

## Reviews

*The Naming of Animals: An Appellative Reference to Domestic, Work and Show Animals Real and Fictional.* By Adrian Room. McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640, 1993. Pp. xiii + 231. Price: \$35.00, hardcover.

This book brings together a range of information on the way animals are named in British and American society, from the traditional, imaginative or idiosyncratic names bestowed on family pets and farm animals to the rules and regulations of official bodies such as the American Kennel Club, the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, and the Jockey Club. Fictional as well as real animals are included, with coverage extending to cartoon characters, mythical creatures and animals in literature. Around three thousand names are discussed, and there is an extensive (but not comprehensive) index.

Room's approach is systematic, dealing in turn not with different types of animals but with different types of names. After an introductory chapter on "Animals and Their Names" (1-11), Chapter 2 examines "Generic Names," names which have come to be identified with a particular species. Examples include *Kitty* for a cat, *Leo* for a lion, *Reynard* for a fox, and so on. Information on the historical derivation of such names is generally sound and clearly explained, although the suggested etymology of *monkey* is dubious (15) and the term "Germanic" seems to be applied rather loosely throughout. It would have been helpful for Room to have defined his use of the latter word, and perhaps to have provided a short glossary of terminology.

Chapters 3 to 6 present an attempt to categorize animal names as "Descriptive Names," "Incident Names," "Link Names" and "Group Names," with many illustrative examples of each type. Inevitably there is some overlapping between categories, but this need not detract from any value the exercise may have. My main criticism is that the stories behind the names are trite and, frankly,

boring. These four chapters consist largely of short anecdotes along the lines of the following: "MISTY MOUNTAIN is a large white horse, while BRACKEN is a red roan pony with a coat the color of dead bracken" (24), "CLOCKWORK is a pony with a regular, 'mechanical' gait, while WOOSHAMS is a fast-running cat" (31), "SURPRISE is a pony born sooner than expected, while SECRET was born to a mare not thought to be in foal at all" (39), "The pony RAIN was bought on a day when it was raining, while the tabby cat CLOUDY was similarly named for the weather state at the time of his purchase" (40), "The owner of the cat BISCOW named him for friends, while ELKE is a sheepdog named for a Swedish girl known to her owner" (52). Page after page of this sort of thing soon becomes tedious. As Room explains in the introduction, the information is based on accounts provided by "[h]undreds of animal owners or people working with animals" who "were asked how they came to choose the name for their particular animal" (xi). This is all very well, but it is doubtful whether anyone except the owners of the creatures concerned will be fascinated to read that "SANDY the cat likes playing with sand" (34), "SUNDAY is a pony born on this day" (39), or "PINKY is a chaffinch whose song is 'pink-pink-pink'" (35). It would have been more interesting to have pointed out that the last shows history repeating itself, since the onomatopoeic bird-name \**pinca* (surviving as the first element of such English placenames as *Pinkhurst* and *Pinkworthy*) represents a variant of the Old English word *finc* from which Modern English *chaffinch* derives.

The text is occasionally enlivened with flashes of humor, mostly consisting of tired old jokes such as *Amber*, a dog that was "always on the go" (24), and *Carpenter*, "so named as he always 'did little jobs about the house,' 'made a bolt for the door,' and so on" (33). But there are occasional gems, such as the white sow named *Blanche* both for its color and after the owner's cousin (24), and the horse named *Baboushka* "grandmother" under the mistaken impression that it was the Russian word for "sweetheart" (32). Factual errors are few, although it should be noted that *Thursday* is named not after the Norse god *Thor* but his Anglo-Saxon equivalent *Thunor* (39).

Chapter 7 turns to "Pedigree and Show Names," systems of nomenclature used for registering pedigree animals with professional

associations on both sides of the Atlantic. Beginning with dogs' names, Room gives a lucid account of the complicated naming regulations of the Kennel Club in Britain and the American Kennel Club in the United States. Contemporary examples are supplemented by a selection from the *Kennel Club Stud Book* for 1896. There follows a discussion of cat registration, coordinated in Britain by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and in the United States by a range of bodies including the American Cat Association and the Cat Fanciers' Association. Again, many examples are provided, with a historical listing for comparative purposes. The theme of "professional" names is continued in Chapter 8, "Horse and Hound Names," a discussion of the names of racehorses registered with the Jockey Club in Britain (the American Jockey Club is mentioned but not treated in detail), and the traditional principles used for naming foxhounds, working horses, police horses and police dogs.

