Book Reviews

A Guide to Kentucky Place Names. By Thomas P. Field. Revised by William A. Withington and Edward M. Wilson. Special Publication 15, Series XI. 1991. Kentucky Geological Survey, Mining and Minerals Research Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506. 1991. Pp. vi + 268. Paper, $15.00.

Here at last is a much needed revised edition of a gazetteer, originally issued as Special Publication 5, Series X, 1961, that has been out of print and not available for several years. Unfortunately Professor Field (1914–90) did not live to see the completed version. He would have been pleased but not satisfied, for he was a perfectionist and he knew as well as anyone that a gazetteer is never up-to-date; that its preparation is such a time-consuming process that even though the research is thorough new placenames come into being before results can be published. As Kentucky's population has increased in the thirty years since the gazetteer was first published so has the number of places. Suburbs and exurbs have developed around every major city, each with a name of its own. In Madison County, for example, more than twenty-five exurbs have developed within a five-mile radius of Richmond, the county seat, in the last thirty years. These are all residential communities, some quite large, but with no commercial activities. Kentucky has 120 counties and each has communities that have only recently came into being. The names of most of these communities are in the revised guide.

A few major changes in format make the revised edition of the guide easier to use than the original. County names and identifying terms in placenames such as *branch, fork, neighborhood, school, pond, river*, etc., which were abbreviated in the original edition, have been spelled out in the revised edition. Page size has been doubled, from 5 1/2"x 8 1/2" to 8 1/2" x 11", and the number of pages increased from 264 to 268. Type size remains the same but new maps have been added. In the original edition reference numbers were keyed to a listing in the front of the guide to identify map names or information sources. In the revised edition this information is spelled out in each entry. This greatly facilitates the use of the guide.

Topographic quadrangles at a scale of 1:24,000 are available for all areas of Kentucky. Most of the names in the revised gazetteer can be found on these map sheets. Those that can not are identified as having been taken from Kentucky Highway Maps, University of Kentucky Agricultural

Experimental Station Maps, or other topographic maps. A more complete identification was deemed necessary for this edition because many names, particularly those that are also family names, are repeated many times and are often found on different quadrangles. The name *Adams* for example appears forty-one times. The name *Bailey* is listed fifty-four times. These may be in connection with a creek, a branch, a fork, a school, a church, a store, a cemetery, a hill, a gap, a lane or a populated place. Usually they are in different counties although family cemeteries are common in Kentucky and there may be more than one Adams or Bailey Cemetery in a single county. In these cases they are identified as being in a particular section of the county and the map sheet on which they are found is identified. The same is true for the names *Mill* and *Miller*, for which there are more than three hundred entries, attesting to the importance of this industry in the early history of Kentucky. There are also many streets and roads that have *Mill* as part of their names, indicating that they once led to a mill. A few of the old mills still exist.

Kentucky is rich in placenames, many of which arouse one's curiosity as to their origin. Often there are interesting stories connected to them. Eastern Kentucky for example has numerous communities with feminine names, These were the names of the wives, daughters, or girlfriends of coal company executives. When the company towns were built the executives chose the names. Some have the family names of the executives while others such as *Seco* (Southeast Coal) and *Vicco* (Virginia Iron, Coal & Coke) are merely abbreviations of the company names. Along with *Viper* and *Blacksnake* are numerous places with *Raccoon, Opossum*, or *Rattlesnake* as part of the name. There are biblical names and some that are just unexplainable. There is also a *Beauty*, a *Lovely*, a *Pleasureville*, and a *Paradise*. And then there is one community called *Hell For Sure* and another called *Hell For Certain*. All of these and more than 40,000 other place names are found in the guide, making it an invaluable resource publication that should be available in every school library, public library, and state and county office building throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well as in other libraries throughout the country. The original version was extremely useful to teachers, researchers, government emloyees and other persons with an interest in Kentucky. The revised edition with additions and information making it easier to use will be even more valuable. The authors are to be commended for rendering a valuable service to all prospective users.

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All Those Wonderful Names: A Potpourri of People, Places, and Things. By J. N. Hook. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10158. 1991. Pp. xiv + 317. Paper, $10.95.

Because of his impressive record of academic and scholarly achievement, J. N. Hook (Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and former Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of English) possesses a well- known name in scholarly and academic circles. This volume continues Professor Hook's important work in onomastics.

Professor Hook has organized this volume into four main parts. In the first part ("The Names People Give Their Defenseless Children," 1–65), there are four chapters devoted to names for boys and girls, fads in naming children, and how to select a name for your baby. The latter chapter offers some excellent, common sense advice on how to choose a name for your newborn child even though logic is not always a crucial factor in such determinations.

The second section of this volume ("The Names We Inherit," 67–160) has eleven chapters that deal with the most common surnames, name changes, professional entertainers who have changed their names, and the like. The chapter on genealogy is particularly appropriate given the continuing popular interest in tracing ancestry. Once again, Professor Hook offers valuable practical advice to the neophyte genealogist. In addition, there are very interesting chapters devoted to the sources of Jewish and African-American surnames. The last three chapters of this part deal with the national origins of surnames, additional sources of surnames (the Bible, the animal world, and so forth), and people with unusual surnames.

The third subdivision of this book ("We Name Almost Every Place We Know," 161–264) contains nine chapters that deal with various aspects of placenames. Among the topics covered are the origins of state and continent names, a discussion of Ronald Baker and Marvin Carmony's typology of place names (*Indiana Place Names* [Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1975]), humorous toponyms, and street names – to name but a few of the many interesting subjects.

In the three chapters of the fourth and final part of this book ("Still More of These and a Few of Those," 265–89). Professor Hook has assembled information about a wide variety of names: Early automobiles, major league baseball teams, boat names, plus many others.

It is rare to find such an enjoyable and informative book on names. A brief review such as this cannot even begin to do justice to the wealth of

information contained in this volume. I heartily recommend the purchase of this volume because Professor Hook has provided onomasticians with a very well researched, enjoyable volume written in a clear and lucid style. I guarantee that you will not be able to put it down. A bibliography (291–96) and an exhaustive index (297–317) complement this reasonably priced volume.

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Place Names of Pike County, Kentucky. By Robert M. Rennick. The Depot Press, Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035. 1991. Pp. 148. Paper, $10.00.

When Rennick writes, onomasticians read. So do historians, linguists, dialectologists, and folklorists. Why? Because his placename studies are interesting, carefully researched, and sensible. Besides, he's fun. His *Place Names of Pike County, Kentucky*, published by The Depot Press in 1991, is characteristically exemplary.

Rennick dedicates this book "to the wonderful people of Pike County ..." and "to the memory of the late Professor Leonard Roberts of Pikeville College," his "mentor and longtime friend," who had begun a study of Pike County names in the 1960s and had given the Kentucky Place Name Survey (which Rennick coordinated) "a list of 1280 ... names, for 230 of which explanatory information was included" (3). The resulting Pike County volume is a slim 148 pages with a whimsical feast of placenames and postal stamps reproduced on the covers: *Draffin, Wolfpit, Stopover, Mouthcard, Chloe, Zattoo*, and *Fish Trap*, for appetizers.

What is between the covers, however, is what makes the book especially fascinating. For instance, this dictionary differs from any other county study I have seen (e.g., Frederic Cassidy's of Dane County, Wisconsin; Virginia Foscue's of Sumter County, Alabama; and my own of Wabash and Miami Counties, Indiana) in that more than half of the 700 names are periphrastic, as in *Burning Fork of Raccoon Creek* or *Left Turkeytoe Branch of Blackberry Fork*. These grammatical structures should not surprise anyone who has wandered through the Cumberland coal and hardwood regions in this easternmost Kentucky county—named, by the way, for Zebulon Pike's Peak fame. Pike County, Kentucky's largest, is 785 square miles and had a population in 1990 of 72,583. It is drained by two main forks of the Big Sandy

River, the Levisa and the Tug (5). Here the world lies mainly up and down, right or left, but almost always in relationship to the nearest stream and its intersecting branches and forks. And many of the most interesting places are named in relationship to highs and lows – of hills, bottom lands, gaps, and hollows – to plants that grow, animals that roam or prowl, birds that fly – and to accidents or quirks of fate which etch themselves onto the land by association with it. Neither residents nor visitors need geographic coordinates to get around, and Rennick, wisely, has omitted them from his dictionary.

