BOOK REVIEWS

Language in Contemporary Society: Proceedings of the International Conference on Geolinguistics in the Nineties. Edited by Jesse Levitt, Leonard R. N. Ashley, and Kenneth H. Rogers. Brooklyn, NY: American Society of Geolinguistics, 1993. Pp. ix + 357. (For ordering information, call 800-344-7579).

Most of the 39 articles in this collection, while ranging widely in specific topics, deal with a core of intertwined geolinguistics issues. Primary are language maintenance, planning, and survival (off-putting but useful labels). These intertwine with problems of "official" languages of wider communication versus the cultural politics of regional and "non-standard" languages. Solutions impinge on other language issues, from teaching strategies to the interrelations of languages, literatures, and cultures, especially in multilingual, multicultural societies (which most societies really are if vernaculars are not ignored).

Articles further afield include three on place names of special interest to *Names* readers: one on Washington state place names that moved with communities displaced by the Grand Coulee dam reservoir (G. Smith), another on politically motivated renaming (with a few attendant ironies) of streets in Budapest and Prague (E. Rajec), and a third on English names for foreign countries (A. W. Read). There is an astute article on translating poetry (M. J. Oppenheimer), two on language curriculum issues (V. P. Maiorana, A. Paolucci) and two on "constructed languages" (T. Reagan on sign language; L. B. Yeager on Interlingua), and two sociologically oriented articles (P. Woolfson, P. W. Park).

The keynote article, by French geolinguist Roland J. L. Breton, takes up the displacement of minority and regional languages by languages of wider communication, languages often vital for social and economic opportunities for young people. The result, however, is "linguicide" for less-spoken languages. Linguicide may reduce the four to six thousand languages now thought to be in use to "a few score" in a generation or so, Breton argues. Less-spoken languages

may be endangered species, insignificant-seeming linguistic spotted owls whose disappearance signals the loss without a trace of linguistic/cultural ecosystems these languages record (linguistic Jurassic Parks seem unlikely).

Can language planning and maintenance prevent linguicide? A number of contributors evaluate efforts to maintain endangered languages, and one looks at the extinction of two, Okinawan and Ainu (R. Shinzato). Efforts with Catalan (S. Hess) and, intriguingly, Mayan in Guatemala (R. M. Brown), with Occitan in the south of France and Romansh in Switzerland (K. H. Rogers) seem to promise success. Most, however, seem less promising — *Bables* of Asturias (F. J. Martínez), Basque (L. Bloom), Lakota Sioux (L. B. Richardson), Breton (T. G. Slone), and even the broad recognition in Canada of Amerindians as "First Nations" (Ashley). An ingenious study of Egyptian teachers' prejudices based on their students' Arabic dialects underscores a related educational issue (Bentley), the politics of the social respectability of less spoken languages. A larger scale version of language politics enters into the great difficulties in China with standardizing a national language and its written form (Kao, Balbin). Some of these efforts might learn from the activities of 17th century German language societies, argues T. D. Prince. D. Bhattacharjya chronicles a failing effort to adopt an official language (English) for education in the multilingual Indian state of Nagaland, which has a history of bitter language and ethnic conflicts. Nagamese, a widely-understood, regional trading language, although unstandardized and with little respectability, he argues, would have been a better choice. The futures of Dutch (C. Low) and Italian (J. McConnell) get more cheering assessments. Both are being inundated by English and Pop-Culturese, but neither shows signs of cultural or structural decay.

Several contributors examine language maintenance and planning issues in public schools with large numbers of immigrant and first-generation students, many speaking vernaculars, rather than the standardized versions of their first languages. Dealing constructively with student speakers of Spanish vernaculars is discussed by W. H. Finke and A. Rubal-López. Other contributors also urge recognition and educational uses of unstandardized varieties of widely spoken languages — pidgins and creoles (J. D. Roy, E. B. Richmond). J.

Edwards urges this kind of linguistic recognition also for ethnic and political reasons. Two contributors (K. Kikuchi in Japan, M. Danesi in Toronto and Naples) find important sources of educational insights in other thoroughly nonstandardized languages — the adolescent vernaculars of international pop culture.

A number of contributors focus on overtly political abuses of language for xenophobic political purposes. Regarding "official English" advocates in the United States, T. Amorose sees the advocates' core equivocation as treating English as a symbol and test rather than as a practical mode of communication. J. Levitt essentially agrees, finding that the fears Official English advocates warn about have little reality. The American official language debate has little in common (except for the xenophobia) with debates over official languages of wider communication in developing nations with no language common to much of the population and cultural qualms about choosing a colonial language (G. R. Haas: literary use of English in Africa).

Can merely changing people's language change reality? The complexities of language issues in *Language in Contemporary Society* articles hardly support such a view. I. L. Allen gives a penetrating analysis of the language and arguments of "identity politics" in the more polarized attacks on, and support of, "political correctness." The underlying ideologies of identity politics, he argues, have a common design of (in Orwell's words) "diminish[ing] the range of thought" regarding multiculturalism and are self-defeating. The processes Allen describes cast light on many of the dilemmas of language politics, maintenance, and planning in multilingual, multicultural societies. A related article analyzes another current example of identity politics and its manipulation of language in the not-so-covert racist language of Japan-bashing (F. Nuessel).

The diverse collection of articles in *Language in Contemporary Society* offers valuable insights into current language issues and for thinking about them.

Gaylord R. Haas
University of Connecticut at Stamford

Kentucky's Bluegrass: A Survey of the Post Offices. By Robert M. Rennick. Lake Grove, OR 97035: The Depot, Box 2093, 1993. Pp. iv + 154. Price: $25.00, hardcover; $12.50, paperback.

This informative text describes the post offices (past and present) in ten counties within the Bluegrass (some write "Blue Grass") Region of Kentucky. This will be the first volume of two that will eventually cover the entire region. The counties here covered are Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Scott, and Woodford.

Those familiar with the works of Rennick know that he is very detailed, exact, and thorough. This text has all those characteristics, as well as some information that will be essential for anyone who wishes to investigate the origins of the names of post offices anywhere. Rennick simply and authoritatively walks us through the difficulties of finding exact information about post offices, which tended to be moved from place to place — the back room of someone's home to the front end of a horse stall, on top of one hill one year and on another next year, from the upper end of a stream to anywhere along it — a peripatetic rambling that leaves placename researchers frustrated.

Rennick lists and describes many sources that need to be searched for the exact location of post offices and also for chasing through the changes and moves that take place. Sometimes the same name will occur in several geographical locations over the years. Sometimes the post office may remain in one place but have different names. He notes the usual local maps, seldom correct or precise except for the current name, any regional maps or state maps (usually not available, especially 19th century maps), Rand McNally maps, *Site Location Reports* (from the National Archives), census records, family biographies, and U. S. Geologic Survey maps, the latter not being of much help for post office identities and locations. This section can serve as a manual for sources.

