Book Reviews

A Dictionary of First Names. By Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges. Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, England. 1990. Available in the U. S. from Oxford University Press, 2002 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513. Pp. xxxvi + 443. Cloth, $29.95.

Coming hard upon *A Dictionary of Surnames* (1988), the text on first names can serve as a complement to the really outstanding work Hanks and Hodges did in the earlier publication. Despite some strictures by a few reviewers, their work on surnames is literally the best we have, a dictionary that is scholarly, dependable, and, in the best sense of its meaning, authoritative. No less is expected of their work on first names.

First, the dictionaries are quite different in both format and method of approach. Format is ultimately of no great consequence, but the expectations were that the two would be companion texts, certainly in size. The surname text is oversized, 7 1/2 x 10, while *First Names* is 5 1/2 x 8 3/4. The anticipation of having companion texts in shelving aesthetics disappeared. Next, first names are not approached with the same rigor of scholarship that was used for surnames. This does not mean that Hanks and Hodges have lessened in some manner the content of their entries, for, once and for all, this too is the best dictionary we have on first names. It is just my sense that this text does not achieve the standards set by the surname dictionary.

And good reasons exist for that. Surnames, or what we define as surnames, have a long linguistic history, indeed among the first vocabulary items of which we have records. Hence, written sources are available for tracing of etymologies, linguistic changes, and language forms. Because of the nature of the surname, usually a name derived from common vocabulary (placename, occupation, physical feature, and other minor categories), its derivation is relatively easy to describe through application of long-standing methods of lexicographical research. Furthermore, many more surnames exist than do first names, the reservoir of the latter being somewhat limited by the widespread usage of only a few now standard ones, although slight changes occur in fashions from year to year. Surnames, however, derive from a wider base of sources; and, for one reason or another, some of the sources, such as placenames, do not seem to be acceptable as first names,

although they occasionally do occur, but somehow *Shuttleworth Smith* is onomastically incongruous, as would be *Hill Martin*.

Considerable overlap occurs in the two volumes, since many surnames have crossed the line between them and first names, still retaining usage in both. In recent years (1930 to the present), names in English for females have crossed that transparent boundary, claiming such names as *Kimberly, Leslie, Meredith, Shirley, Beverly, Kelly, Stacy, Kelsey* (placename), *Whitney*, and others. A comparison of some of the overlapping entries can be enlightening as to method and content, as well as to the presence of some problems. Since *Kelsey* has short but different entries in each text, it can be used without taking unduly too much space to illustrate:

From *Surnames*:

> **Kelsey** English: habitation name from a place in Lincs., so called from the gen. case of the OE personal name **Cēnel* (a deriv. of cpd names with the first element *cēne* fierce, brave; cf. KEEN) + OE *ēg* island, low-lying land.

From *First Names*:

> **Kelsey** (m., f.) English: transferred use of the surname, which is derived from the Old English masculine personal name *Cēolsige*, composed of the elements *cēol* ship + *sige* victory.
> Variant: **Kelsie**

Some points are apparent: the etymologies are different, which means that two interpretations are possible, but only if the two texts are compared. The etymology of the surname has been the acceptable one, but has a problem, especially the insertion of the *s*. In the first-name etymology, the form of the source name does lead directly to the modern form *Kelsey* and should be accepted as the etymology. Also, *Kelsie*, listed as a first name variant, has derivations different from Kelsey, but from my personal knowledge the two have become confused, a confusion which, I suppose, through usage will make *Kelsie* an actual variant, but so far as I know in the United States *Kelsie* is not a variant of *Kelsey*.

I suggest that other duplicates be examined for their differences: *Kelly, Kennedy* (which probably does not belong in the text on first names), *Henry, Nelson, Neil, Wallace*, or any other duplicate. Generally, but not always, the entries in *Surnames* are more fully glossed, as would seem necessary, than in *First Names*, and in instances the information is different and contradictory. Some of the problems could have been avoided by making the texts complementary, as users will make them anyway.

Perhaps the comparison here can be ended by claiming that surnames are probably far more interesting to the scholar in onomastics than are first names. But the latter do have their presence, and here are a few hundred pages of such moments. Hanks and Hodges begin with a definition of first name: "first of a sequence of one or more given names borne by an individual" (vii). Given names following first names generally have a wider range of sources, such as, in English, the surname of the mother, or some other personal name of significance but not commonly recognized as a first name, although if the usage becomes common as a first name, then it becomes just that.

The introduction is standard, providing information on the scope of the work, notice of the set of conventional given names, relationship between names and vocabulary items, biblical names, saints' names, names of classical antiquity, local cults and patron saints, religious denominations, royal and aristocratic names, the Celtic tradition, influence of the arts (literature, film, popular culture), surnames and given names, masculine and feminine, and naming practices in different cultures. The coverage is ample and in two instances special, as in the supplements, "Common Names in the Arab World" (351–86), by Mona Baker, and "Common Names of the Indian Subcontinent" (387–443), by Ramesh Krishnamurthy.

The 7,000 or so entries are no doubt as comprehensive as any first-name text will ever be, unless naming habits change drastically, or unless someone someday figures out a way to record all first names in all countries. The entries also contain variants from European languages, making the total names probably around 25,000, but I am not counting, just guessing. The coverage is indeed ample, and so far I have found every name that I have looked for. The authors do list some variants, such as short forms and pet forms, as main entries, some examples being **Rich, Richie, Wally, Dott,** and **Josh,** which can be found as "pure" first names, that is, serving as regular first names without consciousness of being forms of other "distinct" names. Names from other languages will be listed as from that language: **Zbigniew** (Polish), **Sverre** (Norwegian),**Gennadi** (Russian). They do, however, remain with an acceptable English form for the entries, placing the names of other languages as variants. Cognates are listed under an English name and also listed again separately; see **Zachary** and its Scottish cognate **Sachairi,** entries referenced to each other.

Entries are glossed for gender, language origin, etymology, special commentary if needed, variants, cognates, and pet forms. Lengths of entries vary according to the amount of special commentary (usually historical); for instance, **Dwight** uses thirteen lines, many of them devoted

to the influence of Dwight D. Eisenhower on the relatively common use of the name in the United States. **Dustin**, formerly an obscure name, is given eleven lines, nearly half of them devoted to the influence of Dustin Hoffman on present-day use. **Dunya** (f.), a Russian name, on the other hand, has only three lines. Decisions as to the amount of information to include had to be decided subjectively, but names with a long history obviously will receive more attention than ones of recent vintage: **George** received forty-four lines, twenty-five of them historical, with no mention of George Washington but several lines devoted to St. George's slaying of the dragon, "a medieval Italian invention." Some of the entries, then, are short, sharply written, encyclopedic essays.

