
Book Reviews

Unkind Words: Ethnic Labeling from "Redskin" to "WASP." By Irving Lewis Allen. Bergin and Garvey, One Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010 (An imprint of Westport Publishing Group). 1990. Bibliography, indexes. Pp. xii + 143. Paper, \$10.95.

This study of popular terms for members of ethnic groups is detailed, sound in scholarship, up-to-date, comprehensive for a relatively small volume, and engagingly readable. Because several chapters appeared earlier in other forms (two of them as articles in *Names* and one as a paper at an annual ANS meeting), there is some duplication of information, but it is not obtrusive or extensive.

After an introductory chapter on the place of ethnic terms in American English, chapter 2 identifies six uses:

1. as mocking adjectives, as in *French leave*;
2. as verbs, like *to gyp*;
3. as metaphorical common-noun ethnicons, like *a turk* 'aggressive person';
4. in sayings and proverbs, such as "A Scotchman is one who keeps the Sabbath and every other thing he can lay his hands on";
5. in jokes, such as "How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb? None. 'That's all right—I'll just sit here alone in the dark'";
6. as epithets or nicknames for persons or groups.

It is the last use with which the rest of the book is concerned. Separate chapters are devoted to ethnic terms from proper personal names (*Mike* or *Murphy* for an Irishman), terms for ethnic women (*brown sugar* for a female African-American), ethnic terms from expressions for food (*kraut*), ethnic terms that have changed in referent (*hunky* for Hungarian, then for an Eastern European immigrant laborer, and finally in the black form *honky* for any white person), or changed in value (*cracker* for a Georgian or Floridian, an opprobrious term that is used

locally with in-group pride). Another example of the latter type, *hoosier* for a stupid country person or one from Indiana, is not in the book or at least not in its index.

Other chapters treat nonstandard pronunciations like “Eye-talian” for *Italian* and the problem of capitalization, as in *black* versus *Black*; euphemisms (like *Appalachian* for a poor, uneducated person from the eastern mountain districts), and codewords (like *city type* for a stereotypical New York Jew); and word shortening as a source of ethnic terms: acronyms like *TOM* ‘an anglophone Canadian from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal’ but echoing *tommy* ‘a British soldier,’ initialisms like *PR* ‘Puerto Rican,’ blends like *Amerindian*, folk etymologies like *wop* from southern Italian *guappo* ‘a dude’ but interpreted as *without papers* or *passport*, and clippings like *Paki* from *Pakistani*.

The most famous ethnic acronym, *WASP*, gets a chapter all to itself, in which its history and use prove surprisingly complex. Its larvae are legion. I will add one to those treated in chapters 9 and 10: *waps*, white-assed protestant southerner—a southern *WASP* (echoing the Southern metathesized dialect term for the insect).

Throughout the book, such terms are referred to as “ethnic slurs” (an evaluation echoed in the book’s title). And certainly many of them are that, but not all; and some terms both are and are not insults. In considering such terms, one must keep in mind that slurring, like beauty, is in the mind. Allen recognizes that fact. He alludes to Jimmy Carter’s use of the pronunciation “Eye-talian,” which was certainly not intended as a slur—no politician gratuitously insults any cohesive section of the electorate—but was rather the only pronunciation of the word in Carter’s native dialect. It began as a neutral pronunciation and still is so in old-fashioned, provincial speech, being parallel to other full-vowel pronunciations like “Ioway” for *Iowa* or “poe-lees” for *police*.

Yet such are the linguistic sensibilities of our time that Allen feels called upon throughout the book to make clear his disapproval of terms that might offend anyone. It is, to be sure, the politically correct thing these days to tut-tut about “the scandal of inequality in American Society” (a concern Allen correctly attributes to some persons [85]). There is certainly a sense in which Allen is correct when he says, “Names do matter in the social construction of reality, and these linguistic forms in some part can facilitate or impede social change” (85). That statement is reasonable and carefully qualified, but the implementation of the concept behind it is sometimes surrounded by an aura of word-magic, as

though all that is necessary to create Edenic equality is to watch our words.

It is not words, however, but attitudes that need changing. *Yankee* began as a mocking term for incompetent New England colonials, but was taken up by those it referred to and turned into a term of pride. In Southern use it retained its derisive sense (witness the cliché about the Southerner who was well along in years before discovering that *damnyankee* is two words). Especially in its shortened form, *Yank*, it has been generalized by Brits to any American (much to the consternation of Southerners) and used without any more opprobrium than attaches to any term they have for us.

Certainly it is normal and probably inevitable for every human society to look on the culturally different with some suspicion and therefore to have popular terms for them that are comic and dismissive. Herbert Spencer spoke of a "dual code" that lets us feel friendly toward members of our own group who are like us, but alienated toward members of other groups, the outlanders, foreigners. It might be argued that the United States, being made up of so many different cultural strains, is a hotbed of cultural prejudice. But it might equally be argued on the same grounds that this nation is therefore less intense in its cultural chauvinism than many others.

The United Kingdom is being rapidly transformed by the immigration of Pakistanis, Indians, Jamaicans, Nigerians, and many other ethnic groups, soon to be joined by refugees from Hong Kong. When Britain was inhabited primarily by Anglo-Saxon-Norse-Normans and more or less assimilated Celts, it had little racial tension. The coming of the new immigrants, known as "blacks" if their skin is darker than that produced by sun-deprived climates, has introduced a discordant social note, but also has made it no longer normal for Colonel Blimp to sit in his London club and say, "As far as I'm concerned, the wogs start at Calais."

We have in fact come a long way on both sides of the Atlantic. Quite respectable novels written during the 1920s and 1930s included casual and highly derogatory references to ethnic groups like Jews. Such remarks would be inconceivable today in print and unfashionable in conversation. It must, however, be the attitudes that change, and not merely the language in which the attitudes are expressed, if the change is to be permanent. Spencer's "dual code" cannot be legislated out of existence, but we can alter our perception of who are friends and who are aliens.

130 Book Reviews

As long as we have cultural diversity, there will be ethnic terms, and some of them will be humorous and dismissive. What is needed is not a prescribed form of blandspeak in which it is impossible to express a slur—human ingenuity can wire around that—but an attitude of acceptance and of confidence. Those who are confident of their own worth have no need to deny worth to others or to worry about the terms others use for them.

John Algeo
University of Georgia, Athens

A Dictionary of Epithets and Terms of Address. By Leslie Dunkling. Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE. 1990. Pp. 268. Cloth, £30.00.