Next, Rennick cautions researchers on the unreliability of post office name origins. The first postmaster may not have been the one who petitioned the post office. The postmaster worked at the postal duties only part-time, otherwise having a principal occupation of

farmer, blacksmith or storekeeper. Sometimes the postmaster was an employee of the storekeeper or owner of the building where it was located. Sometimes the post office took the name of the community it served; sometimes the opposite occurred in that the community that grew up around a post office took its name. Then, too, the usual derivations are found: for the nearby stream, the landing, school, church, mill, mine, or other features or buildings. The usual honorific names appear, reflecting on the community's attitude toward a national figure or remembering a former home. Spelling was not stable, either. Then came the time when the postal officials in Washington chose a name from a list supplied by the petitioner. Thus, some names have absolutely no relationship with the community. Again, the section can serve as a manual for future researchers.

A chapter is devoted to each of the counties, Fayette (now called Lexington-Fayette) being first. Rennick gives a geographical sketch and the origin of the name or names. Each post office is then described, located, and provided with the onomastic fact of origin, and background on the reason for the name. The names of post offices are discussed by date, the earliest first. In Fayette County, Lexington had the first post office, established October 1, 1794. The second one was "the shortlived Boon's Station," probably on the site of Daniel Boone's tract of land. Rennick tries to establish the reason for the name, such as *Cross Plains* being named because it was sited at the crossing of two buffalo traces. *Athens* probably was named for the nickname of Lexington, "the Athens of the West." *Donerail* is said to have been named for a tavern called *Doneraile*, in turn for a town in Ireland's County Cork, but the reason for the name is not known. The name was changed from time to time during the life of the post office, which at one time was moved over the line into Scott County and had such names as *Carrolton* and *Delphton*. As *Donerail*, it was closed in 1973. The history of each post office is worked out carefully and even meticulously, no doubt demanding on-the-site inspection, exacting field work by Rennick.

While the text is oriented toward regional postal history, it contains much historical, social, and onomastic material. Naturally, the more unusual names attract. Names in Fayette County that entice second notices are *Reform* and *Slipaway* (eventually *Slickaway*), both relative to the movement of slaves escaping from Southern slave

holders. The usual *Frogtowns* show up (two here), but *Avon*, which no doubt relates to the English town, puzzles Rennick, who has found no reason why it was so named. *Kirklevington* is a transfer by a Scotsman from a church in Scotland. Rennick summarizes the onomastic content in a short paragraph: "Of the twenty-seven post offices, nine were named for local or area persons or families; four referred to distant places; and to eleven were transferred names of nearby places or features...[and] the origin of three (Montrose, Avon, and Brighton) are still unknown."

Rennick repeats the pattern for Fayette County through the next nine chapters covering the remaining nine counties. Each chapter contains a line map with all post offices noted, a narrative discussion of all the names, an onomastic summary, extensive and revealing footnotes, and a list of references, some very obscure ones in regional newspapers and unpublished manuscripts. Trained as a sociologist, Rennick is a master at field work investigation, always informing himself of the history of the area before he approaches informants, with whom he achieves a rapport that is the envy of other fieldworkers. The text is rounded with an index to communities and post offices and an index to personal names.

Although the text is informative only to those who are interested in the region for whatever purpose (historical, sociological, or genealogical), it has a far greater importance in that it is definitely a model for future work in placenames, since it shows exactly how to approach the investigation of any area. I have already used the technique in placename investigation in St. Lawrence County, NY, and intend to follow his manual-like directions in further work in this immediate vicinity.

Some proofreading errors appear, and the use of pronunciation symbols can be faulted, but these are minor matters and should not detract from the importance of this almost obscure text. Anyone investigating the "content" of placenames should inspect the text and observe how the placenames of a region can be studied most effectively.

Kelsie B. Harder
State University College, Potsdam, NY

Native Canadian Geographical Names: An Annotated Bibliography. Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. CPCGN Secretariat, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E9, 1993.

Those who labor in the mines of bibliography need credit and praise: E. Anthony Price (Chair of CPCGN and author of the Preface), Helen Kerfoot (who directed the project), Jocelyne Revie, Kathleen O'Brien, Carolyn Robidoux, Loanne Pye, Anne Nederlof, Elspeth Ross (who set up the format and gathered many of the entries), and Albertina Pianarosa (who updated the bibliography).

The bibliography contains 1,251 items, all pertaining to "native" peoples, with "native Canadians" called *Indians*, *Eskimos*, *primitive peoples*, *Inuits*, and *Amerindians* in the annotations, which probably needed more careful editing for consistency. Many entries pertain to "native Americans," that is, to those living in the United States, despite the connotations that "native American" has in both Canada and the U.S. The label "Amerindians" is probably more sensible and covers the "native" peoples on both continents. But labels have an endurance beyond sense and sensibleness.

The inclusion of items from outside Canada provide comparison, methodology, and cartographic application. Although a few outsiders' entries (by Peter Raper, Virgil Vogel, Hammill Kenny) appear in the "native Canadian" section, numbers 1063-1251 are all references to "native geographic names in other countries." Many of those are familiar to ANS members, and need no mentioning here. I am still somewhat amazed how Walt Whitman was brought in with his article, "American Primer," from *Atlantic Monthly*, 93 (1904), published after his death, in which he recommended substituting "Indian names for all other place names, even the oldest and most hallowed. Niagara should be substituted for the St. Lawrence."

This is an outstanding reference work, one that surely will be updated and the number of entries greatly increased as more items are discovered or appear. The compilers and editors deserve thanks from onomasticians in both Canada and the United States.

Kelsie B. Harder
State University College, Potsdam, NY

The Guinness Book of Names, 6th ed. By Leslie Dunkling. Guinness Publishing Ltd., 33 London Road, Enfield, Middlesex, England, 1993. Pp. 255. Paper $14.95.

In the Acknowledgements and Preface to this book, Leslie Dunkling, whose own name as a scholar in the field of onomastics is well-known, cites a number of prominent people, including Kelsie B. Harder, for their assistance in compiling the information contained in this important reference work and provides readers with a rationale for the selection of names included in this sixth edition of what has become a standard reference.

The first chapter "What's in a Name" (7-22) discusses the components of names, including their meaning and their etymology. In this overview chapter, Dunkling calls attention to important, selected previous name studies such as those of Lawson (*Personal Names and Naming*) and Morgan, O'Neill and Harré (*Nicknames: Their Origins and Social Consequences*). The introduction also whets readers' appetites for more information on names by providing tantalizing annotated listings of names such as "naming the day" (13-18), "personal name words [eponyms]" (19), "place-name words" (19) and "invented names" (21).

