Reviews

Suschiel K. Gupta. *Etymologically Common Hydronyms, Toponyms, Personal and Proper Names Throughout the Indo-European Geographic Area*. Milton, MA: Sverge Haus, 1990. Pp. x + 102.

I have always had a fascination with the unpredictable correlations between first impressions and later ones, superficiality and depth. This is like Good Heavens Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*: "My first impressions of people are never wrong," when she first decides young Cecily will be her firm friend, before she decides quite otherwise (amending her claim to "My first impressions of people are invariably right"), and before the two are wronged together by their sweethearts, who call themselves "Earnest." Here, my first impression was based on the obviously faulty column-layout of the "Key to Abbreviations" and the crude maps: that opposite page 1 has multiple corrections by hand over hand-written information, and it shows the origin of Indo-European peoples in the area between modern German and Baltic peoples; that opposite page 2 seems to place the Thames as near the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall. There are many such signs of hasty production throughout.

But my next first impression was that here was the product of long, personal effort on the part of a linguist-in-exile, a labor of love that no doubt took many hours and, I suspect, years, looking fondly back at another time with a different training. That the author took a different path is clear, but there are signs of a wistful love-hate relationship with historical linguistics: "in spite of the persistent and vain efforts of micro-linguists to dissect, compartmentalize, and distort languages as well as history, the facts presented above speak for themselves" (41). Such an emotional involvement can overwhelm reason, so that this comparison of IE roots and modern proper nouns at times strays far from its purpose. Thus there are occasional travelogues, noting, for instance, that Lake Dəl "is known for its beauty, floating gardens and produce as well as its houseboats and water taxis and is an important

tourist attraction" (15), and claiming that Nepal has "the unique record of being the only country never conquered in the 3,500 years of its existence" (31 n. 7, contradicting what my old encyclopedia says). Shakespeare "directly lifted" phrases from the *Mahabharata* (was he studying Sanskrit in India during his "missing years"?), which has been ignored by "micro-educated and biased educators" (42). Name-calling will not help convince micro-educated micro-linguists that this book is accurate and reliable, but it helps blow off steam.

So far as I can tell, the procedure has been to pore slowly through Pokorny's 1959 edition of *Indo-Germanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch* with an eye on a world map and some name books, looking for matches. Some liberty has been taken with those names and what they represent, so that Russia's **Новая Земля**, named the "New Land" in historical times, appears as both *Novaya Zimlya* (9) and *Novāyə Zimlāyə* (28, 33); the latter's un-Russian long vowels are probably due to a desire for this to match more closely the form *Himāləyə*. The second word of the name is taken as either from **ghimo* (9) or **jənmi* (28), though Pokorny clearly derives it from **ĝhđem-, ĝhđom-*, at least in the 1969 edition. This is also the opinion of Max Vasmer's *Russisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* and Г. П. Цыганенко's **Этимологический Словарь Русского Языка**, which hypothesizes a dialectal IE form **ĝhem-*. Despite the bibliography (incomplete in terms of both works explicitly mentioned in the text and full information for those listed), Pokorny's IE roots just seem to be matched with modern name forms as convenient, with Sanskrit and German as preferred languages, linguistic and historical matters between IE times and modern times falling by the way.

Thus, we are confronted with a hybrid phlizz called "Lettvia." My parents immigrated from what English-language maps term "Latvia," which the Latvians prefer to write "Latvija," despite a German penchant for "Lettland." Paris is here said to be "named after Paris, prince of Troy," ultimately IE **pelu-, plā-is-to* (35). Neither assertion is supported by Pokorny or the *Thesaurus Graece linguae*. How relevant should it be that the city Lutetia was renamed after a Celtic tribe, the Parisii, living there? London is from IE **lāu* via Latin "Lundonium"

(31). This etymology I cannot confirm elsewhere, and that Latin form I have not run across—I have not seen it personally, and all sources I checked showed only Londinium, only Lewis & Short's *Latin Dictionary* showing Londinium or Lundinium. The name *Peter* and its many combined forms are taken as coming from IE **pete(r)* "father" (67-68 and note 12); although Pokorny's form is **pətēr*, every Christian is familiar with the New Testament pun and Simon's renaming. Bauer's *Greek-English Lexicon* points out that Πέτρος "as a name can scarcely be pre-Christian," and we all are familiar with the subsequent history; the word for the object is certainly Greek, but it is of unknown origin otherwise. These and other new assertions should be supported, not just claimed, so others could follow the procedure and hope to replicate the operation successfully.