The bibliography is short, two pages, but covers the major works on personal names. Close and careful use was made of E. G. Withycombe, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names*, a major text on the etymology and history of some of the more popular given names in English. Charlotte M. Yonge's *History of Christian Names* is not listed, although other texts have certainly been strongly influenced by her work, a very early one (1884) in the onomastic study. And Richard Woods' *Hispanic First Names* was published in Greenwood, Connecticut, not Chicago, Illinois.

Like all good dictionaries should be, this one is ready-made for dipping into. For anyone attracted to name origins and "meanings," the dictionary is absolutely essential, not only as a reference but also for its information, with the added value of enjoyment. No other dictionary of names has such an enlightening as the one found in the entry **Dottie**: "The form **Dotty** is also used, and its popularity does not seem to have been adversely affected by the fact that it coincides in form with the slang word meaning 'crazy.' " Under the entry **Kermit** is a revealing item: "The name was borne by a son of the American president Theodore Roosevelt, and more recently by a frog puppet on Jim Henson's *Muppet* Show." And note the additional information following under **Kirk**: "Recent use has probably been influenced to some extent by the film actor Kirk Douglas, who was born in 1916 as Issur Danielovich Demsky." And this can go on and on. For all this and more, those studying personal names owe Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges gratitude and sincere thanks for a major and permanent reference work.

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Organic Chemistry: The Name Game: Modern Coined Terms and Their Origins. By Alex Nickon and Ernest F. Silversmith. Pergamon Press, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523. 1987. Pp. xii + 347. Cloth, $75.00; Paper, $29.50.

Carbon is a remarkable element. Not only can it bond with the majority of its fellow elements, it also can form relationships of varying degrees of intimacy among atoms of its own kind to make chains, dendrites, rings, networks, and frameworks of atoms. More than a million of these simple to complex organic (carbon-based) compounds have been identified, isolated, or synthesized. And they all have names.

The naming of synthetic organic compounds is the thread running through *The Name Game*, tying together a loose collection of descriptions of organic compounds and anecdotes about chemists and their activities. In searching out the stories behind chemical names, Nickon and Silversmith found it necessary to look beyond the published literature, interviewing the name-givers themselves. The result is a fascinating look at the human side of the science of organic chemistry: the creativity involved in designing, synthesizing, and lovingly naming a new molecule, the dynamics of relationships among chemists working together in the lab, the antics at conferences, and the imaginative methods of getting findings into print. The names discussed in the book are primarily those coined recently, whose inventors were still available for questioning. The origins of some classical organic names are given in an appendix.

The names of most organic molecules are suggested by the molecule's shape as portrayed in a diagram or model. The following example is typical of the book's flavor:

> This 3:5:3 [carbon] sandwich deserved christening, so Dr. Goldstein beseeched suggestions from colleagues and friends. No one quite hit the mark, but daughter Deborah (then aged 12) came close one evening at the Goldstein dinner table. She piped up, "Why don't you name it after the Japanese haiku, a verse written in three lines with three syllables in the first, five in the second, and three in the third?" Papa Goldstein's mind flashed: haikuene! However, a tribunal of smiling Japanese co-workers in his research group shook their heads disapprovingly. A haiku has five, seven, and five! Downcast, Professor Goldstein likely had words with Deborah about her numerology. But, finally he decided that the peculiar topography of their proposed $C_{11}H_{11}$ cation bore a resemblance—however farfetched—to an armillary sphere, used by astronomers since ancient times to depict the celestial sphere. Hence, he came up with "armilenyl ion"... (45)

At the end of the story, we find that the molecule was discovered not to have the sandwich structure that had inspired all of this onomastic energy.

Other molecules are named after people, places, colors, chemical behavior, or other features not related to shapes.

Molecules' names are not the only names discussed in *The Name Game*. Nickon and Silversmith have chapters devoted to the names of chemical reactions and their mechanisms, and to chemical acronyms (particularly those used in spectroscopy—so important to the identification and characterization of organic compounds). Most fun of all, they also discuss names of the scientists who appear as authors of publications:

> In 1975, Professor Jack H. Hetherington (Michigan State University) wrote a theoretical paper on his own and was about to send it to *Physical Review Letters*. But a colleague warned that the manuscript would be returned because of an editor's rule that words like "we" and "our" should not be used in a publication with only one author. Dr. Hetherington did not relish revising and retyping the whole text, so, instead, he simply added a co-author: his Siamese cat Chester (sired by Willard). And for legitimacy, he tacked on two more initials, FD (from *Felix domesticus*), to create "F. D. C. Willard." The Hetherington-Willard article was duly published; and Mrs. Hetherington went on sleeping with both authors. (6)

The book was obviously written by chemists for chemists. Discussion about the name of a compound is always placed in the context of that compound's synthesis, structure, and chemical behavior. Certainly, no organic chemistry professor should be without a copy of *The Name Game*. There is enough good stuff in there to spice up every lecture in every organic chemistry course in the college curriculum.

The book is technical to the extent that a non-chemist would find it difficult reading. However, the main problem for such a reader, and, I believe, the major flaw in the book, is that no explanation is given for the formal methods by which organic compounds are named. We are not told the significance of "systematic" as opposed to "trivial" names or of the role of IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) or the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Chemical Society in naming organic compounds.

Nevertheless, a non-chemist willing to skim over the technical parts can find plenty to enjoy. In addition to being crammed with onomastic anecdotes, the book is beautifully illustrated by Leanne M. Nickon, and the authors never miss a chance at a pun.

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The Poolbeg Book of Irish Placenames. By Sean McMahon. Poolbeg Press, Knocksedan House, Swords, County Dublin, Ireland. 1990. Pp. 113. Paper, IR£3.99.

This slim volume is aimed at the popular market. The blurb on the back cover does little to inspire confidence in the reliability of the contents, since it asserts that *Gleann Beithe* (Glenbeigh, County Kerry) means "the glen of the beech trees," but *beith* means "birch." The work is arranged in three columns. The first consists of county-by-county lists of placenames in their anglicized forms. A second column sets out the Irish version of each name, while a third purports to "translate" the name into English. The lists are presumably intended to cover the principal settlements in each county. Yet the County Galway section omits some thirty places named in *Ainmneacha Gaeilge na mBailte Poist* (the official listing of postal addresses) including such major villages as Headford, Clonbur, Eyrecourt, Mount Bellew, Peterswell, Tynagh, and the large Galway suburb of Salthill. Similarly the Fermanagh section fails to cover Garrison, Irvinestown, Newtownbutler, and Thompson's Bridge, while other less important settlements are included. It is difficult to follow the rationale of these omissions.