Chapters 2 "First Names First," 3 "Fashionable Names," 4 "Naming the Baby" and 5 "The Gift of a Name" all deal with aspects of first names, such as meaning, popularity, and gender-specific names associated with different ethnic groups. Two of the most frequently consulted sections of the book are likely to be those which enumerate the popularity of male and female names. These are listed by decade and by country (USA, England and Wales, Australia). Of particular interest is the "first name profiles" section (56-76), based on data collected by the Register General's Indexes of Births (for England and Wales) which consist of alphabetical listings of names and their rise and fall in popularity for the years 1900, 1925, 1935, 1950 and for five-year intervals thereafter. The process of naming a child offers a number of insights into the psychological factors involved. These include euphony, initials, respectability, originality, gender, religion, nationality, and a wide variety of attributive associations. Expectant parents, for example, will find the one-page procedure for naming a new baby to be quite instructive

and useful. Finally, there is a listing of the top ten names in a variety of European countries (101-102).

Chapter 6 "The Family Name" includes listings of Scandinavian, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Celtic, American and English surnames and their meanings. Readers with an incipient interest in genealogy would do well to follow the author's advice on "tracing the origin of a family name" (113). The final page of this chapter includes enumerations of the fifty most common surnames in England and Wales, USA, and Scotland as well as a list of the surnames of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower voyage of 1620.

Chapter 7 "Making a Name for Yourself" contains a number of interesting facts about stage names, pen names, aliases, and similar name changes. Chapter 8 "Eking out Names" is a veritable treasure trove of nicknames from such domains as politics, crime, literature, and so forth. Dunkling also tries to provide a rationale for the creation of these names.

Chapters 9 "A Local Habitation and a Name," 10 "Names Take Their Places" and 11 "Neighborly Names" all deal with aspects of place names and the diverse explanations for their origins. The last of this cluster of chapters on toponyms includes street names with an emphasis on those of Great Britain.

In the next chapter "Signing a Name", there is a comprehensive listing and analysis of English pub names which will fascinate most readers, especially those who have traveled to the British Isles.

Chapter 13 "Home-made Names" discusses in great detail the custom of assigning a name to one's dwelling. While this tradition may strike many U.S. readers as odd, those same readers would not find the naming of houseboats (198) unusual.

Chapter 14 "Trading a Name" addresses the issue of trade names, and is a potpourri of interesting facts on the wide variety of these names and the creativity involved in producing them. Room's *Dictionary of Trade Name Origins* is, of course, an excellent collateral reference for this chapter.

The penultimate chapter "No End of Names" provides Dunkling with the opportunity to discuss and itemize those names that elude easy categorization under the more traditional rubrics of personal names, place names, and trade names. Among the sundry items

included here are names for animals, flowers, apples, ships, trains, dogs, cats, yachts, and hats.

The final chapter "Name Games" is particularly intriguing because Dunkling discusses a number of onomastic name games such as name meanings, anagrams, alphabet mysticism, rebuses, name jokes, and surname puns.

Even an extensive review would not be able to capture the breadth and depth of interesting onomastic materials in this book. Suffice to say that this reasonably-priced resource belongs in the personal library of everyone with an interest in names. The volume is a "Facts on File" book which explains why it contains so many name lists. Its basic function is to serve as a reference work in the home, at the office, or in the library. Besides being an excellent onomastic resource, Dunkling's *The Guinness Book of Names* is enjoyable to read. "Further Reading" and a "Names Index" complement the volume.

Frank Nuessel
University of Louisville

Beyond Jennifer & Jason: An Enlightened Guide to Naming Your Baby (2nd rev. ed.). By Linda Rosenkrantz and Pamela Redmond Satran. St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010. 1994. Pp. xviii + 334. Paper, $10.95.

Beyond Jennifer & Jason, which proclaims itself "the book that revolutionized baby naming," is now in its third edition. Unlike most baby name books, it contains no "long dull lists of names with their definitions." Instead it is divided into four main sections (Style, Image, Sex, and Tradition), which themselves are made up of long lists of names for boys and girls under headings like "Place Names," "Fashion Limbo," "Creative Power Names," "Beach Boys" and "Scandinavian Names," interspersed with essays of 2 to 14 pages with titles like "Can You Really Name a Baby Edna?" and "The Hillary Era." The aim of the book is to give parents a sense of what

names are out of fashion, in fashion, or about to come into fashion, along with a sense of the images associated with the names. To this is added general advice on factors to consider when naming a baby.

I like the general idea of this book. It is odd that most baby name books are basically dictionaries of names with their "meanings," really their etymological origins. It makes no more sense to say that *Bertha* means 'bright' because it did so in Old German than it does to say that *orchid* means 'testicle' because it did so in ancient Greek. A book which focuses instead on the fashion status of names and the stereotypes they invoke would give most parents more useful information than do books with the traditional format.

Although I like the idea, I have major problems with its execution in. I wouldn't be quite as disturbed if the book's subtitle didn't call it an "*enlightened* guide." Maybe I expect too much, but to me an "enlightened" approach to the subject would use the best research available to critically examine present patterns of baby naming. It would examine what these patterns say about modern American values, and it would challenge prospective parents to carefully consider whether or not they want to buy into those values. Instead this book gives a breezy superficial treatment of the subject, with few signs that the authors have carefully examined their own values about naming, much less those of the general public. To indicate how I think a truly enlightened approach might operate, I will briefly highlight what I see as some of the unspoken values that shaped Rosenkrantz and Satran's writing of this book.

1. *Real research on this topic isn't necessary.* The book is chock full of lists of names that are supposed to have particular images or connotations, from "Exotic Names" to "High Energy Names" to "Boyish Names (for girls)." However, there is no indication that any of these lists were put together with any information other than the authors' personal feelings and opinions. This is not to say that the lists are completely worthless; as intelligent Americans with an interest in names, the authors' opinions are probably on target more often than they are off. For instance, one of their hypotheses (that girls' names with more syllables have a more "feminine" connotation) has even been substantiated by scientific researchers such as Albert Mehrabian and Herbert Barry, among others. But the lists are presented as if they definitively reflected the opinions of the general

public, when they are in fact merely the best guesses of two free-lance writers.

Of course there is some information in *Beyond Jennifer & Jason* which Rosenkrantz and Satran had to find through research of a sort. But they haven't always done their investigations very carefully. For example, though their short summary of psychological research on the effects of unusual names (133-137) gives accurate quotes, it's a fairly superficial treatment which ignores the most recent findings. And they repeat *twice* (84, 276) the old fiction that Yul Brynner's original name was Taidje Khan, Jr., when a quick check of biographies published since his death would have informed them that that was one of many white lies the actor loved to tell interviewers. (He was, in fact, born Yul Bryner).

