
Book Reviews

Der Name. By Wolfgang Laur. *Beiträge zur Namenforschung* N.F., Beiheft 28. Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1989. Pp. 174. Bibliography. Price not listed.

“The theory of the proper name is written anew again and again,” quoting Pavel Trost (“Nochmals zur Theorie des Eigennamens,” *Namenkundliche Information* 48 [1985]: 171), Wolfgang Laur states in the preface to his monograph *Der Name (The Name)*, thus providing at least a partial reason (or is it excuse?) for writing yet another “theory of the proper name.” One could perhaps go even further and claim that each name scholar worth his or her salt has to write anew such a theory, or at least has to think it through anew rigorously and systematically. As is to be expected of this author who is best known for his *Historisches Ortsnamenlexikon von Schleswig-Holstein* (Schleswig: Gottorfer Schriften, 1967), the book under review is a learned one, argued spaciouly and with caution. It is also a book which is not satisfied with a linguistic perspective on names but probes deeply into the terminological and conceptual history (ancient and modern) of the *nomen proprium*, romps with ease through the philosophical maze surrounding the notion of *name*, and explores with considerable success the status of names in religion and superstition, as well as in society and metaphysics. Laur impresses through the wide range of his knowledge and the ease with which he handles it.

If, despite this genuine praise, English-speaking students of names with only a limited knowledge of German are unlikely to benefit from this monograph, it is mainly because this is an intra-German enterprise which frequently deals with issues, like the difference between *Bezeichnung* and *Benennung*, for which there are no counterparts in English and which are therefore unproblematic in that language. Offered solutions like the innovational term *Nomination* for the act of naming also do not work in English as *nomination* (German *Nominierung*) is already semantically pre-empted. There is also a disappointing lack of references to onomastic theoreticians writing in English — no Gardiner, no Algeo, for example.

While Laur has to be applauded for his vigorous advocacy of an onomastics beyond mere etymological concerns, the traditional model of a name as a kind of noun (substantive) and therefore as an integral part of a lexicon is not going to help clarify the relationship between word and name which is unavoidably and essentially at the heart of all theoretical approaches to the phenomenon *name*. From an American point of view, it is also difficult to support Laur's repeated assertion that all names have developed out of a word or words, when there are plenty of names on the American map that are derived from other placenames (*Syracuse, Hamburg*), personal names (*Homer, Jefferson*), or non-lexical antecedents (*Delmarva, Texarkana*), and when it is possible to say that practically all our given personal names are copies of other given personal names. The nonsensical notion of a reconstructed language without names which Laur, following Wolfgang P. Schmid ("Die alteuropäische Hydronymie," *Beiträge für Namenforschung* N.F. 16 [1981]: 1-12), quite rightly rejects is therefore by definition not a likely theoretical construct in this country.

Although such considerations diminish the value of this otherwise excellent monograph for those outside the German-language area or without an adequate knowledge of German, it is within its own terms and territory exactly what it sets out to be—a valuable rethinking of the theoretical issues concerning the phenomenon *name*, in the context of late twentieth-century thought.

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Allan Rostvik den 22 Mars 1990: En Hyllningsskrift. Edited by Eva Brylla, et. al. Uppsala, Sweden: Uppsala University, 1990. Pp. xx + 140. List of abbreviations. Price not listed.

Recently (*Names* 38.1-2 [March-June 1990]: 151-54) I had the opportunity to applaud the civilized academic custom of honoring scholars through *Festschriften* and to survey some of the recent examples in that genre, within the field of Scandinavian name studies. Hard on their heels comes another publication in this category commemorating the sixtieth birthday of Allan Rostvik, a fine linguist and name scholar long associated with the Placename Archive in Uppsala and a highly respected

Swedish representative on international committees. Although all fifteen contributors to this volume are themselves also Uppsala-based, this is by no means an in-house publication for only local consumption. There is a sheaf of excellent scholarship here which, though written in Swedish, is made accessible to non-Swedes through English summaries.

While three contributions deal with matters of Swedish lexis and grammar, twelve are of onomastic, mostly toponymic relevance. Among the latter, as is to be expected in publications of this kind, etymological explorations of individual names predominate. Three of these are devoted to parish names. Lars Hellberg (59-72) regards the name *Ösmo*, south of Stockholm, as misinterpreted and re-etymologizes it as a generic Swedish *mo* 'sandy ground' modified by the specific Old Swedish *ödher* 'large wealth,' with reference to *Uppsala öd*, the ancient royal demesne. Eva Nyman (101-11) examines the name *Undenäs* in Västergötland; a compound of the lake name **Unde* and the topographic term *edh(e)* 'an isthmus,' this name has come to be applied to an entire area between two lakes. It therefore belongs to a very small group of parish names in Västergötland that are not derived from names of farms or villages. Anders Öberg (131-38) focuses on the three parish names *Krisdal(a)*, 'Christ's Valley,' *Kristvalla* 'Christ's Fields,' and *Vårfruhem* 'The Home of Our Lady,' which he categorizes as "Christian artificial names."

