Book Reviews

Dictionary of Southern African Place Names. By P. E. Raper. Johannesburg: Lowry Publishers, 1987. Pp. ix + 368. R34.95.

Here at last is a most welcome and long overdue book: a guide to the origins of the placenames of South Africa by an expert.

Dr. Raper is head of the Onomastic Research Center of the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria and one of the foremost authorities on Southern African toponomy, matching Britain's Ekwall, Gelling, and Field; the United States' Stewart and Harder; and Canada's Armstrong and Hamilton. These three major English-speaking countries have thus been pretty well served by the placename authorities in the past and the present, but to date no one, at least in English, has tackled the toponomy of one of the other major English-speaking lands of the world. True, there have been several academic studies on Southern African placenames, mostly strictly limited historically or geographically, as well as a handful of pioneering dictionaries (Nienabor's *Suid-Afrikaanse Pleknaamwoordeboek* of 1972 has been one of the most comprehensive of South African placename dictionaries, albeit entirely in Afrikaans), but no generally and genuinely popular account until this present one.

South Africa's placenames are a fairly well polarized combination of European names (mostly Dutch or Afrikaans, or else English, as one would expect) and vernacular African, and in many ways parallel the English/Indian split that one finds in the placenames of North America, allowing for the fact, of course, that the representation of names in other languages in North America, such as French, German, and Spanish, is much denser than in South Africa. Yet if one takes in *Southern* Africa, as this dictionary claims to do, then one can add the German names of South West Africa and the Portuguese names of Mozambique to round out the parallel more fully, even though many names in the latter language have now given way to vernacular names.

The colonial background to North America and South Africa can also stand some comparison, especially linguistically, for English speakers settled in the two lands with barely a hundred years between them and have left English-language placenames in the respective geographical regions of both continents as their legacy. The chief disparity here, however, is that in South Africa the Dutch got in first, and Dutch or Afrikaans names still form a high proportion of the total.

There is another, similar disparity. Whereas many of the well-known placenames of North American cities are still Indian in origin (one need merely cite *Chicago, Seattle, Ottawa*, and *Ontario*), in South Africa they are mostly European, either Dutch or English (*Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, Bloemfontein*).

After a twenty-eight-page Introduction considering the nature of Southern African placenames, mostly from the linguistic aspect, Dr. Raper's dictionary proper commences and proceeds from *Abel Erasmus Pass*, Transvaal, to *Zwelitsha*, Ciskei, via what I estimate, although no total is stated, to be something over two thousand other entries. These range from sizable regions and territories to individual features such as passes and bridges, and from familiar towns and cities to less well known villages, settlements, and even hamlets. Natural features are well represented, and particularly so rivers, as well as mountains, hills, seas, lakes, forests, and other oronymical, hydronymical, and generally named objects. Former names have separate entries and are not merely cross-referred to the current name. Alternative vernacular names, too, have their own entries in most cases, and these are usually cross-referred to or from the entry at the familiar European name: for example, *Hogsback* to Xhosa *Belekazana* and *Upington* to Khoekhoen (erstwhile Hottentot) *Kharaes*. In some instances, however, there is redundant duplication, and one finds the name interpreted twice. This happens, for example, at *Cathkin Peak*, where the Zulu name *Mdedeke* is explained as well as separately under its own entry.

The pattern of each entry is fairly standard and includes, after the heading, the location of the place by state or country and geographical coordinates, its situation as measured in kilometers from one or more nearby other places, its brief history (for manmade or cultural objects), and the origin of its name, together with its language of origin if known and if not English. A complete typical entry thus runs:

> *Howick (N 2930 AC). Town near the Howick Falls, on the northern bank of the Mgeni River,

> 23 km north-west of Pietermaritzburg. Established in 1850, it was proclaimed a township in 1916 and a borough in 1961. It was named after Viscount Howick, later to become Earl Grey, Secretary of State from the Colonies from 1846 to 1852.

