Names 39.3 (September 1991)

Book Reviews

Finnish Onomastics/Namenkunde in Finnland. Ed. Heikki Leskinen and Eero Kiviniemi. Studia Fennica 34. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura (Finnish Literature Society), Hallituskatu 1, 00170 Helsinki 17, Finland. 1990. Pp. 140. Maps, diagrams, illustrations. Paper, price not given.

It has become a pleasant and informative custom for local organizers of the triennial International Congresses of Onomastic Science (ICOS) to provide participants in these gatherings with a published account of the status and central issues of name studies in the country in which the congress happens to be held. The format of such accounts has varied from congress to congress but has frequently taken the form of a special number of a relevant journal. ICOS XVII, held in Helsinki in August 1990, was no exception in that respect, and the volume under review appeared as number 34 of *Studia Fennica*, the prestigious Review of Finnish Linguistics and Ethnology. In scope, the nine contributions to this publication, several of them by authors closely connected with the organization of the congress, range from Eeva Maria Närhi's introductory chapter on "The Onomastic Central Archives—The Foundation of Finnish Onomastics" (9–25) to Saulo Kepsu's detailed investigation of microtoponymical problems in his study of the "Toponymie des Dorfes Kepsu" [The Toponymy of the Village of Kepsu] (61–83). Six articles are in English, three in German. In my opinion, this is one of the very best accounts of its kind that I have seen since attending my first ICOS in Munich in 1958, and the contributors and editors are to be congratulated on this very fine achievement.

As it would be neither helpful nor practicable to list and synthesize the several chapters individually and in order, the following comments are intended to highlight some of those points which, though often peculiarly Finnish in their application, have more universal implications for name scholars everywhere, not excepting the English-speaking world and especially North America. The history of Finland—600 years of union with Sweden till 1809, when it became an autonomous grand-duchy under the Russian tsar, with independence declared in 1919—has not only produced

an officially bilingual country (since 1863 when Finnish became an official language) but has also resulted in, or left traces of, Swedish and Finnish nomenclatures with regard to both places and persons, complemented regionally or locally by considerable Saami (Lappish) and minor other onomastic ingredients. What is particularly remarkable is the survival and continued creation of Finnish names during the many centuries when the administrators and educated classes spoke Swedish because of its social prestige, a language whose onomastic reflexes are nowadays mainly found in the placenames of "the coastline defined by the Gulf of Finland (in the south) and the Gulf of Bothnia (in the west), on the Åland Islands and in the southwestern archipelago" (109), the historical settlement areas of the Finnish Swedes. In keeping with the long-time linguistic, cultural, and political separateness of these two major sectors of the population, the systematic collection and study of placenames in Finland remained, since their beginnings in the 1860s and 1870s, entrusted to two separate organizations, one Finnish, the other Swedish, until both undertakings were united under one roof in the the Finnish Research Center for Domestic Languages in 1976, a move which has been highly beneficial to the study of onomastics in Finland because the study of names obviously transcends the study of individual languages.

In the development of the name archives, both Finnish and Swedish, the main emphasis has been on the collection of names from oral tradition, an approach which is especially understandable from the point of view of Finnish names most of which were part of a preliterate culture for many centuries and had never found their way onto any maps. Through the training of collectors, particularly through the inclusion of field work in the curriculum of students in degree programs in the Finnish language, through name collecting competitions for both adults and school children, and with the help of many enthusiasts (professors' wives seem to have played an important role at one stage!), an impressive total of 2.5 million placenames has been collected, a number which is estimated to represent 95 percent of the country's total place-nomenclature. The national record, perhaps even the "world record," is thought to be held in this respect by Professor Viljo Nissilä who, between 1931 and 1976, collected over 60,000 placenames from oral tradition. It is difficult to overestimate the scale of this achievement which must look more than a little daunting when transferred to the aims of the Placename Survey of the United States, but what a rich source it must constitute for future students of names in Finland!

Not transferrable is probably Ritva Liisa Pitkänen's intriguing method of dating names of bays, islands, peninsulas, and other natural features in the southwestern archipelago with the help of the so-called "uplift," a well-researched phenomenon resulting from the Ice Age by which the waterline has been gradually receding and the coastline consequently rising by between 30 and 100 centimeters per century (47–60). On the other hand, Saulo Kepsu's close investigation of toponymic landscapes and systems within his eponymous village, including the practices of name giving and name usage and a determination of the smallest toponymic unit within the name system of a farm, has considerable potential for name researchers elsewhere (61–83). Particularly useful in this context is his demonstrated differentiation of a number of different "name landscapes," i.e., those of the farmer and/or owner, the fisherman, the hunter, the gatherer (berry and mushroom picker), the passing traveler, the playing child, as well as the holiday maker, rambler, taxi driver, minister, and others (64).

