The Origin and Meaning of Place Names Along the Lake Superior Shoreline Between Keweenaw Portage and Montreal River," appeared in *Michigan Academician*, XVIII (1986), 411-29, containing discussions of *Misery River*, *Salmon Trout River*, *Graveraet River*, *Sleeping Bay and River*, *Firesteel River*, *Ontonagon River*, *Iron River*, *Porcupine Mountains*, *Carp River*, *Presque Isle River*, *Black River*, *Little Girls Point*, and *Montreal River*.

Do not forget the WHIM (Western Humor and Irony Membership) Conference directed by Don and Alleen Nilsen, English Department, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287, The 1988 International conference is scheduled for Purdue University. Write to Professors Nilsen for information on exact time and place.

Important articles that have been sent to me or have appeared recently include: Allen Walker Read, "The Semantic Fluidity of Words," from "Approaches to Lexicography and Semantics," in *Current Trends in Linguistics*, ed. Thomas A. Sebeok, X, Linguistics in North America (The Hague: Mouton, 1973), 167-70, 196; Allen Walker Read, "Literary Place Names," *The Palimpsest* (published by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City), 9 (1928), 450-57; T.L. Markey, "Social Spheres and National Groups in Germania," *Erganzungsbande zum Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, ed. Heinrich Beck et al, Band 1 (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1987), 248-66; John M. Carroll, "'Naming' as a mapping between N- dimensional geometries," *Semiotica*, 61-3/4 (1986), 219-41; Jill A. Fraser, "Vanity Square: Today's St. Mark's Place could be tomorrow's Floyd Feldman Plaza," *Manhattan, Inc.*, December 1986, 85ff.; and Ralph Slovenko, "An Xercise in Xplanation," *New York Times*, Feb. 28, 1987, 19.

Revisits

Leslie Dunkling (*The Guinness Book of Names*, rev. and updated ed., Enfield, Middlesex, England: 33 London Rd., 1986, 192, \$9.95, paper, obtainable from Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016) has revised rather thoroughly his very popular and scholarly book on names, this time changing the names of many of the chapter titles while retaining much of the basic material, adding substantially to the examples. This time he also braces it up substantively, especially on why names are chosen, on psychology of surnames, and on the "problem" of trade names. There are sections on pop music groups, dog

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names in fiction, royalty in place names, cocktails, and lipstick names, among many others. No doubt, this text is about the handiest one to have on a shelf of books about names. Dunkling has the ability to pack literally hundreds of examples in a small space. In addition, the book is attractively printed, easy to use (well indexed, and beautifully designed, the cover in particular).

The classic by Joseph G. Fucilla, *Our Italian Surnames* (Evanston, IL: Chandler's Inc., 1949, pp. xi + 299), has been reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21203, \$20.00. This distinguished text has direct bearing on those who are concerned with Italian surnames and their meanings, but it also moves beyond the narrow confines of Italian names by becoming a sourcebook for the study of Romance names in general. Over 7,500 Italian surnames are indexed, with hundreds more variants appearing in the text. Since the book was originally published before *Names* came into existence, it was never reviewed and, consequently, has not been widely known among onomastologists. The republication of this almost indispensable text is a major event in onomastics and certainly should serve as a monument to Professor Fucilla's lifelong interest in language and names. It will go far, also, to establish him as a major scholar in the field.

A Gazetteer of Virginia and West Virginia, by Henry Gannett, Washington, DC: U. S. Geological Bulletins 232 (*A Gazetteer of Virginia*), 1904. Republished in one volume by Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21203, this is another historical document that placename researchers will welcome as an addition to the growing numbers of long out-of-print volumes now becoming available through the good services of reprint houses. Gannett is familiar to readers of *Names* as the compiler of the first placename text that surveyed names in the United States (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 258, 1905). The gazetteer of West Virginia has been superseded by the great work of Hamill Kenny; but the gazetteer of Virginia is still worthwhile for surveyors of that state, since no definitive text has appeared, although Raus McDill Hanson's *Virginia Place Names*, 1969 (reviewed in *Names*, 17:306, 1969) covers the state's placenames rather thoroughly. The merit of Gannett is that it lists names that have disappeared from modern maps and, hence, becomes paramount for listings and for completeness. For genealogists, it will be valuable also for names of places not immediately available elsewhere.



INTERNATIONAL
**Humor
Conference**
World Humor and Irony Membership

1988 WHIM

April 1-4 will be the dates of the 1988 WHIM Conference, and it will take place on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Victor Raskin in the English Department will be the chair; 317-743-3094.

1989 WHIM

April 1-4 will be the dates of the 1989 WHIM Conference, and it will take place in Hawaii. Margaret Baker and Jesse Crisler in the Communication Division of BYU-Hawaii will be the chairs; 808-293-3600 or 808-293-1552.

WHIMSY PROCEEDINGS

Available for \$10.00 each are the following:

- WHIMSY III: CONTEMPORARY HUMOR
- WHIMSY IV: HUMOR ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES
- WHIMSY V: AMERICAN HUMOR
- WHIMSY VI: INTERNATIONAL HUMOR (available April 1, 1988)

FURTHER INFORMATION

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE:

- 1). Comedy Clubs
- 2). Humor Journals
- 3). Humor Organizations
- 4). Humor Scholars

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