Chapter 9 "Farm Animals" is concerned not with sheepdogs and the like but with the names of animals kept in herds, such as cows, sheep and pigs. These have much in common with the "Group Names" discussed in Chapter 6, and might appropriately have been treated in the same place. Here again an element of tedium creeps in, as when the names of 76 cows from a Devonshire farm are enumerated in order to illustrate that each begins with one of three initial letters (98). Similar listings are presented for herds in various other parts of Britain, among them 48 cows from a farm in south Staffordshire (99) and 20 pigs from a Dorset farm (100). An account is given of the reason behind some individual names, as "A. J., a cow purchased from a Mr A. Jones" (101)..., "MR PECKY, a cockerel" (101)..., "OLD FRED, a gentle-natured boar" (101)..., "POPPY, a Jersey cow, who on arrival ate large amounts of poppies" (102)..., "RAT, a vicious cow" (102), but as with the anecdotal treatment of the names of domestic pets in earlier chapters, the interest level of such information is not high.

From Chapter 10 onwards, the format and focus of the book change, moving from a discursive treatment of naming patterns illustrated by examples to a dictionary-style approach to the names of well-known animals. Chapter 10 deals with "Famous Real Animals," Chapter 11 with "Animals of Myth, Legend, and Cartoon,"

and Chapter 12 with "Animals in Fiction." All have been well researched, and draw on a wide range of material. The first page of Chapter 10, for instance, discusses the names of a horse tipped for the 1992 Kentucky Derby, two monkeys sent into space in 1959, an elephant presented to the emperor Charlemagne, and a cat owned by the American writer Agnes Repplier (105). Chapter 11 includes the names of animals from Greek and Roman mythology as well as from Celtic, Egyptian, Muslim, and Norse legend. These make strange bedfellows for A. A. Milne's *Piglet* (136) and Walt Disney's *Bugs Bunny* (137), which might more suitably have been treated in a separate chapter. Indeed, many cartoon animals have entries in Chapter 12, alongside animals from literature, television and films. Thus *Donald Duck* appears on the same page as two Shakespearian horses (*Cut* and *Dobbin*), three Dickensian dogs (*Daph*, *Juno* and *Diogenes*), a fictional dog said to have belonged to Sir Isaac Newton (*Diamond*), and the puppet *Dougal* from the 1960s television series *The Magic Roundabout* (147). Coverage is inevitably selective, but the entries are generally well chosen and well presented, so that these three chapters provide a useful source of reference on the names of famous animals.

More than forty pages are devoted to Appendices, the longest being Appendix I "Breed Names" (167-84). This comprises a dictionary-style treatment of the names of varieties of dogs, cats, and horses, including terms such as *sheepdog* (181) and *tabby* (183) that refer to types rather than to breeds. There are some obvious omissions, such as *Aberdeen terrier*, *carthorse* and *lurcher*; and it is odd that the *Staffordshire bull terrier* is described as "a specialized breed of bull terrier" (182) while *bull terrier* itself is not represented. Entries are concise but informative, discussing the origin and history of the breeds themselves as well as of their names.

Appendix II, "Hound Names," reproduces a list of 803 traditional hound names first published in 1980. Appendix III, "Literary Listings," is divided into sections listing the names of the hounds of Actaeon (as given in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*), and of animals from the fictional works of Sir Walter Scott, R. S. Surtees, Charles Dickens, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Beatrix Potter, H. H. Munro and P. G. Wodehouse. These, too, are mostly taken from earlier compilations,

but it is useful to have the information brought together in a single volume. Unfortunately the names presented here and in other appendices are excluded from the general index, so that there is no comprehensive point of reference. Neither does Room give any context for these animal characters. Thus a reader interested in, say, animals in Dickens, may discover that *Capricorn* is a horse and *Poodles* a dog, but not which novels they feature in (195). So too, one would have to read through the collected works of Beatrix Potter in search of *Little Pig Robinson* (196): a time-consuming though no doubt pleasant process.