2. *Fashion is the most important element to consider when choosing a name for your child.* The whole tone of the book is revealed by the title of the first subsection: "What's Hot." Perhaps this is to be expected when part of the authors' credentials are that Rosenkrantz writes a "nationally syndicated column on collectibles" and Satran has written "a book on style and a novel" (vi). The authors repeatedly imply that most American parents shop for a name with the same goal as the stereotypical society woman shops for a party dress; the idea is to have what everyone else will want a year before they know they want it. And, unfortunately, Rosenkrantz and Satran obviously approve of this: even when they are discussing the paradox that the "hottest" names today are "trend-resistant classics" (6), they warn about the possibility of names like *John* and *Elizabeth* becoming "overheated" (7), as if the worst sin in the world was to give your child a name that someone else in his or her preschool might bear. There are of course practical reasons why many parents, especially those with very common surnames like *Smith* or *Rodriguez*, might want to avoid the most popular names. But it never occurs to Rosenkrantz and Satran that parents with surnames like *Lipschitz* or *Snodgrass* might do their kids a favor by naming them something common and unteasable like *Amanda* or *Christopher.*

3. *Spelling variations can safely be ignored.* Actually, I have a lot of sympathy with this particular value. As a name researcher myself, I deplore the present vogue for putting spellings like *Krysteana* and *Mykol* on children's birth certificates. But Rosenkrantz and Satran

use their distaste for unconventional spellings as an excuse to ignore all spelling differences when they count up the popularity of names. As a result their lists of the most popular names in the United States (60-61) seriously understate the commonness of names like *Lindsey/-Lindsay* and *Steven/Stephen* which have two or more popular spellings. They even complain that *Kaitlyn* is "oddly spelled" (63), not realizing that it has now surpassed *Caitlin* as the number one spelling of this name in most parts of the country.

4. *What minority ethnic groups are naming their children is unimportant.* Rosenkrantz and Satran devote two paragraphs (64-65) to the names African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans are currently giving their children. Even in those two paragraphs they misidentify names like *Lakisha*, *Latasha*, and *Latoya* as being "African or Muslim" when they are in fact modern African-American creations which bear little resemblance to most names from African languages. Later, in the book's "Tradition" section, they give lists of Arabic and African names (244-251), but these show little awareness of the Arabic and African names (like *Jamal, Shakira, Kenyatta,* and *Ayana*) which are actually being frequently used in the United States. Similarly, their list of Spanish names (260-261) does not include names like *Hector* and *Yesenia* that illuminate the real differences between Hispanic-American and Anglo-American naming patterns.

5. *"Celebrities" are the most important people in America.* One of Rosenkrantz and Satran's longest lists (66-76) is of "Star Babies," where they report what celebrities have recently named their children, and they sprinkle the book liberally with other celebrity examples. The celebrities chosen come from the same four categories as those featured in magazines like *People* or *Vanity Fair*: actors, athletes, singers, and Kennedys. On the one hand, it is right to point out how famous people influence American naming patterns, but *Beyond Jennifer & Jason* seems to advocate that Valerie Bertinelli, Kurt Cobain, Tanya Tucker, and Andrew Dice Clay are the appropriate role models for all Americans when it comes to naming children. A really enlightened book might have been more critical of this cultural phenomenon, or at least balanced it by informing us what Nobel Prize winners, Senators, successful entrepreneurs, or leaders of charitable or religious organizations are naming their children.

6. *People who aren't part of the urban upper middle class can be ignored.* Beyond celebrities, it seems that Rosenkrantz and Satran are really only concerned with the names that yuppie parents in their own home towns of New York and Los Angeles are using. They blithely assume that all trends in naming start with such people and then inevitably filter down to the common mass of Americans. This is certainly one way new names are disseminated, but there are many names that become generally popular before they make much impact in Beverly Hills or Westchester kindergartens. If one reasonably defines "hot" names as those which have sharply increased in use in the United States over the last few years, then *Beyond Jennifer & Jason* is completely missing many names such as *Hayden, Xavier, Carissa,* and *Destiny* which it should contain. Many other names that have made recent leaps forward in use, such as *Dalton, Skyler, Bethany* and *Sierra*, merely turn up on lists in the book with no indication that they are among the hottest names for average American babies. Since these are not the sort of names that their stylish Jewish, Irish Catholic, or Anglophile friends give their children, Rosenkrantz and Satran evidently don't know they exist. Meanwhile they tout as "hot" names like *Henry, Lizzie,* and *Louise* which have yet to show any increase with average Americans in spite of the authors' claim to have run across them in trendy pre-schools.

7. *Sexism is really OK.* For two educated professional women, Rosenkrantz and Satran have not thought very deeply about how traditional beliefs about gender roles influence naming. Of course it is perfectly appropriate for them to include their section titled "Sex," which discusses the feminine or masculine stereotypes of names. I even think that their list of "Wimpy" names for males (182-185) isn't long enough; it probably should include names like *Alfred, Harold, Howard, Stanley, Walter* and several others that they place in the "Manly" classification (174-176), evidently not wanting to offend too many of the grandfathers of babies being born today! But Rosenkrantz and Satran actually claim that giving a boy a name on their "wimpy" list (such as *Arnold* or *Vance*) will inevitably push him into being either a "butterfly collector" or, in defiance, "a mercenary guerilla" (183). Not only is this itself a stereotypically prejudiced statement — who says it isn't "manly" to collect butterflies? — but it is directly contradicted by research by Richard Zweigenhaft that they have themselves quoted earlier (136).

Amazingly, while damning parents who give wimpy names to their sons, they actively encourage giving boys' names to daughters in a subsection titled "A Girl Named Thomas" (39-41). Besides *Thomas*, their list of "jaunty and stylish" names for daughters includes *Amos, Andrew, Kenneth, Lloyd, Scott*, and, incredibly, *Adam*!

Of course, it's probable that Rosenkrantz and Satran, like many modern parents, think that naming a girl *Devin* or *Cameron* is in itself some sort of feminist statement. Such people don't seem to have noticed that the Southern aristocracy, which for generations has been giving daughters names like *Russell, Winston, Langhorne*, and *Floyd*, is not exactly the part of American society most noted for its devotion to gender equality. The essence of sexism is the belief that it is better to be a man than a woman, which is why it is not very threatening to the system when a girl plays softball or a woman wears pants, or when a daughter is named *Jeffrey* or *Eliot*. If Rosenkrantz and Satran really believed in gender equality, they would encourage parents to continue to name sons *Ainsley, Carroll, Courtney, Gale, Kelsey, Leslie, Taylor*, and other formerly male names which are now more common for girls. That would show a real commitment to the idea that men and women are created equal!