This scholarly work deals with an aspect of naming that has received nothing like the attention it deserves. In short, what do we call each other, or how do we refer to one another, and why? How do we address our boss, the neighbor's young son, the man whose foot we have just trodden on, the First Lady, the checkout girl? What words do we use to say what we think about someone who is clever, stupid, efficient, attractive, mean, self-important, patient? What are our verbal tokens of approval or affection, our terms of abuse?

Leslie Dunkling has the answer, backed up with a wealth of supportive quotations, mainly from recent literature. Apart from the entries themselves, one of the most valuable features of this study is its Introduction, in which Mr. Dunkling deals with such matters as the relationship between addresser and addressed, considered with respect to their age, class, sex, social standing, and the like, and the way we use "you" when addressing someone. He has a detailed listing of thirty reasons for "vocative usage," ranging from the obvious need to attract someone's attention to the desire to conceal one's true feelings from a person.

When it comes to the actual need for such vocatives, Dunkling identifies six distinct areas: *grammatical*, when saying "you" or using an imperative verb is not enough; *practical*, to single out a particular person; *social*, to prove that one knows what a particular person's name is; *ceremonial*, on a formal occasion such as a wedding; *mandatory*, where

one is obliged to use a vocative, as in the armed services or in prison; *emotional*, when one needs to express how one feels about a person.

The literary aspect of the book is prominent throughout. Dunkling even supplies an amazing list of some 300 substitutes for "said" in fiction ("breathed," "gasped," "riposted," and so on, though not "begged," "enthused," or "trilled").

The range of the entries can be gauged from this full listing of those under letter *R*: *Rabbi*; *rabbit*; *radar* (to address a naval radar officer); *ragamuffin*; *rake*; *rascal*; *rat*; *rat-bag*; *rat-face*; *rat fink*; *reader* (as in Charlotte Brontë's famous "Reader, I married him"); *recreant*; *rector*; *rednose*; *reporterman*; *reprobate, you*; *reptile*; *Reverence, Your*; *Reverend*; *rib skin*; *road hog*; *Rodney*; *rogue*; *Romeo*; *ronyon* (Shakespeare); *rookie*; *rooster*; *rosie*; *rotter, you*; *rudesby*; *ruffian*; *rummy*; *runt*; and *Russell, Bertrand*.

This last may seem a strange type of epithet, since after all anyone can mention someone famous in conversation and then pointedly address the person they are talking to by that person's name. But the entry serves well enough to illustrate this kind of vocative. Dunkling's quote in support of the entry is actually from David Caute's novel *The Occupation*.

The entries cited above also include a general brief article on *religious vocatives*, with Dunkling listing vocatives for God, Jesus, and the Virgin Mary that he came across in his literary researches. Other general articles of this type—such as *names, collective*; *nickname*, and *number name*—appear elsewhere in their alphabetical place in the book, but are nowhere listed separately, so that one has to hunt to see if a particular type of name or vocative is treated in this way.

The entries vary considerably in length, from a couple of lines for *rib skin* ("one whose ribs can be seen through his skin, a very thin person") to a near three full pages, rightly enough, for *sir*.

In some cases a particular type of name is treated in a series of entries, such as those for *last name*; *last name, Brother*; *last name, Lady*; *last name, little*; *last name, Lord*; *last name, Master*; *last name, Mr.*; *last name, Mrs.*; *last name, Ms.*; *last name + major* (as in English public schools for an elder brother), and *last name (part)* (when half of a hyphenated name is used).

These particular entry headings illustrate the difficulty of arranging material of this type satisfactorily in dictionary format, prompting the reflection that the whole subject could perhaps have been more coherently and less fragmentally handled in a conventional book, with chapters for the various types of vocatives and epithets, plus a full index. The latter could

not only list individual vocatives but readily direct the reader to those general articles mentioned above that as they stand are unindexed.

It might perhaps have been helpful to have a year of publication included for each literary quote, if only so that one can see when a particular term was current. This information would then usefully complement that already given in the entry.

The front flap blurb for the book states that there are "some 2,000 individual entries," but I am afraid this is a typical example of publisher's hype. There are actually around 1,400 entries, plus about 165 cross-references, and although many of the terms of address that one can think of are here, there are several that are not. Ones that could with advantage have been included (and perhaps will be, in a future edition) are *Judas* (as said to a person who has betrayed the speaker), *mush* ("man, 'chap'; hence also a term of address" [OED]), *nig-nog* (an alternative form of the insulting *nigger*), *popsy* ("term of endearment for a girl" [Chambers English Dictionary]), *ref* (the recipient, poor fellow, of much vocative abuse), *wally* ("an unfashionable person; one who is foolish, inept, or ineffectual. Also as a mild term of abuse" [OED]). The various military vocatives, too, could have been joined by *trained soldier* (as in Gerald Kersh's *They Die With Their Boots Clean*, set in World War 2).

Overall, however, the volume that has resulted from Leslie Dunkling's twenty years of research is an original and entertaining compendium of facts and quotes on this neglected aspect of the language. It is to be hoped that the somewhat steep price of the book will not deter its adoption by students and teachers of English as well as by the general reader who enjoys browsing among literary and linguistic byways.

Adrian Room
Stamford, Lincolnshire, England

Földrajzi nevek etimológiai szótára [Etymological Dictionary of Geographical Names]. By Lajos Kiss. 4th ed. Akadémiai Kiadó, Alkotmány utca 21, 1363 Budapest, Hungary. 1988. 2 vols., Pp. 822 each. Cloth, no price listed.

As the only non Indo-European people in Central Europe, the Hungarians have demonstrated during the past two centuries a firm commit-

ment to preserving their unique linguistic heritage. Leading historians of the country have devoted significant portions of their lives to conducting research in linguistic geography and topography, and, in turn, linguists traditionally have made important contributions in addressing major questions of national history and topology. Compiling an etymological dictionary of geographical names in the multi-ethnic environment of Central Europe is a sensitive matter, but it also can offer significant insights into the developments, upheavals, and national conflicts of the region.

Since 1978, Lajos Kiss has presented four editions of his geographical dictionary. These new editions have been necessitated partially by the unexpected professional and popular success of the collection itself and partially by the political changes of the recent past in Hungary. Because of the special geopolitical conditions prevailing in Central Europe, a considerable portion of the Hungarian population lives outside the current borders of its homeland. Until recently, historical, linguistic, or ethnographical studies of these minorities have been considered as an implicit violation of the communist status quo, and, as such, discouraged and sometimes even prohibited by the cultural policies of the party. Along with the process of liberalization since the middle 1980s, however, the Hungarian government has gradually eased and eventually lifted these restrictions, extending opportunities of research on the formerly ignored ethnic Hungarian regions and communities in Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia. The fourth edition of Lajos Kiss' dictionary makes a vital contribution to the current efforts in cultural conservation, exploring this time also the etymology of ethnic Hungarian geographical names in the country's neighbors. In fact, the current edition serves the purpose of providing an etymology for nearly all placenames that have ever been known and used in Hungarian.