Other geographical names discussed are the river name **Ljuran* (the old name of Västerdalälven), which Erik Olof Bergfors (15-23) links with the noun *ljur* m. 'opening in roof' and the village name *Djur* (*Ljur*); the island name *Dillö*, which Lennart Elmevik (33-39) derives from a Primitive Norse **Duntilon* 'the island with inlets resembling the tails of sheep'; the mountain name *Kynd(els)massknax* and the valley named *Matsmässgrav*, which Helge Lindberg (85-88) connects with Candlemass and St. Matthews Day, respectively; the village name *Fasma* for which Lennart Moberg (89-90) advances the meanings "(the creek surrounded by) tall pasture" or "the creek with fixed arrangements for fishing"; and field names containing the Swedish word *spjäll*, which, according to Mats Wohlberg (123-30), in toponymic usage might designate "a small strip of land 'inserted' into a larger field."

There is only one article exclusively devoted to a personal name, Eva Brylla's investigation of King Emund's nickname *Slema* (25-32), for which the author prefers an etymology from Swedish *slem* 'phlegm, mucus.' In more general terms, Svante Strandberg (113-22) illustrates the importance of placenames as a source for the study of personal names; Leif Nilsson (97-100) voices his concern regarding different forms of cooperation between authorities and organizations concerned

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with placenames, since the establishment of a Placename Advisory Board in Sweden; and Thorsten Andersson (1-14), in his usual incisive way, discusses several current problems in Scandinavian name research, in the areas of both placenames and personal names.

While some of the specific questions raised in the Rostvik volume may not be of direct interest to readers in this journal, the methodologies employed and the arguments advanced on the basis of sound and rigorous scholarship are certainly worth paying attention to. Allan Rostvik is fortunate to have such a fine group of colleagues and friends.

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A Dictionary of Pseudonyms and Their Origins: With Stories of Name Changes. Revised edition of *Naming Names: Stories of Pseudonyms and Name Changes with a Who's Who* (1981). By Adrian Room. Jefferson, NC 28640, and London: McFarland & Co., 1989. Pp. viii + 349. Cloth \$35.

The first edition of this book was favorably reviewed by Elsdon C. Smith (*Names* 29 [1981]: 92-93). I can only echo his comments in my evaluation of the 1989 edition. While the two editions are similar, there are some differences.

The earlier edition had a section, "Name Stories," which gave information on about 700 individuals with name changes. This was followed by some forty name lists. For example, the first list, "Unsuitable Names," included names perceived as being too common (*Lucy Johnson* switched to *Ava Gardner*) or too awkward (*Burl Ivanhoe* to *Burl Ives*). A second list, "Foreign to English," was composed of those who changed their "foreign" names to those more "English" (*Barbara Czukur* to *Barbara Britton*, *Guenther Schneider* to *Edward Arnold*). There was even a list of those who changed their "English" names to "foreign." Included in that list are *Walter Smith* to *Hermann Kunst*, *Lilian Marks* to *Alicia Markova*. The names lists were followed by a who's who and index.

The new edition has a single listing entitled "Pseudonyms and Name Changes and Their Origins." This combines the names stories section, the who's who and index section, plus much if not all of the information from the forty names lists of the older edition. The single listing appears to have between five and six thousand entries. The advantage is that a

reader can go to one place to look up an individual. The stories are woven directly into the entries.

As a sample, onomasticians might be interested in the entry (210) for a man who was an outstanding contributor to Irish names:

Edward McLysaght: Edward Lysaght (1888-1986).

Eng.-born Ir. historian, genealogist. The distinguished First Herald of Ireland was born in England, a fact that he was never too keen to reveal. On completing his education at Oxford, he moved to Ireland and gradually became involved with the "Irish Ireland" political movement, eventually adding "Mc" to his surname in 1920 so as to indicate his Gaelic origin more obviously.

Readers will enjoy browsing through this section as well as using it for reference. It seems to be current, if the inclusion of *Madonna* (Madonna Louise Ciccone) is a criterion.

In the 1981 book there were five appendices: "Pseudonyms Used by Voltaire," "Pseudonyms Used by Daniel Defoe," "Lovers' Private Pseudonyms," "Ring Names Used by Wrestlers," and "Real Names." The Voltaire, Defoe, and Real Names appendices have been retained. The bibliography has been retained and updated.