For the most part the Irish versions of the names follow those given in *Ainmneacha Gaeilge na mBailte Poist*, so that little fault can be found with them, except in a few instances such as Annagry (County Donegal) where *Áth na gCoire* is substituted for the official Irish version, *Anagaire*. Accents have gone astray in some cases e.g. *Cill Íomair* is wrongly represented as *Cill Iomair* (17) while a few of the Irish versions are misspelled, e.g. *Inis Mean* (99) instead of *Inis Meáin*, *Cill Mhic Neanain* (99) instead of *Cill Mhic Réanáin*.

However, it is the third column which gives serious cause for concern. The author is intent on "translating" all the names even though any such attempt is premature in the present state of Irish toponymic study. To be fair, he does indicate in some instances that his interpretations are open to doubt. Unfortunately, many others are equally suspect. Many of the "translations" appear to have been composed with the aid of a dictionary, and some show a disregard for the nature and structure of the original language. The inclusion or omission of the definite article seems to be a mere matter of whim: thus *An Gleann Garbh* (Glengarriff) becomes "Rough Glen" (65) whereas *An Inis* (Inch) is rendered "the island" (99), *An Longfort* (Longford) becomes "Fortress" (41) while *An Rinn* (Ring) ends up as "The Roadland" (81). There is also a marked lack of consistency in the rendering of the Irish genitive case: *Cluain na Slí* (Clonaslee) is translated as "The meadow of the Road" (39), *Droichead Átha* (Drogheda) as "Fordbridge" (43), *Cill Rónáin* (Kilronan) as "Church of St. Ronan" (17), *Mainistir Bhuithe*

(Monasterboice) as "St Buithin's monastery" (43). Why should *Tigh Damhnata* (Tydavnet) become "St. Davnet's Church" (109) whereas *Cill Chonaill* becomes "Church of St. Conall" (17)? The interpretations given for *Baile Ghobhair* (49), *Baile Ui Chornáin* (102), *Cor an Dola* (16), and for numerous other names are open to question. In any case *Tigh* and *Cill* are not identical in meaning. *Líonán* (Leenane) should be translated as "submerged reef" or as "shallow sea-bottom" not as "tide-fill" (17). Proofreading has been slipshod. "Huch's recess" (64) should read "Hugh's recess"; "the alder" (65) should be "the alders." *Kilchreest* should precede *Kilcolgan*, not follow *Kilconnell* (17). In some instance scant attention is paid to punctuation: "prisoners island" (65) should read "prisoners' island." The list of key elements is adequate if not very original.

The best part of the work is the introduction. It points the reader in some of the right directions. It does draw attention to the pioneering work of Patrick Weston Joyce, though it does not emphasize sufficiently that modern scholarship has uncovered many defects in Joyce's work. The reference to the late Deirdre Flanagan—one of Ireland's greatest toponymic scholars—is commendable, but the reader is given little guidance as to where her writing may be found.

What detracts gravely from the value of the book is the whole underlying philosophy. The study of Irish placenames is not a matter for the "do-it-yourself" enthusiast: the pitfalls are too numerous, the subject matter too complex, the degree of linguistic corruption too intense, for such an approach to be acceptable. It is grossly unfair to try to persuade the ordinary reader that he can successfully interpret most Irish toponyms. The suggestion that signposts will help one to discover the Irish version of a name is so outrageous as to be laughable. The kindest remark that can be made about this volume is that it is not a work for the serious student.

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Pays et capitales du monde [*Countries and Capitals of the World*]. Commission de toponymie. Institut Géographique National, 2 Avenue Pasteur, P.P. 68, F-94160 Saint-Mandé, France. 1989–1991. Brochures. Price not available.

As the everyday use of international communications of all kinds becomes ever more widespread, the name standardization work carried

out by the various sections of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names becomes more and more important. To participate officially in this process, France has called on the wide-ranging knowledge and expertise of the specialists belonging to its Institut Géographique National – Sylvie Lejeune, François Nédélec, and Claude Perrichet. The stage-by-stage publication and revision of their work takes the form not of gazetteers but of closely annotated lists of names, classified by continents or according to type of entity, in the form of a series of brochures and loose-leaf folders collectively entitled *Pays et capitales du monde*. For purposes of this review I shall consider three listings: *Divisions administratives: Pays d'Amérique* (issued January 1989), *Liste des exonymes français d'Europe* (October 1990), and *Divisions administratives: Pays d'Asie (1^e Tranche)* (January–March 1991: this "first section" is limited to the countries of the Middle East).

As their title suggests, the *Divisions administratives* compilations provide a listing of the provinces, districts, or states of each country (respecting, in this regard, the variations in nomenclature and status of different administrative systems) and indicate, for both the divisions themselves and the capital of each, names in both French and local form(s). Each item is numbered for reference purposes, serving in the first place as a key to the numerous – and often detailed – footnotes that supply additional information about earlier or alternative names, origins, etc. (Some of the footnotes are fairly long and include a wider range of facts, e.g., the dates of discovery and administrative status of Alaska and the Galapagos, along with the names of major islands within these territories.) Where non-roman alphabets or other writing systems are in use, romanization follows recognized standards, including on occasion (as for transliteration from Arabic) considerable use of diacritics.

In the vast majority of cases, whether retaining locally-used orthography or transliterated, the "French" spellings are identical with the local forms indicated. But there are some major types of exception that can be distinguished:

(1) Exonyms (i.e., non-local forms) long established in French-language usage are retained. Thus, the capital of Syria, transliterated in its local form as *Dimashq* (English exonym *Damascus*), is known as *Damas* in French usage. Likewise, *Beiroût* (Lebanon [English exonym *Beirut*]) is recognized as *Beyrouth*. Not raising issues of transliteration, *Trabzon* (Turkey) appears as *Trébizonde* and *Nevis* (St. Christopher and Nevis) as *Niévès*, an orthographic adaptation of the Spanish name. French exonymic forms are sparse for places in the United States. However, a French final unstressed or "mute" *e* replaces the *-a* of *California, Carolina, Florida,*

Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and *Virginia*, though not that of other state names such as *Montana, Nevada*, and *Nebraska*; otherwise, apart from *Géorgie (la)* and *Nouveau-Mexique (le)* for *Georgia* and *New Mexico*, U.S. state names are unchanged in spelling: *Hawaii* is preferred in the IGN list to the alternative French spelling *Hawaï*.