Eero Kiviniemi's "Die lexikalischen Grundzüge der finnischen Ortsnamen" [The Basic Lexical Characteristics of Finnish Placenames] (26–46), Laila Lehikoinen's "The Appellation of Inhabitants and Their Usage as Farmstead and Village Names" (84–90), examining the mutual relationship between the names of places and the people who live in them, and Alpo Räisänen's "Zur Entstehung des Namengutes in der Einöde Kainuus" [On the Origins of the Nomenclature of the Kainuu Wasteland] (91–108), though tied closely to specifically Finnish conditions, should also serve well as valuable pointers for comparative approaches by students of the semantic and morphological structure and the stratification of place-nomenclatures elsewhere.

For those interested in the onomastic repercussions, politics, and other issues of minority cultures and languages, Lars Huldén's "Place-Names and Onomastics in the Swedish-Speaking Areas of Finland" (109–21), Kurt Zilliacus' "The Place-Names in the 'Skerries'" (122–29), and Marianne Blomqvist's "Swedish Family Names in Finland" (130–40) are stimulating articles, as long as one remembers that what may be a minority culture or language within the context of the whole country may well be in a majority in certain regions or social situations. I am especially grateful to Kurt Zilliacus for reminding us not only that "a proper name functions on different principles to a common noun" (128) but also, and more importantly, that

> The most important general observation made in the research of place-names in the skerries is the confirmed concept that toponyms should never

> be dealt with and studied as individual separate phenomena. The placename is always to be seen in relation to its givers and their age and language, to their living conditions and naming customs, as a part of the nomenclature to which it belongs and of the greater whole which has provided the models guiding the giving of names. (129)

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

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"Finska Skären": Studier i åboländsk kulturhistoria utgivna av Konstsamfundet 1990 ["The Finnish Skerries": Studies in the Cultural History of the Åbo Region Produced by the Art Foundation 1990]. Edited by Kurt Zilliacus. Föreningen Konstsamfundets Publikationsserie VII. Helsingfors [Helsinki]. 1990. Pp. 379. Maps, illustrations, diagrams, index. Cloth, no price given.

Two of the contributors to *Finnish Onomastics*, Ritva Liisa Pitkänen and Kurt Zilliacus, are also the authors of two extensive chapters in a wide-ranging study of the cultural history of the area around Åbo in Finland. The former writes on placenames of Finnish origin (135–93); the latter provides an overview of Swedish placenames (283–72). Both of them consider the contemporary characteristics as well as the historical implications of these nomenclatures in "The Finnish Skerries." Though these two chapters are worth having for their own sake, they gain considerably from being in the company of other chapters dealing with other significant aspects of the culture and history of the region. Placenames thus are accorded an appropriate setting and spared the isolation in which they are often treated as if they had no connections with other manifestations of expressive culture. The volume as a whole is an excellent way of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Foundation which published it.

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

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Utah Place Names. By John Van Cott. University of Utah Press, 101 University Services Building, Salt Lake City, UT 84112. 1990. Pp. 453. Paper, $14.95.

As indicated on the book's cover, this is "the most extensive compilation of Utah place names ever published." It is a readable, reasonably thorough, all-inclusive sample of names representing all categories of named entities – geographic features as well as settlements. Alphabetically arranged entries on over 4,000 named places are presented, including, for each place, its current name; location by county, section-township-range, and direction and distance from some key place; altitude, where appropriate; and a brief history and the economic or historic significance of the place. Where the information is known, there is an explanation of the origin of the name. Also included are cross-referenced name variants, including nicknames and earlier names; an index of personal names and other name sources; a small map of the state with county delineations and key towns and features; and a bibliography of over six hundred data sources. In short, everything one would expect of a first rate placename book *except pronunciations*, whose omission is inexcusable.

This volume has attempted, as all good state placename volumes should, to bring together widely scattered or elusive data from various inaccessible sources, especially the memories of people who have passed on or soon will. The sample was taken from over 110 maps and the 1981 GNIS list for Utah.

Either the sample deliberately includes some of the most colorful names I've ever come across in any one state, or Utah has more than its national share of colorful names, and these are derived from equally colorful events or the nicknames of persons who had colorful experiences. Especially appealing to me is *Hi Low Lake*, the higher of two lakes owned by George Low. And *Sodom*, an old name for the community of Goshen, which refers not to the iniquities of its early settlers but to "the sodding up of the roofs" of early houses. Then there is *Nevershine Hollow* that is nearly always shaded.

In his short introduction, John Van Cott does something all placename compilers should do: he tells something of the history of placename study in his state and his own contributions to it. Van Cott, a retired supervisor of botany labs at Brigham Young University and a charter member of the Utah State Place Name Society, also provides in his introduction a brief history of geographic naming in Utah in the context of attempts to control and influence the choice of names.