Instead, the placenames help all of us get around Pike County. The generics *Branch, Creek*, and *Fork*, each appear in more than 300 names, *Hollow* in 76, *Mountain* in 14, and *Rock* in 13. Generics for elevations like *Knob, Rock, Gap*, and *Bottom(s)* occur more than ten times each. Frequently used specifics include *Brushy, Greasy, Upper* and *Lower, Left* and *Right, Big* and *Little*, and *Long* (but never **Short*). Several other specifics, or specific-generic compounds, also occur frequently, e.g., *Sycamore*, 8 times; *Elkhorn*, 28; and *Blackberry*, 19. Blends, shortenings, or linguistic corruptions include *Jorn Acorn* (perhaps for *Jonican*, possibly derived from a Virginia placename [68]), *Sang* (for ginseng), and *Kinnikinnick Hollow* (Algonquian through French to English and perhaps related to tobacco or the tobacco plant [71]). A few names have plural forms, as in *Cliffs* or *Springs*, or are participles used as specifics: *Deadening* Fork of Rockhouse Creek, *Stinking* Branch of Johns Creek, and *Burning* Fork of Raccoon Creek. To save space, and contrary to his usual practice, Rennick does not include pronunciation of most names, and I miss that. Residents will know, of course, that *Pikeville* is not "Peyekvihl" [paɪkvɪl] but "Pahkvl" [pa:kvl] in Pike County, but others may not.

Now to back up a bit and talk about methodology: Rennick uses much of the Introduction to outline his characteristic strategy of seeking eight kinds of information about each named place or feature. These are the name, pronunciation ("if not apparent in the name itself," kind of place, location, other names or nicknames, derivation and related stories, description and history, and sources (8–14). Besides the dedication and the introduction, he also provides a list of abbreviations, a pronunciation key, maps of Pike County, a list of Pike County post offices, and a bibliography of 215 items. His sources are both written and oral. They include the 7 1/2-minute maps of the US Geological Survey, railroad maps, land registers, census and postal records, coal production maps, and interviews. Names listed in the dictionary include waterways, elevations, communities, post offices, railroad stations, and some schools and churches. Because

of limited space it excludes "roads, mines, mills, cemeteries, rural neighborhoods, ... extinct schools, most churches, minor streams ..." (8).

If I were writing this book, I can think of only one kind of change I would make: rather than saying, "... named for its developer or for the family from whom he acquired the land" (10), or "In Pike County all are man-made" (11), I would avoid gender-specific language. True, more men than women owned property, and pond construction (as in this case) is more often by men than women. But scholars especially, as Rennick certainly is, are adept at adapting language to human needs and political exigencies.

Nevertheless, in uncertain and cynical times, Rennick is a writer I can count on to be truthful, careful, and thorough in his research. Those strengths reward the reader, including this one. In the word of one of Pike County's placenames, "Goody."

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Place Names of Alberta. By Aphrodite Karamitsanis. Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society, and University of Calgary Press, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. T2N 1N4. Volume 1 (*Mountains, Mountain Parks and Foothills*). 1991. Pp. xxv + 292. Paper, $29.95CDN. Volume 2 (*Southern Alberta*). 1991. Pp. xxv + 152. Paper, $18.95CDN.

These are the first two of a four-volume series on Alberta's official geographical placenames, compiled by the Head of the Geographical Names Programme of the Historical Sites and Archives Service of Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism. Volume 3 will be entitled *Central Alberta*, and Volume 4 *Northern Alberta*. Each volume begins with an introduction and ends with a bibliography and over a dozen color photographs of places (landscapes) referred to in the text. In addition, there are historic black-and-white landscape photographs scattered throughout the text.

The introduction begins with a brief general survey of names, toponymy, and the formalities of geographical naming processes in Canada (more or less the same for each volume), and then turns to a concise and yet good history of the region covered by the volume at hand. Karamitsanis then provides an explanation of how to read each entry, a list of photographs with credits, and then two maps, each of which also shows the appropriate part of the National Topographic System Grid—

the first a general map of Alberta showing the division into four regions for the purposes of this series, with the region of the particular volume shaded, and the second a map showing the region of the particular volume in more detail (marking the major communities, roads, and rivers).

The main part of the text for each volume consists of an alphabetical listing of the official placenames of that region, with three columns per page. The entries themselves are excellent and very clearly laid out. Each contains the following information:

1. The name itself, and the type of feature ("generic") regardless of whether the generic is already part of the official name itself.
2. The National Topographic System Grid Reference.
3. A legal description, specifying section, range, township, and meridian.
4. The latitude and longitude.
5. The approximate distance to the nearest populated community "as the crow flies."
6. Anywhere from a sentence to a lengthy paragraph describing the feature in question, the origin of its name, and any other noteworthy facts. Cross-referencing to other features may also be given (and is quite well and thoroughly done). In cases of several features sharing the same name, the information is only given once, and cross-referencing to it handles the other features.

It would obviously be unnecessary for me to go through any of the entries here, or to give sample entries. Suffice it to say that the book is complete, useful, and well-written. Evidently the book would be most likely read or used as a reference by toponymists, but it could also be used by many other people for many other purposes. For example, it is clearly and transparently written, with an avoidance of jargon, so it could be used by the curious tourist or local historian or genealogist with absolutely no onomastic training whatsoever. The entries themselves, as well as of course the introductory essay, can actually be read cover-to-cover, to provide a good capsule history of that particular part of the province and a real feel for the links between naming, culture, history, and environment. The books could be used in in-class projects by Alberta school teachers, in culture, history, or geography classes. One particularly useful feature, especially for the historian as well as the curious, is the fact that rescinded names are included (and clearly marked as such). It surprised me that Alberta, as a comparatively recent

area of settlement (the first white man set foot in Alberta in 1754 [1: xii]) and comparatively new province (1905), could have so many rescinded placenames; some have come to be rescinded due to lack of use, but others have been the victim of renaming, sometimes more than once. As expected, though, there is also a large number of names that have only been officially approved recently, even just within the last decade. But there is really no end to the creative use to which such books could be put. One thought that continually occurred to me as I read through these two volumes was that I wished I had had access to them ten years ago (and also to other compilations like them for other parts of the world), when I was looking for data on places named for people, and whether those names were based on first name, full name, surname, or even nickname or title plus surname or full name (see, e.g., my essay, "The Choice Between Surname and First Name for Personal-Name-Derived Place Names," *Onomastica Canadiana* 63 [June 1983]: 2–16).

In the two volumes, I found only one entry that was written in a less-than-helpful way. Under *Moose Mountain* (1: 170), Karamitsanis states "... and is likely named after the moose, a large ungulate, commonly found in this area." I think anybody reading this book is going to know what a "moose" is, or at least thought they knew until they encountered the further explanation with the technical term "ungulate" (a mammal having hoofs) and began to have doubts. I also suspect a misprint in *Perserverence Mountain* (1: 191), whose name is said to describe "the character quality required to reach the summit" – if not, a comment on the discrepancy between the normal spelling of the quality (*perseverance*) and the spelling of the mountain would have been helpful. My suspicions of a misprint are strengthened by the fact that the Alberta volume of the *Gazetteer of Canada* (Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 3rd ed., Ottawa, 1988) gives the spelling as *Perseverance Mountain*.

One minor problem with these books, a completely non-academic one, is that their dimensions and shape (10.5"/26.7 cm. wide, 8"/20.4 cm. tall) make them virtually impossible to shelve, at least tidily. In compensation for this inconvenience are the pleasures of accessible, interesting books, with excellent quality production and even color photographs, at an extremely low price.

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The Study of Names: A Guide to the Principles and Topics. By Frank Nuessel. Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881. 1992. Pp. 152. Cloth, $47.95.

Frank Nuessel, University of Louisville, is the author of books on theory (*Theoretical Studies in Hispanic Linguistics* [1988], for example) and an annotated bibliography (*Image of Older Adults in the Media* [1992]) and so is well prepared to write this bare outline of the principles and concerns of onomastics and to point researchers to the bibliographies of Edwin D. Lawson (on anthroponyms), Elizabeth M. Rajec (on literary names), Richard B. Sealock, et al. (on toponymy), and Elsdon C. Smith (on anthroponyms). That these are the only bibliographies he lists and that he lists fewer than a dozen onomastic journals worldwide (when Lawson recently gave full information on a great many more in a survey article) show the sketchiness of this book. Typically, he gives fewer than ten lines to "Racist and Ethnic Slurs" and mentions only Irving Lewis Allen's work (1981, 1990). "Selected examples will suffice to exemplify this phenomenon" of slurs, writes Nuessel, and then he gives four acronyms: *SAM, WASP, JAP*, and *WOP* (not *wop* or the other *Jap*). He gives more space to "Longest Place Name" (with one example, whose authenticity is challenged). So we have problems with brevity and balance.

What he does say, however sketchy, is clearly outlined if not always gracefully written. (See that "selected examples" example of prose, above.) "A few examples will suffice" (in a ten-line passage on American Indian placenames) underlines the way in which this book on *The Study of Names* resembles basic and sturdy steelwork rather than a completed and well-furnished building.