Appendix IV, "Zoo Names," gives the names of 152 animals in the London Zoo in the late 1920s, while Appendix V, "Celebrity Pets," lists the animals owned by 100 celebrities, mainly television personalities. They include Michael Jackson's chimp *Bubbles*, Kim Lewis' parrot *Mr. Pointybird* and Sir Harry Secombe's cat *Moriarty*. No attempt is made to explain the origin of these names except in isolated instances such as the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber's turtles *Boosey* and *Hawkes*, named from a firm of music publishers. Appendix VI presents a selection of "Movie Titles Including Animal Names" with the year of release and species of animal, showing title roles allocated not only to obvious favorites like dogs and horses, but to an alligator (*An Alligator Named Daisy*), spider (*Charlotte's Web*), mule (*Gus*) and squirrel (*Perri*). There follows a four-page bibliography and an index to the names discussed in Chapters 1-12.

To sum up, *The Naming of Animals* is a fairly reliable and accessible guide to a subject that seldom receives substantial coverage in print. The book is attractively produced, and might sell well in a paperback edition, particularly in Britain, where most of the material has been compiled. At present, however, it is overpriced for the popular market, and has little to offer the serious scholar.

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*Kentucky's Bluegrass: A Survey of Post Offices*, Vol. 2. By Robert M. Rennick. Lake Grove, OR 97035: The Depot, Box 2093, 1994. Pp. iv + 164. \$12.50, postpaid.

The second volume of Rennick's survey of Kentucky's Bluegrass includes the counties of Boyle, Garrard, Harrison, Lincoln, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Owen, Powell, Shelby, and Washington, counties that actually surround the real Bluegrass area which he covered in an earlier volume. As I wrote earlier (*Names* 42:209 [1994]), "Rennick has become the nation's expert on postal history," the latest text being one of many he has published. His aim is to survey all the post offices which now or have been in the 120 Kentucky counties, and he is making progress toward that end. While surveying the post offices, he also works in the history of all the names in each county, since nearly every creek, hollow, river bend, and small community had a post office at one time or another. Those days are now passing, perhaps have passed, when each small populated area had its own post office and postmaster (a person who often was the community leader and just as often the most educated person there). In fact, I know some towns of considerable size that do not have post offices, although at one time all of them did.

This book, as well as the previous one, began as "a series of articles for *La Posta*," a magazine that specializes in postal history. Rennick had at least three reasons for undertaking a survey of the counties and their post offices: one was to correct some errors in his *Kentucky Place Names* (UP of Kentucky, 1984); another was "to flesh out some of the entries;" and the third was to include "post offices that, for space considerations, had to be omitted from the volume."

Rennick again structures the text by county, this time beginning with Lincoln (established 1780), named for Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810), Massachusetts-born commander of the Colonial troops in the south during the Revolutionary War and the person selected to receive the sword of Cornwallis at the surrender at Yorktown. The then-western states and territories formed counties and named many of them for Revolutionary War leaders and heroes of the War of 1812. Mercer (established 1785) was named for Hugh Mercer (1725-1777), a general officer killed at the Battle of Princeton. Washington was established in 1792 while George Washington was president.

Shelby (1792) was established while Isaac Shelby (1750-1826) was governor, but he had been the hero and the leader of the Colonial army at the important Battle of King's Mountain (1780); he was also a general officer at the Battle of the Thames (1813) during the War of 1812; nine counties in the United States are named for him, as well as many towns, county seats, and cities.

Harrison (1793) was named for Benjamin Harrison (c 1745-1808), Revolutionary War veteran and a state legislator in Kentucky. Montgomery (1796) commemorates Richard Montgomery (1736-1775), killed in the assault on Quebec led by Benedict Arnold; 17 counties in the United States are named for him, along with several towns, county seats, and cities. Garrard (1796) honors James Garrard (1749-1822), Revolutionary War veteran, Baptist preacher, and second governor of Kentucky. Nicholas (1799) was named for Revolutionary War veteran George Nicholas (1754-1799) who became the first attorney general of Kentucky. Owen (1819) remembers Abraham Owen (1769-1811), the Amerindian fighter and Kentucky legislator killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe. Powell (1842) was named for Lazarus W. Powell (1812-1867) while he was the state's governor; later he served as a U. S. senator.

After the serious naming of the counties, the names of the post offices and communities seem haphazard, less considered, and sometimes impishly willful. Kentucky has always had a reputation of being a state that has more exotic and arbitrary names than do either Arkansas or Missouri, two states that have their share of what the late Raven I. McDavid called "two-headed calves," curiosities in the namehoard. Actually, the names are pretty much what can be found elsewhere in the United States. Many (perhaps most) of the names are possessives, named for some kind of attachment of someone to the area: *Hustonville*, *McKinney*, *Turnersville*, *Balls Landing* (for James Ball), *Ottenham*, *Faulconer*, *Moreland* (for Elliott Moreland), and many more, the suspicious names usually surnames and family names, such as *Gano*, *Hankla*, *New* (for William J. New, postmaster), *Flora* (for Thomas J. Flora), and *Lemon* (a Scott County family).

