BOOK REVIEWS

Dizionario dei cognomi italiani. By Emidio De Felice. Milan: Arnoldo
Mondadori Editore S.p.A. 1992. 351 pp.

This is one of the few dictionaries of family names which leaves
no doubt that the author is fully prepared to tackle the job. De
Felice is a linguist; he is familiar with pertinent research literature;
and he knows how to write for both scholarly and lay audiences
simultaneously.

The author remarks (9) that onomastics is essentially a branch
of linguistics though it also has its historical, cultural, anthropologi-
cal, social, and geographical aspects (to which we may add *literary*
and *psychological*). He notes that of the two main branches of Italian
onomastics — toponymy and anthroponymy — the former has been
pursued with greater vigor and greater success than the latter and
that of the two main branches of Italian anthroponymy — given
names and family names — the former has likewise been pursued with
greater vigor and greater success. As a result, he has had far fewer
reliable studies on which to build than students of Italian place
names and much less than students of Italian given names do.

De Felice estimates that over a million family names are found
in Italy (13-14). Of these, he treats about fifteen thousand, which he
has grouped in 1776 alphabetically arranged entries. Each entry
consists of names derived from the same etymon (for example, under
Aliprandi we find *Alibrandi*, *Librandi*, and *Librando*, all four of which
go back to the Germanic personal name *Alibrando ~ Aliprando*). An
alphabetical list at the end of the book contains all of the family
names treated, with cross-references to the appropriate entry head
(thus, in this case, *Alibrandi > Aliprandi*, *Librandi > Aliprandi*, etc.).

It is surprising to read that Italian family names now constitute
a 'finite, countable, and closed set' (13). Surely people from other
countries continue to settle in Italy, thus introducing certain names
absent there earlier (the country has certainly taken in, for example,
refugees from the war in former Yugoslavia).

At least five Italian family names are derived from titles of "nobility:" **Conti** ("il nome normalmente indicava chi era al servizio di un conte, o comunque ne dipendeva, o continuava soprannomi scherozi e allusivi"), **Duca** ("solo eccezionalmente sarà riferito a chi riveste il titolo nobiliare o il potere ducale, ma normalmente avrà indicato persone al servizio di un duca o che comunque ne dipendevano, o avrà avuto un valore scherzoso e figurato"), **Marchési** ("il soprannome [from which this family name derives] sarà stato dato per lo più a chi aveva rapporti di dipendenza con un marchese, oppure in sensi fig. non più recuperabili"), **Prìncipe** ("con valore augurale, o in relazione a primati e vittorie in feste e gare, o anche al fatto di risiedere e lavorare in casa di prìncipi," and **Ré** ("e la cognominazzione di antichi nomi o soprannomi...riferiti sia al neonato come 're' della festa familiare, sia a chi viene eletto 're' di feste o brigate o a chi vince il titolo di 're' di gare varie (e spec. nel Medio Evo, di tiro con l'arco o con la balestra), sia a chi è il 're' di un'arte o di un mestiere. Il cognome *Re*, nel Nord, può anche riflettere un toponimo formato con *ré* 'rio', come *Ré* (NO), *Redavalle* e *Retorbido* (PV), *Re Redefòssi* (MI), *Retòrto* (AL, CR, ecc)." To the extent possible, it would be good to treat these names uniformly. With respect to the first three, De Felice's intimation that in some cases the name might have been acquired by a count, duke, or marquis is probably not justified: such people would most likely already have had a family name. If so, in no instance is any of these family names to be interpreted literally.

A few comments about certain Jewish aspects of this excellent book are in order:

[1] The male given name *Adamo* is "frequente fin dal Medio Evo in comunità non solo israelitiche ma anche protestanti e catoliche" (44). So far as I am aware, Jews have at NO time used a reflex of Biblical Hebrew *adam* 'Adam' as a given name in ANY Jewish language. If De Felice has evidence for a Jewish Italian male given name **adan* (word-finally, Hebrew /m/ regularly becomes /n/ in Jewish Italian) or for Hebrew *adam* as a male given name among Italian Jews, it would be good to see it. Perhaps he supposed that since *Adamo* goes back to Hebrew, it must be a popular name among Jews. Such an assumption would be unjustified.

[2] The family name *Giudice* ~ *Giudici* "è anche un cognome israelitico diffuso sporadicamente in varie regioni italiane (spec. a Trieste), e in questo caso è la traduzione di età moderna del nome personale ebraico *Dayyān* 'giudice' (spec. nel sign. di 'capo religioso e politico-militare' dell'antico popolo di Israele)" (139). So far as I know, no such personal name exists. Rather, this Jewish family name translates Jewish Italian and Hebrew *dayan* 'judge [of a Jewish court of law].'