7. *Siblings should be named as a matched set.* Perhaps no section in the book shows Rosenkrantz and Satran's complete devotion to stylishness more than their section on "Sibling Names" (282-287). Here they not only give the reasonable advice that it's unwise to name two sons *Harry* and *Larry*, but go on to claim that two siblings should have names which "fit" with each other in every way. If you name your first daughter *Rory*, for example, you can't name the second *Francesca* because the ethnic backgrounds don't fit; you can't name her *Ruth* because it's more "intellectual" than *Rory;* and you certainly can't name Rory's sister *Angelica* because then the two girls would "feel differently about their sexuality" (283). They quote approvingly the story of the mother of *Melissa* and *Danielle* who really wanted to name her third daughter *Patricia* but decided she had to name her *Lauren* to fit in with the "trendiness" of her older siblings' names.

Well, just what are we supposed to be doing here, decorating a living room or naming children? Not only is there not a shred of evidence for the dire psychological consequences Rosenkrantz and

Satran predict for siblings whose names do not tastefully fit in with one another, but the very idea that this should be a main consideration of naming shows shallow values. Parents should realize that their children are separate individuals with unique personalities and interests. What is wrong with giving siblings names with different images as a reminder of that fact? To my mind *Rory* and *Angelica* should be grateful that their parents gave them the gift of distinctive names, even if Angelica turns out to be the one who wants to play football. If *Melissa* and *Danielle*'s mother's values have changed so that "trendiness" now seems shallow and unimportant, I think she should have named their sister *Patricia* to emphasize that to all three of her children. To me Rosenkrantz and Satran's advice that one must "maintain consistency of style, image, sex, and tradition" (285) when naming a set of siblings is treating them like they were a set of china or a sectional sofa.

8. "*The name becomes the child.*" This is the title of the very last subsection of the book (291-295). In it Rosenkrantz and Satran point out to their readers that no matter what they end up naming their child, it is probable that they will have days when they regret their choice, for there is no such thing as the perfect name, and children often turn out differently than their parents expected. As the last sentence in the book states: "A name can remind you of your hopes and fears way back when childbirth was a point on the horizon, but your child — the one who's laughing or crawling or walking across the room in his own special way — can remind you that Henry by any other name, be it Michael or Melchizedek, would still be your own sweet boy."

This is wonderful advice, beautifully stated, and as far as I know unique to this book. I only hope that those trendy yuppie parents who are the target market for *Beyond Jennifer & Jason* will pause long enough in their search for the latest "hip baby names" to actually think about what it means.

Cleveland Kent Evans
Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE

The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Mystery and the Meaning. By Thomas L. Bernard. Springfield, MA: University Press Division of St. Charles Place, 1993. (Available from the author, Psychology Dept., Springfield College, Springfield, MA 01109-3797). Pp. 53; paperback.

This intriguing monograph, which I recommend to anyone and everyone, on the origin of the carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," deserves reviewing elsewhere, possibly both in a scholarly folklore magazine and in the popular press. That it is given space here derives from the many onomastic items it contains.

What Bernard is doing is explicating the carol. Without taking too much space and without divulging all the rather sinuous twists of argument, I can say little more than that he claims the carol to be a cartographic code, an esoteric route map from England to the Holy Land.

Relying on wordplay (sometimes fractured English, French, and other languages along the way), code rhythms (P-R-D — in *perdrix*, 'partridge,' appears also as *Purdy, Perdue, Pardew*, as well as *pardee* and *par dieu*), folk stories, paths of pilgrims across Europe to the Holy Land and names of cities along the route, Bernard builds an excellent case. For instance, the tautologous phrase, "turtle doves," can be derived from *tour de Douvres*, 'crossing at Dover.' And "maids a-milking" has the M-D combination that gets us to the Mediterranean, but the M-A combination also encodes Marseilles, the next city on the route.

So Bernard builds his interpretation through codes. His goal, he writes, is not "to establish conclusive proof, but, given the facts and resources available, to make an honest and sincere attempt to shed new light" on this carol which has been the object of much speculation for many centuries.

Knowing Tom Bernard, I also see some of his learned wit greening through the arguments, and the greenery has a humorous entwining that makes this a wonderful wraparound of a Christmas carol whose opaqueness masks it from all meaning except its tuning.

Kelsie B. Harder
State University College, Potsdam, NY

Dictionary of Russian Personal Names, With a Revised Guide to Stress and Morphology. By Morton Benson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. Pp. xii + 179.

This is an enlarged edition of a well-known book, first published in 1964 and then in 1967 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. The main bulk of information offered consists of some 23,000 last names (aka family names or surnames) written in Cyrillics, with the location of the stress indicated. The decision to give the names in Cyrillics is correct, or rather, is the only possible decision. People who do not read Cyrillics and wish to ascertain the stress on a name they know in its Roman version only can use several tables that convert the popular transcription, the Library of Congress transcription, that of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, or the linguistic one into Cyrillics. And since the letters of this script are easy to recognize, particularly if one knows Greek, and their alphabetic sequence is indicated, there should be no difficulty in locating the Cyrillic versions. The stresses are well indicated, from reliable sources; possible variants are noted as well.

Russian was the main language of the multilingual Soviet Union, and even now it is the main "cross-linguistic" medium for the many nationalities of the new Russia. This has left its trace in the selection of the names. Naturally, their overwhelming majority is Russian, whether originally Russian with a Slavic etymology, or assimilated. Even a name (in popular transliteration) like *Eizenshtein* can be considered an assimilated Russian name (in spite of the fact, duly noted in the book, that the usual Roman version of the name is not a transcription from Cyrillic, but keeps the original orthographic form *Eisenstein*) because the most famous bearer of the name spent his whole life in Russia creating Russian films. An imaginable parallel from Great Britain would be the inclusion of the surname *Disraeli* in a dictionary of English names. However, since some names were taken from Soviet encyclopedias, it is only natural to find listed some names famous in the Soviet Pantheon, whose Russian character or degree of assimilation can be doubted. Everybody will recognize that a name like *Ordzhonikidze* is not Russian and there is hardly a sufficient number of people thus called to consider the name assimilated. However, a name such as *Khetagurov* is more insidious:

it is not Russian, but only a Russified version of the name of an Ossetic poet called *Khetagkaty* in his own language; however, while it is neither Russian nor assimilated (there are hardly any bearers of the name, particularly outside of Ossetia), there is nothing in the form of *Khetagurov* that would alert the reader in the same way that *Ordzhonikidze* does. A parallel from Great Britain would be the inclusion of the name *Chatteriee* in a list of English surnames, *Chatteriee* being the Anglicized form of the name *Chattonadhyaya*, an Indian linguist well known in his day in Great Britain, where he lived for some time. These remarks are not intended as criticisms. I think it is correct and useful that such names be in the list, because there is no other source in which to seek information about them. This is only a warning lest a Slavistically unsophisticated onomatologist use this list as a source of examples of Russian names in the narrow sense of the word.