(2) Certain linguistically transparent terms, such as cardinal points and definite articles, are translated: thus *Ash Sharqīyah, Al Janūbīyah,* and *Ad Dakhilīyah* in Oman become *l'Est, le Sud, l'Intérieur*, just as *North Dakota* and *South Dakota* become *le Dakota du Nord* and *le Dakota du Sud, Baja California Norte* (Mexico) becomes *Californie du Nord (la Basse-)* and *Long Island* (in the Bahamas) becomes *Longue (l'Île)*. However, for reasons that are not clear, this principle is not generally extended to names of Spanish or Portuguese origin: *Norte de Santander* (Colombia) and (apart from the addition of a definite article) *Rio Grande do Norte* (Brazil) remain unchanged, while only the article changes from *el Chaco* (Argentine) to *Chaco (le)* and from *el Cerro Largo* (Uruguay) to *Cerro Largo (le)*. (It will be noted that the article and certain generics are regularly postponed in the French forms, no doubt to ensure clarity in alphabetized indices.)

(3) In a moderate number of cases, the forms resulting from transliteration are simplified in spelling, so that application of normal conventions of French orthography will more readily yield a recognizable approximation to the local pronunciation, as in cases of the Syrian *Dayr az Zawr* and *As Suwaydā'* adapted to *Deïr ez Zôr* and *Souweïdâ (Es)*.

Practically without exception, the names included in the section on Turkey (where use of the roman alphabet has been standard since 1928) are carried over without modification into French usage. A brief outline of the Turkish spelling system is included in the introduction to this section, along with strictly geographical and toponymic information, to assist the reader in approximating the local pronunciation. For reasons that are part of modern political history, two sets of administrative names exist in Cyprus and in Israel. In the first case, the standardized French forms quite closely parallel the Greek names; the second is resolved by a combination of the first and second principles exemplified above.

The relatively small number of separate French forms included in these listings shows evidence of the trend, recommended by resolutions of recent United Nations conferences on geographical names, towards universal use of endonyms (locally-used forms) in preference to exonyms (foreign forms). (It is easier to legislate about the spelling of proper names than about their pronunciation, although at least some of the

world's broadcasting systems now also show increasing evidence of seeking to respect local pronunciations.)

For reasons that are as much historical as geographical, Europe is a case apart. The use of exonyms for the names of numerous places in other European countries is firmly established in everyday French usage, as in the usage of other European languages. Many of these exonymic forms have evolved over the centuries, according to the phonetic structures of the languages in which they are used, independently of the local forms, yielding results like *Gênes* and *Trèves* alongside the Italian *Genova* and German *Trier*. (This listing seeks to indicate "the original form when it is known"—a controversial feature to the extent that several of the forms included, like *Mediolanum, Toletum*, and *Olisippo*, for *Milan, Toledo*, and *Lisbon*, are Latinizations rather than precise representations of the original pre-Latin names.) The IGN's list of French exonyms in Europe extends to five large pages of city names and twenty-two pages of names of other geographical features—regions, mountains, rivers, islands, etc. Mainly because of difficulties presented in transliteration, the Soviet Union accounts for almost half of this latter section. Italy and Greece are the countries otherwise most extensively represented: the enduring influence of classical tradition remains strongly apparent.

Given the volume of travel today between European countries, and in view of current international policies in naming, we may wonder how much longer several of the French exonymic forms will survive. Where the United Kingdom is concerned, I suspect that *Londres, Tamise*, and *les Îles Anglo-Normandes* (for *London, Thames*, and the *Channel Islands*) will remain in use long after *Cantorbéry, Lancastre* and *la Chaussée des Geants* have yielded to international use of the endonyms *Canterbury, Lancaster*, and *the Giant's Causeway*. Already, the IGN lists neither the traditional alternative *Douvres* (for *Dover*) nor the spelling *Guernesey* (for *Guernsey*). Will the twenty-first century continue to use *Barcelone, Coblence*, and *Saint-Marin*, rather than *Barcelona, Koblenz*, and *San Marino*?

Where more than one language tradition in a given region intersects with the criteria adopted to determine official usage, the line between exonymy and endonymy easily becomes obscured and anomalies can occur. In the Channel Islands, the ancient local dialects belong to Norman French; but these islands form part of the United Kingdom, where English alone is official, and so *Alderney* and *Sark* are considered to be endonyms, with *Aurigny* and *Sercq* relegated to the status of exonyms. Conversely, since French is an official language in Switzerland, Belgium, and Luxembourg, the criteria adopted exclude these countries from the IGN's listing

under review, although the recognized French variants of many names in Belgium and Switzerland are not actually local forms. The section on Italy does, however, allow inclusion of the mountain, actually on the Swiss-Italian boundary, familiar to generations of English- speaking visitors to Switzerland by the name, adopted from German, of *the Matterhorn*: it is to be sought under its French name, *Cervin (le Mont)*, corresponding to Italian *il Cervino*.

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Dictionnaire toponymique des communes du Béarn. By Michel Grosclaude. Escòla Gaston Febus, Pau, France. Order from Association Per Noste, Maison Crestia, Route de Pau, F-64300 Orthez, France. 1991. Pp. 416. Paper, 145 French francs.

The historical study of place names in France, as in other long- settled countries, is inseparable from that of the multitude of dialect variations that exist in all regions. The southwestern part of France, known most generally as Gascony (*Gascogne*) or Aquitania (*Aquitaine*), has received an intensive dialectological scrutiny and analysis in the *Atlas linguistique et ethnographique de la Gascogne* of Jean Séguy, Xavier Ravier, and Jacques Allières (6 volumes, Paris: C.N.R.S., 1965–74). In less detail, its language is also described in Gernard Rohlfs' excellent general survey *Le Gascon, études de dialectologie pyrénéenne* (3rd edition, Pau, 1977), and a thorough account of its lexicon is available in Simin Palay's *Dictionnaire du Béarnais et du Gascon Modernes (Bassin Aquitain)* (Paris: C.N.R.S., 1961). The historical dimensions of Gascon remain relatively unexplored, although six fascicles have so far appeared of Kurt Baldinger's *Dictionnaire onomasiologique de l'ancien gascon* (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1975–). And until very recently information about the toponymy of all areas of Gascony and the Pyrenees in general—as included, in particular, in the *Dictionnaire étymologique des noms de lieux en France* of Albert Dauzat and Charles Rostaing (Paris: Larousse, 1963)—has been notoriously inaccurate or incomplete.