Architects say that "God is in the details." In scholarly books lucid organization is essential but particulars are what enrich. For $47.95, a book of about 125 pages (plus appendices) is too much for too little. The publisher's blurb promises 176 pages. Has someone taken out a lot of the learned examples? It looks like it.

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Surnames for Women: A Decision-Making Guide. By Susan J. Kupper. McFarland and Company, Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640. 1990. Pp. 147. Paper, $19.95.

As author Susan J. Kupper explains in the Introduction to *Surnames for Women: A Decision-Making Guide*, she is herself a married woman who elected to keep her birth name after marriage, and began her study because of her curiosity about other women who made the same decision. These women she termed "Lucy Stoners," after the well-known nineteenth-century crusader for abolition and women's rights who returned to her birth name while married to Henry Blackwell.

Kupper found, however, that women made the full range of choices possible in choosing their surnames. While 75 percent of the (married or divorced) respondents to her questionnaire retained their birth names, 10 percent adopted a surname consisting of their birth names and their husband's surnames, and 15 percent used different strategies, including the use of a former husband's surname or the creation of a new surname.

As the chapter headlines suggest (e.g. "Identity," "Feelings," "'But What Does Your Husband Think?'," "Problems in Business and Government"), the book examines the reasons women offered for the choices they made and the responses of family, community, and organizations to their surnames. Kupper mentions that at the outset of her study she expected women who retained birth names to identify themselves as feminists, but discovered professional identities, and as a result some (but not all) strongly opposed relinquishing their surnames:

> What was really important was that I worked so hard all through my twenties to know who I am/was, that I didn't want to be called by someone else's name. It was very important to finally feel (at 30) that I was glad to be me, and my name felt like it was connected to that precarious identity ... (27).
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> It [birth name] gives me my own identity. However, I do not feel so strongly that it is an issue with me. If my husband desired that I use his surname professionally as well as socially, I probably would (57).
>
> Women should absolutely retain their own names forever. Our own names are who we are, at a very deep psychological level. [In Alex Haley's *Roots*] the first act of Kunta Kinte's new owner was dubbing him "Toby" to establish him as property and to deny his previous self (58).
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> My husband and I are both economists. There is already enough potential for career competition between us. When I use my maiden name no one confuses our work ... (29).

While some women acknowledged feminism as a factor in their decision to keep their birth names and some denied its influence, it seems clear that the right of women to a distinct identity and to professional careers has been acknowledged comparatively recently. To Kupper's

credit, she is not as ahistorical as her respondents; she begins the book with a brief history on the issue of married women's surnames and discusses recent changes in state and federal laws.

The book is most informative on the factors women should consider in making this important decision—their reasons for choosing a specific surname, and the likely response of their birth families as well as their husbands, children, employers, or government agencies and insurance companies. Because Kupper quotes entire paragraphs from the women who participated in the study as well as from husbands and partners who chose to respond, *Surnames for Women* allows women to assess the emotional impact the choice of a surname may have upon them. It also outlines the options for name changes for women (statute, divorce decree, and common law) and the range of legal conditions which obtain when seeking to change children's surnames; here it does not provide much detail, and those wondering about laws in their own state will need to do their own homework.

For those of us interested in onomastics, *Surnames* is most stimulating when innovative choices in surnames are discusses. For example, the common surname *Korfmann* was created by Elaine Korf and Howard Mann, adopted legally by him, then "given" to her by marriage, and subsequently to their child. Kupper mentions that this "uncommon arrangement" requires "appropriate" surnames, by which she seems to mean short surnames, capable of combining euphonically: "When two people named Kowalczewski and Schellenmeyer marry, a combined name is probably not an option!" (35) Another couple adopted *Harmony* as a surname to signify their unity in marriage (34). A table listing all surname choices and their sources would have added to the value of the book.

There are drawbacks to Kupper's study. Her initial advertisements were placed in the *Mensa Bulletin* and the Chicago newsletter of the National Organization for Women, to provide access to "well-educated but otherwise varied groups of women" (3). This choice also ensured that her sample would also reflect either an extremely high level of intelligence and/or the liberal end of the political spectrum among women—not to mention those affluent enough to afford membership in such groups. Responses of employers and spouses, for instance, must then be gauged according to the class and the relative "clout" of the women sampled. Further evidence of the narrowness of her sample is that she omits without comment discussion of alternative naming traditions (e.g., traditional Hispanic surnames for children, created by conjoining the surnames of father and mother, and Moslem surnames, patronymics which are not changed by marriage).

But Kupper concedes that "This is not a book about all women" (8). It is, however, a nicely accessible treatment of surname options available to many women, single or married.

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PhoneDisc USA. Produced by Digital Directory Assistance, P.O. Box 648, Marblehead, MA 01945–0648. Distributed by DAK Industries, Inc., 8200 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304. 1992. Three CD-ROM disks (Western US residential, Eastern US residential, and US businesses) and instructional manual. $149.50.

The promotional material from DAK states that the disks contain 80 to 90 percent of all listed residences in the US and seven million retail businesses. After getting the disks installed on a computer with a CD-ROM drive, you simply type in the surname, first name, and initial, if known, of the party sought.

For relatively common names, like *Smith, Anderson*, or *Brown*, you may wish to add restrictions by state, street, city, state, or zip code to greatly reduce the length of a list. There are easy procedures for printing lists of names and for doing counts. For an unusual name like *Kenter*, it was easy to identify and print out a list of about three hundred people with that surname, When it comes to a name like *Smith*, you might be more interested in a count.

I remembered a 1956 article by Elsdon C. Smith ("West North versus East South," *Names* 4.3: 166–67) in which he explains why there were more *North*s and *West*s than *East*s and *South*s in England. Smith suggests that people from the north and west migrated to the more prosperous southeastern part of England, some of them taking as a surname the region they came from. (Smith also notes that some Wests may have lived on or near "waste, barren, or desolate land," and their names thus may come from Old English *wéste*.) Since he did not offer any frequencies, I thought it might be interesting to see if *PhoneDisc* would generate name frequencies in the United States that would reflect a carry-over from England. The result is seen in Table 1.

This confirms Smith's view that *West* predominates in the United States, followed by *North*. England remains to be checked.

Imaginative onomasticians might check out other names such as months of the year, *January, February, March*, etc., or even seasons, *Fall,*

Table 1. Frequencies of compass point surnames in the United States.

Name	Eastern US	Western US
North	3,241	3,061
East	1,926	1,607
South	1,633	1,501
West	28,215	25,627

Winter, Spring, and *Summer* (along with counterparts in other languages). One major check could be done of the frequencies of the top ten to twenty-five names in leading cities.

Another idea is inspired by A. Ross Eckler ("Gary Gray, Meet Edna Dean," *Word Ways* [May 18, 1986]: 109–10), who devotes an article to estimating the frequencies of transposable names, for example, one like *Gary Gray* where the letters of the first name can be transposed to a surname. Other examples are *Ronald Arnold, Eric Rice*, and *Amy May*. Eckler feels that names such as *Edna Dane, Earl Lear*, and *Dolly Lloyd* exist but are too rare to find easily in a manual search of directories. However, with *Phone-Disc*, such searches would take only a few minutes. I am certain that *Names* readers can set interesting tasks for themselves as well.

First names appear to be relatively difficult to get a direct count on. The CD-ROM seems to be set up for surnames. One way of possibly getting around this is to do what Llyle Boltinghouse (*Tabulation of Common Names and Surnames* [Baltimore, 1962]) did a number of years ago. He evaluated the most common first names of the most common surnames. So, an investigator could tally the Smiths whose first name is *John*, then go on to those whose first name is *David* or whatever first names are to be checked. The speed of the CD-ROM counting technique is so fast that these counts can be done very quickly. Investigators may uncover useful information depending on their research interests.

However, there are some questions and cautions. I tried out a few names at first and found that I and members of my family were not listed although we had all been in telephone directories for years. Then, I decided to broaden my scope by checking on names that I knew were in directories. I took forty names, twenty from the Eastern section and twenty from the Western section. I found exactly ten from each, giving a 50 percent average. I did a bit of further checking and found two women who prefer to be listed only by initial with their complete names shown.

On inquiry to the Digital Directory Assistance, I learned that the data for *PhoneDisc* are derived from registrations at state departments of motor vehicles, voter lists, home owner lists, and telephone directory white pages. Credit reporting services are not used. My reporting of 50 percent accuracy was considered normal. My question on unlisted numbers being shown as well as complete first names was answered by noting that the information was all a matter of public record. *PhoneDisc* is also supposed to be updated quarterly.

I did not explore in depth the disk dealing with retail businesses. The little searching that I did do seemed satisfactory. Unfortunately, *800* numbers are not included.