I should not throw stones. But I am uncertain how like Gwendolen I am when, at the end, she asserts "I never change, except in my affections." Much of what is here is founded well and truly on familiar information, and a service is performed by this particular compilation. It is good to be reminded that too many well-known names have their origins yet to be worked out. The study of languages and names is fascinating, even fun, and if we cannot have fun in what we do, then perhaps we should be doing something else. I like to encourage people's interest in language study. Sadly, few care for the arduous training and rigorous methodology required for ensuring scientific accuracy in results. In language study, this is key: earnest precision in details of matter and manner—just as an incision in a subclavian is not just a cut under the clavicle—profoundly affects the outcome.

Juris Likaka
West Virginia State College
Lidaka@wvsc.wvnet.edu

Names, Ethnicity, and Politics: Islamic Names in Bulgaria, 1912-1992. By Yulian Konstantinov and Gulbrand Alhaug. Tromsø Studies in Linguistics 15. Oslo: Novus, 1995. Pp. 132. Price: 129 NOK, paper.

In *Names, Ethnicity, and Politics: Islamic Names in Bulgaria, 1912-1992*, Yulian Konstantinov and Gulbrand Alhaug accomplish that all too rare and enviable feat among scholarly works: simultaneously enriching their discipline's body of knowledge, while also commenting—in a meaningful and dramatic fashion—upon the lives of their real-world contemporaries. Konstantinov and Alhaug's study, based on field investigations undertaken by an international research team in 1990-1992, explores the social and political fallout of the massive renaming campaigns conducted during this century. Their volume affords particular attention to the especially derisive campaign of the mid-1980s that resulted in the exodus of more than 300,000 Bulgarian Turks, Pomaks (or Muslims), and Roma (or "Gypsies") to Turkey in the summer of 1989. In addition to examining several aspects of Turkish and Roma naming activities after the momentous events of that era, Konstantinov and Alhaug provide a valuable analysis of the naming behavior of a Bulgarian Muslim group after the introduction of changes in Bulgarian name legislation in 1990. While Konstantinov and Alhaug's study provides onomastic scholars with tremendous insights into the naming proclivities of Bulgaria's Islamic population, their volume finds its greatest strength in their dramatic conclusions regarding the interconnections between onomastics, ethnicity, and ideology in Bulgaria's sad history of social and political conflict throughout this century.

Generously illustrated with transliteration charts, historical maps of Bulgaria, and appendices of Pomak demographics and onomastic correspondences between the Turkish and Bulgarian names in their study, Konstantinov and Alhaug's book devotes particular attention to the compromise naming activities of the Bulgarian majority since the 1960s. The authors ascribe the compromise naming during this era to a host of reasons, including the region's low birth rate and a rapid increase in migration from rural areas to the nation's expanding capital. Konstantinov and Alhaug's research also attributes recent shifts in

anthroponymic activity to the modern Bulgarian parents' interest in representing what they perceive to be the tenuous nature of the newborn's place in an increasingly uncertain world. "This can be seen as reflecting a world-view of a community which is intensely conscious of being born to an unfavourable position," Konstantinov and Alhaug observe (19). The naming behavior of the Bulgarian majority, however, appears to be the result of rather predictable historical nuances and international power variations in comparison to the problematic place of Bulgaria's Pomak minority during this same era. As Konstantinov and Alhaug emphatically demonstrate, the nation's Islamic minority—which includes the Turks (Bulgaria's largest minority), the Roma, the Tatars, the Albanians, the Alevi (Kazulbash), and the Turkish-assimilated Cherkez—has been the subject of a rigorous governmental renaming campaign throughout this century, particularly in the mid-1980s, when vast numbers of ethnic Bulgarians converted to Islam. Because the other Balkan countries with Pomak populations fiercely contested the Bulgarian ethnicity of the Pomaks, the government subjected the Islamic minority to a series of anti-Islamic measures, most notably the intense renaming campaigns.