[3] "Ravà. Cognome israelitico attestato sporadicamente in Italia, formato dal medio ebraico e aramico giudaico *Rabbā* o *Rabā* (forse de *rab* 'grande'), nome ebraico della città di Ammàn, la capitale della Giordania e, anticamente, degli Ammoniti" (207). The etymology of a family name, if it is to be accepted, must be sound not only linguistically but also etiologically: can we find a convincing reason *why* a person should acquire such a name? No reason why Italian Jews should acquire a name referring to the capital of the ancient Ammonites comes to mind and nothing in Deuteronomy 3:11, Joshua 13:25, Second Samuel 11:1, 12:26, 12:29, or Jeremiah 49:2, where that city is mentioned, suggests a convincing etiology (quite to the contrary: every one of those verses speaks of war between the Israelites and the Ammonites). Amman, the capital of the country which gained independence after World War I, is even more irrelevant. Might not this Italian Jewish family name be derived from Hebrew *rav* 'rabbi?'

[4] De Felice lists several names which he says are borne by both Jews and non-Jews and several which he implies are borne only by Jews. For still other names, he gives no ethnic labels, though they are borne by both Jews and non-Jews. Where an ethnic label is absent, his explanation is implicitly or explicitly intended to apply to the non-Jewish tokens of the name (that is, De Felice is presumably unaware that the name is also borne by Jews) and we must therefore see whether it also applies to its Jewish tokens. Here are several examples:

[4a] "Del Rìo .... Proprio della Sardegna mer., ha alla base un nome e soprannome dato dalla zona o località di origine e provenienza formato da *del rìo* 'del torrente, del ruscello' (riferito a case, terreni o pascoli situati lungo un corso d'acqua), o dagli equivalenti campidanese *de rìu*, *de rrìu* e *e' rrìu*." Among Jews in

Italy we find the family name *Del Rio*. If the name was acquired in southern Sardinia (or, at least, in Sardinia?), De Felice's explanation applies. If it was brought to Italy from Spain, it is derived from Spanish *del río* 'of the river' and its etiology is the same which De Felice gives for the Sardinian name. Thus, as in many cases, we need to ascertain certain genealogical or historical information before being able to etymologize the name.[1]

[4b] "**Mèmmi**...ha alla base l'ipocoristico *Mèmmo* o *Mèmo* del nome *Guglièlmo* (v. *Guglièlmi* e anchi *Lèmmi*)...." Since the male line of Albert Memmi, the Jewish thinker now living in France, goes back to Tunisia and many Tunisian Jews trace their lines to Italy, we have to consider whether this etymology applies to him too (alternately, his name could be from *memmi* 'baby; son,' a lallwort in certain varieties of North African Arabic and in Kabyle). The last sentence of [4a] applies here too: before Memmi's family name can be etymologized, we must know WHERE his ancestors acquired it. If in Italy, De Felice's explanation presumably applies to it; if in North Africa, the lallwort is probably its source. If we cannot determine where his family acquired its name, we would want to know at least whether his Memmi line goes back to Italy, on the basis of which information an informed guess about its origin could be made.

[4c] "**Mortara**..... Diffuso dalla Lombardia alla Liguria, è formato dal toponimo *Mortara* (PV)." No ethnic label is given. This name is also borne by Jews.[2] In this instance, De Felice's explanation may safely be applied to Jewish tokens of the name since no other explanation for them comes to mind, Mortara once had a Jewish population, and the Jewish tokens are concentrated in northern Italy, where that town is located.

[4d] "**Sèrvi**...ha alla base il nome di devozione e di umiltà cristiana *Servidio*, che continua, con le diverse varianti riflesse dai cognomi, il personale latino cristiano, già documentato in iscrizioni di tarda età imperiale e poi comune nel Medio Evo...." This family name is also borne by Jews. If De Felice's explanation (where a Christian reference is explicit) applies to Jewish tokens of the name, we would have to assume that those Jews descend from Christians who converted to Judaism. Since this is unlikely (in Italy most conversions were in the opposite direction), we have to conclude that

De Felice's explanation of the non-Jewish tokens does not apply to the Jewish ones. No self-evident explanation of the latter comes to mind.

[5] In treating at least two family names which he knows to be borne by Jews (whether exclusively or partly), De Felice omits mention of Yiddish:

[5a] "Loeb [pron. *lö'b*]. Cognome israelitico, introdotto in Italia da Ebrei qui rifugiatisi dall'Alsazia, formato dal nome *Löb* [pron. *lö'b*], dall'alsaziano *Löb* (in tedesco *Löwe*) 'leone,' traduzione del nome ebraico *Juda* (ebraico biblico *Yehūdā*) 'leone,' v. *Leoni*." The missing link here is the Yiddish male given name *leyb*, which is derived from Yiddish *leyb* 'lion' and thus equivalent to the Hebrew male given name *yehuda* 'Judah' (the Tribe of Judah being likened to a lion in Genesis 49:9). *Löb* is thus the alsacianization of this Yiddish male given name and not a translation of any Hebrew given name.