His book is the culmination of two decades of map and manuscript investigation and visits to all sections of the state to view firsthand the places the compiler has identified and described. Too many of us don't do this kind of field work, instead relying almost exclusively on what is revealed in published maps and similar secondary documents. But Van Cott learned, what some of us are only beginning to appreciate, that maps are not always reliable. They are certainly confusing for the conflicting names frequently used to identify the same feature. The question remains unanswered (in Utah as elsewhere) why, and on what authority, did the mapmakers identify certain features? Whom did they ask? Did they name some of the features themselves? Of course, over the years names do change. Early names given by discoverers, visitors, founders, Indians, Spaniards, fur traders, mountain men, Mormons, and other early comers were often forgotten and later comers would give other names that meant more to them. Only one of these names would be recorded on contemporary maps. But which would be the correct name?

Moreover, "names are history," says Van Cott, and shouldn't be summarily changed to appease the squeamish. For his having said this I am delighted for reasons that had best be deferred to some future article. I am equally grateful that he made no attempt, as too many other state placename compilers have, to force on his readers an artificial analysis of name origins—typologies for their own sake which at best reveal nothing, and at worst confuse and confound.

This book does have some weaknesses. I have mentioned one. I am sure we can get by without a systematic pronunciation of all of Utah's names, as many of them are obvious to the readers. But Utah, like most states whose names are heavily derived from Indian and Spanish sources, have many that are not at all obvious, at least to me—such names as *Oquirrh City, Oljeto Mesa, Owiyuuts Mt.*, and *Parunweep Canyon*. Is *Veyo* pronounced /VEE-oh/ or /VY-oh/? And is *Notom* /NO-tom/ or /NOT-uhm/?

Nothing is said about post offices. Many of us who are into postal history would like to have known which of the settlements described in the book had post offices and when and by whom they were established.

Overall, this is a good book, the best we have yet on Utah's placenames. Perhaps a future edition will give pronunciations and thus its value will increase prodigiously.

Robert M. Rennick
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

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Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases. By Stanley Jablonski. 2nd edition. Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32906. 1991. Pp. ix + 665. Cloth, $99.50.

As stated by the author, "The purpose of this book is to gather in one volume the profusion of eponymous and noneponymous syndromes and eponymous diseases," To this end, the 95,000 references contained in the MEDLARS data base of the National Library of Medicine were utilized as the major information source. These references covering a period of twenty years were systematically perused and the journal articles selected from this list, augmented by information from other current references, served as the information base for the dictionary.

While reasonably comprehensive, the book appropriately omits rarely used syndromes and eponymic diseases as well as syndromes which are humorous and facetious in intent. Cross-references are ample throughout and include both eponymic and descriptive synonyms. While chromosomal abnormalities are listed under the specific chromosome, cross-referring permits quick access to those listings where only the eponymic synonym is known. One particular interesting and useful annotation found in the book is the brief biographical sketch supplied with all eponymic entries listed under personal names when this information is available. For example:

> **BESSMAN, SAMUEL PAUL** (American physician, born 1921)
> **Bessman-Baldwin syndrome.** Synonyms: imidazole syndrome, late cerebromacular degeneration.

Also very useful are the bibliographies supporting each entry. Wherever possible the author has proffered the original bibliographical source(s) for each syndrome and disease listed.

A delightfully informative introductory section entitled "Syndrome—A Historical Note" reminds the reader of the derivation (Greek *syn* 'together' and *dromos* 'a course,' hence "things running together") and history of syndromes. First used by Hippocrates in the fifth century, *syndrome* fell out of favor in the seventeenth century when the British physician Thomas Sydenham (**Sydenham's chorea**) convinced his contemporaries that *syndrome* and *disease* were synonymous, thus causing *syndrome* to all but disappear from use until the twentieth

century. (In 1912 the *Index Catalogue*, the major bibliographic source of the period, listed only six citations under the heading.) Up until the middle of the twentieth century, many syndromes were eponymous, usually in the possessive form and often named after physicians. This practice came under considerable attack after World War II, resulting in a marked decrease in physician-associated eponyms but with a concomitant proliferation of new classes of eponyms using names of biblical, mythological, and literary characters; geographic locations; institutions; and patients' names as well as creative approaches using acronyms and abbreviations, foreign terms, and imaginative designations such as "Chinese Restaurant Syndrome" and "Jumping Frenchmen of Maine Syndrome." Today, *syndrome* is securely fixed in our lexicon, having broadened its original medical descriptive purpose to encompass any number of strange, bizarre, unusual, or funny entities, whether medical, social, behavioral, or cultural.

For the student of names, this book provides a fascinating look at how a large number of personal names have found their way into the field of medicine, resulting in an onomastic category awaiting further study and analysis.

Clearly, the use of physicians' names with eponymic syndromes served to "canonize" many physicians who would not have otherwise gained particular notoriety. Thus, I am certain that in the past, physicians aspired to achieve this pre-eminent status. I can vividly remember, as a young medical student, agonizing over interminable lists of eponymic syndromes, struggling with the means to remember (for example) the difference between Huntington's chorea and Sydenham's chorea or sorting out the various syndromes and diseases named after Dr. Guido Fanconi. Thus, the demise of eponymous syndromes named for physicians in favor of more descriptive names seems a welcome advance.