Konstantinov and Alhaug's wide-ranging and detailed research of Bulgaria's onomastic activities offers a fascinating portrait of a nation desperately attempting to preserve the core identity of its traditionally pastoral lifestyle despite the radical urbanization that began in the mid-1950s. The authors also underscore the manner in which the nation's various renaming campaigns have scarcely begun to thwart the ethnic tensions that mark the lives of Bulgaria's Islamic minority in the current decade. In addition to an increasing Islamic migration to Turkey, Bulgaria's Socialist Party continues to benefit politically from the Islamic minority's dissatisfaction with democratic means for expediting their ethnic and religious objectives. Konstantinov and Alhaug also demonstrate the renaming campaigns' numerous effects upon the workaday lives of the citizens of the Bulgarian minority. While Islamic children often bristle at the ethnic discrepancies between their official Bulgarian and domestic Turkish names, the elderly surely bear the scars of the nation's multiple twentieth-century renaming campaigns. "On one occasion," Konstantinov and Alhaug write, "when we asked an old woman about her name she indicated that it was not of any great concern

to her because everyone actually called her 'Granny'—that was her name" (59). This instance quite obviously reveals the ways in which traditionally variant names come into use after successive attempts at officially renaming generation after generation of Islamic Bulgarians.

In addition to underscoring the manner in which continuous renaming campaigns subject the Islamic minority to a variety of bureaucratic nuisances—including, for example, the necessity of establishing residency and securing passports under yet another new name—Konstantinov and Alhaug investigate the psychological implications of Bulgaria's serial onomastic activities. The authors provide a sharp critique of the devastating sociological results of the nation's renaming campaigns, arguing that

> if we discover increased semiotic activity, displayed by a given community, and realised (among other features) by a greater variety and ingenuity of name and naming patterns, this fact can be interpreted as a signal of the presence of destabilising forces, impairing the in-group identity structure of that community. (110)

Konstantinov and Alhaug's volume offers a valuable linguistic and historical analysis of Bulgaria's radical, and often destructive, efforts at maintaining its traditional identity at any cost. While an all too limited index unnecessarily hampers the text's flexibility, *Names, Ethnicity, and Politics: Islamic Names in Bulgaria, 1912-1992* will undoubtedly provide students of onomastics and twentieth-century Balkan history alike with a valuable and sociologically significant research tool.

Kenneth Womack
Pennsylvania State University, Altoona

The Language of Names. By Justin Kaplan and Anne Bernays. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997. Pp. 256. $22.00.

This book presents a comprehensive and interesting picture of personal names—their origins, their characteristics, their dynamics, and their functions in human communication. While onomasts and others professionally involved with names may be familiar with various elements of the book, they surely will be impressed with its scope and

precision. It is equally certain that other readers will find the publication highly interesting. The authors are well qualified to create a work of this kind as both have impressive publishing records; Justin Kaplan is a Pulitzer Prize winner for biography.

The book's 12 chapters and 256 pages reflect careful research into numerous sources. The earliest reference is to Plato's *Cratylus* in 400 BC, which addresses the origins of languages and naming. The most recent is to a work by Leonard R. N. Ashley in 1996. The depth of study is well illustrated by a list of 155 books and articles the authors consulted. Liberally interspersed among the pages are references to numerous individuals and quotations from many sources, and end notes provide further background or comments. The book focuses on names in the United States, but also refers to some whose origins in other countries demonstrate certain historical trends. As might be expected, the book also has a few references to geographic names as well as to the US Board on Geographic Names.

Each chapter contains a logical yet easily read treatment of topics. Of the many themes presented, this review focuses on only a few as examples of the book's contents. Setting the stage, the first chapter, "Masters of the Good Name," notes how from earliest times a personal name could portray a certain mission, and how names were modified to reflect a sense of expanded tasks. Another chapter, "Names in the Melting Pot," describes how names of many immigrants were changed either by officials at debarkation points or by immigrants themselves to blend into the existing population. Other chapters add many more aspects of the dynamics of names, and, as might be expected, similar topics are touched on in different chapters. A common subject illustrates how people wanting to achieve literary, artistic, or political fame, adopted different names they believed would help create an image they wished to convey. Perhaps the best such example is Mark Twain, *né* Samuel L. Clemens. The book notes the connection between the term "mark twain" (what persons responsible for ship navigation called when their weighted lines showed the river bottom was a safe two fathoms deep) and what Samuel Clemens felt was a name that would give him a positive image in a society then much involved with marine traffic. The authors also note how Hollywood and stage personalities adopted new names. Usually, producers selected what they saw as appealing Anglo-Saxon names to replace those either of a complicated foreign or

domestic spelling or that otherwise seemed to convey an unattractive impression. A few of the many listed here are: Lucille Vasconcellos Langhanke became Mary Astor, Norma Jean Dougherty became Marilyn Monroe, Marion Michael Morrison became John Wayne and Bernard Schwartz became Tony Curtis. The authors note that, as part of a trend to recognize their heritage, actors now tend to keep their original names.