Compiling a comprehensive work of geographical etymology on a region undergoing almost ceaseless upheaval through colonization, mass migration, deportation, and ethnic conflicts—as well as territorial grievances—requires a multilingual approach and the extensive use of all available printed and archival sources of local history and topography. Major locations in Central and Eastern Europe bear at least three to four names in various languages (in German, Hungarian, Latin, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, etc.), the documentation of which occasionally amounts to a short essay in comparative historical linguistics. As the introductory bibliography demonstrates, no important source has been ignored in preparing the entries, and the references include a large number of

medieval and more recent archival holdings, administrative records, tax registers, a variety of historical works, a series of contemporary and modern dictionaries, encyclopedias, and etymological glossaries, cartographic products, and recent tourist guides.

The entries of the dictionary begin with the Hungarian versions of the geographical names, supplemented by appropriate cross-references containing their equivalents in other languages. Subsequently, the year of the earliest available attestation is indicated, along with the Latin version which was habitually used when first registering the location. The etymological explanation itself consists of a summary of previous research, the author's own observations and hypotheses, and, if applicable, an indication of unsolved problems in the etymology. The articles conclude with an extensive, but not complete bibliography, and with references to etymological, semantic, and morphological resemblances and parallelisms occurring in other entries of the dictionary. The extensive listing of Celtic, Greek, Latin, German, and Slavic roots, from which many current Hungarian names are derived, makes this work accessible even to scholars who do not possess a command of Hungarian.

The Hungarian and Central European geographical vocabulary arises from a variety of language sources, often reaching back to pre-historical times. Some of the region's typical naming methods, with examples, include adoption of names used by a former local ethnic population (Scythian **Danavya* > Latin *Danuvius* > German *Donau*, Hungarian *Duna* '[River] Danube'); loan translation from other languages (Latin *nova civitas* > German [*Wiener*] *Neustadt* > Hungarian *Bécsújhely*); phonetic borrowing from other languages (Slavic *Blaton* > Hungarian [*Lake*] *Balaton*); reference to the national origin of the local population (German *Deutschendorf* > currently Slovakian *Poprad*); reference to personal control or ownership at a given location (German *Hermannstadt* 'Hermann's town'; Hungarian *Mihályi* 'Michael's property'); indication of local market privileges (Hungarian *Marosvásárhely* > German *Neumarkt* in Transylvania); geographical description of the location, and particularly, of its military function (*Őrség* 'border guard area in medieval Western Hungary'); and euphemistic substituting of certain geographical names (Hungarian *Nevetlenfalu* 'nameless village') with the purpose of avoiding or eliminating possibly obscene and objectionable connotations.

Approximately twenty percent of the entries have been reserved for geographical names outside of Central Europe. Although no criteria for selection are provided by the author, the dictionary proves to be a

reliable and general source for orientation regarding the etymology of many important geographical names worldwide. A casual list of entries such as *Adam's Peak* (Sri Lanka), *Canaan* (Phoenicia), *Dahomey* (western Africa), *Mount Saint Helens* (Washington State), *Oberammergau* (Germany) *Palm Beach* (Florida), or *Peoria* (Illinois) should well illustrate the wide range of locations recorded. The sources consulted in compiling entries on the English-speaking world include *Place Names of the English-Speaking World* by C. M. Matthews, *Place-Names of the World* by Adrian Room, and *American Place-Names* by George R. Stewart, as well as the journals *American Speech* and *Names*.

Lajos Kiss's dictionary is a well-documented synthesis of geographical etymology in Central Europe and certainly deserves the attention of linguists, name experts, historians, reference librarians, area specialists, and the general public.

István Gombocz

University of South Dakota, Vermillion

German-American Names. By George F. Jones. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. 1990. Pp. 268. Cloth, \$25.

Dr. Jones, Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland, has published extensively in medieval literature; he is also the author of *The Germans of Colonial Georgia*.

German-American Names has five introductory chapters followed by an extensive dictionary of 12,700 items. In the first chapter, Jones explains some basic onomastic ideas. This is helpful to those new to the field.

One of several major contributions is his explanation of the Germanic sound shifts. This helps tremendously in understanding German-American names. Jones outlines Grimm's Law. He explains, for example, that Indo-European voiceless stops *p*, *t*, and *k* became the voiceless spirants *f*, *th*, and *ch* (which became *h*). Thus the Latin words *piscis*, *tenuis*, and *cornus* are parallel to English *fish*, *thin*, and *horn* and German *Fisch*, *dünn*, and *Horn*; the voiced stops *b*, *d*, and *g* became voiceless stops *p*, *t*, and *k* so that the Latin *turba*, *duo*, and *genu* parallel *thorpe*, *two*, and *knee*. There is also coverage of such topics as German dithematic names and High German versus Low German.

Chapter 2, devoted to the development of surnames, describes, with examples, patronyms (*Hinrichs* [i.e. Hinrich's son], *Mendelssohn*, etc.); topological names (*Feld* 'field,' *Teich* 'pond'); occupational names (*Shaefer* 'shepherd,' *Brauer* 'brewer,' *Vogt* 'governor,' *Metzger* 'butcher'); names from places (regions: *Schweitz* 'Switzerland,' *Schlesinger* 'from Silesia,' *Wuerttemberg*; or cities: *Bremer* 'from Bremen,' *Posner* 'from Poznan,' *Strassburg*); and names from nicknames, such as from one's appearance (*Schwartz* 'dark-haired,' *Kahl* 'bald') or even from imperatives (*Bleibtreu* 'remain loyal!' *Kaufdasbier* 'buy the beer!' or *Schudrein* 'shove it in!' Jones explains that in this last we do not know what is referred to).

Chapter 3 deals with first names; Chapter 4, the various transformations that German-American could undergo in North America. Sometimes, the transformation was to a similar sound. Thus *Theiss* or *Weiss* could become *Dice* or *Wise*. Sometimes problems came about because officials were not able to read the immigrants' German script. In other cases, the name was translated, so that, for instance, *Schneider* became *Taylor* or *Zimmerman* became *Carpenter*. Attention is also paid to change of stress in pronunciation as in *Mandel* being pronounced as *ManDELL*. Another topic that Jones discusses is the social pressure on Americans of German descent during the time of the First World War and how these pressures affected names and name changes. Chapter 5 gives suggestions on how to use the name list.