In sum, *PhoneDisc* is certainly an interesting product. If one can assume that the errors are random and can be satisfied with a 50 percent accuracy level, there is a great deal that can be learned by names enthusiasts. For the price, it may be a useful source for researchers and consumers.

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Sakrale Navne [*Cultic Names*]. Edited by Gillian Fellows-Jensen and Bente Holmberg (eds.). *Norna-rapporter* 48. NORNA-Förlaget, St. Johannesgatan 11, S–753 12 Uppsala, Sweden. 1992. Pp. 294. Paper, Finn Mark 130.

The sixteenth symposium of NORNA (Nordiska samarbetskommittén för namnforskning) held in Copenhagen, November 30–December 2, 1990, was dedicated to cultic names. "Cultic" is a somewhat awkward translation of the Scandinavian *sakral*; this does, however, have wider implications than the English term *sacral* insofar as it does not just refer to sacred rites and observances but also to places and persons connected with such rites and observances and with institutions administering the sacred. In keeping with this more extensive meaning, the thirteen conference papers and four post-conference assessments collected in this volume therefore deal with topics legitimized by this larger perspective and trace a variety of manifestations of *sakrale navne* in the Nordic countries, especially in pagan or pre-Christian settings. Occasionally, however, the subject matter spills over into the Christian period.

Enthusiasm for the topic in hand and the wish for the symposium to succeed might well have resulted in an uncritical overestimation of names

of this kind, both of persons and of places; it is therefore pleasing to be able to report a climate of healthy skepticism in the contributors' approach to the subject. In fact, one might easily declare an attitude of critical (re)evaluation to have been the central approach at the symposium, an attitude which now also pervades the published papers. Given the seductiveness of the topic, it might easily have been otherwise.

Jørn Sandnes (9–21), for example, re-examining Magnus Olsen's theories about cultic placenames and placename elements in Norway, considerably reduces in number the approximately 600 farm names and other placenames with cultic connections which that great scholar had postulated for Norway almost a century ago. Staffan Fridell (23–33) answers his own question as to whether theophoric names, particularly field names, in *-ryd* exist in southern Sweden by giving credence to Magnus Olsen's proposal that they (e.g., *Fröset, Odensjö, Torset*) do not denote cult sites but fields dedicated or consecrated to the god(dess) whose name forms the specific. The foremost Icelandic name scholar, Þórhallur Vilmundarson (35–54), also asking whether genuine cultic names exist or not, points to several placenames of different origin which have undergone changes that make them look like cultic names. In his detailed survey of terms for cultic sites in Scandinavian toponymy (77–105), Thorsten Andersson isolates three groups (104): words which unambiguously mean "cult site"(*vi*), words which have a cultic significance in addition to a secular one (*harg, hov*), and words with a normal secular significance that can also be used of cult sites (*sal, stav, åker*). He, too, is of the opinion that there still remain many problems to be resolved in this respect. The series of question marks after titles continues with Stefan Brink's enquiry (107–21) into the alleged existence of a cultic element **al* in Scandinavian placenames (*Motola, Norrala*, etc.). It is his view that if such an element is to be found it could be interpreted secularly as "a stately building, of importance to the settlement district." Per Vikstrand (123–39) casts a critical eye over instances of the placename *Hov* which normally means "elevation, small mound" but also occurs in farm names and has been said to mean occasionally "temple" or "shrine." Vikstrand suggests the possibility of a basic meaning "site for an assembly." Henrik D. Bertelsen (169–84) asks a question of a different kind: what did our ancestors mean with a placename when it was first taken into use? He tries to provide an answer to this vexing, and often intractable problem by discussing Danish cultic placenames in terms of Roger C. Schank's Conceptual Dependency Theory. Eva Nyman (199–219), rejecting Magnus Olsen's cultic interpretation of the Swedish parish name *Harestad*, proposes an alternative etymology **Harunda(r)stafr* in which **Harund* might mean "stony ground" while there are several potential topographical explanations for *stafr*. John Kousgård

Sørensen's contribution (332–45) investigates traces of unofficial religion or popular superstition in certain lake and river names. He emphasizes that the Scandinavian material does not support the view that rivers were at one time looked upon as personifications of river-gods or -goddesses in animal form and also points out the difficulty of assessing so-called taboo names because it lies in the nature of such names not to have survived.

While the majority of the papers is devoted to placenames, two contributions deal with personal names. Eva Villarsen Meldgaard (185–97), after surveying earlier work in the field of cultic personal names, offers a list of 173 pre-Christian Danish personal names (111 masculine, 62 feminine) which she considers to have had cultic connections (*Alf, Asli, Thorgrim; Alvild, Asgun, Thorgun*), and Bente Holmberg (236–49), examining the occurrence of the noun *as* 'heathen god' in such personal names as *Asbjørn, Astrid* and *Åsum*, suspects that, in the form *Æs-* or *Es-* (as in *Æskil, Æstrith*, and *Æsbiorn*), it might also be found in placenames such as the Danish *Esbjerg*. Two other articles are only tangentially onomastic, and the volume concludes with four brief internal assessments of the symposium by Lennart Elmevik (251–72), and John Kousgård Sørensen (273–75), as well as a substantial bibliography (277–94) of research into Nordic cultic names between 1971 and 1991. Each chapter is followed by a short summary in English which has been of great help to this reviewer and undoubtedly will also be to other English-speaking users of the book.

It takes courage to tackle an unpromising topic like cultic names, to knock down established views on the subject and to refine and hone new perspectives on the basis of rigorous critical re-evaluation but, like the symposium itself, the resulting *Acta* are a welcome reminder of the truism that each generation of scholars has to appropriate its field of intellectual endeavor anew, in the climate and with the knowledge of its own time, and that the best respect one can show for the great minds that have shaped our thinking is embodied in a meticulous re-examination of their theories that takes their theories and pronouncements seriously. As far as the central theme of the book under review is concerned there is no doubt that it might be worth examining in a wider European context. Should that happen, the good work done at the NORNA symposium in 1990 may well serve as a model to be followed.

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Naggles o Piapittem: The Placenames of Sanday, Orkney. By Gregor Lamb. Byrgisey, Somerset, England. 1992. Pp. iii + 117. £11.95.

Despite excellent general progress in the study of Scottish placenames in recent years, the publication of microtoponymic surveys is still very rare. It has always struck this reviewer that the placenames of an island would provide a fascinating challenge for that kind of detailed survey, and it is gratifying to see that Gregor Lamb has taken up this challenge with regard to Sanday, one of the Orkney islands, off the northern tip of Scotland. The resulting book is a collection and study of 1,700 names of geographical features, both natural and manmade. Most of the latter are house names and, as the author points out in his Introduction, "of all the houses mentioned in this study, only 178 are occupied, 22 are holiday homes, 100 are empty, 47 are derelict and at least 212 have vanished – admittedly over a period of 500 years!"(11) These varied fates obviously reflect a considerable change in the human landscape, and much of the place-nomenclature represents historical as much as contemporary usage.

The corpus of names presented is arranged in alphabetical order but a felicitous additional feature of the book is the set of forty manuscript maps by Karl Cooper which not only provide visual evidence for the exact location of the names in question but also, because of their scale, allow representation of comparatively minor features such as fields and small coastal features. A glossary helps the reader to come to grips with the various linguistic strata involved, especially the strong admixture of Norse elements which usually appear in a Scotticized garb. This adaptation, which is often phonological as well as graphemic, and the fact that the Scandinavian elements frequently appear together with those of Scots or English origin in compound names sometimes have astonishing, if not to say quaint, consequences which give the place names of Sanday their peculiar Orcadian flavor. *Naggles o Piapittem*, used by the author in his title, is a particularly spectacular example of this, as it consists of Old Norse *knykill* 'small protuberance,' the Scots preposition *o(f)*, Scots *pow* 'pool,' and Old Norse *pyttr-inn* 'the pool.' Other instances are *Crue Maaron Deme, Doors o Dounhelzie, Ebb o the Riv, Geramount, Groanies, Keldalays, Munkermae*, and the like. Even without attempting to analyze and etymologize such names one cannot but be aware of being in the Northern Isles of Scotland. This is, in fact, not the place to test the individual etymologies suggested which seem to be generally sound and have benefitted from being checked by reliable authorities. The background and stratification of the nomenclature of the island are also further illuminated in an extensive introduction.

It lies in the nature of such undertakings that there is always room for improvement. This reviewer would suggest giving up the term "corruption" in reference to changes which have obscured the origins of a name, and would also like to have seen an indication whether a name is recorded in historical documents, is mentioned on any Ordnance Survey maps, or is known in oral tradition only. Otherwise, this book is the very acceptable result of a highly commendable project. It proves what can be done if one is willing to put time, energy, and enthusiasm into painstaking fieldwork. Anybody planning something similar elsewhere should feel encouraged by this venture.