The asterisk is used to denote an officially approved name, and Dr. Raper, who speaks both English and Afrikaans, is at pains to stress the duality of names throughout where they have alternate officially approved forms. Thus he tells us that Little Brak River, a seaside resort, can equally be known as *Klein-Brakrivier* (that indeed this form is preferred for official purposes), but implies, by means of a cross-reference, that *East London* is the standard rather than its Afrikaans equivalent, *Oos-Londen*.

The biographical detail included is especially welcome, for many South African places have been named after their founders or for the owners of the original farm on which they arose. It is this particular detail that brings the names to life and gives the reader a vivid insight into the country's colonial history. Here are the names of pioneers, soldiers, missionaries, and farmers, among others, and not least among them the goldseekers. Not for nothing does South Africa have such eloquent, even poignant placenames as *Adams Mission*, *Burgersdorp*, *Cookhouse*, *Mensvertersberg* ("cannibals' mountain"), *Rustenberg* ("castle of rest"), and *Weenen* ("weeping)." One thus finds religious names, including several directly biblical, jostling with military and warlike names, and unimaginative names (*Soweto* is purely an acronym for "SOuth WEst TOwnships") accompanying the colorful or even fantastic (*Riviersonderend* is "river without end," and *Hectorspruit* is said to be named after a hunting dog, Hector, who died near a *spruit* or stream after a tsetse fly bite).

The dictionary thus has many excellent qualities. But it also has its failings, some of which can perhaps be attributed to its pioneering nature, but others which could, I feel, have been avoided. The first failing is that the work is merely selective and many quite well known names are missing. Maybe is too much to hope for the comprehensiveness and coverage of, say, George R. Stewart's *American Place-Names* (although he himself pointed out that his book was actually "concise and selective"!), but why, for instance, does Raper include *Transkei* but not *Ciskei*; *Margate* but not *Ramsgate*; *Port Beaufort*, on the north bank of the Breede River estuary, but not the intriguing *Infanta-on-River*, on the south? More seriously, why are there no entries for the actual country names of Southern Africa, no *Lesotho*, no *Botswana*?

And that brings me, I fear, to my most severe criticism, which relates to what in Britain is called the "Trades Description Act." In the opening sentence of this review I referred to Dr. Raper's dictionary of the placenames of South Africa [sic], for despite the title of the work, that is virtually what it is. True, there is some coverage of the names of Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, and Swaziland, but no representation at all of Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, or Zimbabwe (all included, in fact, in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica's* definition of "Southern Africa)," and we thus have not only a book with a misleading title but one that is the poorer for this exclusion.

Less seriously, but also misleadingly in their way, there are factual errors in some of the geographical locations, and even in some of the distances from neighboring places, although these are often variously stated by various authorities. Thus *Aberdeen* (30) is southwest of *Graeff-Reinet*, not southeast; *Ga-Rankuwa* (118) is northwest of *Pretoria*, not northeast; *Grootfontein* (132) is southeast of *Tsumeb*, not southwest; and *Odendaalsrus* (249) is southwest of *Kroonstad*, not southeast. In some entries, too, the actual meaning of the name is not stated. Perhaps none could be established, but it would be better for the reader to be told as much, if that is the case. There are thus no explanations of the names *Dysselsdorp* (101), *Okovakuatjivi* (168, under *Kalkfeld*), *Bayville* (177, under *Kirkwood*), Lavumisa (195) or *Lobamba* (199), for example, and no entries at all for *Mandy's Farm*, cross-referred under *Bodiam* (54), or for *Jammerfontein*, similarly under *Boknesstrand* (55). And alas, on pages 230 and 327 respectively there are cross-references to and from *Mtentweni* and *Umtentweni*, but, frustratingly, no actual entry for either.

