

## Palestinian First Names: An Introduction

Hanna Y. Tushyeh, Edwin D. Lawson,  
and George Rishmawi<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

An analysis of the first names of 768 Palestinian school children from the West Bank and from within the Green Line reveals 341 different names. The inventory of these names indicates the usual form of the name as transcribed into the Roman alphabet, pronunciation, frequency, meaning, and perceived identification ("Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral"). Additional analysis evaluates Christian vs. Moslem usage, determines the perceived identification, and identifies the most popular names.

\*\*\*\*\*

First names (also referred to as proper names, given names, forenames, and "christian" names) have been extensively studied. One of the many reasons for studying them is that the names of a culture tell us something about that culture and the values of the name-bestowers. One culture that has been so far somewhat neglected is Arabic culture. The names of prominent people from the Middle East have regularly appeared in the Western press and other media, and first names such as *Anwar, Ali, Hussein, and Samir*, as well as *Laila, Muna, Nadya, and Su'ad*, have become familiar to all of us. To the Western ear, some of these names sound exotic, others perhaps harsh and strange. Virtually all of the names have a meaning, a tradition, and a history which should be of interest to the concerned scholar.

At present, there is no complete source either in English or in Arabic that gives much assistance on Palestinian names. An excellent book in French, by Eugene Vroonen, describes Arabic, Greek, Turkish, Coptic, Jewish, and Armenian names, but not specifically Palestinian names. An introductory article by Evelyn Paxton and brief works by Fatima S. Al-Ja'fari and M. A. Kazi give some information on Arabic names, English spelling, Arabic spelling, and meaning (Al-Ja'fari also gives some information on pronunciation). But there are some deficiencies in these

references: no easy guide for pronunciation, no information on the frequency of each name.

Another Arabic culture which has received some scholarly attention is Egypt. Samia H. El-Sa'aty, in her description and analysis of Egyptian names, sets up a system with fifteen categories, such as Religious, National, Leaders, Folklore, and Aspirations. While these categories are useful for Egypt, they do not easily apply to Palestinian names because of the many differences in the two cultures. It is also true that the Egyptian study had rather limited samples.

The emphasis of the studies of Al-Ja'fari and Kazi is on Moslem rather than Arabic names, resulting in a lack of coverage for the whole culture. Further, neither provides any information on perceived identification of each name as "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral." It should be noted that in the Arab world, many first names are perceived as being "Christian" or "Moslem" with names used by both groups being regarded as "Neutral." An investigation of Palestinian names would have to include both Christian and Moslem samples with, of course, both sexes being represented.

Palestinians often discuss the relative frequency of names. We sometimes hear that *Mohammad* and *Ali* among Moslems and *George* and *Michael* among Christians are as popular as *John* in the Western world. But just how common are these names? In this investigation we will attempt to answer this question and others.

Our basic purpose in this investigation is to evaluate representative samples of Palestinian names from the West Bank and from Arabs within the Green Line<sup>2</sup> by religious group and by sex. The specific purposes are to:

1. Do an inventory of names currently in use.
2. Show the current pronunciation for each name.
3. Show the frequency of each name.
4. Show the perceived identification of each name, i.e., whether it is usually perceived as "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral."

We wished to answer the following questions:

1. Are more "Christian" names used by Christians, more

- “Moslem” names by Moslems and relatively few  
 “Neutral” by both groups for both males and females?
2. Do Christians or Moslems use a greater variety of names?
  3. Do females or males use a greater variety of names?
  4. Is there any difference in the naming patterns between  
 Palestinians on the West Bank and those within the  
 Green Line?

### Method Sample

The names for this investigation come from interviews in another investigation. They are the names of a total of 768 schoolchildren in grades K-12, half of whom were from the Ramla-Jaffa area within the Green Line and half from Ramallah on the West Bank. They came from desert, rural, town, and urban areas. There are four groups: Christian males, Christian females, Moslem males, and Moslem females. While the original intention had been to have equal numbers of Christians and Moslems, the actual percentages among males are Christians, 44%, Moslems, 56%; among females, Christians, 41%, Moslems, 59%. The sample was gathered in 1974 from children whose ages ranged from four to eighteen.

### Results

The preliminary tabulations divided the sample population by religion (Christian or Moslem), sex, and area (West Bank or within the Green Line). As local informants had suggested before the study was carried out, we found no discernible differences between names used on the West Bank and those within the Green Line. Therefore, we combined the samples. Local observers also reported that the sample appeared representative of the names of the region, although we discovered that, in our sample, *Mohammad* was not the most common Moslem name, and the Christian name *Boutros (Peter)*<sup>3</sup> did not even appear.

The next step was to list and describe each of the first names used by the 768 respondents. The Appendix shows these names (in Roman transliteration), along with the pronunciation, frequency among the Christian and/or Moslem group, sex, derivation of the name, and the per-

ceived identification of the name as "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral."

### "Christian," "Moslem," and "Neutral" Names

As we mentioned earlier, Palestinians very often identify Arabic names as "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral." We categorized each of the names as carefully as possible while bearing in mind that other observers might differ with our choices on some names. Completed tabulations show how each religious group responded in terms of these categories. Tables 1, 2, and 3 show these results. Table 1 shows the number of different names used by each group and also the total frequencies for those names.

One tendency we observed, at least in the corpus of names in this study, is the frequency with which some names are used by both Christians and Moslems. A large number of both male and female names are, in fact, "Neutral." A quick glance at the Appendix reveals a great many common names of this kind. Examples of "Neutral" names for boys are: 'Adil, Anwar, Dawud (David), Ghassan, Hani', 'Isa, Khalil, Mazin, Najib,

Table 1. Totals of names by sex, religion, and assumed identification.