The list itself appears reasonably complete. To include all of the names of German origin would, of course, be quite a forbidding task. In this book, most people will be able to look up and enjoy finding the meaning of a number of names. Examples: *Link* comes from *Linck* which means "left-handed"; *Longenecker* does not refer to someone with a long neck but to a long field (*Langenecke*). If you have been wondering for a long time what some of those German names mean, here is a good opportunity to look them up.

While I have praise for the book and would recommend it to libraries and individuals, I do have some questions. One is Jones' point that most philologists agree that Indo-Europeans developed their language in East Germany and Poland from where it was carried to Persia and India (8). Another question is about the name *Dreyfuss*, which Jones interprets to mean "tripod." While it is possible for the word to mean that, it is more likely, as other scholars claim, to refer to the city of Trier (Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1988,

154; Benzion C. Kaganoff, *A Dictionary of Jewish Names and their History*, New York: Schocken, 1977, 144).

Finally, there is this statement: "... religious Jews still considered their synagogue names to be their true names, for which they felt an emotional attachment" (51). The reason Jews have two names is not just because of an emotional attachment. It is a *religious law*. Since the twelfth century it has been decreed that a Jew cannot participate in religious ceremonies without a sanctioned name. Old Testament names are acceptable, along with a few from Aramaic times plus a few exceptions such as *Alexander* (Kaganoff 49).

All in all, Jones has made a fine contribution to our understanding of German-American surnames. His book deserves a place in onomastics collections and should be a useful reference tool.

Edwin D. Lawson

State University of New York College at Fredonia

Studia Onomastica VI: Ernst Eichler zum 60. Geburtstag [Onomastic Studies VI: To Ernst Eichler on his 60th Birthday]. Edited by Inge Bily, Ernst-Michael Christoph, Johannes Schultheis, and Hans Walther. *Namenkundliche Informationen* Beiheft 13/14. Karl-Marx-Universität, Karl-Marx-Platz 9, DDR-7010 Leipzig. 1990. Pp. 382. Paper, M 10.00.

In recent issues of *Names*, I have had the opportunity to draw attention to a number of publications in which Scandinavian name scholars were honored on the occasion of significant birthdays. Now it is my pleasure to report that the latest supplement to *Namenkundliche Informationen*, the onomastic journal published in Leipzig, is dedicated to Ernst Eichler, the well-known (East) German scholar who for several decades now has been an influential leader in onomastic research in the former German Democratic Republic (DDR) and whose international status in the profession was confirmed by his election to the ICOS Executive Committee at the Fifteenth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Leipzig in 1984, which he organized.

The content of the volume reflects both Eichler's own preoccupations as a scholar and the personal and institutional connections which

somebody working in a university in that part of Germany would have had in the thirty-five or forty years before reunification. As far as the former are concerned, the four sections of the festschrift—Theory, Methodology, and History of Onomastics; Socio-Linguistic Differentiation and Pragmatics of Proper Names; Proper Names in Language Contact and Language History; and Geographical Names—concentrate on facets of name studies which are also prominent in the honoree's extensive bibliography which, compiled by Ernst-Michael Christoph, forms part of the volume. Especially the contributions dealing with more general questions are bound to have a wider appeal as, for example, Vincent Blanár's "On the Question of Proprial Semantics" (7–14), Rudolf Šrámek's "On Onomastic Recursion" (39–52),¹ Hans Walther's "Problems of Identification in Placename Research," Christoph's "Proper Names in Rural Communication—Ideas for a Pilot Project" (77–86), Rosemarie Gläser's "Substitution of Proper Names in the British and American Press" (87–95), and several others.

The examples illustrating most of these theoretical and methodological papers are, however, limited by the second shaping factor in the preparation of this festschrift, i. e., scholarly contacts and friendships developed by Professor Eichler; consequently special consideration is given to materials from the countries and languages familiar to the authors of the various contributions (there are 35 of them altogether). The countries represented are Austria, Czechoslovakia, the former DDR, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, and the USSR, and the topics chosen by the contributors tend to be drawn from the topography and anthroponymy of those nations, a remarkable exception being Ju. A. Karpenko's "Toponymy of the Planet Mercury (Onomastic Analysis)," a survey which has both a historical and an analytical slant to it.

On the whole this is a varied but well-balanced collection of essays in which, in addition to papers addressing general, even universal, issues, room has been found for such circumscribed and severely focused subjects as Klaus Müller's "On Linguistic Works of Johann Christoph Beckmann" (31–37), Béla Büky's "German Anthroponyms in Buda (Germ. Ofen) Immediately after Turkish Rule" (139–45), Aleksandra V. Superanskaja's "Russian Surnames and Turkish Tribal Names" (197–207), Maria Hornung's "German-Slavonic Hybrids in Austrian Surnames" (177–80), Ewa Jakus-Borkowa's "Polish Oikonyms with *Nie-* as the Initial Sound Sequence (Synthesis)" (237–44), Heinz Dieter Pohl's "The Slovenian Placenames of Carinthia of German Origin" (281–91), Gerhard

Schlimpert's "Difficult Names in Brandenburg: The Name *Peene*" (313–20), and the like. As is apparent from this selection of titles, language contact in the formation, transmission, and adaptation of both personal and placenames is an important central theme in this anthology.

All the papers written originally in other languages have been translated into German, but the only concession to English speakers is an English table of contents at the end of the volume. There is no reason why it should be otherwise, but the continued embeddedness of onomastic research and onomastic thinking in one language is still regrettable, especially in view of the fact that the development of an internationally acceptable and accepted terminology reflecting shared concepts in the onomastic sciences is not helped by this state of affairs. Might it not be an enrichment of our English technical vocabulary in our discipline, for instance, if we were to adopt the German adjective *onymisch* as *onymic* when referring to anything pertaining to names?

W. F. H. Nicolaisen

State University of New York at Binghamton

Note

1. This is the most substantial and theoretically most interesting contribution to this volume; it might well repay translation into English, for Šrámek is currently one of the best thinkers in the field of onomastics.

Die Gewässernamen im Einzugsgebiet der Treene: Ein Beitrag zur Ortsnamenforschung in Schleswig-Holstein [Hydronyms in the Treene River Basin: A Contribution to Placename Research in Schleswig-Holstein]. By Jens-Uwe von Rohden. Kieler Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte 13. Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Postfach 2789, D-2350 Neumünster, Germany. 1989. Pp. 593. Maps, diagrams, bibliography, index. Paper, DM 60.00.

When a series of monographs devoted to language history is edited by two scholars, like Friedhelm Debus and Wolfgang Laur, who have considerable credentials in name research, it is not surprising that several of the volumes in that series will be in the field of onomastics. The thirteenth publication in the *Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte* [Contributions to German Language History] is Jens-Uwe von Rohden's study of the names of water-related geographical features in the catch-

ment area of the river Treene, which, although flowing into the Eider near Friedrichstadt and therefore ultimately westwards into the North Sea, drains a large area of northeast Schleswig-Holstein, Germany's northernmost peninsula and state. The book is a greatly expanded and much revised version of the author's Ph.D. dissertation which he wrote at the University of Kiel under the guidance of Professor Debus.