[5b] De Felice gives two explanations for the Italian family name *Màier*. Its non-Jews tokens go back to German. As for its Jewish tokens, "è un cognome frequente tra Israeliti aschenaziti, e in questo caso rappresenta la trasposizione, per accostamento fonetico paretimologico del nome e cognome ebraico *Meir* (dall'ebraico e aramaico-giudaico *mĕ'ir* 'splendente' da '*ūr* 'splendere,' cioè 'l'illuminato') al cognome tedesco *Meyer*." The immediate etymon of this family name when borne by Ashkenazim is the Yiddish male given name *meyer*, which is derived from the Hebrew male given name *meir*.

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Notes

1. Besides 'rivulet; brook, stream,' *rio* means 'lesser canal [of Venice]' (as in *Rio Grande*), but since *del* is not Venetian, *'of the lesser canal' is not a possible interpretation of either the Sardinian or the Jewish family name.

2. Its outstanding Jewish bearer has been Ludovico Mortara, a jurist who systematized civil-law procedure in Italy and was Minister of Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The name was made infamous in the Mortara Case of 1858, in which Pope Pius IX prevented a Jewish child who had been kidnapped and secretly baptized by a Christian servant from being returned to his parents.

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Dictionnaire étymologique des noms de famille gascons. By Michel Grosclaude. Ràdio Païs, 64230 Lescar, France. 1992. Pp. 265. 190 French francs.

A year after his *Dictionnaire toponymique des communes de Béarn*, Michel Grosclaude has brought out one of the most useful etymological studies so far available regarding the surnames of any region of France.

Gascony, here given its normal definition (8) for linguistic purposes, is bounded on the west by the Atlantic, on the south by the Franco-Spanish frontier along the main chain of the Pyrenees, and on the east by the Garonne — with the exception of the French part of the Basque country, in the extreme south-west, and with the addition of the *cantons* of Libourne and Marmande on the right bank of the Garonne and the parts of the Pyrenees and their foothills that are drained by its tributaries. The Gascon dialect has, notwithstanding its local variants, several striking phonetic differences that set it sufficiently apart from other forms of Occitan for it to be considered by some as a separate Romance language.

As Grosclaude acknowledges in a short annotated bibliography (22-24), the present work is built very largely on the research carried out by his precursors in the Pyrenean sectors of Gascony — most notably the closely documented historical studies of Régis de Saint-Jouan, *Le nom de famille en Béarn et ses origines* (Paris, 1966) and Marcel-François Berganton, *Le dérivé du nom individuel au moyen-âge en Béarn et en Bigorre: usage officiel, suffixes et formation* (Paris, 1977). Current telephone directories and the computerized *Minitel*

now provide a ready-made data base, and frequent reference is made to the nearest approximation to a medieval equivalent, the *Dénombrement des feux de Béarn en 1385* (published by Paul Raymond in 1874). Detailed historical documentation is less accessible, however, for the central and northern parts of Gascony, and the available reference works are sparse or incomplete; it seems that, although Grosclaude is well aware of the importance of archives, he has relied mainly on secondary sources and used the archival resources for only a limited number of specific names. As he points out himself (18), one cannot yet reasonably hope to produce the definitive study on Gascon names — but a preliminary survey is better than no study at all.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the new work makes no claim to be exhaustive in its coverage. The total number of Gascon surnames in existence is not known, though it seems safe to say that those not included among the 6000 examined here must be borne by very few individuals. The criterion for inclusion is, in principle, linguistic: Grosclaude has sought to record and explain those surnames that originate in the Gascon dialect, wherever their twentieth-century bearers may be living. While he normally excludes names of other linguistic origin, whether or not their bearers live in Gascony, he makes exceptions for some that have been established there long enough to be commonly regarded as authentically Gascon.

One of the main virtues of this book lies in the various methodological caveats that its author articulates. Grosclaude carefully points out (9-10) the frequent difficulty and occasional impossibility of attributing certain particular names to a precise geographical and/or linguistic source. This is, naturally, true above all of those that are widespread in distribution and polygenetic in origin (in the sense defined by Hanks and Hodges in the introduction to their *Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford, 1988). But, by painstaking examination of the examples *Portugau, Balespouey, Candaudap* and *Laousse*, Grosclaude is also able to demonstrate (249-252) that for certain of the rarer (and thus more distinctive) names it is possible to establish an astonishingly precise origin with almost complete certainty. The most striking of these examples is *Portugau*, a surname existing today in only nine French households (almost all of them demonstrably related): a single reference to the name in 1576 appears isolated, but

the *Dénombrement des feux...* clearly shows that in 1385 it was a nickname — attributable to the known participation of a Bearnese force in the battle of Aljubarrota, which took place just months before work started on this census. It is worth noting how this conclusion was reached, for the methodology used for this and similar examples may well serve scholars studying individual surnames in other provinces or countries of the Old World.