Another topic the book discusses is that while individuals may want to change their names for a variety of reasons, there is a growing tendency for women to retain their "maiden" or unmarried names after marriage. Yet this pattern can generate problems, particularly for professional women. Anne Bernays addresses this issue personally. Depending on circumstances, she is also Mrs. Justin Kaplan, Ms. Kaplan, or Anne Kaplan. Another relatively new custom in the US is for women to add their husband's surname to form a hyphenated last name. Citing cases where both husband and wife together accept such double nomenclature, the authors present evidence where the adoption of different names may cause legal as well as genealogical problems. With the rise in divorces and repeated marriages, the retention of a single or enduring last name has become complicated.

Another part of the book discusses the growing custom of African Americans to choose names felt to be of African origin. This practice often results in babies of African Americans having unique or "non-traditional" names. A 1990 roster at a Chicago school shows 26 unusual first names, including Alexicor, Begumila, Calendula, Eddleavy, Fontella, Gonorleathia, Huri, Iniabase, Jivon, Kenee, Latif, Salonia, Vaneal, Yuriel and Zikkiyyia. The 1960s and the subsequent rise of the Black Pride movement tended to foster a new vocabulary of names having a Muslim affiliation. Cassius Marcellus Clay became Mohammed Ali, Lew Alcindor became Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Robert Poole became Elijah Mohammed and founded the Nation of Islam. The authors, while noting the different words used over the years to denote elements of the population now generally called African American, point out the geographical confusion associated with such terms.

The authors also deal with the etiquette of names. What is the justification of people—such as physicians, nurses, receptionists, or telemarketers who are previously unknown to those with whom they speak for the first time—to address others by their first names? Why do waiters or servers identify themselves by their first names? A related question is what newly married couples should call their parents-in-law. Can a new son-in-law call his father-in-law "Dad?" Or should he use his

name, "Jim?" What if the father-in-law is a stepfather? Is a nickname acceptable? The authors discuss these practices, not so much to justify or condemn them, but to show that naming habits are undergoing changes that some in society find difficult to accept.

The book also notes that individuals should not permit their given names to control or determine their destinies. The authors cite cases where children suffer from carrying the names of accomplished parents or ancestors and may think themselves failures if they do not live up to implicit reputations. Some people feel names—whether given or adopted—should permit individuals to be themselves and create their own lives. Names belong to them and not vice versa.

It perhaps should be no surprise that the authors are members of the American Name Society. While recognizing their familiarity with the ANS, they also raise an interesting question. They claim that the journal *Names* is overly concerned with "Mickey Mouse research, string collecting, and computer-aided statistical analysis gone wild" (220). In support of that point, they refer to an article by Thomas E. Murray in the March 1994 issue of *Names* that calls for ANS members to become more involved in serious academic research to raise onomastics to a higher, more rigorous and sophisticated level. Yet, it should be noted that a number of points the book covers are based on articles appearing in *Names* or from articles published elsewhere by ANS members.

I could find few items to question. One comment relating to the work of the US Board on Geographic Names, however, may deserve expansion. While noting that there is no central monitor of personal names, the authors say a person in the Department of the Interior, with a staff, decides what to call every unnamed geographic feature (in the US). The person referred to is the Secretary of the Interior, to whom the Board reports. As to names in the US, it is the role of the Board's Domestic Names Committee to review names proposed by state or other authorities and to approve or reject them for use on official US maps and other federal documents. The committee sends its reports to the Secretary, who rarely questions its actions. In contrast, local authorities who propose names may in turn accept any names for local (i.e, non-Federal) use.

Another question is whether the authors, in describing some current social, ethnic, or linguistic patterns of personal naming, may also imply some support for what could be free-wheeling naming practices. A point here is whether such practices would frustrate the natural function of

names—to identify each of us in a rational context. The last sentence of the book, which quotes a report by Don Nilsen at the 1994 annual ANS meeting, may, however, be a suitable position. Nilsen says "names that become household words...not only identify a community, but bind it together" (225).

This book will certainly be a major addition to the libraries of onomasts and of the general public. All readers will enjoy this informative work and the authors' style of writing that brings together so many facets of the topic in a smooth and easily readable fashion. I see the book as a classical treatise on the subject.

Richard R. Randall
Washington, D.C.

Yellowstone Place Names: Mirrors of History, by Aubrey L. Haines. University Press of Colorado, P.O. Box 849, Niwot, CO 80544. 1996. Pp. xvi-318. $32.50 Cloth, $17.50 Paper.