Room has updated and broadened his book on pseudonyms with this edition. Again, concurring with Smith, I would agree that Room has brought together a great deal of information dealing with the world of pseudonyms. I recommend it for both individuals and libraries with onomastics collections.

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Le nom propre au carrefour des études humaines et des sciences sociales: actes du XVI^e congrès international des sciences onomastiques, Québec, Université Laval, 16-22 août 1987/Proper Names at the Crossroads of the Humanities and Social Sciences: Proceedings of the XVIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Québec, Université Laval, 16-22 August 1987. Edited by Jean-Claude Boulanger. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1990. Pp. xxiv + 591. Paper \$49 (Canadian).

This large volume with its formidable title contains seven plenary addresses and forty-six selected papers from the Sixteenth International

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Congress of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), held in Québec in 1987. The timing of its publication is fortunate, coming as it does just before the Seventeenth ICOS in Helsinki this summer. It is also a very attractive book: cover, layout, typography, size (6" x 9" x 1 1/4")—all these make the book a pleasure to hold and read. Members of the Proceedings and Publications Subcommittee, led by Jean-Claude Boulanger (Canada), deserve the highest praise for a job well done. Those members are Henri Dorion (Canada), Dieter Kremer (West Germany), Rolf Max Kully (Switzerland), Ludger Müller-Wille (Canada), W. F. H. Nicolaisen (U.S.A.), and Peter E. Raper (South Africa).

Competition for selection was fairly stiff: the forty-six papers were chosen from seventy-eight submitted for consideration.

International conferences raise questions of language. So do publications coming out of Canada. The bilingual title of this book is echoed by the prefatory material, which is printed in both French and English. Each of the papers, however, appears in the language in which it was delivered at the conference. Of the plenary addresses, four are in French and three are in English. The balance goes the other way with the papers, with twenty-seven in English and fifteen in French. The only other language represented is German, with four. Each paper (and each plenary address) is preceded by a summary/résumé/Zusammenfassung in the same language as the paper. There are no summaries in English for the French and German papers, and vice versa.

National and cultural concerns go beyond these three languages. In fact, the 106 registered participants (listed, with addresses, at the end of the book) represented twenty-five countries (from all five continents). Among the published papers are discussions—in English—of names in East Central Europe (Gyula Décsy), The German Democratic Republic (Ernst Eichler and Karlheinz Hengst—two separate papers), Japan (Akikatsu Kagami), Latvia (Emma Lauberte), and Finland (Ritva Liisa Pitkänen). The worldwide perspective is continued with papers on Australian names (John Atchison) and South Africa (Peter E. Raper).

A large number of papers, not surprisingly, are concerned with Canada and the United States. In this list are scholars familiar to readers of *Names*: Leonard R. N. Ashley, Jack Autrey Dabbs, Sheila M. Embleton, Kelsie B. Harder, Helen Kerfoot, André Lapierre, Mary R. Miller, Roger L. Payne, and Allen Walker Read.

Placename studies dominate this volume, but personal names and literary studies also have their place. Historical studies of first names in Italy (Maria Giovanna Arcamone), Canada (Réal Bates), and Belgium

(Jean Germain) appear, in French. Sheila Embleton's examination of current trends in naming children in Canada in light of more women keeping their surnames after marriage has the provocative title, "But What Will You Call the Children?" In another paper on the naming of children, Jerrilyn McGregory chronicles the rapid increase in the 1970s and 1980s, among African Americans, of names that differ from those of their white counterparts.

Literary onomastics studies include Jack A. Dabbs on Apache personal names in Southwestern fiction, Jean-Yves Dugas on French-Canadian authors Louis Hémon and Felix-Antoine Savard, Gideon Toury on Hebrew literature, and Rouf Jamil Halaby on folklore, religion, and myth in Pietro di Donato's *Christ in Concrete*.

Most of the studies in this book are of a rather specific nature, although most draw general principles from their findings. Others are general or theoretical in their approach, notably those by Leonard Ashley, André Lapierre, Marc Wilfrid Richard, and Willy Van Langendonck.

The approach of most of the addresses from the plenary sessions was likewise theoretical, although each comes from the unique perspective of his or her discipline or culture: Dieter Kremer on Romance onomastics, Margaret Gelling on English placenames, Henri Dorion on the administration of an onomastic research program, Max C. Henseler on the United Nations' concern with toponomy, George Story on layers of placenames in Newfoundland, Marianne Mulon on the interplay between personal names and placenames, and W. F. H. Nicolaisen on the need for a special discipline of onomastics. All of these papers are significant statements of where the study of names stands as we approach the end of this century.

The publication of this volume of essays has greatly enhanced the discipline of onomastics.

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