Like an island or a peninsula, the catchment basin of a river is a natural area for toponymic research. Its boundaries are fairly well defined, and the nomenclature within the area so bounded forms a kind of structured and cohesive unit and, when special attention is given to names of one kind of landscape feature, in this case water-courses and the like, an interrelated hydronymic "field." Such a choice is an excellent starting point for any investigation which from the beginning avoids the danger of concentrating on a large number of individual but somehow unconnected names. The topography itself provides the connection.

Such an approach does, of course, not mean that the close examination of individual names is neglected in the study under review; quite the contrary, it forms the basis of the search for patterns and spatial and temporal distributions. The heart of von Rohden's monograph (176–483) is therefore quite rightly devoted to an alphabetically arranged onomasticon of the chosen area's names of streams, lakes, springs, canals, ditches, springs, etc., as well as of those field names and names of settlements which are identical with or derived from them, or contain hydronymic elements (*Ahbäch*, *Auberg*, *An der Aue*, *Diekkoppel*, *Grabeneng*, *Mellegrau*, and the like). Each name in this substantial section of over 300 pages is very fully documented, including all early spellings and the modern pronunciation, and it is on the basis of this documentation that etymologies are offered.

As the pagination indicates, this central part of the book is flanked by over 170 pages of introductory matter and well over 100 pages of helpful lists and indices. The former prepares readers for a proper appreciation of the large number of individual names and prevents them from being overwhelmed by these. The latter is a scholarly guide to sources, symbols, abbreviations, secondary literature, and so on. Naturally, it is the introductory section that is of the greatest interest to name scholars who wish to find out what new knowledge has been extracted from the hydronymic evidence and what methodological approach has been adopted, especially in view of the complicating strong historical admixture of Danish names and name forms, in addition to

High and Low German and Frisian influences. In fact, one of the author's most important findings, because of his strong emphasis on oral tradition as a major source, is that surviving south Jutland (Danish) names in the area have essentially been adapted to Low German phonology (16). Many names of whatever origin have, of course, disappeared from oral tradition altogether, a generational problem which has its parallels in many other parts of the world.

Linguistic complexity is, however, nothing new to the area which, after all, has prehistoric connections with all three of the Germanic tribes that moved to England in the fifth century — Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. These links are, however, too early to be reflected to any extent in the current place-nomenclature. Even the name of the river which dominates this region, the *Treene*, first recorded in 1323 as *Trea*, is not ancient but is likely to be of Norse origin in the sense of “tree river,” although other etymologies have been proposed and although the development to *Treene* (first *Treene* in 1565 and *Trene* in 1569) is problematical. Associated with the river name are the place and field names *Treia*, *Treenstade*, *Boven Treen*, *Treenbrook*, *Treensieg*, *Treenwischen*, and *Treengraben*, as well as the lake name *Trefsee* (461–64).

What toponymic evidence in general and hydronymic evidence in particular demonstrate with great clarity is the gradual displacement of Danish in northern Schleswig-Holstein, first by Low German and then by High German, since the Middle Ages. Such a demonstration is well aided by the “Name Grammar” in which von Rohden lists and discusses systematically the various generics (like *au*, *bek*, *graben*, *kilde*, *siek*, *dam*, *diek*, *hul/holl*, *kule/kuul*, *pus*, *see*) and morphological types which are important ingredients of the nomenclature in question, as well as the meaning of the specifics involved. Names for parts of water courses, multiple naming for the same feature, the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical structure underlying the hydronymy, and the crisscrossing of translations in a linguistically complex landscape are also presented systematically and in great detail. The establishment of chronological stratifications and of settlement areas is, of course, something for which toponymic evidence is especially well suited.

As will be apparent from this brief overview, this is a book which leaves nothing to chance and which explores rigorously and convincingly the multi-faceted nature of the hydronymy of the catchment area under scrutiny. It is difficult to imagine a more thorough investigation looking simultaneously at macrotoponymic and microtoponymic questions, and

142 Book Reviews

I am heartened by such obvious commitment and dedication to the cause of onomastics. Not many dissertations are worth publishing even after wholesale revision because they are usually conceived at the outset of the author's interrogation of the subject matter, but von Rohden's monograph is one of the rare exceptions.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen

State University of New York at Binghamton

Reader zur Namenkunde. I. Namentheorie [Reader on Name Study. I. Name Theory]. Edited by Friedhelm Debus and Wilfried Seibicke. *Germanistische Linguistik* 98–100. Georg Olms Verlag, Hagentorwall 7, D–3200 Hildesheim, Germany. 1989. Pp. 450. Diagrams, maps. Paper, DM 88.00.

This volume is the first of a set of four readers in onomastics all of which will be included in the series *Germanistische Linguistik* published by Olms in Hildesheim on behalf of the Institute for Research in the German Language and the German Linguistic Atlas in Marburg/Lahn. It contains twenty-nine papers on various aspects of name theory whereas the second volume will be devoted to anthroponymics, the third to toponymics, and the fourth to onomastic didactics. The period covered is 1965–1986 and, as is to be expected, all contributions deal with facets of name studies in the German language area. Such modernity on the one hand and such a severe restriction on the other reflect not only the largely language specific manifestations and concepts of naming, names, name usage, and name study but, perhaps more importantly, the purpose of this anthology and of its three companion volumes still to come as didactic aids to the incorporation of onomastic awareness and skills in the teaching of German at all levels.

Anybody who has ever put together a collection of essays on any topic will be aware of the difficulty of selecting exactly the right mix, the right subjects, and the right authors. The principle of inclusion automatically also implies exclusion but, although one might differ with the editors on the evaluation of some of their choices and consequently of some of their omissions, they appear to have got it just about right in these respects, and the list of contributors therefore looks like a "Who's

Who" in German onomastics, always bearing in mind that the content of this volume is restricted to theoretical approaches only. In the section on "The Relationship Between the *Nomen Proprium* and the *Nomen Appellativum*" (i.e., of names and words), we find contributions by Van Langendonck, Hilgemann, Dobnig-Jülch, Wotjak, Gläser, Koß, Gerhard, Blanár, Wimmer, Leys, Voigt, and Werner; the authors in the section on "Onomastic Structures" are Manczak, Soltész, Coseriu, Nerijs, Fleischer, and (again) Leys; "Aspects of Linguistic Geography and Socio-Linguistics" are discussed by Göschel, Debus, Walther, Schultheis, Eichler, and Naumann; and problems of "Onomastic Stylistics and Literary Onomastics" are investigated by Fleischer, Pavel, Gutschmidt, and Maurer. It is this last section that contains the only two papers in English, Thomas G. Pavel's "Fiction and the Casual Theory of Names," first published in *Poetics* 8 (1979): 179-91, and the ANS's own Warren B. Maurer's "Trends in Literary Scholarship in German Literary Onomastics: An Overview." reprinted from *German Quarterly* 56 (1983): 89-105. All the other contributions are in German.