	Names Identified As						Tot #Dif	Tot f
	"Christian"		"Moslem"		"Neutral"			
	#Dif	f	#Dif	f	#Dif	f		
By Christian Boys	22	53	5	5	68	119	95*	177
By Moslem Boys	1	1	38	87	72	134	111	222
Less Duplicates			(2)		(35)		(37)	
Total: Boys	23	54	41	92	105	253	169	399
By Christian Girls	22	32	3	3	63	118	88	153
By Moslem Girls	2	2	33	46	84	168	119	216
Less Duplicates			(2)		(33)		(35)	
Total: Girls	24	34	34	49	114	286	172	369
Totals: Boys + Girls	47	88	75	141	219	539	341	768

\*Note. Thus, there were 95 different names used by Christian Boys, 22 were categorized as "Christian," 5 as "Moslem," and 68 as "Neutral." The frequencies of these names were: 53, 5, and 119, respectively, for a total frequency of 177 for Christian Boys.

*Osama, Ramzi, Samir, and Yousef.* "Neutral" names for girls include *'Afaf, Basimah, Fairuz, Ghadah, Hanan, Iman, Laila, Muna, Maryam, Najwa, Randa, Salwa, Su'ad, Suhair, and Taghrid.*

Table 1 shows that Christian boys had a bit more than half (22) the number of "Christian" names than Moslem boys had of "Moslem" names (38), with both groups having about the same number of "Neutral" names. It is also important to point out that "Neutral" names for both males and females were larger in total frequency than the combined totals of "Christian" and "Moslem." For boys, the total frequency for "Neutral" names is 253 versus 54 for "Christian" names and 92 for "Moslem" names. The pattern for girls, with 286 for "Neutral" names, 34 for "Christian," and 49 for "Moslem," shows even more clearly the preference for "Neutral" names.

### Most Popular Names by Religious Group

One of the questions many would raise is which male and female

Table 2. Most Popular Names of Christians, Moslems, and Both Groups Combined

Christian Boys		Moslem Boys		Both Groups	
1. George	12	Ahmad	13	Ahmad	13
2. Salim	7	Ali	11	George	12
3. Sami	7	Mohammad	9	Ibrahim	12
4. Hanna	6	Ibrahim	8	Ali	11
5. Ilyas	6	Jamal	7	Yousef	10
6. Samir	5	Omar	7	Mohammad	9
7. Dawud	4	Yousef	6	Sami	9
8. Hani'	4	Khalid	6	Jamal	8
Christian Girls		Moslem Girls		Both Groups	
1. Samyah	7	Fatimah	7	Salwa	12
2. Suzan	6	Salwa	7	Laila	9
3. Halah	5	Muna	6	Nadya	9
4. Maha	5	Nadya	6	Muna	8
5. Randa	5	Iman	5	Randa	8
6. Salwa	5	Laila	5	Fatimah	7
7. Laila	4	Nawal	5	Samyah	7
8. Mariyah	4	Sabah	5	Iman	6

Note. The rankings were cut off at eight places. There was a tie for eighth place for Girls Both Groups. *Nawal* and *Suzan* also had frequencies of 6.

names are most often used by each religious group? The answer appears in Table 2. It should be noted that a name need not have the perceived identification of the group in question in order to be chosen. Thus, names such as *Salim* and *Laila* are "Neutral" and were used by Christian boys and Christian girls, respectively, as were *Yousef* and *Salwa* by Moslem boys and Moslem girls. Top names are *George* and *Salim* for Christian boys, *Ahmad* and *Ali* for Moslem boys, *Samyah* and *Suzan* for Christian girls, and *Fatima* and *Salwa* for Moslem girls. For the combined religious groups, the top names are *Ahmad* and *George* for males; *Salwa* and *Laila* for females. Table 2 also provides additional confirmation of the results in Table 1, pointing to the preference for "Neutral" names.

### Perceived Identification

Another way of looking at the data is to examine the names by their assumed identification, whether "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral." Most names are easily classified into "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral" categories. The relatively few that were not were judged by a panel of local experts. Table 3 gives this information.

Again, the pattern seems to show a slight tendency for those names perceived as "Neutral" to have a higher frequency for the top eight boys' and top eight girls' names. We can check this by summing the frequencies for the categories. For boys, the sums are: 36, 54, and 67 for "Christian," "Moslem," and "Neutral." The sums for girls of 18, 24, and 71, respectively, show even more preference for "Neutral" names.

### Sources of Names

It should be noted that traditional, indigenous Arabic sources are reflected in some Moslem names such as, *Ali*, *Hatim*, *'Anter*, *Mohammed*, *Marwan*, and *Sufyan* for boys; *'Ablah*, *Aminah*, *Fatima*, and *Zainab* for girls.

Some Christian names, both male and female, reflect Western and European sources. For boys, we have *Bulos* (*Paul*), *Peter*, *Alex*, *Bascal* (*Pascal* 'Passover'), *Charly*, *George*, *Henry*, *Iskandar*, (*Alexander*), *Jergis* (*George*), *Michael*, *Nicola*, *Victor*, and *William*.

For girls, we have *Bolah* (*Paula*), *Dayana* (*Diana*), *Janette* (*Janet*), *Karina* (from *Katherine*), *Klara*, *Lara* (from *Dr. Zhivago?*), *Liwese*

(Louise), Margaret, Marleen, Mariyah (Maria), Norma, Nilli (from Helen), Rita, Sonya, Susan, Sylvana (from Sylvia), and Tanya.

### Discussion

As the results have been presented, the accomplishments of this in-

Table 3. Most popular names by perceived identification.