This seems to suggest that the work, admirable and welcome as it is in many respects, was compiled either over-hastily or without due attention to necessary detail, which is a pity. Any new edition, one hopes, will rectify such deficiencies and defects, and could also, incidentally, usefully include a few maps and possibly be printed on better quality paper.

Meanwhile, some willing toponymist is needed to take over the baton and compile a dictionary that does actually cover the names of *Southern* Africa. And after that, maybe, Australasia!

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Nionde nordiska namnforskarkongressen. Edited by Göran Hallberg, Stig Isaksen, and Bengt Pamp. Upsalla: NORNA-Förlaget, 1987. Pp. 422. Paperback. Price from St. Johannesgatan 11, S-752 21, Uppsala, Sweden.

The proceedings of the Ninth Nordic Conference on Onomastics (which brought eighty-eight scholars to the Humanishuset at the University of Lund to hear twenty-six papers of the general theme of "Name Semantics and Name Structure," August 4-8, 1985) have now been published by NORNA (The Nordic Co-operation Committee for Name Studies).

Only two of the papers are in English: W. F. H. Nicolaisen's "Semantic Causes of Structural Changes in Place-Names" and Alan Crozier's "On the Transparency of Place-Names in Ireland, England, and Sweden." However, the papers in Scandinavian languages are accompanied by brief abstracts in English or German and range over anthroponyms, topynyms, even the names of dogs in Sweden from about 1650 to 1800. The majority of the papers focus well on the announced topics of onomastic semantics and onomastic structure.

The accompanying bibliographies consititute a valuable source of general information on name study, particularly in Scandinavia. Linguistics specialists will find many fascinating details such as the use of secondary verbs in hydronyms of the Old Norse area (verbs formed with one of these suffixes: *l, r, s, k, t, p, m*) and geminated verbs, but throughout all the papers (and the brief summaries of discussion the fact is always emphasized that toponymic study involves much more than linguistic knowledge – this kind of name study is interdisciplinary of necessity.

This is a useful book for the specialist in Scandinavia and in placenames.

The tenth Nordiska Namnforskarkongressen will be held in Denmark on 4 May 20-24, 1989. Its central theme will be "Analogy in Naming."

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Personal Names and Naming: An Annotated Bibliography. Compiled by Edwin D. Lawson. Westport, CT:: Greenwood Press, 1987. Pp. xiii + 185. $35.00.

In his Preface, Edwin D. Lawson, Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York College at Fredonia, humbly concludes: "In any work like this [bibliography], there are bound to be some errors. I would appreciate my attention being called to any of these. I hope that future investigators will be assisted by this bibliography."

While I did not spend the many hours necessary to check for more than a few errors in bibliographic details, I did compare my own private bibliography against Lawson's. I found no errors. Some few arguable omissions, perhaps. But no errors. "Future investigators" will certainly be assisted—profoundly—by Lawson's bibliography.

Bibliographies are an essential tool for any serious researcher. Almost any bibliography is better than none. In the field of American onomastics, we have been well served, in toponymics especially by Richard B. Sealock and his co-authors and in personal names (after 1952) by Elsdon C. Smith, to whom Lawson quite rightly dedicates this bibliography.

Now cometh Edwin D. Lawson before the court. Once again we have been well served by our field's bibliographers.

Lawson's bibiography of 1200 entries is divided into forty-eight subject categories, including, for example, Alias Names, Biblical Names, Ethnic, National, and Regional Names, Graffiti and Names, Middle Names, Psychology and Names, Teknonyms, and Women and Names. One omission in the categories suggests itself: philosophy of names. There is the subcategory "Theoretical and Linguistic Aspects" (containing twenty entries), so perhaps this is mere quibbling over what to call it.