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Brewer's Dictionary of Names. Edited by Adrian Room. Cassell PLC, Villiers House, 41–47 Strand, London WC2N 5JE, England. 1992. Pp. xxix + 610. Cloth, £16.99.

Adrian Room is known to readers of this journal chiefly as the reviewer of books in the field of onomastics published in Britain. Others will, however, know of him as the author, compiler and editor of numerous books dealing with various aspects of the same field of study; one of these, *The Street Names of England*, is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. His credentials are therefore impeccable, and it is not surprising that, in view of his enthusiasm for anything pertinent to the study of names and his knack of making the findings of academics and scholars palatable to the interested layperson, Cassel's chose him to edit their new *Dictionary of Names*, the title of which also commemorates and honors Dr. Ebenezer Cobham Brewer (1810–97) whose *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* is familiar to a wide readership as the result of the many editions and updatings which it has undergone since it was first published in 1870. In its more than 8,000 entries, the new compendium under review is clearly intended to exude the same spirit and attitude.

The "Brewer" approach probably prompted a certain latitude with regard to what one might expect to find in a dictionary of names, for not only does it contain a large number of entries on those items which one would regard as central to any onomasticon, i.e. the names of real persons and places, but it extends its area of coverage to categories such as mythological names (*Apollo, Loki, Brahma*), biblical names (*Gabriel,*

Obadiah, Galilee), astronomical names (*Mars, Orion, Vega*), nationalities and languages (*Turkish, Denmark, Romany*), time and calendar names (*Candlemas, Mother's Day, Purim, Labor Day*), religious names (*Methodism, Veda, Allah*), literary names (*Faerie Queene, Rob Roy, Othello*), names from history (*Boston Tea Party, Magna Carta, Attila*), political names (*Democrat, Tory, Knesset*), educational names (*Laval, Balliol, George Heriot's, Boy Scouts*), names of buildings (*St. Thomas's, Abbotsford, Old Vic, Ritz, Hadrian's Wall*), commercial names (*Marks & Spencer, Porsche, Heineken, Cassell, Polaroid*), musical names (*Eroica Symphony, Fleetwood Mac, The Doors*), sports names (*Sheffield Wednesday, Belmont Stakes, Wimbledon*), animal names (*Rottweiler, Percheron, Rhode Island Red*), and others (*Mona Lisa, Bakerloo Line, Golden Hind*). The purist in matters onomastic may have difficulty in classifying all these categories or individual entries as true "names" but this is perhaps not the occasion to quibble about definitions, and the examples just quoted are mainly intended to acquaint potential purchasers and users with the kind of entries they might expect to find in *Brewer's Dictionary of Names*. To the best of this reviewer's knowledge, this conceptual tolerance has resulted in a compendium which is one of a kind in the English language.

Extending the conceptual scope of this "name dictionary" beyond the traditional narrower definitions and at the same time attempting a wide geographical, cultural and linguistic coverage, has necessitated a certain selectivity in the categories included. A survey of the 241 entries under the (randomly chosen) letter *E* produces the following statistics, bearing in mind that a few names might be accommodated in more than one category: 95 placenames (current and historical), 37 personal names (first names and surnames), 24 biblical names, 14 mythological names (mostly Greek), 12 names of buildings (including educational ones), 12 literary names (mostly titles), 11 musical names, 10 historical names, 5 commercial names, 5 nationalities and languages, 4 time and calendar names, 2 religious names, 1 astronomical name, and 7 "other" names (one architectural style, one sculpture, one sword, etc.). If this sample is at all representative and if one further takes into account that personal names are also lurking in almost all the other categories, the proportions indicate that the choice of entries is not as revolutionary or as eccentric as one might have expected or feared. Names of places or persons are still at the core of this dictionary, and both these names types have a distinct western or European-derived cultural flavor, with a notable bias toward an English world-view. Again, this is by no means to be regarded as a shortcoming but has to be noted in order to know what Room's compendium is trying to do.

As far as individual entries are concerned, this review is not the place to examine in detail the validity of the information (although this reviewer cannot help noticing that in the second entry on the very first page it is somewhat misleadingly stated that the names of the river on which the Danish city of Aarhus stands means "river mouth" and that the city and port have the same name as the river; surely the original name of the water-course was Danish *å* 'river' from which the name *Aarhus* 'river mouth' is derived, which in its turn was later transferred to the river, not vice versa). The main information for each name is descriptive, historical and etymological. For instance, under *Abbeville* we find: "The town near Amiens in northern France has a name that means 'abbot's village.' It originated in the 9th century as a dependency of the abbots of St. Riquier." Under *Congreve* we learn: "The name comes from the place so called near Penkridge, Staffordshire. The placename itself means 'grove valley,' from Old English *cumb*, 'valley' and *græfe*, 'grove'." Under *Lovin' Spoonful* we are informed: "The American folk rock group took its name from a line in a song by bluesman John Hurt which ran: 'I love my baby by the lovin' spoonful'." About *Lucozade* Room says: "The tonic drink has a name that suggests both the chief constituent, *glucose*, and a fruit drink such as lemonade."

Sources, supportive documentation and bibliographical references are not normally provided but an extensive introduction to the volume enlightens readers on the nature and types of names, and guidance is given as to the languages involved and the structure of the entries. Beyond the obvious consideration of the limited space available, the principles underlying the selection of entries are not very clear; after all, what constitutes a "well-known name" (xix)? Why, for instance, among the brands of whisky are *Glenfiddich, Glen Grant, Glenlivet*, and *Laphroig* included but not *Cardhu, Glenmorangie, Highland Park*, or *Macallan*? The editor invites us to notify him of "glaring omissions" (xix), but in a very personal dictionary of the kind that would have delighted Brewer it is difficult to know what omission glares and which does not.

When all is said and done, however, one has to admire Adrian Room's industry, the felicitous language of his presentations, and the general reliability of the information provided. The result is, as they say, a "fun book" which should delight a broad spectrum of readers because it strikes the right balance between rigorous scholarship and popular appeal. *Brewer's Dictionary of Names* proves that popularization is not synonymous with lack of authenticity or authoritativeness.

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The Street Names of England. By Adrian Room. Paul Watkins Publishing, 18 Adelaide Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2EN, England. 1992. Pp. xiv + 258. Cloth, £14.95.

The names of specific categories of geographical features – rivers, mountains, fields, islands, etc. – offer particular challenges to the investigator while at the same time holding out the promise of satisfying conclusions within the restrictive but ordering limits they impose. In a sense, the expectations of both author and reader are well defined from the beginning and are therefore not easily defeated. Among the man-made features, streets are probably the most intriguing, as well as the most profitable, objects of onomastic inquiry because they provide inveterate pattern seekers with considerable scope without giving them a completely free rein. The natural trend in this kind of study is to make an attempt at as comprehensive an account as possible of the origins and etymologies of the street names of a particular town or city or, as the objective of the exercise is often expressed, to entertain local readers with the "stories" behind those names. In England, for example, such published studies exist for urban areas like Bristol, London (several), Manchester, Ilkeston, Ipswich, Windsor and Eton, Whitby, Maidenhead, Southampton, Liverpool, Abingdon, Birmingham, Hull, Hedon, Oxford, York, Loughborough, to name just a few.

While such investigations both feed on and enrich local history, the volume under review – Adrian Room's *The Street Names of England* – is, in contrast, more ambitious in its purpose and less local or even regional in its ambience, thus, on the one hand, transcending the narrowness in outlook of studies deliberately tied to specific localities (from village to conurbation) but, on the other, being in danger of losing touch with the severely localized significance and motivation in the giving of a particular street name in a particular (urban) setting at a particular time. Fortunately, the author at least partially overcomes this potential loss of enlightenment which only a keen awareness of the embeddedness in the local fabric can provide, by keeping his account descriptive rather than argumentative, i.e. avoiding the kind of heated discussion, not always fruitful, which local issues tend to engender. After all, Room's object is not to prove or disprove the origins of certain names but rather to find ways of classifying English street name types that exist today.