As a reference source, this second edition is a useful compendium for physicians and laymen alike. Its well-written and succinct syndrome descriptions, coupled with the extensive cross-references and pertinent bibliographies, make it particularly useful as an initial reference source. For the physician, other more comprehensive and detailed sources are available, particularly for congenital syndromes, e.g., Kenneth Lyon Jones, *Smith's Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformations*, 4th ed. (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1988); Mary Louise Buyse, ed., *Birth Defects Encyclopedia: The Comprehensive, Systematic, Illustrated Refer-*

ence Source for the Diagnosis, Delineation, Etiology, Biodynamics, Occurrence, Prevention, and Treatment of Human Anomalies of Clinical Relevance, Center for Birth Defects Information Services (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1990); and Daniel Bergsma, *Birth Defects Compendium*, 3rd ed., published for The National Foundation-March of Dimes (New York: Alan R. Liss, 1991).

Recognizing this special need, the publishers plan to separate many entries into specific disciplines for more specialty oriented use in the future.

Finally, since a compendium of this sort is outdated almost as soon as it is printed, the publishers promise that they will publish periodic updates and supplements.

C. Warren Derrick, Jr.
University of South Carolina, Columbia

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Childlight: Parenting for the New Age. By Hilarion (Channeled by M. B. Cooke). Marcus Books, Box 327, Queensville, Ontario L0G 1R0 Canada. 1987. Pp. x + 156. Paper, $7.95.

The Worst Name Baby Book. By Bob Glickman. Andrews and McMeel, 4900 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112. 1990. Pp. approx. 140 pp. (not paged). Illustrations. Paper, $6.95.

Baby Names: Over 4000 Beautiful Indian Names for Your Child. By Vimla Patil. Rupa & Co., 15 Bankim Chatterjee St., Calcutta 700 073 India. 1990. Pp. ix + 72. Paper, 16 Rupees.

The Hawaiian Name Book: Hawaiian Translation. By Patrick Ka'ano'i and Robert Lokomaika'iokalani Snakenberg. Bess Press, Box 22388, Honolulu, HI 96822. 1988. Pp. xv + 43. Paper, $4.95.

The Complete Book of Hebrew Baby Names. By Smadar Shir Sidi. Harper & Row, 10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022. 1989. Pp. xii + 176. Paper, $8.95.

Childlight was dictated to Cooke by a source called "Hilarion" and is dedicated to Shirley MacLaine, known for her views on spiritual life and reincarnation. The point of reference for Hilarion is that when naming occurs "...a deliberate attempt is made by the soul's guides to 'tag' the new

personality with a name which will exert certain desired formative influences on the developing personality" (13). Parents "...can, through an appropriate name selection, exert a certain degree of influence on the incarnation about to be experienced" (14). The basis of correct name selection is the sounds of the letters in the name. Hilarion/Cooke have developed a whole system. Let us examine the vowel *a*. The *a* in *father* (which I would regard as a weak *a*) is considered a pleasant sound, as in the name *Walter*. Hilarion/Cooke associate this sound with the outflow of the divine creative impulse on the positive side; on the negative it encourages the inflow of substances such as food, drink, and drugs.

The *a* in Amos, Kate, or David (which I would regard as strong) is described as having the basic creativity pattern of the weak *a* but also, because of its "grating sound," an assertiveness and abruptness that can offend others. All letters of the alphabet are described and analyzed for influence and meaning.

The heart of the book for onomastics is the main part where about 1,000 names are analyzed according to sound patterns. Let us examine two of these entries:

> **Stacy** —note the magnified T for multiple talents and the magnified abrasive A sound. Lots of energy.
>
> **Thomas** (with TH sounding as T)—plenty of talent and native ability, creative, new soul-qualities to be manifested in this life experience, a homebody who values family ties.

The book is useful in that it shows how strong the interest in names and naming can be, how strongly people believe that *Nomen est omen* 'the name is destiny' or *Bonum nomen, bonum omen* 'a good name, a good destiny' and want to develop a system of relating life and destiny to the name.

Glickman's *The Worst Name Baby Book* is purportedly written so that parents would not give their newborn a name that can cause mental anguish. He attempts to pun with names. Expectant parents might enjoy this humor book. Two examples follow:

> **Alistair**
>
> Origin: British...meaning "Oh, what beautiful stairs"
>
> Problem: People named Alistair go to the beach not in a bathing suit, but in a three-piece suit.
>
> **Emmy**
>
> Origin: English...meaning "Medical Examiner"
>
> Problem: She'll be very stiff and insist on wearing gold.

There are approximately 250 more entries like this for male names; 200 for female.