Perceived as:	"Christian"			"Moslem"			"Neutral"			
	CB	MB	T	CB	MB	T	CB	MB	T	
1. George	12		12	Ahmad	13	13	Ibrahim	4	8	12
2. Hanna	6		6	Ali	11	11	Yousef	4	6	10
3. Ilyas	6		6	Mohammad	9	9	Sami	7	2	9
4. Victor	4		4	Omar	7	7	Jamal	1	7	8
5. Edward	2		2	Hatim	4	4	K halid	1	6	7
6. Jergis	2		2	Hussein	4	4	Mahir	3	4	7
7. Jony	2		2	Abed	1	2	Samir(1)	5	2	7
8. Michael	2		2	Hassan		3	Salim (2)	7		7

Note. In the table CB = Christian Boys; MB = Moslem Boys; T = Total.

None of the top men's names perceived as "Christian" was chosen by a Moslem, one "Christian" name, Abed, was chosen by a Moslem. In the "Christian" name category, Mishail, Peter, and William were also tied with frequencies of 2.

Perceived as:	"Christian"			"Moslem"			"Neutral"				
	CG	MG	T	CG	MG	T	CG	MG	T		
1. Mariyah	4		4	Fatimah	1	6	7	Salwah	5	7	12
2. Marleen	3		3	Fathiya		3	3	Laila	4	5	9
3. Janette	2		2	'Ablah	1	1	2	Nadya	3	6	9
4. Johwana	2		2	'A'ishah		2	2	Muna	2	6	8
5. Jorget	2		2	Amnah		2	2	Randa	5	3	8
6. Rita	2		2	Alia		2	2	Samyah	7		7
7. Sylvia	2		2	Fauziyah		2	2	Iman	1	5	6
8. Others (less than 2)				Khitam		2	2	Nawal	1	5	6
9.				Zainab	2		2	Suzan	6		6

Note. CG = Christian Girls; MG = Moslem Girls; T = Total.

vestigation should be reviewed in relation to the original goals. The inventory of 341 different names assigned to 768 individuals has been completed. This study, the first of its kind with Palestinians, includes the names of Christian and Moslem boys and girls. The inventory, appearing in the Appendix, has several features: each name is listed in Roman transcription with its pronunciation, frequency, sex, meaning, and perceived sectarian category.

In addition to completing the inventory, we answered several questions. The first dealt with the use of "Christian" names by Christians and "Moslem" names by Moslems. As expected we found that each religious group, as we showed in Table 2, tended to use more of the names traditionally thought of as belonging to that group. What was not so expected, however, was that the category "Neutral" would have higher frequencies than either religious category. Whether this is possibly related to greater depolarization in naming practices (less tendency to use sectarian religiously-oriented names) cannot be concluded at this time. At the least, we can say that there is a significant core of indigenous Arabic names used by both Christian and Moslem Arabs. It would be most interesting to do some retesting to determine how widespread this is and whether it will increase in the future. We think that the "Neutral" category will definitely increase.

The next questions concerned the variety of names used by Christians and Moslems and by boys and girls. It is generally accepted that in Europe and North America there is a greater variety of names for girls than for boys.<sup>4</sup> There was no specific prediction on Christians vs. Moslems. The results indicate virtually no difference in overall variety between the sexes (169 for boys, 172 for girls). The only difference worth noting is that Moslem girls do show slightly more variety in names, as compared to Christian girls (119 to 88). Boys are about the same (Christian boys, 95; Moslem boys, 111). This information is in Table 2. These differences are at least partially explained on the basis of the slightly higher percentages of Moslems in the total sample.

Finally, we determined no observable differences between naming practices among Palestinians in the West Bank and those within the Green Line. This investigation has been an introduction to the study of Palestinian names. The patterns of bestowing names are dynamic and changing and they tell us about the culture of the people involved. Further studies are needed to determine whether the percentage of



“Neutral” names will increase. We hope that this study and similar studies will contribute toward understanding and appreciating the richness, diversity, and meaning of Arabic names.

An-Najah University, Nablus, West Bank  
 State University of New York College at Fredonia  
 Bethlehem University, West Bank

### Notes

1. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Mahmoud Abu Kitteh, Chair, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Bethlehem University; Dr. Levon Melikian, Professor Emeritus, University of Qatar; Mohammad Nobani of Zerka, Jordan; and Nida'a Feidi and Antone Razzouk, interviewers. Special thanks are due Dr. Marwan El-Nasser, Chair, Department of Economics, State University College, Fredonia, for his many useful suggestions.

2. The term *Green Line* in this presentation refers to the border of Israel before the war in 1967. “Within the Green Line” refers to Arabs within Israel. “Beyond the Green Line” would refer to Arabs on the West Bank.

3. Since there is no [p] in Arabic, *Peter (Petros)* becomes *Boutros*. Note also that *Paul* appears as *Bulos*.

4. Dunkling, for example, using data from the United States, Canada, England and Wales, Scotland, and Australia, found 486 girls' names and 357 boys' names in a sample of 10,000 births (*First Names First* 221-31).

### Works Cited

- Al-Ja'fari, Fatima S. *Muslim Names*. Indianapolis: American Trust Publications, 1977.
- Dunkling, Leslie Alan. *First Names First*. New York: Universe Books, 1977.
- Dunkling, Leslie Alan, and William Gosling. *The Facts on File Dictionary of First Names*. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1983.
- El-Sa'aty, Samia H. “A-sma al-Masryin wa Attagheer al- Ahtimaay” [Egyptian Names and Social Change]. *Qirant fi elm Annafs al-Ahtimaay* [Readings in Psychology in the Arab World]. Ed. Louise K. Mulaykah. Cairo: Public Association of Egyptian Writers, 8 (1972): 165-85.
- Kazi, M. A. *What's in a Muslim Name*. Chicago: Kazi Publications, 1974.
- Paxton, Evelyn. “Arabic Names.” *Asian Affairs* 59 (1972): 198-299.
- Vroonen, Eugene. *Les nommes de personnes en Orient et spécialement en Égypte*. Cairo: Le Scribe Egyptien, 1946.