Basically, there are three kinds of bibliographies: simple alphabetical listings, chronological, and annotated. The sub-title indicates which Lawson's is. While I would have preferred more detailed annotations, his are excellent. Frequently they show relationships between entries. In Category 36, Signature Size, the chronologically first entry is Richard L. Zweigenhaft's 1970 article in *Journal of Social Psychology* (Entry 36.6), a pioneer study which confirmed "that signature size and status [are] correlated." In Entry 36.2, we are told that Mahoney's 1973 study offers results that "fail to confirm Zweigenhaft." But then we are told in Entry 36.5 that Swanson and Price's 1972 study "confirms Zweigenhaft...." For Entry 36.4 (Stewart 1977), we are told that there was "no

significant relationship between signature size and status." While these annotations show the development among various studies, I believe a chronological (rather than a straight alphabetical) arrangement would have been more useful to the reader.

It is frequently easy to do a "hatchet job" on bibliographies (for example, David Kahn's notorious 1978 review in *Cryptologia* of David Shulman's *An Annotated Bibliography of Cryptography*). It is easy because there is always one more little out-of-the-way journal published in New Delhi, India, by the Southeastern Ornithology Society that just happens to contain one article on names during its entire eighty- three-year history of publishing. Indeed, Lawson writes in his Preface, "In general, if an item was unavailable through Inter-Library Loan or was very expensive to borrow, it also was not used." Lawson has omitted at least a few journal articles. Just to mention one such omission: Edward S. and Mary Black Rogers' "Method for Reconstructing Patterns of Change: Surname Adoption by the Weagoamow Ojibwa, 1870-1950," *Ethnohistory*, 25 (1978): 319-345. I know of two or three more such omissions, but in all instances their value to members of the American Name Society might be minimal.

Professor Lawson's discipline is psychology, and although I cannot cite much evidence to prove my contention, I am of the impression that some fields of study were not surveyed as fully as some might wish: history, to name one. There also appears to be little from genealogy (the Subject Index lists only two). Granted many readers of this journal may disdain the material in genealogy, still some is useful.

Despite these very minor faults, Professor Lawson's bibliography does an excellent job of meeting a serious need among researchers in the field of personal names, their roots and their influences. This book is an essential acquisition for any scholarly library as well as any serious student of personal names.

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Agronyms: Mélanges de toponymie et de dialectologie en hommage à Pierrette Dubuisson. Dijon: Association Bourguignonne de Dialectologie et d'Onomastique, 1987. Pp. viii + 152. 150 French francs.

One of the main bodies that have actively and successfully promoted an upsurge in French placename studies within recent years is the Association Bourguignonne de Dialectologie et d'Onomastique, under the impetus provided above all by Gérard Taverdet of the University of Dijon. In the A. B. D. O. series, slim but authoritative volumes by Professor Taverdet himself have been published (or, in some cases, as yet only announced) on the major placenames of the departments of Jura, Loire, Ain, Rhône, Aube, Côte-d'Or, Haute-Loire, Haute-Marne, Haute-Saône, and Nièvre. Other name studies in this collection
are: *L'Onomastique, témoin des langues disparues*, Actes du Colloque de Dijon (mai 1981); *L'Onomastique, témoin de l'activité humaine*, Actes du Colloque du Creusot (mai 1984); Marie-Pierre Cretin, *Les Noms de lieux du canton de Givry*, 1984; G. Taverdet, *Lieux-dits de Saône-et-Loire*, 1985.

Like the organization that has published it, the miscellany reviewed here amply illustrates, by its contents as well as its title, the interdependence of name studies and dialectology that one can find anywhere in the Old World: the two fields are jointly responsible for exploring, recording, and interpreting elements of language that are often local in kind, the natural complement of those incorporated into the standardized, national (or international) language. It is therefore appropriate that, while Mlle Dubuisson's own publications (listed on pages III-IV) are centered around her *magnum opus*, the *Atlas linguistique et ethnographique du Centre*, 3 vols., Paris: C. N. R. S., 1971-1982, and are only in a few rare cases concerned directly with toponymy, placenames supply primary data for virtually all the studies included in this volume, contributed by many of France's most eminent toponymists and dialectologists. Only one article, that of W. Dahmen (37-50), has no onomastic content.