As is to be expected, much of this book is therefore devoted to a systematization of the specifics that occur in such names but, in order to

pave the way, his initial chapter (1–16) discusses a number of street-name generics and their special function, first and foremost *street* and *road* but also *alley, arcade, avenue, causeway, close, court, crescent, gardens, gate*, and so on. Still in the introductory mode, this is followed by a chapter on "Roman Roads and Ancient Ways" (17–34), i.e. *Ermine Street, Watling Street, Fosse Way*, and the like. A third chapter (35–49) deals with street names that describe the "importance, size, nature and function" (35) of the street itself (*High, Broad, North, Fore, New Street, Holloway, Rotten Row*, etc.). Since in naming most specifics link the street to a geographical feature or some human action nearby, the bulk of the book is devoted to this type, with particular reference to "Field and Water" (50–59; *Barnfield Road, Greencroft Street, Padholme Road*, etc.), "Directions" (60–72; *Barnsley Street, Rutland Terrace, Theobalds Road, Castlegate, Horseferry Road*, etc.); people and places associated with religion (73–87; *Abbots Lane, Friar Street, Baptist Gardens, Chapel Street, St. Michael's Hill*, etc.), trading, occupations, and nationalities (88–104; *Market Square, Eastcheap, Shambles, Pepper Lane, Carter Gate, Gildencroft, Chancery Lane, Lombard Street*), buildings and structures, now frequently vanished (105–24; *Rampart Street, Barbican, Piccadilly, Dollar Street, Windmill Street, Exchange Street, Bridewell Alley*, etc.), inns (125–31; *Anchor Street, Blue Boar Street, Dragon Street, Magpie Lane, Nag's Head Passage*, etc.), and important persons associated with the street (144–66; *Albemarle Street, Downing Street, Amanda Close, Ladybellegate Street, Zinzan Street*, etc.). Closely connected with the last type are commemorative, prestigious and propitious name (167–178; *Coronation Street, Cumberland Gate, Elizabeth Avenue, Regent Street, Bad Godesberg Way, Mount Pleasant*, etc.). Very familiar to North Americans are street names which relate to each other thematically in groups (179–87), like those named for trees, colleges, musicians, writers, and so on; sometimes such names are linked through alphabetical order in their layout, a common generic or shared specific. In the latter category the generic takes on the unfamiliar and therefore often confusing role of distinguishing element (*Throstle Avenue, Throstle Drive, Throstle Grove*, etc.). A chapter on names of bridges (not streets named for bridges) is placed somewhat incongruously and without warning (132–43) after names of inns; bridge names obviously form a fascinating topic in themselves but are a little peripheral in this context. The main text of the book concludes with a methodological chapter on how to study street names (188–92); in its practical application, this is especially helpful for anybody wishing to pursue this topic in England but also contains hints which are more generally applicable. An Appendix (193–

210) explores certain street name frequencies, a select bibliography (211–15) provides an overview of recent publications in the field, stimulating further reading, and an extensive index (216–58) gives access to the narrative account to those interested in particular names but also in itself makes fascinating reading for the browser.

Although Room is fully aware of the historical dimension of street naming and often includes earlier spellings when a modern name form has become opaque or misleading (see *Padholme Road, Theobalds Road, Eastcheap, Shambles, Dollar Street*, mentioned above), he does not attempt to write a history of street naming in England. One therefore looks in vain for any way of using the substantial number of names included in this volume as the base for the establishment of some kind of chronological stratification. This comment is not intended as a criticism of an account otherwise well constructed and presented but rather as an indication of some of the tasks still lying ahead. As it stands, the book under review is yet another valuable contribution to the study of names in England and Britain by one of the most prolific and informed contemporary writers on the subject who has the knack of combining sound scholarship with popular appeal. As a postscript, it is also worth mentioning that in this particular instance the contents of the book can certainly be judged by its attractive cover and felicitous layout.

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Eigennamen in der norwegischen Gegenwartssprache. Probleme ihrer Wiedergabe im Deutschen am Beispiel belletristischer Texte [*Proper Names in Contemporary Norwegian. Problems Regarding Their Representation in German, Exemplified by Literary Texts*]. By Gero Lietz. European University Studies, Series XXI, Vol. 109. Peter Lang AG, Jupiterstrasse 15, CH-3015 Bern, Switzerland. 1992. Pp. 300. DM 89.00

One of the most taxing and complex problems in modern onomastic theory is the question of the translatability of names. It is a question which goes to the very heart of the nature of names, and the way in which it is answered has far-reaching consequences for our perspective on their very essence. On a more practical level, it has serious repercussions for the translator of literary works from one language into another. Gero Lietz's Greifswald dissertation of 1991, published in 1992 in the prestigious series,

European University Studies, makes a valiant and largely very successful attempt at tackling this intricate set of interlocking problems, the author using as his testing ground the representation of Norwegian proper names in the German translations of four contemporary Norwegian narrative texts – three novels and one volume of short stories. For his purposes, he goes beyond the literary treatment of names of persons and places by including administrative names, institutional names (sports teams, rock groups, universities, cinemas, etc.), titles, brand names, names of art objects, natural phenomena, animals, vehicles, events, etc. Persuasively illustrated through relevant examples and taking up almost one third of this monograph (27–100), a synchronic description of their status and function in modern Norwegian culture and society, and especially language, lays the foundations for later analysis, interpretation and argumentation. Additional principles are developed in a brief chapter devoted to the communicative qualities of proper names which not only contrasts diachronic and synchronic approaches but also sets up an opposition of the German concepts of *Bedeutung* and *Bedeutsamkeit*; in this punning pair, the latter is understood as the *actuelle Bedeutung* 'topical or actualized meaning' of a name (107). I have a hunch that this term is synonymous with what some of us call "content." In this respect, the fifteenth thesis (one of the forty-five "theses" of the original dissertation appended to this volume) of Lietz's dissertation is centrally relevant: "The subject of synchronic name research is the communicative status of (proper) names. From a 'topical' point of view, names have no lexical meaning. The original etymological 'basic' meaning does normally not play a part in name usage. That is true not only of names whose basic meaning is no longer recognizable but also of transparent names. ... The lack of transparency is no criterion for onomastic status. Divergences between the etymological basic meaning of a name and its actual referent have no bearing on communication" (293; translation mine). I am very much in sympathy with these fundamental premises and could hardly have expressed them better myself; or have I?

For his analysis of the treatment of names in the German translations of Norwegian narrative texts, Lietz, following mostly H. Birus ("Vorschlag zu einer Typologie literarischer Namen, exemplifiziert an Heissenbüttels Namenspektrum," in *Namen in deutschen literarischen Texten des Mittelalters* [Neumünster, 1989]: 17–41), posits the existence of four, sometimes overlapping, types of literary names (119): 1. authentic names, 2. incorporated names, 3. self-interpretative names, and 4. suggestive names. The first group consists of names of historically identifiable persons, or of real streets, suburbs, shops, schools, etc. In the second category existing names

are transferred to fictive name bearers. Category three carries its intended or accidental lexical meaning on its sleeve, so to speak, or, less immediately, can be linked to its etymological groundings. Suggestive names (category 4) can operate effectively through either wound symbolism or qualities which, in the case of personal names, may place their bearers in recognizable social registers. It does not take a specialist to realize that the four categories in question make different kinds of demands on translators. The individual illustrations cited by Lietz for obvious reasons mean little to English-speaking name scholars, and specific problems which arise when a Norwegian novel is translated into German may be largely irrelevant to languages outside this particular linguistic juxtaposition but some more generally applicable principles emerge nevertheless from Lietz's findings. High amongst these ranks his statement that the decisive question for the translator is not concerned with the translatability or untranslatability of proper names but with their representation according to their communicative and aesthetic function in literary texts (129). If this is so, and to this reviewer there can be little doubt that Lietz is right, then it follows that an adequate representation of names in any given target language cannot be achieved by purely linguistic means. Put somewhat differently, the "translation" of proper names is not a lexical/linguistic process but an onomastic one which does not exhaust itself in the correct representation of the referential qualities of a name but also attempts to take into account the various associations which the name in question may have in the source language and therefore in the author's textual intentions. If equivalence is looked for, then this must be both communicative and aesthetic, depending ultimately on the perception of onomastic physiognomy in the relevant language communities. Guidance in this respect may well come if Lietz's demand is realized that "for further theoretical groundwork of the problem complex 'name and translation' contrastive displays of the onymic systems of different languages will be unavoidable" (214). In other words, there is an urgent need for onomastic contrastive grammars.

There can be no doubt that Lietz's dissertation is a most welcome addition to both synchronic onomastics and translation theory, as well as to the study of names in literature, and that it offers important new insights into the inter-connectedness of this triad. Its investigation of specific texts and linguistic situations anchors us in reality and prevents it from developing into mere flights of theoretical fancy. It is understandable that the particular topic of this dissertation requires a thorough knowledge of the relevant secondary literature in Germany and Scandinavia, especially in the former German Democratic Republic and in Norway, but it is never-

theless regrettable that there appears to be not a single reference to the substantial corpus of articles contained in the annual volumes of *Literary Onomastics Studies* or to several other significant sources outside the Scandinavian-German parts of Europe. More than ever we have to make sure that, in a highly concentrated field of linguistic endeavor like onomastics, appropriate and lasting international connections are established and maintained, both personally and institutionally.