## Appendix

Listing of Individual Names in Arabic and English with Pronunciation, Meaning, Frequencies by Sex, Religious Group, and Perceived Identification

In the following listing Column 1 gives the usual English spelling of the name; Column 2, the pronunciation; Column 3, the frequency in the Christian sample; Column 4, the frequency in the Moslem sample; Column 5, the combined frequencies of Christian and Moslem where appropriate; Column 6, the sex, m = male, f = female; Column 7 the meaning with some derivations; and Column 8, whether the name was identified as "Christian," "Moslem," or "Neutral."

### Explanation or symbols and abbreviations:

' (apostrophe) = Arabic ayin (glottal stop)	
< = derived from	NT = New Testament
Ar = Arabic	OGer = Old German
dau = daughter	OT = Old Testament
f = form of	pl = plural
fem = feminine	w = with
Heb = Hebrew	
kh = as in Ger <i>Ich</i> , Scot <i>loch</i>	

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
'Abdu	AB-doo		1	1	m	dim. of Ar Abdul 'slave'	N
'Abdul-Aziz	abdul-AZIZ		1	1	m	Servant of the Mighty	M
'Abdul-Kader	abdul-KAA-der		1	1	m	Servant of the Capable	M
'Abdul-Nakeeb	abdul-NAQEEB		1	1	m	Servant of the Proclaimer	M
'Abdul-Rahman	abdul-rahman		1	1	m	Servant of the Compassionate	M
'Abdul-Salam	abdul-SALAAM		1	1	m	Servant of the Peace	M
'Abed	A-bed	1	2	3	m	servant, slave	M
'Abir	A-beer	2	3	5	f	fragrance	N
'Ablah	AB-lah	1	1	2	f	perfectly formed	M
'Adil	AA-dil	1	2	3	m	just, fair	N
'Adilah	AA-decla		1	1	f	fem of 'Adil,	N
'Afaf	A-faaf	1	3	4	f	fem of 'Afif	N
'Afif	A-feef	1		1	m	chaste, modest	N
Ahlam	AH-laam	1	1	2	f	dreams	N
Ahmad	AH-mad		13	13	m	commendable, praiseworthy var. of Mohammad	M
Ahrar	AH-raar		1	1	f	free	M

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
'A'ida	AY-dah/A-EE-dah	1	3	4	f	returning	N
'A'ishah/Aysha	AY-sha or 'a-EE-sha		2	2	f	living, prosperous; wife of Mohammad	M
Akram	AK-ram	1		1	m	generous	M
Alex	A-lex	1		1	m	Alexander	C
Ali	a-LEE		11	11	m	excellent, noble, high	M
Alia	AL-ya		2	2	f	exalted, highest	M
'Amal 1	A-mel	1	3	4	f	hope, aspiration	N
'Amal 2	A-maal		2	2	f	hopes, aspirations, pl	N
Amani	A-maa-nee		1	1	f	wishes, aspirations	N
Amin	AM-een		2	2	m	trustworthy	N
Aminah	A-mee-na		1	1	f	fem of Amin	N
Amir	a-MEER		1	1	m	prince	M
Amirah	A-meera	1	2	3	f	princess	N
Amjad	AM-jad		2	2	m	more glorious	N
Amnah	AAM-na		2	2	f	secure, protected; mother of Mohammad	M
Anis	A-nees	1	1	2	m	friend, good company	N
'Anter	AN-tar		1	1	m	brave	N
Anwar	An-war	1	1	2	m	shining	N
'Arafa	ARA-fah		1	1	m	holy mountain near Mecca	M
'Arafat	ARAFaat		2	2	m	holy mountain near Mecca	M
Asad	AS'ad		4	4	m	happier	N
Asma'	AS-maa'		1	1	f	high, glorious; dau of Caliph Abu Bakr, companion of Mohammad	N
Astar	Es-tair	1		1	f	< Persian Astera through Heb (Esther) 'star,' OT	C
'Awad	A-wad	1		1	f	reward, compensation	N
Awni	AW-nee		1	1	m	helper, support, aide	N
Ayoub	ay-YOOB	1		1	m	< Heb Iyov 'EE-yove' (Job), hated, oppressed,	OT
'Azizah	A-zee-zah		3	3	f	cherished, dear	N
'Azzam	AZZ-aam		1	1	m	determined	N
Badee	BA-dee'		1	1	m	good-looking	N
Bahaa	BA-haa'		1	1	m	handsome	N
Bascal	bas-KAL	1		1	m	Pascal, (Easter child)	C
Basim	BAA-sim	2	1	3	m	smiling	N
Basimah	BAA-see-ma	1	3	4	f	fem of Basim	N
Basmah	BAS-ma	1		1	f	smile	N
Bassam	Bah-SAM	3		3	m	smiling	N
Bishara	bi-SHARA	1		1	m	good news	C
Bolah	BO-la	1		1	f	Paula, fem of Bulos	C
Bulos	BOO-loss	1		1	m	Ar f of Paul < Lat paulos 'small,' NT, saint	C