Information about topographical terms culled from linguistic atlases provides, for J.-C. Bouvier ("Les Tribulations du champ dans l'espace gallo-roman" 1-14), B. Horiot ("En complément à l'article 560 d'A. Vincent" 71-82), and J.-B. Martin ("Les dénominations du talus dans l'Atlas linguistique et ethnographique du Jura et des Alpes du nord," 83-88), a starting point for comparison with the occurrence of these words in toponymy. Professor Bouvier points out that *champ* (with its dialect variants) is far less commonly used in local usage than one might have imagined, that its precise semantic value varies

from one place to another, and that – in this case at least – the frequency of a term in the usage of toponymy diverges from that in the everyday language of the countryside. Mme Horiot reveals that a form *nauve* pool, derived from **nauda* and differing from both the usual northern *noue* and the southern *nauza*, occurs in a wide arc across south-central France. M. Martin, examining fourteen terms used to designate a "bank" or "slope," shows that several of them are extremely localized and that, in a number of cases, the origin of the words attested can be regarded as pre-Latin (normally Gaulish).

Through the centuries, usage has often tended to diverge between the spoken and written forms of names, as demonstrated here in the articles of J. Chaurand ("Le Traitement du suffixe-iacum en Thiérache et dans le Laonnais"29-35) and Gabriel Guillaume ("Toponymie et documentation d'un atlas dialectal: notes de phonétique et de sémantique," 59-70). The fact that dialect and national language are essentially co-terminous only in the Paris area is admirably exemplified by the late 19th century material which Mme M. Mulon studies in "Vocabulaire topographique en région parisienne: la notion de hauteur et de pente dans les lieux-dits," 89-97. On the other hand, where there are very marked differences between standard and dialect forms, misunderstandings and misinterpretations of the latter abound. G. Tuaillon ("Toponymie et calembours: sur quatre noms de lieux savoyards" 135-141) examines some striking, but typical, examples of the confusion these produce in map spellings – spellings that, in turn, lead to a pronunciation henceforth considered "correct" though actually unrelated to the origin of the name in question. Instances of this kind almost inevitably occur also where, as in the British-owned Channel Islands off the coast of Normandy, a different language has gradually supplanted the local dialect of French as that of the majority of the local population: P. Brasseur ("Les Noms de Maisons de l'Ile de Sercq" pp. 15-27) gives a detailed analysis of many aspects of this linguistic change. The most extensive article of the collection, J.-C. Rivière's "Les dénominations de l'eau et des lieux humides à Vebret (Cantal)" 99-123, is also, from a strictly onomastic point of view, one of the most thorough, for its survey of the hydronomy of Vebret is exhaustive and, as far as possible, it gives an explanation of each name's meaning and origin in relation both to local circumstances and to the wealth of lexical and etymological scholarship concerning all varieties of Gallo-Romance. As a sample of what could be learnt from a similarly thorough examination (yet to be undertaken) of all of the names of a larger region, Professor Taverdet ("Dialectologie et toponymie: de quelques traite-

ments de A en Bourgogne" 125-134) shows how minor placenames can reflect an earlier alignment of phonetic isoglosses than the evidence of modern dialects alone.

But Professor Fabre issues a salutary warning ("Sur quelques hydronymes et oronymes de la vallée du Cians: réflexions méthodologiques" 51-58) about the claims of great antiquity sometimes made indiscriminately about minor names. In the absence of very early attestations, it is a methodological absurdity to reconstruct a pre-Latin prototype when (as is so often the case) the name in question corresponds to a personal name or a common noun found to have existed in the local speech of the area in modern times. Other important observations in M. Fabre's article argue for precise classification of the linguistic strata and semantic categories to which actual placenames – as distinct from placename *elements* – belong.