It cannot be the aim of a brief review such as this to do justice to all the essays or even to provide a flavor of most of them. For this reason, the comments which follow stem from personal predilection rather than systematic and objective appraisal. An immediate observation based on repeated statements by many of the authors anthologized is that, in the articles included in this *Reader*, names are primarily treated as ingredients in natural languages and therefore as linguistic signs so that, in the end, any special qualities that separate them from or contrast them with words have to be looked for on the semantic level; quite a few of the authors have to admit at the close of their arguments that there are still problems to be solved in the definition of what a name is. Some of these problems are self-inflicted because they undoubtedly arise from the confusing use of the term *Bedeutung* 'meaning' for both names and words, and sometimes from an inadvertent conceptual overlap of meaning and function.

Against this background, I read with special pleasure Edeltraud Dobnig-Jülch's essay on "Onomastic Competence" (41- 49), since it pays appropriate attention to name usage, perhaps the most significant factor in any theoretical approach to matters onomastic. Similarly, Rosemarie Gläser's discussion of the thorny question of the "Translatability of Names" (63-78) in which she argues for pragmatic competence on the part of translators and flexibility in their handling of

different classes of names and texts seems to open up valuable new perspectives. Not less problematic and therefore to be treated with care are the so-called brand names (*Warennamen*) whose designation as "names" still raises eyebrows in the profession. Gerhard Koß adds a further twist to an already complicated situation by examining "Proper Names as Brand Names" (19–29), especially in the world of advertising. Another essay which caught my eye because of its usage oriented treatment is Otmar Werner's "Names in Dialogue" (181–200); there are obviously excellent possibilities here exploring new avenues on the road to a theory of, or theories about, names. Close to the heart of the matter and full of promise is also Katalin J. Soltész's investigation of "Homonymity, Polysemy, and Synonymity in Proper Names" (213–23), a triad which has baffled many a good name scholar in the past. Friedhelm Debus' essay on "Sociological Name Geography" (315–38), first published in 1968, is already a seminal classic in its field, linking socio-linguistic (and socio-onomastic) and spatial distribution. His approach receives strong support from two articles by Hans Walther, a veteran of a highly regarded group of name scholars at the University of Leipzig, one on the "Social Development and Historical Unfolding of the Lexicon and the Onomasticon" (339–55), the other (with Johannes Schultheis) on "Socio-Linguistic Aspects of Names" (357–75), and by Horst Naumann on "Socio-Linguistic Aspects of Onomastics" (391–401). It is interesting to note that all three articles in this field of research come from the former German Democratic Republic, as does Ernst Eichler's, which examines "Language Contacts from an Onomastic Perspective" (397–89), mainly on the basis of the integration of Slavonic names into the German name system but with more general implications for all such contact situations. It is good to see literary onomastics represented in this anthology. Apart from the two articles in English already mentioned, Wolfgang Fleischer offers some stimulating thoughts on the relationship between "Onomastics and Stylistics" (405–10), and Karl Gutschmidt comments on the "Subject and Tasks of Poetical (Literary) Onomastics" (425–30); his insights are well worth pondering by students of names in literature everywhere.

It is my hope that this brief characterization of some of the contributions—sometimes even just their titles—will alert readers of *Names* to some of the exciting possibilities that a scholarly involvement with onomastics has to offer. I am convinced that this anthology, the whole of which is, by the way, worth reading, will be a considerable boon to

those who keep grappling with fascinating but difficult problems of onomastic theory.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
State University of New York at Binghamton

The Dictionary of Scottish Place Names. By Mike Darton. Lochar Publishing Ltd., Moffat DG10 9JU, Scotland. 1990. Pp. 282. Cloth, £12.95.

Over the years, it has been my pleasure, in a series of reviews for this journal, to report and comment on many publications which have borne witness to the greater rigor and the concomitant increase in creditability of onomastic research. In the forty years during which I have been engaged in the study of names and have observed and assessed others pursuing the same enterprise there has been, so it seems to me, tremendous progress in the quality of the work of scholars involved in onomastics.

It is very disappointing therefore to have to give notice in the briefest of reviews (for it deserves nothing longer) of an enormously retrograde step in this respect, taken by the recent publication of what purports to be, according to the publisher's blurb, a "definitive work of reference" on Scottish placenames, a misguided over-evaluation of the nature of this book which presumably also led to the prefixing of the definite article to its title. There is nothing definitive about this dictionary, and the author himself, "a freelance editor and editorial consultant to a number of major London publishers," is much closer to the mark when he states in his Introduction that "not all the derivations and meanings given for place names in this dictionary are guaranteed to be correct. This is because this dictionary also goes in for speculation..." (vi). This is, if anything, a gross understatement, as his compilation violates just about every scholarly principle established this century for the study of names and for this kind of reference work: no sources are given, no early spellings are provided, pronunciation is ignored, there is no bibliography. Considering the complexity of the linguistic origins of the Scottish place-nomenclature, the most elementary mistakes are made: suffixes and words are confused; Pictish is termed "Brythonic Gaelic"; gender in Gaelic nouns is not observed; modern names are wrenched to

attach to them impossible etymologies; Gaelic derivations are offered for Brittonic, English, and Norse names; perfectly reasonable etymologies are contradicted; completely inane comments are inflicted on the reader, as when it is said in connection with the name *Auchentiber* ("field of the well"): "The Lowland area is crisscrossed by rivers" (23); etc.; etc. Let me stop this painful litany before it hurts too much.

In sum, this is a worthless and uninformed book without redeeming features. It should be ignored, for Mr. Darton has done the study of Scottish placenames a thoroughly bad service.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen

State University of New York at Binghamton

Speaking Freely: Unlearning the Lies of the Fathers' Tongues. By Julia Penelope. Pergamon Press, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523. 1990. Pp. xl + 281. Cloth, \$37.50, Paper \$16.95.

Speaking Freely is onomastically interesting for what it can tell us about "unnaming." To unname is to avoid proper nouns, or even common nouns denoting groups of people, and, in so doing, to avoid identifying those responsible for actions, events, and feelings. And English—as Penelope demonstrates in chapters eight through ten—offers numerous sentence structures which permit us to do just that.