256 H. Tushyeh, E. Lawson, and G. Rishmawi

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
Buthayna	BU-thay-na	1		1	f	beautiful and tender body	N
Charly	CHAR-lee	1		1	m	affect f of Charles, OE ceorl 'man, husbandman'	C
Da'ad	DA-ad		1	1	f	peace of mind	N
Dalal	da-LAAL	1		1	f	beloved	N
Dawud/Daoud	DA-WOOED or DA-OOD	4		4	m	David, Bible < Heb 'beloved'	N
Dayana	da-YA-na	3		3	f	fr Diana, Roman goddess	N
Deeb	DEEB		1	1	m	male wolf	N
Dima	DEEM-a		1	1	f	moist cloud?	N
Dina	DEE-na	2	1	3	m	reed, religion; name of King Hussein's first wife	N
Dua'	DOO-aa		1	1	f	calling on God	M
Dunya	DOON-ya		1	1	f	world	M
Edward	ed-WARD	2		2	m	Edward, English saint, < OE guardian of property'	C
Fadwa	FAD-wa		1	1	f	self-sacrifice	N
Fadyah	FAAD-ya	1	1	2	f	self-sacrifice	N
Fahima	FA-heema		1	1	f	fem of Fahmi	N
Fahmi	fah-ME		1	1	m	understanding, intelligent	N
Fahmiyah	FAH-miya		1	1	f	fem of Fahmi, understanding	N
Fairuz/Farrouz (also Fayruz)	FAY-rooz	2	1	3	f	jewel (turquoise)	N
Faraj	fa-RAJ	1	1	2	m	relief	N
Faridah	FA-rec-da	2	1	3	f	unique	N
Faris	FAA-ris		1	1	m	knight	N
Fathiya	FAT-hiya		3	3	f	opening	M
Fatimah	FAA-ti-mah	1	6	7	f	weaner; dau of Mohammad also a village and sanctuary to the Virgin Mary in Portugal	M
Fatin	FAA-ten		1	1	f	fascinating, gorgeous	N
Fatinah	FAA-tena		1	1	f	fascinating, gorgeous	N
Fauziyah	FAW-ziya		2	2	f	triumphant	M
Fayez	FAA-yiz		1	1	m	victorious, winner	N
Fayzah	FAY-ZAH		2	2	f	victorious, winner	N
Fida'	FI-daa'		1	1	f	sacrifice	N
Fivan	FEE-van	1		1	f	Vivian According to Dunkling & Gosling < Lat fam name 'Vibianus' but was early assumed to be fr Lat vividus 'living,' 'alive'	C
Fu'ad	foo-ODD	1	3	4	m	heart	N

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency		Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr.	Tot.			
George	JO-rj	12	12	m	George, saint, < Gk georgos 'farmer'	C
Ghadah	GHAA-da	3	4	f	young, delicate, beautiful	N
Ghanim	GHA-nim	1	1	m	winner	N
Ghassan	gha-SSAN	1	1	m	Arabic-no spec. meaning	N
Hadil	HA-deel	1	1	f	cooing of pigeons	N
Halah	HAA-la	5	5	f	lunar halo	N
Hamdan	HAHM-dan	1	1	m	< Mohammad; one who praises	M
Hana'	HA-naa	2	2	f	fem of Hani'	N
Hanan	HA-naan	3	5	f	sympathy	N
Hani'	HAA-nee	4	5	m	happy	N
Hanna	hah-NAH	6	6	m	Ar f of John < Heb Yochanan 'God is gracious'	C
Harb	HARB	1	1	m	war	N
Hasan	HA-san	3	3	m	handsome	M
Hatim	HAA-tim	4	4	m	inevitable	M
Hayfe'	HAY-faa	2	2	f	slender	N
Hazim	HAA-zim	2	2	m	tough,strict	N
Henry	HEN-REE	1	1	m	Henry, < OGer Heimerich 'home ruler'	C
Hidayah	HE-daaya	1	1	f	guide to righteousness	M
Hikmat	HICK-met	1	1	f	wise, from root 'hakeem'	M
Hind	i as in ill	1	1	f	deer; India	N
Hiyam	HI-yaam	1	2	f	infatuation	N
Huda	HU-da	2	2	f	right guidance	N
Husam	hu-SAAM	1	2	m	sword	N
Husni	HUS-ni	1	1	m	good-looking	M
Hussein/Husayn	WHO-sane	4	4	m	handsome	M
Ibrahim	EEB-rah-heem	4	8	12	Ar f of Heb Avraham (Abraham) 'father of a multitude,' OT, first patriarch	N
Ibtihaj	IB-tec-haaj	1	1	f	joy	M
Ibtisam	IB-ti-saam	1	4	5	f act of smiling	N
Ihab	EE-haab	1	1	m	giving	N
Ikhlas	IKH-laas	1	1	f	sincerity	N
Ikram	i-KRAM	1	1	f	generosity	N
Ilham	IL-ham	1	2	f	intuition, inspiration	N
Ilyas	EEL-yaas	6	6	m	Elias, Gk f < Heb Eliyahu (Elijah), 'the Lord is my God,' OT; Elias, NT	C
'Imad	EE-maad	2	3	m	support, pillar	N
Iman	EE-maan	1	5	f	faith, belief	N
In'am	IN'aam	3	3	f	bestowal	N