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The Study of Place Names. Edited by Ronald L. Baker. Indiana Council of Teachers of English and Hoosier Folklore Society, Terre Hautè, Indiana. 1991. Available from Indiana Council of Teachers of English, Department of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809. Pp. 99. Paper, $6.00.

I was once told by a wise woman that old books in new print and covers rejuvenate both body and mind. Lovers of old men and incunabula would no doubt disagree, but something agreeable happens when a familiar book appears in another format. So it is, I suppose, with Baker's *The Study of Place Names*, a selection of essays published originally in *Indiana Names*, the excellently edited journal that moved beyond the confines of one state in its coverage. Five volumes were published between 1970 and 1974. The articles, ostensibly studies in names, primarily placenames, often overlapped information in other disciplines, leading to renaming the magazine in 1975 to *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore*, later to become, with even broader content, *Midwest Folklore*.

My concern here, however, is with Professor Baker's sagacious selection of what may be the best collection of articles on theory that we have under one cover; and, indeed, this was the intent of the editor, who wrote in the "Introduction" that "the articles were selected because most of them deal more generally with place-name theory and practice, and as a group they serve as a kind of primer of place-name studies" (7). Although these papers were written as early as 1970, and perhaps earlier, they still have value for those who are involved in the Placename Survey of the United States or scholars in other areas who use onomastics in their disciplines.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen, in a wide-ranging essay, recommends that onomastics become an independent discipline, not only because it is interdisciplinary but also because a name is more than an etymology or

a linguistic fact. Names are embedded in the culture that surrounds them; hence, they become more than a word. They are multi-faceted, incorporating the onomastic fact (the origin of the name), etymology, linguistic principles, folklore, dialectology, and culture (history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and probably political science). The scholar of names "should be ever open to receive from other disciplines and ever ready to give to them, for he is no longer the geographical etymologist of previous generations of scholarship but the prototype of the new academician, because his discipline, the science of onomastics, is truly interdisciplinary" (22). And readers of the volume must remember that this paper was written in the early 1970s, more than twenty years ago.

Nicolaisen's call to the onomastic colors overshadows the other essays, perhaps only because it leads into all others and in a sense abstracts the contents of the others. The remainder seem to detail the points made by Nicolaisen. For instance, W. Edson Richmond's "The Value of the Study of Place Names" calls attention explicitly to the interdisciplinary nature of onomastics. Names "reflect the characteristics of the principal language of the cultural area in which they are found" (24), including etymology, folk etymology, dialect pronunciations, sound changes, and to be sure the grammar of names. He concludes that the study of names contributes to other fields: geography, archaeology, cultural and social history, in addition to language.

One grouping of the articles shows the importance of establishing methods of collection. Here, I mention "How to Collect Local Place names," by Frederic G. Cassidy; "The Role of Oral History in Place-Name Research," by Robert M. Rennick; and "Library Sources for the Study of Place Names in the State of Indiana," by W. Edson Richmond, somewhat out of place but stressing the importance of informational sources, most usually still found in good library collections and state archives. Cassidy and Rennick are seasoned investigators in place names, perhaps the best in the field. Cassidy's *Place-Names of Dane County, Wisconsin* (1947) remains the model for studying county names in the United States. Rennick continues to produce local studies of great merit, while his *Kentucky Place Names* shows the extensive range of his onomastic abilities and can be arguably called the best state placename text we have, among some very good ones. Their directions and suggestions for collecting placename material serve as methods that have not been superseded.

Donald J. Orth in "The Nature of Topographic Terms," an original essay in every sense of the word, shows the human's interaction with nature through the use of geographical terms, especially generics. He considers the

use "of these terms as an intellectual act involving certain properties of the mind" (47), which I don't agree with, for it divorces the human mind from external phenomena and allows naming without specific influence from objects. In this context, too, I would definitely quarrel with his too-great reliance on the Benjamin Lee Whorf's opinions about language. I will, however, defend his right to express his own opinion and hope that I can someday prove to him that grammar is not affected by natural phenomena but that vocabulary certainly is. Once removed from the grammatical fallacy of Whorf, the usage problem becomes simplified, for then nature provides from the human view a variety of phenomena needing to be named. Still, as Celia M. Millward notes in "Universals in Place-Name Generics," universals in generics do exist, a condition that punctures the Whorfian hypothesis. The names may not be the same, but the features are, which means that generic terms can be translated. Yet, she writes that after reading Orth's article, she was "gratified to see that he has advanced many of the same ideas that I have expressed here" (64). Naturally, some overlapping occurs when two authors are writing about the same subject, but I see only very basic differences between the two in their approach to generics—one being primarily stimulus-response (Orth) and the other rational (Millward).

Two articles center on folklore. The more general one is "Legends in Place-Name Study," by Wayland D. Hand, to whom the volume is dedicated. Hand rightfully points out that no one has "studied the connections between legends and place names in detail," but he was wise and cautious enough not to allude to why. The reason is not that such legends do not exist; it lies in the opinionated approach to the study of placenames in the United States. I dare not elevate the condition to a "philosophical" approach. Generally, investigators or researchers into placenames are concerned with the authentic onomastic fact, the "truth" about the origin of the name; and no doubt the "search for truth" is commendable, for seemingly each generation of humans chases this version of the Holy Grail with the result that the next one decides that truth lies elsewhere and a new pursuit begins. But the onomastic fact has its necessity and we adhere to it. Another truth exists and in its sense is just as real as the one-dimensional truth: the truth of legend. Hand faces this truth by insisting that legends "are products of the human mind and of the vagaries of thought and impulse" and "feed upon man's tendency to fantasize and on his proclivity to fix upon unusual happenings, on strange conjunctures, and on things which pique the imagination" (73). Hand provides many examples of name legends that have affected the naming process and ignore the "scientific" explanations. Linda Dégh follows Hand with her "Importance of Collecting

Place-Name Legends in Indiana," in which she shows legendary features of many Indiana names and the psychological importance they have to the folk who accept them – or do not accept them.

The collection of essays covers many aspects of naming and needs to be available to anyone who investigates names. It does emphasize folklore, but since the magazine in which the articles were originally published had its inception in folklore, this is to be expected. Also, the contributors, with the exceptions of Orth and Millward, are well known for their outstanding service in folklore, such as writing books, editing magazines, and teaching. Each is an authority in some aspect of folk studies, so it is to be expected that the underlying theme would be folklore. Perhaps the publishing of this seminal set of articles will do much to remind those who study names that a humanizing element needs to be considered again.

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Louisiana Post Offices. By John J. Germann. The Depot Press, Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035. 1990. Pp. 248. No price listed.

Stories Behind New Orleans Street Names. By Donald A. Gill. Bonus Books, 160 East Illinois Street, Chicago, IL 60611. 1992. Pp. xxxii + 273. Paper, $14.95.

Two placename texts from one state may be a surfeit of goods; but to members of the American Name Society, such an occasion is most welcome. The first text is being noticed for a purpose – to introduce a sideline feature of placename studies that, other than in works by Robert M. Rennick, has received little attention. The second stresses the stories behind the names of New Orleans streets. Both contribute to the quilt of texts that perhaps someday will cover the United States.

Recent state name dictionaries have relied heavily on postal sources for information on dates of establishment of a community (settlement, town, hamlet, named area), on origin of the name, and other historical information. Now that records have become more readily available, publishers of specialized books have begun to compile lists of post offices within a state. Alan H. Patera, publisher of The Depot, furnished an example, *Louisiana Post Offices*, of the kind of exacting work that is required for a reliable postal dictionary. To compile the text, the author obtained basic information from *Postmaster Appointment Registers*, the originals now in the National Ar-

chives. This source had to be supplemented by Postal Guides and Postal Bulletins. All data have to be transferred into a computer, raising the risk of error. Poor handwriting in the Register had to be compared with the entries in the *Daily Journal of Postmaster Orders* and other sources.

Name standardization caused problems in entries. In the early 1890s, the United States Board on Geographic Names issued guidelines for "simplifying" names. In Louisiana *centre* was changed to *center* in 1893. The *h* was dropped from *-burgh* and the apostrophe and possessive *s* were eliminated, on Dec. 1, 1894. On Dec. 1, 1895, many names of more than one word were combined; for instance, *Liberty Hill* became *Libertyhill.* Between 1905 and 1910, some post offices that had their names arbitrarily changed reversed the decisions and returned to using their earlier names. Then, with the institution of Rural Free Delivery, many of those post offices were discontinued. Through the use of *Daily Journals* and "Mail to" addresses, reliable information on post offices can be found as far back as 1868. Before that, historical records of one sort or another are needed for Louisiana.

