

Names Forum

Several problems in previous issues of *Names* have come to my attention, and I wish to offer corrections or explanations.

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A major typographical error appears in the title of Mark Thomas' article on Keats' "Lamia" in *Names* 37.1 (March 1989): 73. "Wither Fled Lamia?" should have read "Whither Fled Lamia?"

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Last-minute corrections to a series of odd-numbered pages in the issue just prior to the one you are holding led to the loss of some and the repetition of other material in Edwin D. Lawson's "Most Common Jewish First Names in Israel," *Names* 39.2 (June 1991): 103-24. The problem first appears at the top of page 116, where a line from the previous page is repeated, pushing two lines off the bottom of page 117. Once this process started, it continued, gaining an extra line each time, to the end of the article. Unfortunately, the error was not detected until all copies of the journal had been printed and mailed out.

Here is what is missing at the bottom of each page:

116 B. Hebrew Non-Bible Names

118 [Some were ac-]quired in the Diaspora from non-Jewish sources; others have been derived from Hebrew, especially since the formation of the State.

120 *Herman* (from German "warrior"). M89.

*Kurt* (short from of German *Konrad* 'bold counselor'). M90.

*Leo* (from Latin "Lion," kinnui for *Judah*). M37.

122 [It is obvious that for both men and women the Bible has been a] powerful force in the naming process. People in Israel cannot help but be reminded of the leaders and ideals of the culture, and of the important role that theophoric names play, especially for men. Besides the influence of the Bible names, [the non-Bible names are also important.]

124 *Nothing missing*

Problems in alignment also occurred, but these do not seriously hamper the text and need not be pointed out.

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A different kind of problem came to my attention when the March 1991 issue appeared. One of our colleagues in Canada pointed out that Robert E. Ford's "Toponymic Generics, Environment, and Culture History in Pre-Independence Belize," *Names* 39.1 (March 1991): 1-26, covers much of the same material and reaches similar conclusions to John Everitt's "Toponymy as a Tool for the Culture Historian: The Case of Belize, Central America," *Onomastica Canadiana* 69.1 (June 1987): 1-17. I must take responsibility for not being familiar enough with the specific contents of our sister journal to have noticed this repetition, and on behalf of the Board of Editors, Professor Ford, and myself, I apologize to Professor Everitt and to the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, publisher of *Onomastica Canadiana*. Professor Ford responded quickly to my letter informing him of this problem; following is an abridgment of his explanation.

#### Response by Robert E. Ford

I am very sorry for this unfortunate but completely innocent oversight. It appears that it largely occurred due to an unusual train of events in timing. I had no intention of slighting Professor Everitt's work. That our conclusions should have come out similarly is in my mind a confirmation of the essential validity of our interpretation of Belize placename development.

As I look back on the research process leading up to my article's publication, I see where the oversight was made. The research was initially carried out in 1973-74 and presented as a much larger seminar paper while I was in graduate school in Geography at the University of California, Riverside. I had a strong interest in Belize history due to having spent several of my teen years living there; my parents lived there, in addition, throughout the 1970s and early 1980s; I visited them at least twice during the late 1970s.

In 1975-78 I carried out doctoral research in West Africa (completing my dissertation in 1982). In 1978-82 I taught at Loma Linda University, my responsibilities primarily in African and Latin American rural development rather than cultural history.

In 1983 I went to Rwanda, in Central Africa, where I remained until August 1987. Just prior to my return the U.S., I took out my work on Belize and wrote up the article. In August 1987, finding myself back in American academia, at Utah State University, Logan, I ran a computerized bibliographic search on Belize. That I missed Dr. Everitt's article is understandable, though not excusable. It takes time for journal references to feed into computer-search databases, and many libraries do not get journals until several months after their release.

In early 1988 I submitted the article to the *Geographical Review* (American Geographical Society); they held it for some time before returning it with the recommendation that it be submitted to a more "specialized journal," for example, *Names*. In late 1988 or early 1989 I submitted it without change to *Names*, whose editor was in Germany. It eventually went through the appropriate review and was considered favorably, but was "put on hold" for over a year and a half due to a backlog of articles waiting to be published, as well as to its length; the editor was waiting for a time that this longer article could best fit into the publication limitations of the journal. In 1990 he contacted me again about making some editorial changes and redoing the maps to fit the journal's specifications. These were done as requested.

If there is a culprit in this incident, it would seem to be purely the lag of publication review and release that is a perennial problem in scientific research. This problem is particularly serious for small societies like those in onomastic research, and I suppose to a degree unavoidable, given the financial and other constraints faced by small journals like *Names*. I cannot fault *Names* whatsoever in this incident; the editor worked very closely with me, was very professional and helpful. He as well as I, I'm sure, would never intentionally slight another person's research in this area.

In hindsight I see that I should have carried out a further literature search in 1990 before the article was finally released. I suppose that the relative obscurity of the subject and the country lulled me into not doing that.

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

This matter dramatizes the problem of the scattered nature of the discipline of onomastics, where no central source can be consulted to find out what has been done or is being done in the field. For North American placenames we have the series of bibliographies originated by Pauline Seely and Richard B. Sealock and continued most recently by Margaret S. Powell and Stephen D. Powell, "Bibliography of Placename Literature, United States and Canada, 1980-1988." *Names* 38.1-2 (March-June 1990): 49-141. And for personal names we have Edwin D. Lawson's *Personal Names and Naming: An Annotated Bibliography* (Westport, CT: Greenwood P, 1987). Professor Lawson has also been assembling information on journals that publish onomastic articles. A preliminary report appears in *Proceedings of the XVIIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences*, ed. Eeva Maria Närhi (2 vols., Helsinki: U of Helsinki, 1990, 2: 95-102), and a follow-up is scheduled to appear soon in the journal *Serials Librarian*.

I encourage readers who have ideas on how we as onomasts can address this problem in other ways to write to me.

The Editor