That situation is rapidly changing for the better. The first extensive compilation of accurate information on Pyrenean placenames has been assembled as a data base by Robert Aymard (with interim book-form publication as *Toponymie Pyrénéenne* [Uzos, 1988]). Now, for part of the

Southwest, Michel Grosclaude provides us with a well-documented account of nearly 500 names of *communes* (i.e., territorial divisions at the lowest level of the administrative hierarchy, most of which take their names from villages that form their centers).

Béarn is an ancient semi-independent province, just south of Gascony proper, which has formed part of France since 1620 and whose borders have varied at different stages in its history. For purposes of Grosclaude's work, it corresponds to the major part of the post-Revolutionary administrative département of Pyrénées-Atlantiques (known as Basses-Pyrénées until 1969). Grosclaude (18–19) has excluded both the Basque-speaking areas to the extreme southwest and Bigorre to the east.

In view of common misinformation about the methodology and conclusions of onomastic studies, he first presents (12–29) a brief glossary of terminology and a down-to-earth outline of what serious toponymy is, summarizing its methodology, its source documentation, and the linguistic strata represented in the Southwest. Somewhat more controversially, M. Grosclaude then points out ways in which official French nomenclature distorts certain of the region's placenames, and he specifies (29–33) standards for the Bearnese orthography which he advocates for these placenames.

The main body of the work is made up of 485 *fiches*, each dealing with one name. Following the official form (used as heading), we find early spellings (with precise indication of sources and not limited to forms included in Paul Raymond's *Dictionnaire topographique du département de Basses-Pyrénées* of 1863), the local pronunciation, indications regarding any previous hypotheses about the name and its origins, discussion of the name's history (ranging from a single line to half a page), the conclusion reached—for each particular name—in view of the foregoing (here we must note Grosclaude's admirable honesty concerning the degree of doubt or certainty he considers appropriate to each particular case), and finally the "restored" Bearnese spelling.

Some names remain obscure or have etymologies that are to be regarded as no more than "probable," and inevitably there will be alternative views on a considerable number of the finer points in the discussion and conclusions. I do not intend here to join discussion about linguistic details that will most likely be unfamiliar to readers of *Names*. I do wish, however, to stress that sound onomastic good sense underlies the way in which Grosclaude's arguments are reached: he rejects semantically improbable prototypes (see, for instance, his comments on *Sèdze*), he is familiar with use of relevant terms in medieval Latin (*Bésingrand*), he critically assesses early forms (*Bonnut*), he respects local pronunciation (*Bédeille*) and regional features in phonetic development (*Jurançon*), and

so on. Thus, when the etymology of a name still remains unclear, this volume does, at the very least, point to factors that must be taken into account in searching further.

The alphabetical index and table of contents at the end of the volume are preceded by series of twenty-two *annexes* or appendices (372–403) and a brief conclusion. The first group of the *annexes* brings together consideration of suffixes that appear in a large number of the region's names. Then comes examination of some recurrent roots found especially in river and mountain names, and expansion on names that require fuller discussion than would have been appropriate within the structure of Grosclaude's *fiches*. His final word (405–06) stresses the need for objectivity in approaching the names of an area in which generations of the half-learnèd have tended too often only to see the reflections of their dreams and preconceptions. The history to which the placenames of Béarn bear witness, Michel Grosclaude concludes, apparently saw far fewer conflicts between rival populations than is commonly believed.

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Guide toponymique du Québec [*Toponymic Guide to Quebec*]. 2^{e} édition révisée et enrichie. Commission de toponymie du Québec. Les Publications du Québec, 1279 boulevard Charles Ouest, Québec, Québec, G1N 4K7, Canada. 1990. Pp. xi + 178. Paper, CDN$24.95.

Applying to its own province the guiding principles recommended by successive United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the *Commission de toponymie du Québec* here presents the latest version of the detailed guidelines it applies in the administration, recording, and standardization of placenames.

There are two sides to the Commission's task. On the one hand, practical considerations, such as directions for emergency services or the mail, require an adequate network of names. On the other, this naming system itself should, ideally, be imaginative and express the genius of the culture that created it.

Recording and standardization are important matters in any part of a country like Canada, where much of the name inventory has been compiled relatively recently. For example, the number of officialized toponyms in Quebec climbed from 27,997 in 1969 to 143,705 in 1989 (and 149,470 in 1991). A major part of the Commission's work attends to fine detail, listing

accurately, standardizing forms, and setting guidelines for new (or newly officialized) names.

Yet the underlying vision is wide: "to name a place is to breathe a soul into it, to confer upon it, in some way, a touch of eternity" (xi). The Commission seeks to inspire inventive naming choices among Quebeckers—and not only within the majority French-speaking population, as many other ethnic groups also form important parts of the wider community. Indeed, this *Guide* contains a new list of Amerindian and Inuit communities, because special efforts are being made to set down, transmit, or—in some cases—restore names belonging to these traditions. Although concern for the French language remains the primary focus of the *Commission de toponymie*, distinctive rather than commonplace choices, whatever language group they may reflect, are promoted. So, for example, *Grand Escalier de la Nutillilik* (for rapids resembling a great stairway) and *Rivière Qui-Mène-du-Train* (for a noisy river) are praised for using language imaginatively to create vivid images.

The *Guide toponymique du Québec* is, of course, an official document first and foremost. In order to implement its mandate, the Commission possesses legal powers. In publications and official signs, the accurate use of a name sanctioned by due legal procedure is required by law in Quebec. This ensures that a high standard of French can be seen in public places and learnt in school through atlases and textbooks. The *Guide* defines the extent of the Commission's jurisdiction and contains frequent references to laws and legal documents. However, it is also a reference work designed to serve the community, and, as such, it offers abundant guidance on naming practices by providing many examples of how rules are to be applied. In this new edition, in particular, the section on commemorative naming has been expanded. The work also contains exact rules for spelling, punctuation, and the use of articles, as well as lists of permitted abbreviations, translations, and bilingual forms to be used in appropriate circumstances.