Without casting any doubt on the Germanic nature of northern French names ending in *-ham*, Professor Lothar Wolf ("Les Noms de lieux en -ham et le problème des éléments non-franciques en français," 143-149) questions the usual view that these are of Saxon origin. Comparison with the vocalic structure of other terms found in Gallo-Romance leads him to relate them to a pre-Frankish colonization revealed by archaeology, for which he uses Tacitus' term *Ingveon*. Verification of this interesting hypothesis must now await a re-examination of the first elements of the names in question.

This rapid summary cannot claim to suggest the full interest of the studies in this volume, still less to attempt a detailed critical evaluation of the views and information they contain. Collectively, they present a remarkably broad range of the issues and problems that current French research in toponymy is tackling. It is refreshing to encounter a collection that consistently maintains such a high standard, both in the choice of topics for discussion and in their treatment.

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Ekeyi, Gyo Cho Chu, My Country, Big Salmon River: Place Names of the Big Salmon River Region, Yukon Territory, Canada. Compiled by Gertie Tom. Whitehorse: Yukon Native Language Centre, 1986. Pp. 84. Fold-out map and twenty-two color photographs. $12. Order from YNLC, Box 2703, E-2, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A4B3.

This handsomely designed book begins with a list of seventy-four Northern Tutchone placenames with literal translations, coordinates, and some explanations about the names. Complementing the list are beautiful color photographs, a map of the scenic Big Salmon River area north of Whitehorse,and an alphabetical index of both the native placenames and the local English placenames. Tom has also written eight autobiographical narratives about life and travel in this country. These stories are presented in Northern Tutchone and in English in a parallel column format. The native language text and translations have been carefully proofread by linguist John Ritter. These stories are excellent examples of what can be termed "Athabaskan travel literature," a popular, highly informative verbal genre among Athabaskan people. The book also contains an extensively researched genealogical chart of the author's Northern Tutchone family. With first-rate photography and graphics, the book is evidence of the development of the Yukon Native Language Centre's publication program.

The Athabaskan language family consists of about forty closely related languages. Athabaskans are well-known for their long-distance migratory travel. Their traditional territory extends in the north from western Alaska to Hudson's Bay and south to British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan; on the Pacific Coast in the hill country of Oregon and Northern California; and in the southwest in Arizona and New Mexico. The Athabaskans in, say, AD 1500 held more territory in North America than did any other comparably cohesive native American people.

I understand that recently a placenames board for the Yukon Territory has been formed. This study will have some impact on placenames decisions in the local area. Thus there are several reasons why Tom's detailed, accurate account of Northern Tutchone territory is an important addition both to Athabaskan studies and to Yukon Territory history and ethnography.

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The Daily Express Guide to Names. By Merle Jones. London: W. H. Allen and Co., Ltd., 1981. Pp. 175 About $2. £1.25

To paraphrase Shaw, "Britain and America are two great countries, separated by a common naming tradition."

Every American interested in names should own at least one book on pan-English names written by a Briton, in the British tradition, and from a British perspective in order to understand the similarities and differences in names and naming in Britain and America. *The Daily Express Guide to Names* would do nicely.

The book might be subtitled: "How to Name Your Child With Intelligence and Good Taste": intelligence because "The name bestowed on a child moulds its personality" and good taste because the process of naming is social snobbery of the best sort, "the snobbery of knowing what is fashionable, traditional, or just plain awful." As far as *The Daily Express* is concerned, a name given in good taste has four characteristics:

> it will fit the bearer's personality;
> it will fit the family name semantically, phonetically, and initially (no *A*ntoinette *S*usanna *S*impsons or *B*eatrice *U*rsula *M*artins);
> it has positive associations;
> and its nicknames or diminutives are acceptable.

In short, a name chosen with good taste will match the image of the name with the physical and social circumstances of the bearer.