Besides this *piece de resistance*, the book offers the reader other types of information, such as an excellent survey of the morphology of personal names — an important asset, because the declension of names not infrequently differs from their general noun counterparts. There is a list of famous people whose names have idiosyncratic accentuation, e.g., *Latyshev* can be stressed on the final or the antepenultimate syllable, but the famous epigraphist's name is pronounced with the stress on the antepenult only; *Ivanov* can bear either penultimate or final stress, so there is a list of four famous Ivanovs with penultimate, and thirteen famous Ivanovs with final stress. There are lists of given names, masculine and feminine, with a separate listing of rare names, e.g., Afinogen = Athenogenes, Gallaktion, Ksenofont = Xenophon, Pontij = Pontius, *alia id* genus, which information is both important and interesting, because the repertoire of allowed given names, legally regulated since the early thirties if not already the late twenties, caused the preservation of even given names that are considered highly archaic in other countries, e.g., Pakhomij = St. Pachomius, Evstafija = St. Eustathia. Very important and useful are the derivational tables of the quite frequently occurring hypocoristic forms (both from the name to the nickname, and vice versa), with indications of their exceptions in stress and declension and of their stylistic values (some of the derivations are of endearing character, while some are derogatory),

along with linguistic, generalizing discussions of all this. There is also a survey of the rules of accentuation (insofar as they can be ascertained) that can be used in establishing the stress of names that are not given in the list. The rules themselves are correct, based on generalizations as strong as, but no stronger than, possible. These rules are valuable and will be useful, if only to somebody with a good command of Russian. It is only natural that these rules necessarily have the following pattern: if the general noun from which the name is derived carries stress on the stem in all its declined forms, then..., or, if the general noun carries the stress on the endings of the declined forms, then.... But I repeat, no better formulation is possible.

A Selected Bibliography at the end of the volume is highly informative. For instance, one even learns of the existence of an inverse dictionary of Russian given and last names, compiled by a Romanian scholar. In summary, the book is or should be an indispensable companion to anyone who deals with Russian.

Ladislav Zgusta
University of Illinois, Urbana

George Washington Never Slept Here: Stories Behind the Street Names of Washington, D. C. By Amy Alotta. Chicago: Bonus Books, Inc., 1993. Pp. xxiii - 176.

As a resident of Washington, D. C. for many years, and as a geographer recently retired as the Executive Secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, I found this book most interesting. While I was acquainted with the street patterns and the naming system, I discovered a rich lore of information about the names and local history as well. I also was reminded that international programs on geographic names may refer to "odonyms" — the names of streets.

The book gives the stories of the names of some 500 streets in Washington, D. C., known for years as the "City of Magnificent

Distances." The book has the following sections: Foreword, Preface, Introduction, Letter Streets, Named Streets, Bridges, Bibliography, and Index. The Introduction describes the developments affecting the design of streets, the selection of their names, and the varying results of the efforts. Among other items it refers to the adoption in 1791 of the Pierre L'Enfant plan for the new capital of the country which had been planned to occupy an 10-mile square area in Maryland and Virginia along both sides of the Potomac River. The plan created a grid network for streets and in the same year, commissioners declared north-south streets would carry numbers and east-west streets would be designated with letters. The plan also included diagonal streets or avenues to be named after states.

North-south streets starting with "1" run parallel to the major north-south axis (later named North Capitol and South Capitol Streets, respectively). The lettered and the named streets (planned at a later date) parallel the Mall extending west of the Capitol and East Capitol Street extending east. (NB: As the book title implies, "streets" can also refer to avenues, circles, courts, drives, lanes, parkways, places, roads, squares, and terraces which are part of the names).

Consequent to the establishment of Washington in 1800 (as part of the Territory of Columbia, whose size decreased at a later date when the Virginia portion returned to that state), the street pattern expanded but the naming process was not systematic. After years of coping with problems, in 1899 Congress ordered a complete revision of names in order to eliminate those not conforming to the original system and to replace them with suitable names. The effort was completed in 1906 and gave rise to most of the current major street names.

The sections on Letter Streets and Named Streets then give the stories of the names in an alphabetic sequence. The first section is quite short and simply gives a list of streets with letter names; curiously, there are none with the letters J, X, Y, or Z. The letter J was omitted, so the story goes, because in written form it too closely resembled the letter I. (Further, I Street is often written "Eye Street" to avoid confusing it with 1st Street). The major section, dealing with named streets, occupies 148 pages and gives the stories of the listed streets. Most names included were selected to honor

individuals of importance at the national or local level; this accorded with early directives as expanded in 1899. The list reads like a who's who of American political, civic, and military history: Grant, Lee, Jefferson, Lincoln, Longfellow, and Sherman are but a few. In addition, streets have been named for battles, geographic features, and flora and fauna. The avenues are named for states — including all 50 as of 1989 — with Pennsylvania being honored as a major parade route.

The book also treats classes of features. For example, streets named for 43 cities in the U.S. (and for one in Canada — Quebec) are listed under "City Streets" and a section called "Original Street Names" lists former names which have been replaced by current names. The last section deals with the names of 28 bridges.

As orderly as the original and revised naming systems were intended to be, the actions by no means produced a Washington street network free of confusion. The revision did not affect names of certain older routes leading to such places as mills or forts, or names of numerous short streets which did not fit into the master plan. Many street names remained in a non-alphabetic order. Some individual streets with the same name are widely separated by parks or other areas. Two or more streets with the same name may in fact be found in different parts of town: there is Madison Court (NW), Madison Drive (SW), Madison Place (NW), and Madison Street (NE, NW). Although not mentioned in the book, a later decision was to divide the city into Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast quadrants centering on the dome of the Capitol Building. All street signs and mail addresses must include the designations NW, NE, SW, or SE for locational accuracy. The book gives quadrants for all names.

The detailed information in this book attests to an impressive amount of research. Given this fact, it may seem inappropriate to raise any criticisms. One could, however, express a desire for a map in the book to show some major streets and associated features. Also, one might ask why the book does not cover all Washington streets. The book lists about 500 names, but an AAA map has upwards of 750 names. The several photographs and their captions do not always relate closely to the subject streets or have inexact information. For instance, a picture entitled "Willard Street" shows

the Willard Hotel and has a story about its early owner, Henry Willard. But Willard Street is located quite some distance from the hotel. Further, the reference to 1948 as the date Willard began work should be 1848.