Since the 14th century and (in rural usage) up to the present day, it has been common in Gascony for people to be known by two names in addition to their Christian (or baptismal) name: a family name (inherited and, at least in principle, invariable), and the name of their house (subject to change when they change residence). Though Grosclaude's analysis (19-21) of the names included in his work must be regarded as a very tentative approximation, it reveals some significant tendencies. Most notably, no less than 41% of Gascon surnames appear to reflect house names — and to these might be added modern surnames that are hyphenated, combining both of the names by which a forebear was traditionally known. Some other origin types, widespread among surnames elsewhere, are significantly less common in Gascony: approximately 19% are derived from baptismal names, less than 9% from occupational names, and less than 8% from nicknames. Grosclaude regards some 9% as obscure (i.e., etymology unknown).

Leaving house names aside, the inherited family name itself designates a town or village of origin in some 14% of Gascon examples. With regard to these origin names, and in the light of his experience with examples that he has investigated closely, Grosclaude gives some useful methodological pointers in the first (239-240) of the appendices that conclude the book: they refer to localities that are generally fairly small and relatively close to the places where they are used in personal names; on the other hand, people are less likely to be known by the name of the place from which they have moved if that name is totally unfamiliar or if the place itself is so close that an association will not be truly distinctive; the names of the larger cities rarely if ever become surnames in village communities, since in all periods of history people have tended to move from villages to cities rather than the reverse. The author also points out how misleading it can be to state that a given surname refers to one

specific place, when so often a considerable number of places bear the same name: such identifications can only be made reliably when it is certain that no homonyms exist.

The most valuable features of Grosclaude's works are, perhaps, their introduction and a series of *annexes* (or appendices), like the one just mentioned, dealing with the more complex or controversial of the questions that may arise in connection with the articles that comprise the body of the dictionary: these topics are thus treated as a whole, and the reader does not have to piece together complementary details mentioned in several different places. The second appendix of the present work (241-247) classifies the very numerous surnames derived from or including *Pè* (or some variant of this form), the Gascon equivalent of *Peter*, and attempts the difficult task of disentangling them from near-homonymous forms whose first syllable has a totally different origin (*petram* > *peire* 'rock,' *podium* > *pey* 'summit,' *pellem* > *pel* 'hide, skin'). Another appendix (259-260) warns against attaching too much literal importance to a name's etymological meaning: for example, the use of the name *Claude* has not, for many centuries, been colored by the fact that its Latin antecedent originally meant "lame." As the author so rightly insists, one should therefore seek rather to determine what the name meant for those who gave it and what their intentions were in doing so — considering the circumstances of each individual case in its own time.

In the body of the dictionary (31-236), presentation is concise and compact. For economy and clarity of etymological discussion, whole series of names belonging to prevalent types are grouped according to their root: readers will find the necessary cross-references within the overall alphabetical order. A considerable range of suffixal and other variants (e.g., those with agglutinated definite article) are thus explained within a single article. When dealing with smaller series or isolated names, Grosclaude is extremely cautious in his explanations, and regularly indicates his preference when there are two or more rival hypotheses to be considered. Technical terms used are explained, with exemplary clarity, in a short glossary (25-27).

One of the aims of this volume, as of Grosclaude's previous publications, is avowedly (7) to bolster the Gascon public's

awareness of its own language and culture, threatened — like their equivalent in other regions — by today's prevailing trend towards uniformity and standardization. As an alternative to northern French orthographic norms, he thus indicates a "restored spelling" for many names — while emphasizing (18), however, that his intention is not in fact to urge that families today change the spelling of their names, but only to show what the forms of Gascon origin may well have looked like if this dialect had pursued a fully independent existence. (A certain number of Gascon surnames, known only in a modern French spelling and — as is common in such cases — with consequent changes in pronunciation, cannot, as a result, be traced back to an assured origin. Also, for those who would like to contribute to re-gasconization by giving their children traditional names, he concludes (261-263) with a list of about 200 first names that were current in Béarn and Bigorre between the 11th and 14th centuries.

Among works in onomastics, Grosclaude's book will rank high in meeting many of the demands that may be made by specialists, as well as those of the general public. Its basic methodology is sound, it does not claim to explain everything, and the presentation throughout is admirably clear. It will be of use to all who are interested in personal names from any European source.

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Inoffizielle Personennamen: Bildung, Bedeutung und Funktion (Unoffi-cial Personal Names: Formation, Meaning and Function). By Werner Kany. Reihe Germanistische Linguistik 427. Tübingen: Max Nieme-yer Verlag, 1992. Pp. ix + 365. Bibliography, appendix.