Patil's *Baby Names* has a brief introduction on naming practices in India and then mentions the new interest there in ethnic names. This is followed by the main part, the listing of the names along with their meaning. Thus we can see that *Vimla* is a female name that means "pure"; *Moti*, a male name, means "pearl." While most of the names that Patil deals with appear to be Hindu from Sanskrit, some are Muslim. Examination of the list shows that several names come from Arabic: *Raheem* 'merciful,' *Muhamad* 'the Prophet,' *Salma* 'peace,' *Suraiya* 'beautiful,' and *Zaki* 'saintly.' I hope that in the next edition (which Patil says will be coming) appropriate language and religious identifications will be given.

Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, in *A Dictionary of First Names* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1990), have two supplements, one on Arabic names by Mona Baker and one by Ramesh Krishnamurthy on Indian Subcontinent names. While the Baker supplement does not cover as many names, it does go into far more depth than does Patil, who mostly gives one-word explanations. Patil is helpful in giving some information not available in Hanks and Hodges. Perhaps a future edition will include more background material. I hope so.

In their *Hawaiian Name Book*, Ka'ano'i and Snakenberg state that their purpose is to provide a resource for those who wish to give true Hawaiian names to their children. Part of the problem of Hawaiian naming stems from an 1860 law of King Kamehameha IV that required a Christian first name for all children (the law was amended in 1967 to simply require a given name). The effect of the 1860 law was to "Hawaiianize" Christian first names rather than protect and enhance indigenous Hawaiian names. While many children had Hawaiian middle names, the Christian first name had priority. Since 1970, there has been an awakening of Hawaiian identity and – along with it – names.

The introduction shows how English names are Hawaiianized. For example, *Jim* becomes *Kimo, George* becomes *Keoki* (the letter *k* is substituted for *j*; the *r* in George is dropped because New England Yankees, who influenced Hawaiian English, dropped their *r*'s in normal pronunciationi).

Following the introduction is a list of approximately 500 male and female names showing derivations and translations. Thus, *Aaron*, derived from the "shining," becomes *Mālamalana. Dorothy* and *Theodore*, both from Greek "gift of God," become Makannaakua.

Apparently, there are no specific sex markers in Hawaiian, as the Hawaiian form of *Dorothy* and *Theodore* shows. There are other examples as well. *Solomon* from Hebrew, and *Irene* from Greek both mean "peace," and both translate into Hawaiian as *Maluhia*.

What I would have liked to see was more information on pure Hawaiian names that predate Western influence. What do they mean? To whom are they given? Do or did parents name their children after parents or relatives? Is birth order a factor in naming? The *Hawaiian Name Book* is definitely a contribution because of interest in Hawaii and also because it focuses on the problems of cultural assimilation and resistance to it.

Finally we come to Sidi's *Complete Book of Hebrew Names*. She explains that all Jewish children must have a Hebrew name even if that name is not used as a first name or a middle name in everyday life. The Hebrew name is required for religious purposes, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, and for final burial. There is a description of the naming ceremony and listings of the most popular names in Israel.

There are a number of choices available for a Hebrew name. A child may be named after a relative (uncle, grandfather, father); a place (e.g., *Shilo[h]* 'his gift'); a hero, biblical or otherwise (e.g., *Shimshon/Samson*; *Bar-Kochva*); a plant (e.g., *Shoshana[h]* 'lily'). A child may also be named for an animal, a holiday, or even a current celebrity.

The main part of the book consists of 5,000 listings, more for males than females. Three entries may give the flavor:

Asher (Ah shehr') אשר
From the Hebrew, "blessed, fortunate, happy"; in the Bible (Genesis), one of Jacob's sons. Also spelled Asser. An old name.

Naama(h) (Nah ah mah') נעמה
The feminine form of Noam, in Hebrew, "loveliness, gracefulness, pleasantness, charm, kindness, tenderness; in the Bible (I Kings). Also the name of a place in the Jordan Valley. A very popular name.

Nili (Nee' lee) נילי
An acrostic of the Hebrew words *netzach yisroel lo yeshaker*; in English, "the Everlasting of Israel will not lie," from the Bible (I Samuel). This was the name of a group of Jews in Palestine in World War I who worked for Allied intelligence in the hope of ensuring future Jewish settlement. Also the name of a place in Israel in Samaria. Very popular.

The entries are useful because they give the pronunciation, the Hebrew script, the language origin (Hebrew or Yiddish), from the Bible,

or a place, or what; and an indication of whether the name is old, common, popular, or unique. The pronunciation guide is particularly helpful. It is the only one I know of.

Sidi points out that some names are used by both sexes, *Ariel* 'strong, brave' or 'angel, messenger,' *Lee* 'me, mine, to me, for myself,' *Raz* 'secret, mystery,' and *Yona[h]* 'dove.' Some names are to be chosen with caution, such as *Shai* 'gift, present,' because it is pronounced like the English "shy." In an English-speaking context it might be considered inappropriate for the bearer.

Appendix I lists about 100 names that are associated with the Jewish calendar. For example, *Ilana* 'tree' is considered an appropriate name for a girl born on *Tu b'Shvat*, the Jewish Arbor Day.