But these comments in no way detract from the value of this book. It should become a popular item not only in Washington but also elsewhere where visitors or students contemplate a trip to the Nation's Capitol. The book should also serve as a model for similar works of other cities. It is certainly a publication I have added to my library of Washingtoniana with much pleasure. And finally, though the names may be confusing at times, Washington's streets are beautiful. It is indeed a city of magnificent distances.

Richard R. Randall
Executive Secretary, Board on Geographic Names, Retired

Stories Behind the Street Names of Nashville and Memphis. By Denise Strub. Chicago, IL 60611: Bonus Books, Inc., 160 East Illinois St., 1993. Pp. xv + 200. Price: $14.95, paper.

This is the kind of book that whets the appetite for more. Between the two cities of Nashville and Memphis combined, there are probably 25,000 road names. This text has only a very few of the total. Another quibble is that the two cities have little in common, other than both being pretty much within the borders of Tennessee. Memphis is a Mississippi River city, with a history of wildness, roughness, and sailor toughness (perhaps downright thuggery). The city is in Tennessee by accident of border, for Memphis is also a Mississippi state city, witness its importance in the works of William Faulkner. And Arkansas has a light claim, since West Memphis is a continuation westward of the old riverbank Memphis. The music is jazz, delta, New Orleans moved upstream to Memphis and the famous Beale Street. Memphis is Deep South; Nashville is Midland South.

Nashville, of course, is the epitome of Tennessee, with the music being blue grass, mountain, "hillbilly," folksy, and traditional balladry, reaching back to the Blue Ridges and then on to England itself. Nashville reflects the moiling and boiling of modernism interfacing with traditions, the political mixing between north and south, the great center of education, with Vanderbilt University standing among the greatest of educational institutions anywhere, but just one of many other colleges in the city nicknamed "The Athens of the South," but also the home of the Grand Old Opry, the centerpiece of American "country" music. An exact replica of the Parthenon stands in Centennial Park, while just a couple of miles away is the great and huge Percy Warner Park, one of the larger city parks in the world, bestowed on the city by a descendant of the brother of George Washington. And, for better or worse, the city is the home of Andrew Jackson, whose leadership and political power changed the way government works in the United States. Jackson's home, The Hermitage, is, however, well outside Nashville, although recently Davidson County and Nashville were declared coterminous.

With that preamble aside, the matter of street names needs attention. Strub has put together an excellent "coffee table" book, one that has an attractive format, is replete with photographs, and is quite serviceable while waiting for an appointment or during a lull in conversation. Scanty on placenames, it still covers some of the major roads, giving sketches of the history but sometimes slighting the onomastic fact. Among the major Nashville roads, Strub lists *Andrew Jackson Parkway, Antioch Parkway, Battlefield Drive, Belle Meade Boulevard, Belmont Boulevard*, and *Broadway Avenue*. The last, because of its historical importance, deserved a better gloss than "Originally Broad Street and named for its width." The same can be said of West End (not listed) and Church Street, downtown Nashville's mercantile center and formerly the center of the theater district.

Strub glosses the names of a few other historically and currently important names: Maxwell Street (for the Maxwell House Hotel, where Maxwell House coffee originated), Murfreesboro Pike (Civil War importance), Natchez Trace Parkway (follows fairly well the old Trace), Roy Acuff Place (honoring the memory of the singer of the "Great Speckled Bird," who was also once a Republican candidate for the governorship of Tennessee), Sevier Street (for John Sevier,

a founder of the state), and Scotland Street (for a horse, Bonnie Scotland, a champion sire).

The Memphis streets also receive scant glossing. Still, Strub covers those that could probably be known outside the area, such as Alamo Street, the famous Beale Street, Crockett Street, Danny Thomas Boulevard, De Soto Avenue, Elvis Presley Boulevard, Faulkner Road (for William Faulkner, whose grandfather was the author of *The White Rose of Memphis*, Graceland Street (listed under Elvis Presley Boulevard), Handy Avenue (for the blues singer, W. C. Handy), Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, Poe Avenue, and Twain Avenue. Other glossed names include those of Tennessee politicians, local citizens, and the usual flora and fauna names, all valuable for a complete text.

I like this book, if only because it reminds me so much of what needs to be done in order to cover the roadways of the two cities. This is a beginning, and given time perhaps Denise Strub could produce the onomastic facts about the streets of these two cities, but in separate texts. However, when she writes that "both cities combined have 40 streets named after the cedar tree, and there is no reason to list every one of them to tell you the cedar tree is indigenous to the area," I become concerned. Each has its value and needs to be given its bit of space to show its location and possibly to find out why it was chosen. Sometimes what we consider trivia may be historically and culturally very significant indeed, although in the popular mind not nearly so grand as Elvis Presley Boulevard. Still, I must admit that I have never met a name that was not important and unique.

Last, a few words about the Street Names of America Project under the general editorship of Robert I. Alotta. First, the texts so far produced are handsomely formatted and very attractive and should be profitable for the general editor and the compilers of the individual texts. Second, they are uneven, in that compilers who have had experience in the study of names produce much better glosses than those who do not. Texts by Alotta, who has trained himself for onomastic production, are really of high quality, rather well researched and extremely well written (that is, entertaining and informative on both the popular and scholarly levels). Third, the overall editing needs to be standardized. Obviously some of the texts

are not very well researched and are very scanty on information about the background of the name; besides, a few of these beautifully crafted texts have little value as far as depth, range, and style are concerned. But then, Alotta, whose work I have admired for many years, is no doubt aware that some of the texts are better than others and is already making adjustments for the future texts that he plans to produce.

Kelsie B. Harder
State University College, Potsdam, NY

War Slang: American Fighting Words from the Civil War to the Present. By Paul Dickson. New York, NY 10020: Pocket Books, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, 1994. Pp. xiv + 402. $25.00, hardcover.

Now that the long-awaited *Historical Dictionary of American Slang*, edited by J. E. Lightner, is being published (Vol. I, A-G, Random House, 1994), surely linguists and word watchers will begin to take seriously the label of "slang" and produce some studies that will help illuminate the dark areas of the "butt end of language." For many years — too many — I have been preaching to linguistic classes that slang does not literally exist other than in the attitudes of outsiders who label what they do not like or understand as "slang." The label carries the snobbish and ignorant connotations of those who do not comprehend the way language works. It works this way: "I speak standard English, but you speak slang." It is a good putdown by a stale professor, an unenlightened parent, or a "superior" and dominant figurehead.