This book is a delightfully lively and entertaining discussion of the images of some seven hundred of the most popular names in Great Britain, with digressions into the distributions of these names in other English-speaking countries, primarily Australia and the United States. Readers should be warned that this does not pretend to be a "scholarly" book; there are no footnotes, no references, and no bibliography. There is also, unfortunately, no index, which is a shame, since there is no way to get to *Dafydd* or *Dir(c)k* or *Emblem* if one does not already know their relationships to *David* and *Denis* and *Emmeline*. There are, however, plenty of asides and wonderfully informative insights into the sliding values of names within the British social system, many of which are not common knowledge to most Americans. For instance, *Abigail*, with all its solid colonial associations here, fell sharply in Britain after it became a slang term

for "maid." Similarly, *Cuthbert* fell out of favor largely because it became a general term for "draft dodger" during World War I.

The connotations of names may also be different on opposite sides of the Atlantic. While I think most Americans would agree with Jones on the older images or generally negative connotations of *Gladys*, *Herbert*, *Marmaduke*, and *Gertrude*, we would not agree with many of the choices of names currently bearing positive connotations: *Hannah*, "a pleasant, dignified name"; *Oriel*, *Miranda*, and especially *Sebastian*, "the name that has everything if you are looking for distinction, panache and an aristocratic air."

Although both Britain and America draw in large measure from the same stock of onomastic material, many names have fundamentally different connotations in the two countries. Nowhere is this more apparent than with the name *Jemima*, which Jones feels is "ripe for a fashionable revival." The associations with Aunt Jemima in America are apparently unknown in Britain. A revival of the name here would be more ironic than literal. (I wonder, too, since it is relatively rare in this country, how many Americans correctly assume the sex of the author of this book, Merle Jones. I can recall knowing two men with the first name Merle, but no women.)

Jones' treatment of names, while spritely and interesting, is at times a touch too prescriptive for many American students of names, but at the same time the comments are pointed and reveal a great deal about the uses of names and their psychological values within the British social system. Typical comments:

> "The English seem incapable of leaving any name in its proper form."
> *Maxine,* like *Roxy*, is a name they used to give to cinemas. Would you call your daughter *Roxy*? If not, think twice about *Maxine*, too.
> *Colleen:* "It has few attractions."
> *Irene:* "A beautiful name, but *do* pronounce it properly." It should have three syllables—"Ireenee"—not two. The Americans invented the "Ireen" pronunciation, which has now spread to Britain.
> *Diana:* "The Hollywood adaptation, *Deanna*, is deplorable."
> *Algernon:* "little used today. The awful diminutives *Algie and Algy*, are good reason for keeping it that way."
> *Angela:* "an attractive name, it can be ruined by the ghastly diminutives *Ange* and *Angie*."
> *Claudia:* "the pet form [*Claudie*] is truly terrible."

> Jerry: "The hideous short form" and "dreadful diminutive" of *Gerald* and *Jeremy*.

The frequent well-turned phrase makes Jones' more acerbic comments even more memorable.

> *Peter*: "classless, it sits as well on a dustman as on a duke."
>
> *Ada*: "had its day a century ago. It conjures up pictures of mothballs and bombazine."
>
> *Candace*: "will inevitably be shortened to Candy, which will be fine if your daughter grows up a delicious little sexpot and terrible if she has a weight problem."
>
> *Edith*: "one of those names which one now associates with ancient great-aunts rather than ancient queens."

While the book is a very useful compact guide to the "British position" on shared English names, certain of the comments and allusions will remain partially understood or even opaque to Colonials: *Rollo* has "an indefinably aristocratic air" unless it is "mispronounced as Row-low and instantly gives people an image of a popular brand of chocolate."

And what are we to make of the fall from grace of *Albert*, a name which has "never recovered from the Stanley Holloway monologue about a boy who had a 'stick with an 'orse's 'ead 'andle, the finest that Woolworths could sell...' "?