Appendix II gives some suggestions for twins. Among those for boys are *Hillel* 'to praise, glorify' and *Shammai* 'valuer' or 'name,' who were contemporary Talmudic scholars; For girls, *Raz* 'secret' and *Paz* 'gold'; for a boy and a girl, *Shalom* and *Shlomit*, both meaning "peace."

The Complete Book of Hebrew Baby Names is a fine contribution. Readers should not be put off by its "popular" title. While most "baby-name" books may be pretty superficial, this one is an exception. It is in some ways superior to Alfred Kolatch's *The Complete Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names* (Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David, 1984), since it shows pronunciation and relates more to modern Israel. I highly recommend it for scholars and libraries.

Edwin D. Lawson
State University of New York College, Fredonia

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In Which County? Nova Scotia Surnames from Birth Registers, 1864 to 1877. By Terrence M. Punch. Publication Number 9. Genealogical Association of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society (Attention: Publication Secretary), POB 641, Halifax, B3J 2TJ, Canada. 1985. Pp. 104. Paper, CDN$13.00.

The Soundex Reference Guide. Edited by Bradley W. Steuart. Precision Indexing, POB 303, Bountiful, UT 84011. 1990. Pp. xvi + 253. Cloth, $29.95; Paper, $19.95.

The province of Nova Scotia kept birth records from 1864 to 1877, when the practice was discontinued (it was begun again in 1908). While

the birth records are available for only a short time, Punch has demonstrated that by using the number of births and multiplying by a factor of three one can pretty closely estimate the number of people in a county with that surname.

The tabulations show 4,898 different surnames in the province. Of these surnames, 131 had birth frequencies more than 150. The surnames with the most frequencies are: *McDonald* (4,134), *Smith* (1,570), *McNeil* (1,184), *McLean* (1,171), *McLeod* (1,074), and *Fraser* (999). Some names such as *Campbell*, *Johns(t)on*, and *McDonald* are found in all 18 counties.

Tables also show regional distribution. Thus, *McDonald* and *McNeill* are in the top 21 on Cape Breton Island, but on the South Shore these names are not even listed in the top group. There we find *Conrad* and *Smith* the top two.

Some surnames appear only in one county. For example, Annapolis County has *Croscup* and *Jestings*; Digby County, *Bonenfant* and *Outhouse*. Further tables show the ten leading names in each county. For Halifax County, the top three are *Smith, Boutilier*, and *Murphy*; for Kings County, *Bishop, Porter*, and *Parker*.

The main table (85 pages long) lists each surname with alternate spellings and the frequency in each county. The name *Banks* has a frequency in Annapolis County of 56; in Colchester County, 3; in Digby County, 2; Halifax County, 2; etc. for a total of 84. But the name *Hamlin* appears only in one county, Colchester, with a frequency of 2; the name *Lapierre*, only in Halifax County with a frequency of 90.

Of special interest is Punch's description of the confusion surrounding some names. He explains how the name *Aucoin* ended up as *O'Quinn* in Inverness County. Other examples of name change/distortion are: *Jedrie* to *Geddry, McNuge* to *Manuge*, and *Payzantson* to *Bezanson*. A name like *Neil* should be checked under *Neal* as well as *O'Neil* and *O'Neal*. Apparently the *Mc/Mac* problem was not a problem in Nova Scotia during the 1864–1877 period: *Mc* was the preferred form.

Appreciation must be expressed to Punch for the tremendous job of assembling this wealth of material and presenting all of this information. Those with antecedents in Nova Scotia may find clues to embark on further family genealogical research.

Onomasticians will find this surname finder a useful tool to locate regional surnames. They will also find the information on change of spelling and pronunciation useful. The book is recommended for genealogical and onomastics collections.

Steuart's *Soundex Reference Guide* describes the Soundex system of classifying names originally developed by the federal government for use in indexing the census records of 1880, 1890, and 1910. Names were grouped on the basis of being sounded the same way. The 1880 Soundex list shows only those households which had a child who was ten years old or younger. The 1900 Soundex is complete for all heads of household. The 1910 census used Soundex for some states and Miracode (a machine-readable card) for the others. The Soundex and Miracode cards have been organized by each state or territory (microfilms are available for each). These cards are set up alphabetically by the soundex code. This is where the *Soundex Reference Guide* comes in. It is necessary to know the soundex number to look up a name on the cards. The *Guide* includes 125,000 names and numbers.

To use the *Guide*, you first have to find the Soundex Code Number. These are listed to the left of each surname. Surnames are given in alphabetical order. Steuart explains how the Soundex System drops out the letters *a, e, i, o, u, y, w,* and *h*. Names that sound alike all have the same index number. For example, the names *Aborn, Abraham, Abrahams, Abrahamson, Abranity, Abrenz, Abrhm, Abring, Abrnes, Abron*, and *Abrum* are all considered as **A165** on Soundex. **R300** includes *Reade, Readie, Ready, Reed*, and *Reede*; **S536** *Schnader, Schnaider, Schneder, Schnetterer, Schneider, Snider, Snyder*, and others. If the name you are seeking is not listed, you are invited to telephone the publisher, who promises to assist. There is also a promise to list any sought name in the next edition.