The text is arranged alphabetically by parish, with a complete index of all names in the "end matter." Although the parishes since 1803 have undergone many subdivision and boundary changes, the entries reflect the parish in which the post office was first established. In the entries, the post office name is given, although with known variations, including the ones that occurred in the 1890s when guidelines were introduced by the postal authorities. The date the post office was established, the date of discontinuance (if discontinued), the "mail to" address in cases of discontinuance, and the name of the first postmaster. Following the line data is the factoid, the onomastic fact, such as, for instance, *Abbott*, "Named for Miron Abbott – pioneer in rice irrigation." The population of the named area is given according to the census reports, although some areas have estimated totals. A map of each parish, showing the place of each post office, is included.

As expected, many post offices were named for the first postmaster who probably did the necessary application and other bureaucratic demands. In Acadia Parish, Abbott, Cartville, Castille, Fabacher, Genais, Jelks, Millersville, Redlich, Regan, Schamber, and Thrailkill were so named out of forty-eight post offices. Some others may have been named for members of the family of the postmaster. The compiler has provided origins that were known to him: *Branch*, for Branch Hayes, grandson of the first merchant of Plaquemine Brulee; *Nezpique*, French, "tattooed nose," for local American Indians' practice for tattooing; *Rayne*, for the civil engineer who constructed the railroad; *Iota*, named by railroad officials seeking a short name for its station or "replying that it cared not one

iota what the town name would be." Of the forty-eight names in Acadia Parish, twenty-seven have no origin listed.

Alan H. Patera, owner of the press, has several other state texts in process of completion, with Harold Salley's *History of California Post Offices* now in its second edition. *Place Names of Pike County, Kentucky* by Robert M. Rennick was recently published and is reviewed in this issue of *Names*. Patera also publishes *Western Places: A Chronicle of Western Settlement*, an excellent magazine treating places out West. For information on these valuable texts and the magazine, write to Alan H. Patera, P. O. Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035.

The text on New Orleans street names takes us into the byways and legends in one of the more intriguing world cities. Reading Anne Rice's novels may give some of the flavor of the vampish ways of the Queen of the Mississippi and its attractive and shadowy vampires, but only a visit can seduce one to the sensuous music of Bourbon Street and the creepy voodooism of the cemeteries and the smell of the Old River from the levee beside the Jackson Brewery. A book of placenames and their backgrounds, however, brings all back, plus being informative about the ways of naming streets in the United States.

First, Gill thanks Robert I. Alotta, Senior Editor of *The Street Names of America Project*, which I had never heard of until this book arrived. Alotta, as many will remember, published *Street Names of Philadelphia* (Temple University Press, 1975) and, according to an item in Gill's bibliography, *Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees, and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names* (Chicago: Bonus Books, 1990). His *Signposts & Settlers: The History of Place Names in the Middle Atlantic States* (also by Bonus Books, 1992) is reviewed in this issue. This tangential information is gratuitous but pertinent, since Gill models his text on Alotta's books. Besides, Alotta wrote the introduction to the New Orleans study.

Not all the street names appear in the glossary. Those for which no origin could be found are listed only in the index, as are streets named for Presidents of the United States, although an entry of Presidents as a group appears. Flower names received the same treatment, as do birds but not other fauna. The index contains approximately six hundred names, keyed to page numbers.

Records on reasons for naming the streets have been either lost or destroyed; hence, Gill had to rely on histories, newspaper accounts, and interviews to obtain information. Subdivisions and suburban growth areas generally were given theme names by realtors and speculators to attract buyers. These include automobile names (*Buick, Chrysler, Ford, Packard, Stutz*); Scottish-English (*Brookfield, Hanover, Deerfield, Guildford,*

Yardley, Chevy Chase, and others); governors (*Cadillac, Nicholls, Kennon*, and others); states (*Tennessee, Kansas, Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Texas, Virginia*, and *Wyoming*); plus other themes, including presidents, flowers, and birds.

Among the other names that have peculiar interest are *Desire* (used by Tennessee Williams in his famous play), *English Turn Parkway* (translated from French *Detour aux Anglais*, based on a legend concerning Jean Baptiste Bienville and an English ship), *Teche* (English "snake," recalling the legend of the great serpent whose death writhings dug out the bayou of that name), *Finland* (a variant spelling of *fenland*), *Charlmarx* (French form of *Charles Marx*), and more.

An entertaining and informative study, the book has uses beyond armchair enjoyment, for here are historical accounts not easily available elsewhere, cultural commentary, psychological insight on reasons for the names in the first place, and folklore and legends. Professor Gill, who has labored long and hard in the study of names, is to be applauded for this valuable work.

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Signposts & Settlers: The History of Place Names in the Middle Atlantic States. By Robert I. Alotta. Bonus Books, Inc., 160 East Illinois St., Chicago, IL 60611. 1992. Pp. xvi + 654. Paper, $18.95.

Robert I. Alotta has a long history of publishing books on names. His *Street Names of Philadelphia* (Temple University Press, 1975) may be the first book-length study of the streets of one city. He used the materials for this book a decade and a half later in his *Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees, and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names* (Chicago: Bonus Books, 1990), closely followed by *Signposts & Settlers*. His other works have been published in the field of public relations. For several years he was a well-known figure in Philadelphia's civic and cultural life and directed public information for the Philadelphia Housing Authority. He was also active in and directed associations for the preservation of historical sites in Philadelphia. For his work, he received awards from Pennsylvania's governor and its House of Representatives, all before he turned to freelance writing and publishing. His latest endeavor is to direct and be the Senior Editor of *The Street Names of America Project*.

In *Signposts*, he selects a generous helping of names in the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, which he calls the Middle Atlantic States, appropriately enough. He gives no reason for his selection, again appropriately enough, for generally a selection has the major element of subjectivity, a preference for one name over another. Further, he does not pretend completeness. He does, however, bow to rectitude in his adherence to "truth" in naming, noting that Henry Gannon and George R. Stewart "took the easy way out and guessed at derivations."

The thrust is commercial, a listing of names that will interest a buyer. Alotta knows packaging and its place in public relations, and this text is a handsomely packaged product. The format is book-perfect, with readable print, good spatial arrangement, and relevant illustrations. Also, since its major and perhaps only reason for being is to attract buyers, the subject matter is dictated by entertainment value. No doubt, that which most entertains is a good story, and Alotta has selected with such in mind. In doing this, whether unwittingly or not, he has contributed to what Wayland Hand wanted, more study of names for the legends they symbolize or, better yet, name, since the legend is subsumed under name first and then glossed for the legend – or sometimes a mere story line.

And this book is a joy to read. Naturally, anything about names is a joy for me to read, including lists; but this time, the text is so well written that the joy moves on to information, too. We Onomastic writers have little if any style, most cumbersome when narrating, dullish when constructing glosses for minute entries, bedevilers of trivia, and generally products of no more than Freshman English 101 in college. We win no prizes for dramatic writing, that is, inducing a reader to read the next sentence and the next, and so on. Alotta does have the ability to write a decent sentence that, well, zings. Without taking space to illustrate prose styles, I will merely list some entries for those who wish to examine a good reason why the Alotta book is worthwhile: *Enola, Lucinda, Marcus Hook, Titusville, Lily Pons, Capon Bridge, Charles Town*, and any number of others.

The text is rounded out with an appendix that divides the names into borrowed, family, descriptive, geographic, and tree names. The glossary contains about 3,000 entries. An index of approximately 9,000 entries supposedly covers all names noted, not merely glossed, but every one mentioned in the text. Unfortunately, the index is not always reliable. Somehow, Alotta's computer mixed up many page numbers, omitted some names, and otherwise botched the listings. The user will have be somewhat creative to find some entries from the page numbers noted in the index. In spot checking, I found that *Johnson, Sam* does not appear on page 183

as promised; *Johnston family* is not noted on page 437; *Jolly, Titus*, not on 198; *Joppa* is on 351, not 350; *Laurel*, PA, is not indexed at all; the reference to *Madison, Jones* on 199 is not indexed; *Honeoye* is omitted from the index, as is *Homer City*; *Mahoney Creek* is on 199, not 213; *Malaga* appears on 56, not 61. These, however, are matters that can be eliminated in a next edition. They can only be noticed by a pedant who reads and compares lists of names rather than glosses.

I suspect that Alotta will have many other books on regional names published, as well as those produced through *The Street Names of America Project*, and either edited or sponsored by him. Perhaps soon, street name dictionaries will appear for the cities of New York, Chicago, San Antonio, Seattle, and any other city larger than, say, Potsdam, New York. Certainly, we can anticipate further entertainment and education from him.

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