Strange, humorous, and really exotic names include *Lick Skillet*, *Sweet Owen* (John C. Breckinridge, a politician, did not concede defeat until he had "heard from Sweet Owen;" the place was simply *Owen*, but it was sweet after the votes were in and Breckinridge had

won), *Natlee* (for Nathaniel W. Lee), *Mouth of Cedar Creek*, *Teresita* (Spanish for *Theresa*), *Barefoot* (may have been a misprint for *bear foot*), *Buena Vista* (for the battle in Mexico), *Needmore*, and *Hanging Fork* (for an incident involving two captives who gave the arresting officers trouble and were hanged instead of being taken to Virginia to be tried).

Commemoratives sometimes appear in the smaller administrative units, with *Perryville*, *Cleveland* (either for Cleveland Ball or the then newly elected president), and *Waynesburg* (for General Anthony Wayne) as examples. Some names are opaque, inexplicable: *Atoka*, *Enido*, *Syfax*, *Proverb*, *Morgadore* (possibly for Mogadore, Morocco), *Marion*, *Severn Creek* (possibly for the River Severn in England or for a Charles Severn), *Black Hawk*, *Red Wing*, and *Leaf*. Directions, distances, and placements include *Junction City*, *North Fork*, *Pond Branch*, *Eastland* (possibly for J. W. East), *Long Ridge*, *Head Quarters* (may have been the origin of *Headwaters*), *Centerville*, and *Longview*. Flora, fauna, and minerals account for a few places of habitation: *Alum Springs*, *Briartown*, *Walnut Grove*, *Elk Ridge*, *Beechwood*, *Lone Oak*, *East Eagle*, *Buffalo Trace*, *Buzzard Roost*, *Morningglory*, *Forest Retreat*, *Sugar Creek* (for sugar maples), and *Buckeye*.

Biblical references occur but not plentifully: *Bethany* (for the Bethany Christian Church), *Manse* (applied to Presbyterian parsonages), and *Mount Salem*. Commendatory and abstract names sporadically appear: *Pleasant Home*, *Hermitage*, *Harmony*, *New Liberty*, *East Union*. *Squiresville* originates from the position and title of Squire, a magistrate. *Rock Dale* qualifies as a descriptive, as do *Licking*, *Salt Well*, *Blue Licks*, *Dripping Springs*, and *Flatwood*. Occasionally an ethnic name appears: *Danish*.

Several hundred such names can be categorized, but these will serve as examples. Rennick has provided two excellent indexes, absolutely correct and most usable, one consisting of the names of post offices and communities, the other consisting of personal names. Rennick's mark of detailed research, careful management of space and name references, and research accuracy is on every page. It is everything we have come to expect from Rennick's books.

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*Repertorium Bibliographicum Addenda, 1984-1994.* By J. B. Rudnyčkyj. Ottawa: Ukrainian Language Association, 1995. Pp. 278-320. No price listed. This and the following item are available from J. B. Rudnyčkyj, 5790 Ave Rembrandt #404, Côte St-Luc (Québec) H4W 2V2 Canada.

*J. B. Rudnyčkyj and the Growth of Ukrainian Onomastics: Onomastic Bibliography, 1935-1995.* Comp. Stephen P. Holutiak-Hallick, Jr. Publisher and price not listed. Pp. 32.

J. B. Rudnyčkyj now has a bibliographical listing of 2,967 items, probably more by the time this note appears. The production is indeed most impressive, but just as impressive is the man and his career. He developed Ukrainian onomastics in the Ukraine and abroad. He was the founder of The Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. He founded *Onomastica* (1951-1975), the precursor of the Canadian Name Society's Official publication, *Onomastica*, now *Onomastica Canadiana*. He also served as President of the American Name Society in 1959. Although not noted in these items, he has attended every International Congress of Onomastics (Onomastic Sciences) since its inception in 1938, where he became a charter member and participated in the Congress. In 1950, he was a founding member of the American Name Society.