Once the soundex number is obtained, it is possible to obtain the cards from either the National Archives or on microfilm from the American Genealogical Lending Library, POB 244, Bountiful, UT 84011. The card entries give information on family members, their age, birthplace, and county.

For the genealogist, the *Guide* appears quite useful in that a search can be made of a whole state alphabetically, possibly a tremendous timesaver unless one has access to a state index.

Another contribution which benefits both genealogists and onomasticians is the explanation and use of the Soundex system. For both the genealogist and the onomastician, these different spellings might furnish valuable clues as to how the spelling of the surname may have changed, either by the individual or somewhere along the census-taking process.

Since Precision Indexing apparently has the 125,000 names in a machine-readable bank, it would be interesting to onomasticians (and

probably to genealogists as well) if a listing could also be done by *number* as well. This way names pronounced the same way but spelled differently would be shown together. It would also be helpful to mark these names with an asterisk in the main section.

Steuart has made a valuable contribution in making *The Soundex Reference Guide* available. It is especially recommended for libraries with genealogical collections.

Edwin D. Lawson
State University of New York College, Fredonia

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How to Change Your Name in Florida: With Forms. by Mark Warda. Sphinx Publishing, Box 2005, Clearwater, FL 34617-2005. 1988. Pp. 36 + blank forms. Paper, $9.95.

Ohio Name Change. LawPak, Box 19667, Clifton Heights, OH 45219. 1989. Pp. ii + 50 + blank forms. Illustrations. Paper, $15.95.

Changing Your Name Legally in Massachusetts. By Timothy Scott. Tim Scott Publishing, Box 91062, Springfield, MA 01109-1062. 1989. Pp. 3 + forms. Paper, price not indicated.

In recent years, we have seen more and more do-it-yourself booklets on various aspects of law: how to make a will, how to file for divorce, and how to take a case to small claims court. Here we have three publications on name change for three states: Florida, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

Examination of these guides shows similarities and differences in the practices of these three states. While all three accept common law practice (just changing one's name without any formal court procedure), it is clear that for many purposes a court decree is preferable. For example, in Florida it is a felony to use anything but one's legal name on a driver's license. Neither can one register to vote. A person may use an assumed name in business but only if it is registered in the local county court. An interesting point about Florida, compared with other states, is that the petitioner does not have to prove a good reason, only that there is no ulterior motive.

All three jurisdictions make it clear that prevention of business or financial fraud is a major consideration in court approval of a change of name. Further, all require that the petitioner be at least eighteen. In addition all three publications have a disclaimer on the legal information.

The Florida and Ohio guides make clear those situations where professional help is more likely to be needed, especially with minor children.

The Ohio presentation explains the court proceedings clearly: petition, hearing, publication of newspaper notice, and final decree. It even prepares the petitioner for questions and how to behave in the courtroom. Further information tells how to get birth and death records for all states and a list of all Ohio county clerk's offices. In Ohio, if a woman takes her husband's name at marriage and wants to return to her former name, it is preferable to have a court decree. In Florida, she also has to go to court for a judgment.

As far as children are concerned, there seems to be no problem in Florida or Ohio as long as both parents agree to a change. However, if the parents don't agree, the situation gets more complicated. In Florida, if one parent wants to change a child's name, the other parent must be given notice. The procedure allows for a sheriff to serve notice anywhere in the state. If the parent is not in the state, the petitioner has to demonstrate a "diligent search." The Ohio guide suggests that when the parents do not agree the petitioner consult a lawyer. All three booklets give suggestions on whom to notify after the name change has been made: Social Security, motor vehicle bureau, banks, etc. All three also show appropriate forms to use. The Florida and Ohio booklets show filled-in illustrative forms as well.

Florida is interesting because there a child can acquire a surname according to Florida statutes (Warda 6):

a. If the mother was married at the time of conception the surname of the child shall be that of the husband unless paternity has been determined to be otherwise by a court.
b. If the mother was married at the time of birth but not at conception the surname of the child shall be that of the husband if he gives consent in writing unless paternity has been determined otherwise by a court.
c. If the mother was not married at either conception or birth then the surname of the child shall be that of the father if both the father and the mother consent in writing.
d. Where a court has determined paternity the surname of the child shall be that of the father.
e. In all other cases the surname of the child shall be that of the mother.

An additional point noted in recent case law in Florida is that the first item above (a.) is unconstitutional and that a couple is free to choose a newly-created surname for their child (Warda 6). The case involved Chris Ledbetter and Dean Skylar who wanted to name their child *Sydney Skybetter.*

The Florida and Ohio books are excellent in showing the rationale and procedure of name change. Even if a person chooses to file for name change through an attorney, there will be greater understanding of the procedures involved which may speed up the process.