This monograph is the study of an onomastic fairytale. Long neglected or ignored, Cinderella-like, unofficial personal names turn out to be one of the richest, if not the richest, categories of linguistic

signs. This rags-to-riches story is, however, not without its problems and dilemmas, chiefest of which is the difficulty, some might say the impossibility, of classifying such signs convincingly as nomina propria in general or, more particularly, as personal names. The author therefore wisely decided to forego, for reasons of principle and on empirical grounds, a definition of items for which, as designations of persons, the epithet "unofficial" may vaguely but appropriately be the only common denominator. Such a stance is to be understood as one of scholarly courage rather than of auctorial resignation in a book which otherwise derives its *raison d'être* mainly from the rigor of its methodology, and the precision of the expressive power of its terminology in relationship to the concepts it represents. What impresses the reader from the very first page on is, pragmatically, the systematic approach to a topic so far much shunned for obvious reasons, and the systemic thinking behind this approach. Classification and categorization are its key structuring devices, whether applied to the formation of unofficial personal names, their meaning, their content, or their function. Cinderella does not easily become a princess — certainly not with the help of a slipper test, the waving of a magic wand, or compassionate birds on her mother's grave — but earns the riches which are ultimately revealed through hard grind and tough thinking. The variety of name forms, in every respect, is such that it is surprising that the author has managed to impose some kind of order on this heterogeneous, if not to say chaotic, corpus of about 2000 names.

Kany's presentation is divided into eight chapters which, respectively, deal with questions of methodology (1-10), definition and objectives (11-32), name formation, both elements and processes (33-104), meaning (105-141), content (142-169), function (170-198), creation, motivation and application (199-220), and, finally, summarizing comments (221-224). These chapters are followed by a useful bibliography (225-231), and an extensive annotated list of all the personal names mentioned in the main text (232-363), together with their sources (364-365).

This thematic structure employing several criteria inevitably and understandably leads to the discussion of the same names under different headings, particularly in the three chapters on meaning, content and function, as these are concepts which are not easily kept

apart because of their essential inter-connectedness; several facets of the argumentation regarding the motivation behind the creation of unofficial personal names and their actual application are also inseparable from semantic and functional considerations. The general underpinning of all these investigative approaches is, it seems, to be found in the modes of name formation of which Kany discerns the following six: transfer of existing lexemes; syntactic and morphological intertwinings; modification of (official) personal names and other designations of persons; extra-grammatical formations; complex formations combining some of the previous modes; and varia. Since all the names chosen by the author to illustrate these categories and their sub-classes — including those derived from English — make sense only in a German-language context, especially in their sensitivity to often extremely fine nuances in choice and application, it would probably be less than helpful to provide a representative sample here. This reticence on the reviewer's part is, however, not to be interpreted as meaning that Kany's basic categories might not apply to unofficial personal names in an English-speaking context. It might, in fact, be profitable to amass a corresponding corpus of names in an English-language setting and to search it for equivalents or even identical twins while interrogating it as a whole with Kany's principles and structures in mind, particularly in the journalistic print culture of newspapers and magazines.

It might instead by useful to scrutinize in a little more detail the important category of *Nachbenennungen*, i.e., of unofficial personal names transferred from other name classes, mainly official personal names and designations (*Caruso, Kaiser Wilhelm, Trapp-Familie*), but also, though less frequently, other unofficial personal names (*der rote Baron*), names of places (*Kuba, Hollywood-Jürgen, Oldenburg*), or names of products (*Maggi, Osram*), and so on. Such transfers are of special interest to the student of names because of their intra-onomastic nature, one kind of name becoming another kind of name, so to speak. It would, however, be erroneous to think, as Kany appears to imply, that, under these circumstances, the process of nominalization (*Onymisierung*), the turning of a non-name into a name, is unnecessary or redundant. This is, of course, the very pivot on which the ambiguous nature of unofficial personal names, already referred to above, hinges. On the one hand, transferring a name from

one kind of onymic category to another is not the same as turning a lexical item (lexeme) into an onymic one but, on the other, there are notable similarities because the process of nominalization takes its raw material from wherever it can, and existing lexica and onomastica are by no means its only sources. Somehow, it does not matter that *Caruso* or *Kaiser Wilhelm* has already been somebody's official *name*, that "the Red Baron" has already been somebody else's unofficial *name*, or that *Oldenburg* is the *name* of a real place in north-west Germany (and another in Schleswig-Holstein); they all have to be re-nominalised, reapplied to identify another onymic referent. This is something that also happens in the use of lexemes for the same purpose (*Gauleiter*), as well as when a boy officially inherits his father's or uncle's name, or a girl her mother's or grandmother's name, or either of them the name of a film star, a pop singer, a literary character, etc. In the end, they are all analogical formations, are serious or less serious, parodies. It is this generally parodic nature of personal names that their unofficial subgenre also cannot escape. What does, however, give unofficial personal names special, though not unique, status is the fact that usually neither the name donor nor the name recipient has any say in the matter. What is ultimately transferred, whether through linguistic manipulation or ludic reshaping of the official name of the recipient or not, is the complete or partial *content* of a name that is capable of public recognition. Onymically, such *Nachbenennungen* are anything but empty, even if they are lexically opaque. As Kany points out, the names in question often limit the personal qualities involved selectively to just a few, finely honing them and repeatedly re-confirming them like the characteristics of cartoon characters.