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Laurence Urdang Publications

Allusions – Cultural, Literary, Biblical and Historical: Thematic Dictionary, 2nd ed. Edited by Laurence Urdang and Frederick G. Ruffner, Jr. Detroit 48226: Gale Research Co., Book Tower, 1986. Pp. 634. $68.

Mottoes: A Compilation of More Than 9,000 Mottoes from Around the World and Throughout History. 1st ed. Laurence Urdang, Editorial Director. Celia Dame Robbins, Editor. A Laurence Urdang Reference Book. Detroit 48226: Gale Research Co., Book Tower, 1986. Pp.1,162. $75.

In the making of dictionaries, Laurence Urdang probably has no peer. For this, we are all fortunate. Not only does he edit superbly, but he also works

through a specialty and brings to us information that otherwise would not have been gathered. Two such dictionaries are the subject of this notice.

Standard dictionaries provide little or no help in identifying the metaphoric significance of the thousands of allusions that occur in both speech and writing. For instance, who is Major Bagstock, or Shallum, or Baron de Charlus? What is Adam's ale water, or Harvey, or the golden handshake, or the greybeard-grow-young? In *Allusions* Urdang has listed them and given us the information. The allusions chosen to be included have such sources as literature, comic strips, legend and myth, brand names, places, real people, buildings, music, symbols, animals, and many others. Among the headlines used to categorize the allusions are *Abduction, Adolescence, Age, Ambiguity, Boredom, Bravery*, and on to *Zodiac*.

The format allows for easy finding of any allusions. Each appears in boldface type followed by an explanation and a citation of the source. Each allusion and thematic heading is assigned a number. An extensive bibliography of sources completes the main dictionary. The index is complete and usable. Indeed, the dictionary has just about everything a work of this sort should have in it, but one point must be made: it can serve for most enjoyable browsing.

The subtitle to *Mottoes* reads, "... with Foreign Examples Identified and Translated into English, the Entries Arranged in the Text under Thematic Categories, Supplemented by Alphabetic Indexes of All Mottoes and of the Families, Institutions, Individuals, &c.., to Which They Are Attributed," a description of what the volume contains and worthy of the subtitles of texts of earlier times. Mottoes evoke the time of romance and chivalry, a time when a coat of arms had a very real meaning shored up with a general sentiment that usually reflected family honor. The motto had to be short and pithy, since it had to fit on a coat of arms.

Most of the ones Urdang enters are in Latin, "reflecting the fact that it was the Western *lingua franca* until relatively recent times." The fact that Urdang translates the mottoes into English is indicative of the status of Latin now. Also, many mottoes, especially those collected from the schools of higher education in the United States, appear in English without any reference to a Latin context, or, for that matter, to any Greek source, which, it can be assumed, was the origin of many that here appear in Latin. My search was not overly diligent, but I found no Greek mottoes entered. English has become common in more modern forms. Some examples from institutions and families: *To learn/To search/To serve* (State University of New York), *That the people shall know*

(Columbia University Graducate School of Journalism), *Desire the right* (Falkland Islands), *Duty, honor, country* (West Point U. S. Military Academy), *Help* (Foundling Hospital), *Strike* (Hawke [B.]), and *To rock the cradle of reposing age Foster U.S.)*). The Western motto language, however, is Latin, although, as fads in language change, so do other factors reflecting language use change.

The mass of material is no less than astounding. No less so, too, is the care in editing and in providing references so that the contents can be found so easily. For instance, in the subject index, two state mottoes are not listed (Kentucky and New Mexico), but Kentucky can be found in the dictionary coupled with Missouri, since both have the same mottoes (*United we stand, divided we fall),* as does also Eastern Kentucky University. New Mexico is another matter, for it does not appear in the index or in the State Mottoes category. New Mexico is listed separately in the index, with reference to the category *Growth,* where the motto, in Latin, *Crescit eundo* 'I grow under the yoke,' appears for New Mexico. In other words, the user may have to scout around to find a particular motto; but patience seems to be rewarded always.

Kelsie B. Harder
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