Edwin D. Lawson
State University of New York College, Fredonia

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Briefly Noted

Grand Allusions: A Lively Guide to Those Expressions, Terms & References You Ought to Know but Might Not. By Elizabeth and Mike Feinsilber. Farragut Publishing Co., 2033 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. 1990. Pp. xix + 385. Cloth, $21.95, paper $12.95.

The compilers write, "This book is an eclectic collection of those allusions, figures of speech, terms of art, terms of the trade, foreign language phrases and jargon that appear in our daily reading without accompanying explanations." They note that even the name *Grand Allusions* alludes to the 1937 French film *Grand Illusion*. The text has about 525 entries, each glossed with a pronunciation (if necessary), original meaning and use, eponyms, and recent examples of usage by journalists. For instance, *Achilles' Heel* has a traditional meaning of "a point of maximum vulnerability," with the Achilles reflex and the Achilles tendon accompanying. One of the modern instances noted is one from *The New York Times*, Nov. 12, 1987, "Oil is the Achilles' heel of the trade picture show."

Among those current and also informative are *Golden Parachute* (letting the fired executive down with some kind of monetary cushion), *In Flagrante Delicto* (literally, "in the heat of the crime"), *Elmer Gantry, Schadenfreude, Barbie and Ken, Banquo's Ghost, Battle of Hastings,*

Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, Critical Mass, and a whole host of others. Each is enlightening, if only to see how a modern journalist manages to weave the word or phrase into a new context, for instance comparing former President Reagan's smile to that of the Cheshire cat, or Nixon's Checkers speech to the melodramatic political rhetoric used by Oliver North at his appearance before a Congressional Committee. It is a good book to have around while watching a boring TV baseball game.

Principles and Procedures for Geographic Naming 1990. By Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, with "Preface" by Henri Dorion, Chairman, CPCGN. Text in French and English. CPCGN Secretariat, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9, Canada. 1990. Pp. 24, French text; 24, English text. Paper, available without charge from the Secretariat.

Commission de toponymie rapport annuel 1989–1990. Commission de toponymie, 1245 chemin Sainte Foy, Québec, Québec G1S 4P5 Canada. 1990. Pp. 43. Paper, available from the Commission.

Henri Dorion writes, "A primary task for a names authority is to set up rules and guidelines." So here are the ones for use by the Canadian Permanent Committ on Geographical Names (CPCGN), a parallel organization to the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). Fourteen guiding principles are described, with examples, included statutory authority, names in general public use, names given by other agencies, naming an entire feature and identifying its extent, use of personal names, approving names for unnamed features, form and character of names, language forms and translation, spelling standards in English and French, uniformity in the spelling of names, duplication, generic terminology, use of qualifying terminology, and names of small features. The appendices furnish guidelines for names outside Canada for official Canadian use, for the application of mountain names, official languages and geographical names on federal government maps, and abbreviations and symbols for the names of the provinces and territories. Information on how to propose a name or a name change is made available, and places in each province where to inquire about policies and principles on naming. Anyone working in placenames should obtain a copy of this publication.

The Annual Report (this one the 11th) of the Québec Commision de toponymie always contains valuable and sometimes fascinating information, such as its organization, the number of employees and their duties (all rather detailed), ongoing research (the illustrated dictionary of placenames in Québec, new geographical terminology, the toponymic guide for Québec, and several others), number of name decisions (9,757 in 1988–89), a list of commemorative designations (new names), and other descriptions and notices of activities. It too is a good document for reference and for understanding and learning about the work in onomastics taking place in Québec.

Low Bridges and High Water on the New York State Barge Canal. By Charles T. O'Malley. Diamond Mohawk Publishing, P. O. Box 526, Ellentown, FL 34222. 1991. Pp. vii + 281. Paper, $19.95.

In 1915, the Erie Canal became the New York State Barge Canal. The period of *Low Bridges* covers approximately from then to 1984, when the tonnage for barging fell to almost nothing, with 1955 being the peak year when more than five million tons were carried along the canal system. O'Malley has written an excellent history of this period, but my purpose here is to call attention the many names of tug boats, barges, and other types of shipping that he brings together in his narrative. Tugs were usually named for family members of a company: The tug *John E* (four by number) was named for John E. Matton, barge builder. The first one by the name was sold to the Navy and renamed *Tomaque*, for a Delaware Chief of the Unalachtigo tribe during the eighteenth century. Navy tugs were given American Indian Names. This tug was later sold to the Boston Tow Boat Company and renamed *Athena*, then renamed the *James A. Harper*, registered out of Baltimore. O'Malley works through many of the names this way.

Cargill, Inc., agricultural processing and marketing company, used blends for names of their boats: *Carswego* (Cargill + Oswego), *Carnectady* (Schenectady), and *Carbany* (Albany).

Kelsie B. Harder
State University of New York College at Potsdam

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