What is called "slang" is simply language, adhering to all the rules of structure and sound. To the outsider, however, the sounds (words) grate, sometimes producing the screech of the confrontation between youth and those a bit older. The a-bit-older does not remember the speech of youth, probably because aging carries its own sounds which were slang to other elders. Those sounds that differ are bad, connoting emptiness of mind, and waste of good money on educating those who do not speak "good" English. And

we, who should know better, continue to carry on the with the term, make collections of what we believe is slang (mea culpa) and act as if this "language" held the reality of soiled dirt. But, of course, what we, as keepers of the gold, call slang would be standard language in any decent college dormitory in the United States. The reason I use the U. S. is that I am acquainted with a few student dormitories in this country and, confessing, "slang" is the lingua franca which all students speak except some wimps and brain-washed high school Latin students, who believe that even English is a very vulgar and rotten language because their high school "teachers" told them so — in English, of course.

But I oversimplify; besides, this perhaps is not the space in which to indulge in a polemic over labeling of language and the danger of an attitude toward sounds we do not like or which we believe to be inappropriate. Also, "slang" collectors would probably have to switch to some other linguistic anomaly not nearly so interesting or poetic as the wild-eyed snakes that crawl around in the debris of sound. Still, the matter of "slang" needs to be played over by our best linguistic minds if they have the mind to do so.

Here, Dickson makes no attempt to define what he labels slang in his book title, but he does call his collection "war words," terms that crop up during military operations, which often are the activities of sitting, waiting, mind-mulling, and worrying about back home. Some of these boring times, however, are interrupted with a spate of killing. Out of this tension of boredom and sudden death the creative mind of the human begins to metaphorize objects and personalities in the environment. Dickson has collected a rather large number of these from the Civil War, the Spanish War, World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf War.

The onomastic content of the collection is small in comparison with the run-of-the-mill vocabulary. It consists of items derived from personal names, abbreviations, initialisms, acronyms, diseases, division names, and some food and clothing names. Also, little difference can be made between the terms of the several wars, other than the words are different. Earlier wars tended to have more "other" names for regiments and divisions than the recent wars had. For instance, the *Brains Regiment* in the Civil War was the 33rd Illinois because many college students and teachers were in its ranks.

Bucktails, the 13th Pennsylvania, attached deer fur to their hats. In the World War, every division had another name. Some examples could include *Blue and Gray Division* (27th National Guard Division, with men from border states), *Blue Ridge Division* (80th Division, from PA, VA, and WV), *Broad Arrow Division* (32nd Division, whose insignia was a red arrow), *Buffaloes* (92nd Division, composed of African-American troops), and *Keystone Division* (soldiers from PA).

Soldiers have always given other names to their equipment, *Excalibur* being an early one in literature and legend. A few examples: *Quaker gun*, a dummy or decoy gun, *Archie*, an antiaircraft gun, *Betsy the Sniper*, the 155-mm cannon, *Black Maria*, a high-explosive shell, *Mae West*, a life jacket, *Maggie*, a magnetic mine, *Mickey Mouse*, the lever that releases bombs from an airplane, *Neptune Aspirin*, a depth bomb, *Niagara Onion*, a tear-gas bomb, *Warthog*, the A-10 aircraft, *Dolly Parton*, the "Assad Babyle" Iraqi tank, for its shape, *Patriot*, a missile, but also a condom (brand name "Patriot Defense Condoms"), *Chicago Banjo*, a machine gun, and *Zippo*, a flame thrower.

Places often received other names, sometimes ironic, sometimes because of pronunciation difficulties, but seldom in praise: *Mount Plasma*, Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, *Emerald City*, King Khalid Military city, Saudi Arabia, influenced by the city of OZ, *Scud Bowl*, the King Abdul Aziz Naval Air Station, *Silkworm Envelope*, the Strait of Hormuz, within range of the Chinese-made Silkworm antiship missiles in Iran, *Doing It*, Doingt, France, *Looneyville*, Luneville, France, *No-Man's-Land*, area between the hostile front-line trenches (the phrase has been traced to the 14th century), *Frenchyville*, Paris, France, *Ocean Villas*, Auchonvillers, France, *Ashcan City*, ASCOM (Army Service Command), Inchon, South Korea.

Commanders always had nicknames, sometimes flattering ones, sometimes not: *Stormin' Norman*, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, for his raging temper, *Jedi Knights*, a group of young majors in planning during the Gulf War, *Saddamy*, Saddam Hussein, *Great Scott!*, Gen. Winfield Scott, *Little Mac*, Gen. George McClellan, *Old Brains*, Gen. Henry Halleck, *Unconditional Surrender*, Ulysses S. Grant, *Black Jack*, Gen. John Pershing, and *The Old Man*, Gen. George S. Patton.

Americans have a love for abbreviations, initialisms, and acronyms, believing that they save time, therefore money. Such shortenings can make a communication totally incomprehensible, but hundreds occur in the war words, a thousand or so not listed by Dickson, they being so common. A few from Dickson are noted here: *A.W.O.L*, was an initialism during the Civil War for 'absent without official leave,' but in subsequent wars it became an acronym, *AWOL*, *B.I.* 'poor bloody infantry,' *D.I.P.* 'die in place,' *K.Z.* 'killing zone,' *L.P.C.*'s, boots, also leather personnel carriers, *B.P.* 'buck private,' *WAAC* British 'Women's Auxiliary Army Corps' in WWI, the acronym adopted by Americans in World War II as *WAC*, *SNAFU* (now often *snafu*) 'situation normal, all fucked (fouled) up,' *S. O. S.* 'shit on a shingle' (creamed chipped beef on toast) and *COMINCH* 'Commander in chief' (of the U. S. Fleet).

A few miscellaneous ones round out the examples: *Japanese powder* or *Jap sugar* 'cocaine,' *corn Billy* 'corned beef,' *Ground Hog Day*, Nov. 11, 1918, when the soldiers came out of their trench holes, *Missouri hummingbird*, a mule, *Al K. Hall*, alcohol, *C.O.*, highball, 'castor oil,' *Java* 'coffee,' also *J.*, *Dear John letter*, from a wife or significant other, breaking the relationship, *New Guinea crud*, a skin disease, *NW-NW* 'no work-no woo,' a slogan used by women war workers, who agreed not to date men who were absent from work, *Oh, So Social*, the *OSS* (Office of Strategic Services), and *V-girls* 'Victory' girls, young women who had sex with servicemen.

Although some excellent collections of "slang" have been published, a satisfactory definition has yet to be made. Many of the examples noted here, even the ones that are most imaginative, have mere vocabulary qualities, but what slang is usually is left to the mind of the listener. Dickson has performed a good service in bringing this collection together. The only criticism is that it could have included several thousand more entries. Space, however, costs money, too.

Kelsie B. Harder
State University College, Potsdam, NY