Chapter eight alerts us to non-referring uses of *it*, after first explaining some of the roles available to English noun phrases. Following linguistic usage, she terms the first noun phrase in a sentence the *topic*; an *agent* performs the action of the verb; an *experiencer* experiences sensations or emotions (127–28). Lest these terms seem intimidating, I should point out that they are among the comparatively few technical terms used in the book, and that they are both clearly defined and useful. The terms *subject* and *object*, as her analysis demonstrates, have often obscured the semantic functions of noun phrases in PUD (the "Patriarchal Universe of Discourse").

Words like *it* are normally deictics, "pointing words" which require hearers and readers to identify their references. But *it* is so often used non-referentially that we (English speakers) have become inured to uses

like “Coke is *it!*” or “Go for *it!*” or “Come off *it!*” (131). We therefore accept *it* as a substitute for unacknowledged feelings: “I can’t bear *it* without you”; “*It* doesn’t matter.” On the other hand, as Penelope illustrates with a list of bumper stickers, *it* also functions as sexual innuendo: we speak of how, and how often, we “do *it!*” (132). These uses of *it* (as a non-referring pronoun and as sexual innuendo) merge in data drawn from a television film on child sexual abuse, in which, for example, a reporter asks the rapist (father), “Why does *it* keep happening?” (139)

Chapter nine focuses on the passive voice, a syntactic structure which foregrounds the object of an action by allowing it to occupy topic position, as in “The housewife was raped by five men” (146). Sentences in the passive voice do not *require* agents as subjects. Agents may therefore be *suppressed*, forcing hearers and readers to work to recover them. Since the focus of this book is the use of language to maintain male hegemony, the missing agent often retrieved is non-generic (male) *man* or *men*: “Power, however *obtained*, is *maintained* either through consent or violence. Although his heavier musculature has traditionally *been cited* as the basis for male dominance, it is not the use of force which has *kept* women subordinate” (154). In other words, *men* obtain and maintain power, and unidentified scholars cite their heavier musculature as the reason for male dominance. Penelope advises us to listen for the passive voice, and to ask “by *whom?*” whenever we hear it.

Other passives, with *have* and *get*, not only hide agency but attribute responsibility to objects—even inanimate ones! Penelope quotes from a 1987 movie: “It just *got knocked over!*”; and a television sitcom: “Why is marriage the first thing everybody thinks of when a girl *gets herself knocked up!*” (167–68) She demonstrates how modifying structures (like adjectives) may also be used to hide propositions, or to attribute our judgments to objects; a beautiful painting, after all, has only the property of being considered “beautiful” by the one who labels it so.

Chapter ten addresses the manipulative capacity of the so-called “impersonal” verbs (*seem*, *happen*, *appear*, and sensation verbs like *smell*; predicates like *to be clear*, *to be obvious*). Such verbs allow speakers/writers to suppress *experiencers* and to use *it* or (semantic) objects as topics: “It was *clear* that she didn’t want to be there”; “You *seem* to be overeating again” (182).

When writers or speakers employ these “discourse strategies” in concert, even the most alert among us has trouble wading through the mire of distortions and deceptions created. Penelope contends that such

148 Book Reviews

strategies are commonplace in PUD, used by men and women alike, and that (in particular) they serve to render women helpless and to keep men in power. In conjunction with the remainder of the book, devoted to the ways in which men describe and label women in a variety of exotic tongues as well as in English, the data suggest a patriarchal conspiracy. If manipulative discourse strategies have not been designed solely to enforce male dominance, Penelope certainly suggests they serve that purpose well.

But, though the book is a powerful feminist indictment of certain linguistic strategies, it need not be read simply as such. As an analysis of the process of *unnaming*, *Speaking Freely* fulfills its promise, helping us to “unlearn lies” by teaching us to listen and read more carefully to what is said, by ourselves as well as by others.

Susan J. Wolfe

University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Proceedings of the XVIIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences: Helsinki 13–18 August 1990. Edited by Eeva Maria Närhi. 2 vols. Helsinki: The University of Helsinki and The Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages. 1990. Pp., Vol. I, 501; Vol. 2, 494. Paper, no price listed.

The published proceedings of conferences, conventions, and congresses always contain an embarrassment of riches and sometimes a few embarrassments, the latter not to be stressed too much. Such publications do not seem to reflect the meeting itself where the sections are half full or half empty, depending on the optimism or pessimism of the observer, and space, unnamed, seems to be everywhere, and acquaintances (sometimes friends) meet again after a three-year absence, in this case, and “check out” each other and their works in progress. The meeting is a time for relaxation, listening (or not listening) to papers being read, enjoying the give and take of questions and answers and commentary, and observing the inevitable, compulsive commentator who delivers a speech during the Q&A period, effectively terminating it.

The packed proceedings, on the other hand, somehow edge out the dallying of the meetings, deverbilize the presented paper, and efface the author-reader, but promote the seriousness of print. It is another medium,

Names 39.2 (June 1991)

another activity (if print can be active). And first come the statistics:

Name systems, a topic which is central but, until now, has been prominent only infrequently, was selected as the main theme of the 17th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences. Five plenary papers were requested for presentation at the Congress, and the program included 186 other papers, 58 of which were canceled for various reasons. The number of congress participants was 190, and there were 42 accompanying persons. (1: 3)

The full program is also printed by the thoughtful editor.

Some of the papers were familiar to me already, either through my having read drafts of the papers or having previous knowledge of the material. These include Edwin Lawson's "For Editors, Authors, and Readers: What We Need To Do To Improve Our Journals" (2: 95-102), André Lapierre's "Place-Naming in Bilingual Speech Communities: The Ontario Experience" (2: 87-94), Roger Payne's "Maintenance Program of the Geographic Names Information System of the United States" (2: 233-38), Grant Smith's "Plans for 'The Placename Survey of the United States'" (2: 353-60), and Thomas Gasque's "*Names* - Four Decades of Contributions to International Onomastics" (1: 354-61).

According to my count, five plenary session addresses and 116 section papers were published, a large number requiring two rather large volumes. The languages used were English, German, French, and Russian, but I have not broken this into the number from each, nor have I enumerated the participants from each country, except to note that Finland (naturally) had the largest representation (37). Sixteen came from the USA. All published papers are arranged alphabetically according to the author's name. The five presentations at the plenary sessions are printed first, also alphabetically by author, and take up some 126 pages of print. To be sure, the plenary session papers are longer than are the session papers.