The fact that this new edition is almost twice the size of its predecessor (published in 1987) is mostly the result of a major expansion of chapters 8 and 10. Chapter 8 discusses "special cases" such as historical or border placenames, and now it also contains a lengthy, technical section on administrative naming. Due to its legal framework, it is rather repetitive in structure and gives minute details regarding standards of nomenclature for administrative divisions. It covers not only such familiar concepts as electoral areas, but also innovations such as biosphere reserves. Chapter 10, dealing with ethnic names, will doubtless possess more inherent interest for the names enthusiast who is not an administrator. Its precise, clear

presentation makes the reading of this chapter enjoyable as well as informative. Basically, the author takes varied name types—e.g., single- or multiple-word, Amerindian, English, or French—and suggests how suitable suffixes may be attached to form words designating the inhabitants of a place or the members of a group. Thus someone from Rawdon becomes a *Rawdonien*, while more subtle mechanisms determine that a person from Grand-Calumet or Grosse-Île is a *Calumettan* or a *Grosse-Îlois*. Even less obvious is why the inhabitants of Barraute end up as *Nataganois* or those of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield as *Campivallensiens*—unless, of course, one reads this chapter.

Other modifications in the 1990 edition include the streamlining of several statistical tables and the introduction of simple footnotes to explain categories of names. All reference tables have been updated. In several respects, the new *Guide* is visually different from the 1987 version. Column shading in table 13.3 has made it much easier to read. However, the typeface has been changed, and I find the new edition harder on the eye, especially as boldface material stands our very poorly. The overall impression, however, is positive, since the layout is clearer and the paragraphs are set off under headings by deep indentation. Material is usefully repeated to make sub-sections as self-contained as possible.

Admittedly, some of the Commission's choices might not suit everyone: the use of integrated alphabetical ordering, for example, separates *Saint* from *St*, and the uninitiated user of the *Guide* needs to read the rules to understand why *La Malbaie* is listed under *L*, *la Grande Rivière* under *G*, and *Petite rue des Récollets* under *R*. All in all, however, the new *Guide* is a precise, easily consulted, and highly informative sourcebook about current Quebec naming practices. Many of the overall principles which this *Guide* sets out could easily and advantageously be applied elsewhere and they are particularly relevant to regions where widespread development, settlement, and recording are still in progress.

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Dictionary of American Regional English. Volume 1 (Introduction and A–C). Edited by Frederic G. Cassidy. 1985. Pp. clvi + 903. Cloth, $66.00. Volume 2 (D–H). Edited by Frederic G. Cassidy and Joan Houston Hall. 1991. Pp. xv + 1,175. Cloth, $34.95 until Dec. 31, 1991, thereafter $70.00. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

While it would probably be inappropriate to devote a full review to the first two volumes of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (*DARE*) in a journal specializing in name studies, the publication, in September 1991, of the second volume (the first was published in 1985) nevertheless prompts a strong reminder of how extremely useful *DARE* is to the student of names, especially in North America. One only has to consult such toponymic generics as *bayou* (1:174a), *brook* (1:389b), *butte* (1:482b), *cove* (1:805b), *creek* (1:840b), *ground* (2:816b), *head* (2:934b), *hill* (2:1009a), *hole* (2:1054b), *hollow* (2:1060a), and *hummock* (2:1152a) to become aware of the riches *DARE* has to offer with regard to distribution (there are many maps), regional meaning, historical documentation, and so on. Frequently, as one would expect of a name-conscious editor like Frederic Cassidy, references to actual placename usage are included in the documentation of individual words. Similarly, the identification of many specifics and of their meaning will have become much easier because of the existence of *DARE*; in fact, the much greater range of lexical items which might become specifics in placenames makes the information contained in this dictionary even more valuable.

Naturally, researchers will so far have to be content with words beginning with *A* through *H*, but it seems to be not at all unreasonable to expect that this whole immense undertaking will be finished before the end of this century and—who knows—the general editor of the last volume may well still be Frederic Cassidy, although he has taken the precaution of engaging Joan Houston Hall as an associate editor. Name scholars are, among other things, also dialectologists of a sort and are therefore grateful for the vision, the enterprise, and the perseverance of those, including the field workers many of whom were ANS members, who have created this superb research tool. Once one has used it one becomes addicted to it, wondering how one has ever managed without it.

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Stednaveændringer og funktionalitet [*Placename Changes and Functionality*]. Navnestudier udgivet af Institut for Navneforskning nr. 33. By Vibeke Dalberg. C.A. Reitzel's Forlag, Copenhagen, Denmark. Pp. 273. Paper, DKr195.

Vibeke Dalberg is one of the most profound thinkers in Scandinavian

onomastics. Readers of this journal are already familiar with her contribu tion[1] to the 1985 special issue on "Theory about Names." In the bool under review, she tackles one of the trickiest features in the study o placenames, the ubiquitous phenomenon of name change which, despit its frequent occurrence, has seldom been treated systematically and ever less often comprehensively. What are the types of name changes w encounter and what are the forces and motivations behind them? No content with the considerable challenge offered by the investigation of thi complex of questions, Dalberg links it to another aspect of names whic is seldom explored rigorously and is frequently confused with categorie of meaning—functionality. In her book she is therefore largely in un charted territory where inappropriate terms are used to describe fuzz concepts and where other concepts have been ignored or overlooke because so far there has been no terminology for them at all.

As the whole corpus of names from which the general principles ar distilled is drawn from Danish toponymy, this review will be restricte mostly to a survey of, and commentary on, the categories of name change isolated in that place-nomenclature. In this respect, it is taken for grante that the author's use of the term *functionality* as meaning "the ability of a placename to function in linguistic usage" (221) is acceptable althoug this might not always be congruent with "onomastic usage." Dalber examines three major types of placename changes: (a) analogical reshap ing of placenames,[2] (b) name formations in which the current name of a locality is compounded with a word indicating the nature of the locality (a process which Scandinavian name scholars tend to call *epexegesis*), and (c) replacements of placenames.

With regard to category (a) she, with understandable justification, quarrels with the misleading term "folk-etymology" and also points out that this restructuring of linguistic signs prompted by linguistic intuition is not as common among Danish placenames as it is often claimed to be. One might ask at this point whether onomastic signs and onomastic intuition do perhaps not operate in the same fashion as their linguistic counterparts. Disagreeing with other name scholars, Dalberg voices the opinion that this kind of reshaping is rather to be understood as a functional improvement than as an etymological one, i.e., as an adaptation to fit familiar structural models. As one motivating factor she singles out "generic attraction," a concept which applies when certain sound conditions are fulfilled so that placenames can be attracted by familiar types of generics and assume the form of the latter. Another important stimulus is toponymic analogy which usually affects only part of a name, however. Dalberg is undoubtedly right when she comments that "the reason why

placenames undergo reshaping at all, in spite of the fact that their ability to function as proper names is in principle independent of their form, is that a reshaping can endow them with a greater similarity to other placenames in the user's onomasticon and hence enable them to function more efficiently" (228). An exclusively semantic argument which I have sometimes employed myself would not be sufficient to explain fully this first class of change.