    While the main text of the monograph is devoted to the establishment of general principles and the search for discernible patterns with regard to the formation of unofficial personal names and the reasons, motivations and aims influencing their creation, the substantial appendix, listing in alphabetical order the inventory of names quoted in the text, provides further information about the persons named, the sources of the evidence collected and the nature of the allusions or modifications involved. In many instances, these details make the process under discussion and its products less impersonal without, however, necessarily creating persons of flesh

and blood, especially when these, for obvious reasons, remain anonymous. The factors contributing to the giving of unofficial personal names are not only complex but also highly personal and situational and therefore often elusive. Ludic and parodic elements, though among the most important, are by no means the only ones, and one has to reckon with the possibility that, while a name like *Fatso* is usually given to a fat person, it may sometimes be applied in ironic reversal to an extra-ordinarily thin one. The unofficial nature of the names in question makes them difficult to collect from oral tradition, especially if one is also interested in the circumstances surrounding the creation of a name, like the personality of the recipient or his or her relationship to the name giver(s). Perhaps this accounts for the large number of names which Kany has culled from newspapers and magazines. Journalists are not only inveterate punsters but also keen labelers, and therefore thrive on satiric, witty, mostly derogative or pejorative onomastic "handles," but it is questionable whether many or any of their spur-of-the-moment creations are ever accepted into general circulation.

The subject matter of the book under review cannot but appeal strongly to students of names. What makes Kany's presentation and treatment of it particularly attractive is the introduction of psycho-onomastic, socio-onomastic, and semiotic aspects, especially the first of these. It is probably not too speculative a claim to make that future onomastic scholarship will concentrate more and more on the psychology and sociology of naming, namers, name bearers and names, with special emphasis on such processes as name choice, naming motivation, name giving and reception, and, above all, name usage. "Unofficial personal names" may look like a very limited topic but Kany's treatment shows that their systematic investigation requires knowledge of, and expertise in, many of the basic concepts and tenets of all name study.

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Historisches Ortsnamenlexikon von Schleswig-Holstein. 2., völlig
veränderte und erweiterte Auflang [Historical Place-Name Dictionary
of Schleswig-Holstein. Second, completely revised and expanded
edition]. By Wolfgang Laur. Veröffent-lichungen des schleswig-
holsteinischen Landesarchivs 28. Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Postfach
2789, D-24534, Neumünster, Germany. 1992. Pp. 755. Map, abbrevia-
tions, indices. DM 85.

When Wolfgang Laur's *Historisches Ortsnamenlexikon von
Schleswig-Holstein* first appeared in 1967, it not only provided a much
needed and very reliable companion to his earlier narrative account
of *Die Ortsnamen von Schleswig-Holstein* (1960) but also constituted
one of the very first regional dictionaries of German place names.
The publication of a second edition in 1992 recognizes the fact that
much research has been done in this field of study in the last quarter
of the century, not least by the author himself; it also responds to
the practical need for a replacement of the first edition which has
been out of print or unobtainable for many years. It is to our great
benefit that Laur, the acknowledged authority on the subject and one
of the most respected name scholars in Germany, has been able to
prepare and see through the press this new volume himself bringing
to it the expertise of a lifetime.

In what ways are the claims of the subtitle justified that this
second edition has been completely revised and enlarged? Although
numbers do not tell the whole story, the most noticeable change is
the doubling of the number of names discussed, from about 4000 to
about 8000, an increase which affects fairly evenly most of the
categories of names included — regions, settlements, lakes, water-
courses, etc. — and which is the result mainly of the inclusion of
more recent names and of names of smaller settlements. The number
of sources, both primary and secondary, has also increased; as far as
the latter are concerned, the dictionary has benefited from published
research on both sides of the German-Danish border, particularly
from the several volumes published in the series *Kieler Beiträge zur
deutschen Sprachgeschichte*. Such research has necessitated the
rewriting of many entries and has led Laur to rethink a number of
etymologies offered in the first edition. The number of items listed

in the bibliography has correspondingly risen from 395 to 625, an astonishing increase considering the size of the area covered but perhaps less surprising when one takes into account the complexity of the linguistic stratification which is also reflected in the sections on Low German and Danish dialects, and on Low German names in High German guise added to the extensive Introduction, the basic structure of which has otherwise remained the same. Completely different, on the other hand, is the whole format of the book the new attractive exterior of which befits the improved quality of the substance offered between the book's covers.