Although the theme of the Congress was "name systems," the papers seldom adhere to the theme. Some few papers use "system" in the title, but the content seems to point to something specific rather than to an accounting for a system or the exploiting of one. The proceedings read very much like those of other Congresses, except for the Ann Arbor meeting in 1981, which have never been published. So then, what we have is a mix of papers that treat many aspects of names, with some of these actually treating theory and, maybe, systems. Some papers are very narrowly conceived and treat only a minute part of an subject (or area): Rodica Suflețel-Moroianu's "Aspects de la dérivation à suffixes dans la toponymie du Banat" (2: 393-400), Csaba

150 Book Reviews

Földes' "Onomastische Wortspiele in der Phrasologie" (1: 337–44), Dorothy Litt's "Toward an Organic Approach to Onomastics in Shakespearean Drama" (2: 118–25), and Lars Huldén's "One Hectare of Place-Names" (1:439–45) are indicative of those that move away from "systems."

The difficulty with a large body of articles is that they cannot easily be categorized and, hence, evaluated. Indeed, here are some outstanding instances of papers that further the scholarship of onomastics. The topic of "systems," however, precludes the thrust into theory and rigorous onomastic scholarship, for systems are to be described and not necessarily evaluated. Furthermore, systems involve structure and process at the expense of theory, which is a proposed explanation for phenomena not yet fully proved. So, then, the papers are descriptive, technical, and specific-directed.

The more general articles that theorize about systems include Emilie-Domnița Tomescu's "La classification grammaticale des noms propres en roumain" (2: 416–19), W. F. H. Nicolaisen's "The Growth of Name Systems" – an excellent example (2: 203–10), and the plenary addresses, especially Frank R. Hamlin's "Place Name Surveys and Dictionaries and their Making" (1: 25–51), John Kousgård Sørensen's "The Documentary Value of Place-Names for Linguistic History and the Social Sciences" (1: 84–102), and Wilfried Seibicke's "Vornamenlexikographie: Geschichte, Funktionen, Perspektiven" (1: 103–26). It must be noted, however, that time limitations sorely restrain philosophical and theoretical formation of broadly based essays on systems; hence, the major articles derive from the plenary sessions where a more leisurely development of a thesis can occur. Within the program sessions, on the other hand, the paper has to be limited to a narrow description of an onomastic situation, usually exploiting and describing one anthroponymic or toponymic event. Since most of the papers fall within the latter category, no need exists to cite them here.

Reviewers have the prerogative to select items that appeal to them. So it follows that I found some favorites, which does not mean that those I cite are better than the others. Besides the ones cited for special reasons before, I received informative value and enjoyment from especially Stefan Warchoł's "Nouvelles tendances dans la formation des systèmes zonymiques dans les langues slaves" (2: 468–75), Helen Kerfoot's "Some American and Scandinavian Influences on Canada's Arctic Toponymy, Sovereignty Questions, and Recognition of

Aboriginal Names" (1: 484–91), Willy Van Langendonck's "On the Combination of Forename and Surname, with Special Reference to Flemish Dialects" (2: 436–43), Shaik Mastan's "Muslim Influence on Indian Place-Names – A Linguistic Study" (2: 155–62), Hannes Kniffka's "Calling Names Across Cultures," (2: 11–21) and Roland Dickison's "Naming Procedures for Outlaws" (1: 273–75).

Lawson's suggestions in "For Editors..." to make onomastic periodicals more available to scholars in different countries should be considered carefully by editors of the magazines. Central libraries selected to hold complete sets would make scholars more aware of the work being done by other scholars in different countries. Perhaps ICOS could promote such central repositories and, hence, bring about a community of onomastic scholars who would have an easier access to published materials and a closer acquaintance with the work of others. Lawson also suggests that reviews be short and promptly published!

That hint is sufficient. The editor of the Helsinki ICOS Proceedings was prompt in publishing the two volumes, certainly a massive chore, demanding the expense of much time and effort. Generally, we wait three years or never to see the Proceedings of an ICOS meeting. We do indeed owe Eeva Maria Närhi our thanks and gratitude for her editing and for the promptness of publication.

Kelsie B. Harder

State University of New York College at Potsdam

John, Your Name is Famous. By Alvin, Virginia, Robert, Linda, Laura, and Kevin Silverstein. Avstar Publishing Corp, P.O. Box 537, Lebanon, NJ 08833. 1989. Pp. 229. Cloth, no price listed.

John: Fun and Facts about a Popular Name and the People who Made it Great. Same address as above. Pp. 63. Paper, no price listed.

Contrary to first expectations, these texts are excellent for their purpose, which is as gift items for persons who have the name *John* or its variants and cognates. The hardcover book contains the necessary scholarly background, including etymology, the more than one hundred variants found in different languages, history of the name from the Hebrew to English, and a note on its popularity now. Then chapters contain information on famous *John* firsts (with photographs, the first

152 Book Reviews

being that of John Quincy Adams), nicknames and aliases ("The World's Greatest Lover," Giovanni Jacopo Casanova), in the art world (Hans Holbein), in the business world (John Jacob Astor), in entertainment (John Belushi), in history (Giovanni Caboto, known to us as John Cabot), in literature (John Donne), in music (Jon Bon Jovi, birth name John Bongiovi), in religion and philosophy (John the Baptist), in science (Ivan Pavlov), in sports (Jack William Nicklaus), as a last name (Reginald "Reggie" Martinez Jackson), in fiction (Jean Valjean), much *John* trivia, a calendar of the birthdays of Johns, *John* words (*the john*, *Dear John letter*, *Jack-in-the-box*, *jackass*), an excellent bibliography, and a complete index of all names used, more than 650. It is a beautiful book and worthy of owning, especially if your name is *John*.

The short paper text contains photographs of and information on Johns who have become famous in different occupations and positions. The calendar of birthdays is included, as well as trivia items, such as crossword puzzles, questions, scrambled *Johns*, and an index of the some seventy names mentioned in the book. It too is a good present for a person named *John*, *Ivan*, *Hans*, *Juan*, *Jon* (maybe), *Jock*, *Ian*, *Sean Giovanni*, *Owen*, or *Evan*.

The company publishes books on other names, too. The available ones listed are *Michael*, *Mary*, *Elizabeth*, *William*, and *Jessica*, with more to come.

Kelsie B. Harder

State University of New York College at Potsdam

**18th Annual Conference on Literary Onomastics
Founded by Grace Alvarez-Altman**

The University of Georgia – November 2, 1991

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers concerned with any aspect of literary onomastics are invited. Please submit 100-150 word abstract and title by September 1, 1991.

Decisions based on abstract will be made by October 1.

Submit complete accepted paper (maximum 10 pages double space) by October 15, 1991 (only completed papers will be included in the program.)

Send to: Prof. Betty J. Irwin, Department of English, Park Hall,
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602

Names 39.2 (June 1991)