Dalberg also looks for mainly functional reasons for name changes in category (b), in which a word appropriate for the type of feature that bears the existing name is added to it. Morphologically this process produces a toponymic compound in which the additional word acts as a generic and the former name as a simple specific, even if it was originally itself a compound.[3] Again, the author argues that it is not permissible to employ a diachronic point of view in connection with a synchronic assessment of the semantic content of the placename in question. It would also be erroneous to explain this particular process of change as having the purpose to repair semantic defects in the earlier name; it would be better interpreted as being designed to provide information about the nature of the locality at the moment in question. In this respect, her discussion of nature names in this category addresses a peculiarly Danish phenomenon whereas otherwise instances illustrating her arguments might, of course, also be easily provided from other nomenclatures, including North American ones.

Category (c), placename change through full or partial replacement, especially the former, is by definition difficult to trace in the absence of full documentation for such a change, although it is sometimes possible to find pointers for the existence of earlier names in such formations as Danish *Adelby* 'mother village,' *Melby* 'middle village,' or *Gammelby* 'old village,' and the like. Among the diverse motives for renaming, Dalberg emphasizes inconvenient identity, similarity of forms, and embarrassing associated meaning which would include undesirable homonymy. In her overall assessment of this category she also alerts us to the fact that the two linked concepts *placename* and *locality* are not well defined onomastic items and changes in either what she calls the *denotation* (reference) or the *denotatum* (referent) can lead to replacement. In a final coda of a chapter she outlines the role of the (Danish) Placename Commission as a regulatory agency in proposed placename replacements.

What we have in Dalberg's book, then, is a systematic and analytical survey of the various kinds of changes that have occurred in Danish placenames, and an assessment of their theoretical implications in the context of functionality. There is obviously much here that is also ap-

plicable to similar processes in the place-nomenclature of other countries, with one restriction: almost all the names quoted by the author are completely Danish in origin and do not show any influence of foreign languages or toponymics. Bilingual and bicultural situations, for example, which are particularly conducive to name change[4] are not significantly represented and would therefore have to be added to her largely mono-lingual material and principles before these become exportable. Perhaps there is also a need for scrutinizing closely the heavy stress on functional criteria, but otherwise this is as good a book as one would expect from one of our foremost theorists, and the very full English summary (223–42) by Gillian Fellows-Jensen makes it very accessible to English-speaking readers. This reviewer will certainly hone his own future arguments on the ideas put forward by the author and will encourage others to do the same.

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Notes

1. Vibeke Dalberg, "On Homonymy between Proper Name and Appellative," *Names* 33.3 (1985): 127–35.

2. Analogy as an important factor in the creation of new names has in recent years captured the well-deserved attention of name scholars. It was the main theme of the Tenth Congress of Nordic Name Scholars in Brandbjerg, Denmark, in May 1989, the proceedings of which are now available in print (*Analogi i Navngivning*, edited by Gordon Albøge, et. al. *NORNA-rapporter* 45. [Uppsala, Sweden, 1991]).

3. For lack of awareness of it, this is a category which I did not include in my own survey of changes in Scottish river names ("The Interpretation of Name Changes," *Scottish Studies* 5 [1961]: 85–96).

4. See my article, "Place-names in Bilingual Communities," *Names* 23.3 (1975): 167–74; and my book, *Scottish Place-Names: Their Study and Significance* (London: B. T. Batsford, 1976), 53–64.

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Countries, Peoples and Their Languages: The Geolinguistic Handbook. By Erik V. Gunnemark. Geolingua, S. G. Gunnemark, Bergkristallsgatan 20, S–421 51 Gothenburg, Sweden. 1991. Pp. 286. Paper, US $25.00 postpaid.

Erik V. Gunnemark, who translates from forty-five languages, has been actively working on collecting geolinguistic information worldwide since 1963. This paperback updates and vastly improves upon *The Geolinguistic Handbook* by Gunnemark and Donald Kenrick, 1985.

A major feature of the new book—improvements are so extensive as to warrant calling it that rather than an update of the 1985 edition—is the

inclusion of more than forty maps. There were fifteen in the 1985 book, and 1991's are more useful as well as more numerous. Much credit for the maps must go to Pierre Sales (well known to ANS members) and G. Blom of Gothenburg. Other collaborators acknowledged by Gunnemark are Donald Kenrick (co-author 1978–1988), Roland Breton (Aix-en-Provence), Arvo Juutilainen (Helsinki), and this reviewer.

As contributor to this volume, this reviewer should perhaps leave it to others to comment on the accuracy of this monumental research work, but a simple description of the aims and contents of *Countries, Peoples and Their Languages* ought to be given here to onomasticians in America. Names scholars will find in this book the names of thousands of the world's languages, and anyone concerned with language, anthropology, ethnology, history, geography, and foreign countries and their peoples will find in the book details on how many people speak what languages in countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe and in possessions, dependencies, and colonies.

Chapter 1 deals with over 200 countries (some 170 of them independent states) and more than thirty dependencies such as American territories (American Samoa, Guam, US Virgin Islands) and foreign ones, even Tristan de Cunha (with a population of about 200). The recently sovereign Baltic Republics (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) and the recent breakaways from Yugoslavia (Croatia, Slovenia) and the USSR (Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia, Byelorussia, Ukraine) have been added just before press time. The People's republic of China (where 1,070,000,000 speak Chinese; Mongolian, Tibetan, Uygur, and Zhang bring the total up to 1,150,000,000 people), India (with sixteen "Constitutional" languages and English and about 350 languages altogether for its population of over 860,000,000 people), the USA (where English is the de facto national language; French, spoken by 400,000, and Spanish by 15,000,000 have special protection in some states, Gullah is spoken by 200,000 in Georgia and South Carolina, Romani by 100,000 gypsies, Amerindian languages by 300,000, Chinese by 800,000, and so on), and the USSR (with Russian as the "union language" and about 130 other officially recognized languages for over 290,000,000 people) all get special sections to themselves at the end of this introductory chapter on countries and their official, "home," and other languages.