Since, to the best of my knowledge, the first edition of the dictionary was not reviewed in this journal, a few pointers are perhaps justified as to the nature of the place name evidence contained in Laur's book. Schleswig-Holstein is, of course, in its present boundaries, the northern-most *land* (state) of the Federal Republic of Germany, extending from just north of Hamburg to the Danish border. Historically, however, its borders have changed several times, noticeably in the north where, north of the river Eider and the Kiel Kanal, many place names of Danish origin (*Ackebroe, Haselund, Husby, Satrup, Schobüll, Unewatt*) still testify to the former allegiance to Denmark of the Dukedom of Schleswig; in the west, names on the North Frisian Islands and on the adjacent west coast (*Amrum, Hooge, Keitum, Morsum, Sylt*) remind us of the presence of North Frisian dialects (now almost extinct), and in eastern Holstein names like *Eutin, Grömitz, Lensahn, Lübeck,* and *Plön* are surviving reflexes of an earlier Slavic population. Not surprisingly, the most influential languages have been, and to a certain extent still are, Low German (*Büsum, Eckhorst, Langelohe, Niemark, Rodenbek*) and, most recently, High German (*Friedrichstadt, Karolinenkoog, Königsbach, Neumark, Wilhelmshof*), and not only names of the former provenance (*Damendorf, Deichhausen, Lütjenburg, Neumühlen, Segeberg*) but also many of other linguistic origins have been shaped by the latter, usually passing first through Low German. The transmission of place names in Schleswig-Holstein is, however, often more complex than that, insofar as we also find North Frisian forms of Danish and Low German names, Danish forms of Frisian and Low German names, Low German forms of High German names, and so on; it is therefore sometimes difficult to determine in which language

a particular name originated, especially since most of the languages concerned are closely related to each other.

Laur's presentation fully satisfies modern scholarly requirements. All names, if they are still current, are listed under their modern form, relevant early spellings and linguistic variants are also provided, as well as adequate, if necessary detailed, discussions of the derivations advocated. His references, by number, to publications listed in the bibliography are especially helpful for those readers who want to pursue an issue further. In places, the author's obvious keen interest in etymological matters and linguistic (pre)history has tempted him to include information which, while not irrelevant, has little direct bearing on the immediate origin of the name in question. However, the phrase "durchsichtiger Name" (transparent name), as under *Auf der Aue*, *Augustenhof*, *Barlterneuendeich*, *Baumkate*, *Birkensee*, etc., leaves the reader who has an interest beyond mere etymological considerations dissatisfied. One would like to know which particular water-course is referred to in *Auf der Aue*, who exactly was the *Auguste* commemorated in *Augustenhof*, whether there was an older dike from which the Barlter*neuen*deich was distinguished at the time of naming, whether there are traces left of the (conspicuous?) tree which gave *Baumkate* its distinctive name, and whether the reference to birches effectively distinguished the *Birkensee* from other kinds of lakes in the vicinity. Perhaps this is too much to ask of a "historical" dictionary containing 8000 names together with their early spellings from a large variety of sources but "transparency" is too slippery a concept to be useful as a descriptive term that permits precision and rigour. The same, of course, applies to the term "self-explanatory" that is often used as an equivalent in place-name compendia published in English.

This minor criticism is, however, not intended to detract from the immense value of this book and especially from the trustworthiness of its conclusions. Laur is a cautious scholar who will hardly ever allow an element of speculation to creep into his discussions. His impressive knowledge of the complex linguistic background to the nomenclature he surveys also finds expression in his extensive introduction and in the various indices which make connections where the alphabetical arrangement of the dictionary separates. The people of Schleswig-Holstein and anybody interested in that part of

the world are very fortunate to have this dictionary at their disposal and owe the author much thanks for the painstaking work that has gone into its making. The *Historisches Ortsnamenlexikon von Schleswig-Holstein* is, by any standards, a very fine piece of scholarship.

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Oregon Geographic Names, Sixth Edition. By Lewis A. McArthur, Revised and Enlarged by Lewis L. McArthur. Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society Press. 1992. Pp. xiii + 957. $19.95 paper.

This book is a rather unusual and remarkable example of scholarly progress over two long and distinguished lifetimes. It will extend the legacy of a great Oregonian into the twenty-first century and illustrates his son's, Lewis L. McAthur's, many and continuing contributions to the field of toponymy. Lewis A. produced his first edition in 1928, which was justly praised for its style and erudition by no less an authority than H. L. Mencken; successive editions followed in 1944 and 1952. The son is now responsible for three editions of his own, and the work continues the engaging, informative style of the elder McArthur (in fact, one cannot easily distinguish the phrasing of one McArthur from the other without checking the dates of the references). It also focuses our attention on basic issues in toponymic research and in almost every way sets an example for similar compilations.

The most important contribution of Lewis L. is his development of a computer data base for Oregon names. A data base permits the sorting, retrieval, and editing of different types of information that may be in a given text, e.g., the different parts of a name entry in this book. As McArthur explains in his Preface, the fourth edition of 1974 "was computer composed by Gordon Nelson...and the 1982 was updated by him [Nelson] on the same program" (iv). To prepare the sixth edition, the computerized file of the text was transferred to

WordPerfect 5.0. However, McArthur's data are not stored in just a simple text form but in a data base with carefully defined data fields. His current research is linked closely to the GNIS Phase II project supported by the U.S. Geological Survey and to the discussions by The Placename Survey of the United States of a standard computer format. He has, in fact, been a leader in those discussions and has designed a classification system of name references (prior meanings) which The Placename Survey has officially recommended.