258 H. Tushyeh, E. Lawson, and G. Rishmawi

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr.	Mos.	Tot.			
Inshirah	IN-shi-rah		1	1	f	related to happiness	M
'Isa'	EE-sah	3		3	m	Ar f the Gk Jesus < Heb Yehoshua (Joshua), 'God is salvation,' NT	N
'Isam	ee-SAAM	3	1	4	m	safeguard	N
Iskandar	IS-khan-dar	1		1	m	Ar f of Alexander < Gk 'protector of men'	N
Islam	IS-laam		1	1	m	peaceful	M
Itaf	EE-taaf		3	3	f	compassionate	N
Iyad	EE-yaad		4	4	m	helper	N
Jack	JAA-K	1		1	m	Jack, dim of Jacob or John	C
Jad	JAAD	1	1	2	m	generous	N
Jalal	ja-LAAL		1	1	m	glorious	N
Jamal	JA-maal	1	7	8	m	handsome	N
Jamil	JA-meel		2	2	m	handsome	N
Jamilah	JA-meelah		3	3	f	fem of Jamil	N
Janette	JA-nette	2		2	f	dim fem f of John. See Hanna	C
Jasir	JAA-sir		1	1	m	courageous, daring	N
Jergis	JIR-gis	2		2	m	Ar f of George. cf George	C
Jihad	ji-HAAD		1	1	m	holy war	M
Johwana	JO-wan-a	2		2	f	fem f of John. See Hanna	C
Jony	JO-nee	2		2	m	Johnny. See Hanna	C
Jorget	JOR-JET	2		2	f	Georgette, fem of George	C
Jubran	JUB-raan		1	1	m	root; tyrant	N
Kadri	QAD-ree		1	1	m	able	M
Kais/Qais	QA-ys	1		1	m	horrid, pre-Islamic name	N
Kamal	KA-maal		2	2	m	completeness	N
Kamilya	KA-meel-ya		1	1	f	fem of Kamal	N
Karam	KA-RAM	1		1	m	generosity	N
Karim	KA-reem	1	1	2	m	generous	N
Karima	KA-reem-ah		1	1	f	fem of Karim, generous	N
Karina	KA-ree-na	1		1	f	< Gk katheros 'pure,' saint	C
Kassim	QAH-sim	1		1	m	divider, one who swears	M
Khader	KHA-der	4		4	m	capable	N
Khadriya	QA-driya		1	1	f	capable, fem of Khader	M
Khaleel	KHA-leel	2		2	m	friend, consort	N
Khalid	KHA-lid	1	6	7	m	immortal	N
Khalil	KHA-leel	2	3	5	m	companion, close friend	N
Khamis	KHA-miss	1		1	m	Thursday	N
Khitam	QI-taam		2	2	f	end	M
Khulud	Qu-lood	1		1	f	immortality, lasting	M
Klara	KLA-ra	1	1		f	f of Clara < Lat 'shining, clear'	C

Palestinian Names 259

Name	Ponunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
Laila/Layla	LAY-la	4	5	9	f	night, sweetheart	N
Lara	LAA-ra	1		1	f	Dunkling & Gosling trace the name to a nymph Larunda (or Lala) in Roman mythology or to Larisa a Greek martyr	C
Latifa	LA-tec-fa		1	1	f	pleasant	N
Layana	LAY-aana		1	1	f	Liana, affect f of Juliana	C
Lina	LEE-na	1	1	2	f	flexible, easy	N
Linda	LIN-da	1		1	f	either < Ger 'serpent' assoc w wisdom or Sp 'pretty'	N
Lisa	LEE-za	1		1	f	aff f of Elizabeth < OT Heb Elisheva 'oath of God'	C
Liwese	LOO-EEZ	1		1	f	Louise fem f of Louis < OGer Hlutwig 'famous in battle'	C
Lutfi	LOOT-fee	1		1	m	friendly, kind	N
Mabrak	MAB-ruk		1	1	m	congratulations, blessed	N
Maha	MA-ha	5		5	f	deer	N
Mahir	MAA-hir	3	4	7	m	skilled	N
Mahirah 1	MAA-hi-ra		2	2	f	fem of Mahir	N
Mahirah 2	MU-hay-ra		1	1	f	dim. of Mahira 1	N
Mahmud	MAH-mood		4	4	m	< Mohammad; praise worthy	M
Mai/May	MAY	2	1	3	f	Old Ar name; poss f of Mary (Maryah) or the month	N
Majid	MAH-jeed	1		1	m	glorious	N
Majidah	MAA-jida		2	2	f	fem of Majid	N
Malik	MAA-lick	1	1	2	m	proprietor, owner	N
Manal	MA-naal		2	2	f	achievement	N
Mansi	MAN-si		1	1	m	forgotten	N
Margaret	MAR-ga-ret		1	1	f	< Gk margaron 'pearl,' saint	C
Mariyah	MAR-iyah	4		4	f	Mary. See Maryam	C
Marleen	MAR-lane	3		3	f	Marleen, prob a var of Marlene, Mary + Magdalene	C
Martin	MAAR-tin		1	1	m	< Lat Martinus saint, god of war	C
Majidah	MAA-jida		2	2	f	fem f of Mahir	N
Marwan	MAR-waan	3	1	4	m	solid, tough; prince	N

## 260 H. Tushyeh, E. Lawson, and G. Rishmawi

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency				Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot				
Maryam	MAR-yam	1	3	4	f	Mary < OT Heb Miriam meaning uncertain, prob assoc w NT Mary, mother of Jesus	N	
Mathhar	MATH-har		1	1	m	appearance	M	
Maysa'	MAY-saa'	3		3	f	walks with swinging gait	N	
Mazin	MAA-zin	1	3	4	m	balance	N	
Mervat	MER-vet	2	1	3	f	Turk; meaning unknown	N	
Michael	MAI-kef	2		2	m	Gk f of Heb Miyka/el (Michael), 'Who is like God?,' OT	C	
Mikhail	MIKA-eel	1		1	m	f of Michael	C	
Milad	MEE-laad	1		1	f	birth	C	
Milya	MEEL-ya	1		1	f	fem f of Emilia < Lat aemilius 'industrious'	C	
Mishail	MI-shail	2		2	m	f of Michael	C	
Mohammad	MUHAMBAD		9	9	m	praiseworthy	M	
Mufid	MOO-feed	1		1	m	useful	N	
Muhannad	MU-hannad		1	1	m	sword	N	
Muitaz	MU'tazz		1	1	m	proud	M	
Muna	MOO-na	2	6	8	f	wish, desire	N	
Munir/Muneer	MOO-neer	1	1	2	m	luminous, shining	N	
Munira	MOO-nee-ra		1	1	f	fem of Munir	N	
Munther/Munthir	MUN-ther	2	1	3	m	cautioner, warner	N	
Murad	MOO-raad		1	1	m	desire, aspiration	N	
Musa	MOO-sah	1	2	3	m	Ar f of Heb Moshe (Moses) 'drawn out of the water' or 'son,' OT	N	
Mustafa	MUS-tafa		2	2	m	chosen; one of the names of Mohammad	M	
Muwaffak	MU-waffak		1	1	m	successful	N	
Na'il	NA-el		3	3	m	acquirer, obtainer	N	
Na'ilah	na-EEL-a		1	1	f	fem of Na'il,	N	
Nabil	NA-beel	1		1	m	noble	N	
Nabilah	NABEE-la	1	1	2	f	fem of Nabil,	N	
Nadim	na-DEEM	1	1	2	m	friend, companion	N	
Nadir	NAA-dir	1	2	3	m	rare, unique, scarce	N	
Nadya/Nadia	NAAD-ya	3	6	9	f	fruitful	N	
Nafiz	NAA-fiz		1	1	m	penetrating	M	
Nahida	NAA-heeda	1		1	f	heart	N	
Nahil	na-HEEL		1	1	f	easy drink	N	
Nahlah	NAH-la		2	2	f	a drink of water	N	
Naifah	NAY-feh		2	2	f	high, elevated	N	
Naim	NA-EEM		1	1	M	happiness, benefit	N	



Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
Naima	na-EEMAH		2	2	f	fem of Naim,	N
Najah	NA-jaah		1	1	f	success	N
Naji	NAA-jee	1		1	m	survivor	N
Najib	NA-jeeb	1		1	m	noble, excellent	N
Najla	NAJ-laa	1		1	f	wide eyes	N
Najwa	NAJ-wa	1		1	f	heart	N
Nana	NA-na		1	1	f	f of Anne < Heb Hannah 'grace.' In OT but prob assoc with mother of Mary	C
Nariman	NA-ree-man	1		1	f	Persian, meaning unknown	N
Nasif	na-SEEF	1		1	m	just	N
Nasir	NAA-sir	1	1	2	m	victorious	N
Nasr	NASR	1		1	m	victory	N
Nathirah	na-THEERA		1	1	f	like, equal, matching	N
Nawal	na-WAAL	1	5	6	f	achievement	N
Nayif	NAA-yif		5	5	m	high	N
Ni'daa/Nida	knee-DAA		1	1	m	call	M
Nicola	NI-KOLA	1		1	m	f < Gk Nicholasos 'victory of the people,'	C
Nidal	NEE-DAAL	1	1	2	m	struggle	N
Nihad	nee-HAAD	1		1	m	mature, elevated	N
Nilli	NEL-lee	1		1	f	Nelly < Gk Helene 'bright one'	N
Nisrin	NIS-reen	1	2	3	f	jonquil	N
Nizar	NI-zaar	1		1	m	lion	N
Norma	NOR-ma	1		1	f	< Lat norma 'pattern, model'	C
Nuha	NEW-hah	2	3	5	f	intelligence, mind	N
Nura	NEW-ra	1		1	f	light	N
Olfa	UL-fa	2		2	f	affection	N
Omar	O-mar		7	7	f	straightforward	M
Omaymah	UMAY-ma		1	1	f	young mother	N
Osama	oo-SAH-ma	1		1	m	lion	N
Oudah	OO-deh	1		1	m	return	N
Peter	PEE-ter	2		2	m	Peter < Gk petros 'rock,' NT, saint	C
Qadir	QA-deer		1	1	m	powerful, capable	M
Rabi'ah	RA-bee'ah		1	1	f	garden	M
Rafif	RA-feef		1	1	f	fluttering of birds	M
Raid	RA-ed		1	1	m	leader	N
Raik	RY-IQ		1	1	m	calm	M
Raja	ra-JAH	1		1	m	hope	N
Raja'	ra-JAA'		1	1	f	hope	N
Rajab	ra-JAB		1	1	m	7th lunar month in Moslem calender	M

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency			Sex	Meaning	ID
		Chr	Mos	Tot			
Rajihah	RAA-ji-ha		1	1	f	wise, objective, mature	M
Ramzi	RUM-zee	2	1	3	m	hallmark, symbol	N
Ramziyah	RAM-ziyah		1	1	f	fem of Ramzi, symbol	M
Rana	RA-na	3		3	f	to gaze, look	N
Randa	RAN-da	5	3	8	f	fragrant tree	N
Rashad	ra-SHAD		2	2	m	wisdom	M
Rashida	ra-SHEED-a		1	1	f	fem of Rashad	M
Rasmiyah	RAS-myah		2	2	f	formal	N
Rif'at	RIF-aat		3	3	m	highness, sublime	N
Rihan	ree-HAAN		1	1	f	fragrance	N
Rima	REE-ma	2	1	3	f	deer	N
Rita	REE-ta	2		2	f	short f of Margarita, poss infl of actress Rita Hayworth	C
Riyad/Riad	ree-YAAD		2	2	m	gardens	N
Ruba	RU-ba	1		1	f	ruby	N
Rushdi	RUSH-dee	1		1	m	my reasoning	N
Sa'id	SA-eed		3	3	m	happy	N
Sabah	SA-baah		5	5	f	morning	N
Sabri	SAB-ree		2	2	m	more patient	M
Sahar	SA-KHAR	2		2	f	dawn	N
Salah	SA-lah	1	1	2	m	righteousness	M
Saliba s	a-leeb-a	1		1	m	cross	C
Salim (1)	SAA-lim	1	2	3	m	safe	N
Salim (2)	SE-leem	7		7	m	safe, mild	N
Salma	SAL-ma		1	1	f	peaceful	N
Salwa	SEL-wa	5	7	12	f	quail; solace	N
Samar	SA-mar	1		1	f	evening conversation	N
Sami	SAA-mee	7	2	9	m	lofty, high	N
Samir (1)	sa-MEER	5	2	7	m	jovial, happy	N
Samir (2)	SAA-mer		1	1	m	good companion	N
Samirah	SA-meera		3	3	f	fem of Samir	N
Samuail	SAMU-ail	1		1	m	Ar fof Heb Shmuel (Samuel) 'His name is God' or 'heard of God,' OT, prophet	C
Samyah	SAAM-ya	7		7	f	fem f of Sami	N
Sana'	SA-naa'	2	2	4	f	resplendence, brilliance	N
Sarah	SAA-re	1		1	f	< Heb 'princess'	N
Saud	SA-ud		1	1	m	good luck	M
Sawsan	SAW-san	2	3	5	f	See Suzan	N
Shafika	SHA-feeka		1	1	f	kind, compassionate	M
Shaker	SHAA-ker		1	1	m	thankful	N
Shawky	SHOU-KEE	1		1	m	yearning to see or visit someone	N