By page 102, Gunnemark is ready to tackle authoritatively the often-asked question: how many languages are there in the world? Ever since the French Academy took a guess in 1929 (2,796) the uninformed answer has usually been "about 3,000." There may, in fact, be more than twice that number, because "language," "tongue," "variety," "dialect," etc. get very confused. There may be hundreds of language "families" or (if Joseph H. Greenberg and Merritt Ruhlen are correct) as few as ten or

twenty basic "families." In Vanatu (formerly the New Hebrides) some 170,000 inhabitants speak more than 100 different languages. In Nigeria (population over 120,000,000, "official language" English), there are about 400 languages in use. Papua New Guinea (population nearly 4,000,000) has English as the "official language" and about 750 other languages also in use today. Gunnemark gives these figures as reliable: Africa, over 1,400 languages; the Americas, over 900; Asia (excluding the USSR), about 1,600; Europe (excluding the USSR), over 40; USSR, over 100; Oceania (Australia and the islands of the Pacific), about 1,200. That totals "about 5,300" languages. The US and Canada have over 200 Amerindian and Inuit languages, Latin America "at least 700," and some experts would raise that latter figure to 900.

This second chapter continues with details about languages, from Abkhaz (spoken in the ASSR of the USSR) to Zulu (spoken by nearly 8,000,000 in the Union of South Africa and over 200,000 in Lesotho). The chapter ends with a remarkable survey of the more than 150 living creoles and pidgins used for cross-cultural communication. Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether (say) the English of Barbados (Bajan) is an English-based creole of a dialect of English. Kingwana (in Eastern Zaire) is one of the languages that may be classed as both a creole and a pidgin, *creole* now being taken to signify "a pidgin developed in the mother tongue of an ethnic group."

Chapter 3 deals with a variety of special topics. Which languages are most important in terms of numbers of speakers? (English tops the list with 1,730,000,000; Chinese follows with over 1,170,000,000.) Which languages have at least 1,000,000 "home speakers"? (The list includes more than 200 languages.) What are the eight major "international languages"? (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.) What are the most important lingua francas? (English for 700,000,000; French for nearly 150,000,000; Arabic for 200,000,000.) What about planned auxiliary languages? (Here white space at the end of the chapter might well have been used to list 100 of them in addition to Esperanto and Interlingua, which are very briefly discussed.)

Chapter 4 challenges us with an attempt at the classification of languages, especially the Native African and Amerindian languages, into families and "superfamilies." This is the most ambitious and perhaps the most debatable section of this fact-packed book which I am quoted on the back cover as saying represents a very high standard of academic achievement. It is in engaging the academic theorists on the subject of language classification, rather than in presenting librarians and students and writers of all kinds with language statistics, that Gunnemark takes on the linguistic establishment.

The book concludes with chapter 5, "Scripts" (samples of writing from left to right or vice versa horizontally or vertically) and chapter 6, "Glossary of Terms" (several of these are debatable, but I happen to think Gunnemark is unerring), and various appendices. In one of those Gunnemark characteristically points out "Myths, Mistakes, and Misconceptions about Languages," a topic on which he might well have written a book of this same size (286 pages with an impressive bibliography and a fine index).

Countries, Peoples and Their Languages is a notable achievement of compilation and condensation. It packs so much into fewer than 300 pages and does it with so much authority of the author and convenience and usefulness for the reader that it can most certainly claim to be what the subtitle promises: *The* geolinguistic handbook.

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Peter Tamony: Word Man of San Francisco's Mission. By Marjorie McLain. Wellman Publishing, P.O. Box 484, Folsom, CA 95630. 1986. Pp. 138. Paper, $10.50.

Majorie McLain's book is a biographical sketch of one of the most interesting word-researchers of the twentieth century, with excursions into some of the items which especially caught his attention: *jazz, Frisco, malarkey, hootenanny*, etc. McLain, a folklorist, met Tamony at a 1970s meeting of the California Folklore Society and quickly realized the interest and value of his work. She soon embarked on the project of interviewing him and his sister Kathleen concerning his life and research activities, and those interviews furnished the raw material for most of the book.

The result is a good first step towards a biography of Tamony and an understanding of his life's work, but of necessity it is only a first step. McLain does well at presenting biographical data on Tamony and capturing the flavor of his wide interests within Americana. But the centerpiece of Tamony's life's work—his hundreds of boxes of clippings, notes, correspondence, etc.—is so extensive, and its potential for stimulating further research is so great, that a definitive study of Tamony is not yet possible. Perhaps in ten to twenty years, but not at the present.

For one thing, a final evaluation of Tamony's contribution to twentieth-century word study can be made only after a generation of scholars have had a chance to write up material based on his files. Then there is the

insight into Tamony that can be provided only by manuscript specialist Randy Roberts, who since 1986 has been working with Tamony's files on a daily basis (Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Ellis Library, Columbia, Missouri). Finally there is the insight to be gleaned from people in and out of academia who have been inspired or otherwise assisted by Tamony's work; for example, upon Tamony's suggestion Leonard Zwilling has prepared a book-length manuscript on T. A. Dorgan (TAD), a cartoonist who popularized various items in American speech.

McLain, in any case, made the right decision in proceeding with her project while Tamony was still alive rather than waiting a decade or two. She practiced the art of the possible and did it well; the interview material she presents is of interest to anyone looking into Tamony's life or the nature of his work.

As for the specific area of onomastics, this is not McLain's focus of interest, but she does touch upon a few name items such as *Frisco, martini* (from *Martinez*), *malarkey* (from *Mullarkey*), and *shanghai* (32ff). On a general note, I would add that since Tamony's interest in Americana was wide ranging, his files no doubt contain considerable material on names; but no one yet has a full perspective on just how much there is.

A preliminary look seems promising. Allen Walker Read has already used Tamony's packet on *Frisco* to prepare a detailed paper on this term, which he read at MLA in San Francisco in 1987. My own study, *Origin of New York City's Nickname "The Big Apple"* (New York: Peter Lang, 1991), would not have gotten off the ground without Tamony's early collected attestations.[1] And his research on *fink*, although it did not pan out, inspired his good friend, folklorist Archie Green, to initiate a detailed study of this term.

Consider Peter Tamony a catalyst. And consider Marjorie McLain's book a welcome addition to Americana.

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Note

1. See also my *Studies in Slang, Part II* (New York: Peter Lang, 1989): "Arrival of Peter Tamony's Word Files in Missouri" (1–10), with items by Ellen Futterman, Robert McCabe, and myself; and Rick Foster's "An Interview with Peter Tamony" (*Maledicta* 7 [1983]: 6–14).