He describes this classification system in the Introduction (v-x); however, the categories are not indicated in the text entries. The average reader might, therefore, question their usefulness. Also, the categories can overlap: "Superimposed Indian" and "Transfers" are separate categories but easily fall as well "into the Biographic, Physical or Biological categories" (viii). If these categories are to be sorted in a single data field (i.e., defined as the same type of information), they cannot overlap. Thus, a clearer distinction needs to be drawn between prior meanings which are primary (i.e., immediate) and those which are secondary.

There are serious issues here that need to be clarified, but the practical value of these categories does not lie in things which interest the average reader. Their value lies, instead, in the sorting, selecting, and editing of entries and, potentially, in broad social and linguistic analyses. There are, as McArthur notes, "about 45,000 names currently" (vi) in the Oregon GNIS file, but these include churches, schools, shopping centers, radio towers and other features not "worthy of serious study" (vii). Of course, the objects of "serious study" may change with time, and McArthur's research may later be of value in ways that no one now would expect. In the meantime, McArthur uses his categories as an aid in selecting and editing "headings covering 5,473 names with some 1,979 more mentioned in the text" (vii). It is about as big as a book should be allowed to be.

McArthur has abandoned the language of origin categories devised by his father. Those categories, as he notes, have "not been satisfactory and the American Name Society [through The Placename Survey] is doing preliminary studies of linguistic classification" (viii). Clearly, the absence of such categories severely limits many types of cultural analyses now made possible with the sorting and retrieval

power of computer technology. McArthur's data base is helpful in pointing us toward these kinds of analyses, and this reviewer certainly shares his hope that "some broad [linguistic] categories may be established prior to a future edition." As a preliminary example, McArthur points out that 403 of his entries "or 7.36% are of Native American Origin" (viii).

Although the entries themselves are not classified linguistically, within the individual entries there is a wealth of linguistic information and analysis. In discussing a possible early reference to what is now called the Lewis and Clark River, McArthur records a basic point about Native American languages of the area: "It seems not to have been the custom of many Oregon tribes to name streams, but places along streams" (505). Under *Palouse Creek*, he devotes a rather long paragraph to the intricate derivations possible from tribal languages and French of a term that is probably a transfer from the eastern edge of Washington State (650). In the entry for *Mosquite*, he shows how the name illustrates the pronunciation of Italian immigrants; it is a brief but interesting study in dialectology (580). The entry for Oregon is over three pages long and covers a number of linguistic hypotheses, the most probable centering on the recording of oral transmission, the sounds of the word, and William Cullen Bryant's poem "Thanatopsis" (637-640). The rich historical detail in this book has been noted by reviewers of every edition, but it is also clear that few onomasticians explain the imagery and sounds of words as plainly or as well as do the two McArthurs.

The book is not above some small quibbles. First, it does not provide local pronunciations of unusual names, for which the 1974 edition was criticized by Robert Rennick (57). I think it is a reasonable omission considering the questions of space, readability, and the availability of gazetteers. Second, as already noted by Alan Rayburn (48), it does not make a formatted distinction between names that are current and official and those that are not. Such a distinction would be a bit tricky for those names not in the GNIS file and would fall out of date for some before the first book could be sold. Still, a quick indication of the currency of a name might be useful. Third, items that are mentioned in the text but not listed as a separate entry can be confusing. For example, in discussing Abbot Creek, McArthur tells us that there is also an Abbot Butte named by

the USFS: "It is just west of Abbot Creek and was named on that account. See also Camp Abbot" (2). If the reader turns to Abbot Butte, there is only Abbott Butte, and it takes at least a double roll of the eyeballs to realize the difference.

Part of the charm of this book in all six editions is its forthrightness. A rather well known story is Lewis L.'s entry for Whorehouse Meadow. Government bureaucrats substituted the "namby-pamby name, Naughty Girl Meadow," until the issue was brought to the attention of the Oregon Geographic Names Board. "The compiler is happy to add that the old name was restored by Decision List 8304. O Tempora! O Mores!" (905)

McArthur challenges another moral issue in his entry for Negro Ben Mountain. For many years the name was Nigger Ben Mountain, but it was changed in 1964 as part of a policy to remove derogatory names from government maps. McArthur argues, as a part of his entry, that "there is no evidence the original name was derogatory, and if every name that might offend some ethnic group must be altered to suit the changing times, the authorities might just as well resort to a simple numerical designation" (612). Unfortunately, names may have meanings now that they did not have in their original context, and the word nigger has been and still is used to abuse others. Language is an associative process, and we should remove names that are associated with abuse. At the same time, McArthur makes the right point on issues of taste and sensibility. Their changes, as we can see in our use of ethnic designations, mock the very idea of standards.

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