Name	Pronunciation	Frequency		Sex	Meaning	ID	
		Chr	Mos Tot				
Shifa'	she-FAA'	1	1	f	healing, cure	N	
Shukriya	shuk-RIYA	1	1	f	thankful	M	
SilvanaS	IL-vana	1	1	f	See Sylvia	C	
Sirin s	i-REEN	1	1	f	serene	N	
Sonya	SON-ya	1	1	f	dim f of Sophia < Gk 'wisdom,' saint, mother of Constantine	C	
Sofya	SA-FIY-AH	1	1	f	pure, clear	N	
Su'ad/Suad	su'AAD	3	3	f	luck	N	
Sufyan	SUF-yaan	1	1	m	Arabic-no spec. meaning	M	
Suhad	SU-haad	1	1	f	sleeplessness	N	
Suhair	SOO-hair	1	1	f	late night companion	N	
Suheil	su-HAYL	4	2	6	m	smooth, soft	N
Suheila	SUHAY-la	1	1	f	smooth, soft	N	
Sukayna	su-KAY-NA	1	1	f	calm, piece of mind	M	
Suleiman	SULAYMAHN	1	2	3	m	Ar f of Heb Shlomo (Solomon) 'peace,' OT	N
Sumayah	SOO-mayyah	1	1	f	highness, lofty	N	
Suzan	SOO-zaan	6	6	f	Susan < Heb Susannah 'lily' Apocrypha; also NT	N	
Suzi	SOO-ZEE	1	1	f	dim. of Suzan	N	
Sylvia	SIL-via	2	2	f	< Lat silvia 'wood'	C	
Taghrid	tagh-REED	1	1	2	f	singing of birds	N
Talat	TAL-'at	1	1	m	growth, appearance	M	
Tamam	TA-maam	1	1	f	perfection	M	
Tanya	TAAN-ya	1	1	f	Tania, dim of Rus Tatiana < Sabine King Tatiua	C	
Tarik	TA-riq	1	1	m	morning star, night	N	
Tarub	ta-ROOB	1	1	f	merry	N	
Victor	VICK-tore	4	4	m	< Lat victor 'conqueror'	C	
Wafa'	WA-faa	2	2	f	faithfulness	N	
Wafiq	WA-feeq	1	1	m	successful	M	
Wahid	WA-heed	1	1	m	single, unique	M	
Walid	wa-LEED	1	1	m	newborn boy	N	
Wasib	WA-seeb	1	1	m	one who is hurt	M	
Wijdan	WIJ-daan	2	2	f	sentiment	N	
William	WILL-yam	2	2	m	William fr OGer 'helmet of resolution'	C	
Ya'qub	YAH-KOOB	1	1	m	Ar f of Heb Yaakov (Jacob) 'supplanter,' 'trickster,' OT, 3rd patriarch	N	
Yahya	YAH-ya	1	1	m	Arabic f of John, lit 'to live'	M	
Younis	YOU-ness	1	1	m	Jonah, OT prophet	N	

264 H. Tushyeh, E. Lawson, and G. Rishmawi

Yousef	YOU-SIF	4	6	10	m	Ar f of Heb Yosef (Joseph) 'God will add,' OT, NT	N
Zachariya	ZA-kar-riya		1	1	m	Ar f of Heb Zecharya (Zachariah), OT prophet	N
Zaghlula	ZAGH-lula		1	1	f	small pigeon	M
Zahiyah	ZA-hiyah		1	1	f	beautiful	M
Zahrah	ZAH-rah		1	1	f	flower; beauty; star; white	M
Zainab	ZAY-nab	2	2		f	dau of Muhammed; meaning?	M
Ziyad	zi-YAAD	2	1	3	m	superabundant	N
Zuhar	ZOO-har		1	1	f	flowers, pl of Zahrah	M
Zulfa	ZUL-fa		1	1	f	nearness	M

\*\*\*\*\*

## ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF QUÉBEC PLACENAMES

The Commission de toponymie du Québec, Canada, is preparing an illustrated dictionary of Québec placenames. The book, of about 1,000 pages, will be published in French by the end of 1991 and will contain 7,000 placenames.

For a few placenames, the Commission lacks sufficient information. For instance, some placenames in Québec derived from names of persons who lived in the United States before moving to Canada. This is the case for David and Calvin Beebe, from Waterbury, Connecticut, who founded the locality of Beebe Plain (Québec) by 1790. Likewise, the Austin and Jones families, coming from Mexico, Maine, settled in Canada around 1813 and founded the locality of New Mexico (Québec).

Anyone who may know any biographical information concerning these four pioneers is invited to write to:

**Jean Poirier**  
**Commission de toponymie**  
**Gouvernement du Québec**  
**220, Grande Allée Est**  
**Québec (Québec)**  
**Canada**  
**G1R 2J1**