His bibliography contains items pertaining to subjects other than onomastics, but here our concern is with his contribution to the study of names, begun sixty years ago, his first articles published in 1935. The bibliography of onomastic items compiled by Stephen P. Holutiak-Hallick, Jr. lists most of Rudnyčkyj's publications and onomastic activities, although some of the early years have gaps, indicating that these publications were destroyed in World War II or that they have been otherwise lost. Rudnyčkyj's Ph. D. was awarded by the University of Lvov, Ukraine, in 1937 for his dissertation, *Geographic Names of Boikovia*. His native Ukraine is the subject of many of his publications on names, and one of his more pleasurable activities was delivering a series of speeches and scholastic lectures on onomastic topics to various groups and conferences during his visit in 1993 to his homeland and to his home city of Stryj, where he also taught a university course, "Ukrainian Onomastics".

Professor Rudnyčkyj is not only a great scholar, but he is also a wonderful person, one who is always ready to contribute his time and intelligence to activities of his colleagues. Affable, he also has a delightful sense of humor that serves well at some of the more staid, possibly sedate, meetings of serious onomasticians. May his bibliography continue to expand and may his presence always be with us.

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*The Shakespeare Name Dictionary.* By J. Madison Davis & A. Daniel Franforter. New York: Garland, 1995. \$75.00.

Using the now standard *Complete Works* from Oxford University Press, edited by Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor, J. Madison Davis and A. Daniel Franforter have produced a useful if rather expensive reference book from Garland, famed for the reliability of their texts. In *The Shakespeare Name Dictionary* you can find *Richard II*, *Doll Tearsheet*, *Robin Goodfellow* and other character names derived from history, imagination or folklore and many a real or confected placename. In addition, there are name errors (*Mistress Mary Accost*) created as jokes, modifications of names Shakespeare picked up from his source materials, new fictive names such as *Benvolio* and *Malvolio*, and more. There are names from the ancient past (such as *Apematus*) and Shakespeare's own time (*Rheinhold* or *Rainold* or *Reginald Cobham*), names that have an interesting history behind them (*Oldcastle* and *Falstaff*, for instance), and names of both major and minor characters in the plays. Even the names of actors crept into the texts in the playhouse. Shakespeare, who habitually borrowed his plots and sometimes rewrote the plays of others both known and unknown (Thomas Kyd was one of the former) inevitably inherited a great many character and placenames (*Amlæt* becomes *Hamlet*; *Elsinore* and *Dover* and *Illyria* turn up), but he also makes up what extra names he needs. Fortinbras in *Hamlet*, a Norwegian prince with an inexplicably French name (though it makes the point

that he is “strong in arm”) is one of his inventions. From a 1603 book by Samuel Harsnett he got *Flibbertygibbet* for the name of a devil referred to by Tom o’ Bedlam (Edgar in disguise) in *King Lear*. Once in a while he resorts to names such as *Feeble* or *Sir Anthony Aguecheek* or *Sir Toby Belch*. Once in a while there is an insult when someone is called *Pudding* or (because of hair that hangs in his eyes) referred to as an Iceland Dog. There are titles and nicknames and terms of affection and formal and informal names — names of all kinds. And there are variations, such as *Nim* and *Nym* (a minor character name in *Henry V*, where most of the names come from Raphael Holinshed’s chronicles). *Nim* asks you to know the Anglo-Saxon verb for ‘to steal’). Of course, there is a host of classical names from Greek and Roman history and from their rich mythologies. There are personified abstractions, real people, and more.

This book covers them all and besides telling you the play in which the character occurs tells you something of what the name means. But there is more to be said that cannot adequately be covered in a dictionary or encyclopedia. We might wish to know how the name functions in the drama, how it may be punned upon, how it is introduced in an era when there were no printed programs in the playhouses, etc. This newest “who’s who” of Shakespeare — and less elaborate dictionaries of names have long been available in smaller and cheaper formats — is a starting point for onomasticians, not the last word. Neither in the text nor in the somewhat padded though impressive bibliography do the authors touch on the pronunciation of the names in Shakespeare, which could easily have been a useful feature and reflected the work of various scholars (including this reviewer, in the special issue of *Names* devoted to “Names in Shakespeare”) with whom the authors do not seem to be familiar.

Nonetheless, *The Shakespeare Name Dictionary* seems destined to be handed over the reference desk to eager inquirers with considerable frequency in the future. It is a big, handsome book that will answer most questions the ordinary researcher will have.

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