In 1806, John Colter, a member of the homeward-bound Lewis and Clark Expedition, left the Corps of Discovery to return to the wilderness and a year later happened upon the marvelous landscape of the upper Yellowstone River. In 1872, Congress created America's (and the world's) first national park. In the intervening sixty five years fur traders, prospectors, explorers, surveyors and army units visited this wonderland, strewing placenames as they went. In the 125 years that the Park has existed, government officials and park concessioners have added hundreds of names. Even the tourists—some two million a year in our own time—have been responsible for Yellowstone placenames.

Aubrey L. Haines, in *Yellowstone Placenames: Mirrors of History*, tells the story of these namers, placing them in the broad context of their times. He approaches the names chronologically for the most part, starting in the first chapter, "Reminders of an Indian Past," with those names that suggest the presence of Native Americans. He then moves on through the early years of the nineteenth century with "Relics of the Fur Trade," "Some Prospector Add-Ons," "Given by the Explorers" and "From Survey Notebooks," before reaching the period of the National Park.

It is natural for Haines's approach to be historical. Now retired, he became Yellowstone National Park's official historian in 1959 but has been involved with the Park in one way or another since the 1930s. His comprehensive two-volume history, *The Yellowstone Story*, published in 1977, was reissued last year in a "revised edition" (although the only revision I am able to detect is the addition of about a dozen historical photographs). Haines's interest in names is evident from this earlier work, whose first chapter bears the title "What's In a Name?" He recognizes too that earlier writers on Yellowstone also shared this interest, especially Hiram M. Chittenden, whose book *The Yellowstone National Park* first appeared in 1895. Chittenden devotes an entire chapter to placenames; his book went through many editions, often with new material added and old material deleted, but the chapter on names remained. Chittenden, as a captain in the Army Engineers, first came to the Park in 1891 to build roads. He had other military duties in his career (retiring as a general), but Yellowstone was his great love, and he returned several times. He also claims responsibility for giving some of the names himself. For example, as he was completing the road over the Continental Divide between Yellowstone Lake and Old Faithful, one of the first tourists to use the road was a young woman named Mrs. Ida Craig Wilcox. Chittenden honored her with the name *Craig Pass* (155).

Yellowstone Place Names is not encyclopedic, which makes it a very different sort of book from one that appeared a few years ago with a similar title and which, incidentally, I reviewed for *Names* (Gasque 1992, 317): Lee H. Whittlesey's *Yellowstone Place Names* (1988). The difference between the two reflects different backgrounds and interests. Whittlesey has been a tour guide and ranger in the park, and Haines served as forester and ranger as well as historian. While Whittlesey lists and discusses names alphabetically, Haines presents information chronologically; and while Whittlesey supplies us with interesting bits of information about each feature he lists, Haines gives us a broad contextual understanding of the political and cultural forces that shaped the Park. Whittlesey's purpose is to explain the origins of individual names in the Park; Haines's is to tell the story of Yellowstone through its names and namers, in much the same way that George R. Stewart tells the story of the United States in *Names on the Land* (1945). In *Yellowstone Place Names: Mirrors of History*, despite some flaws in organization and presentation, Haines gives us an extremely informative

and well-written account of the men and women who over the last two centuries have been responsible for naming the features in the Park.

In each of the eleven chapters that make up this book, Haines has focused on ten to twelve name clusters. In the first chapter, for instance, he discusses the name *Yellowstone*. This cluster originated in the river name, but it spread to dozens of other features, all of which are covered in this section. Some names have been more productive than others. A number of features use the name *Mammoth*, for example, but *Old Faithful* has produced few offshoots.

Haines is at his best when he gives the broad context for the names that are used or have been used in the Park or when he surrounds the name with interesting anecdotes. The name *Wonderland*, for instance, was frequently used by prospectors around 1870 and stood a fairly good chance of becoming the name for the Park. Haines points out that the word had only recently been in vogue because of the popularity of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, first published in 1866. Another story, told at length, accounts for the name *Electric Peak*. In July 1872 a party including Ferdinand V. Hayden and Henry Gannett had climbed to the top of this peak in an effort to determine its elevation when a thunderstorm approached. Gannett felt a painful tingling and his hair stood on end. This experience resulted in the name. Some years later there was an effort to change the name to *Edison Peak*, in honor of Thomas A. Edison and his contributions to the harnessing of electricity, but Mr. Edison asked that the honor be withdrawn, and the name *Electric Peak* remains. Incidentally, until 1955 Electric Peak was thought to be the highest mountain in the Park, with its elevation listed at 11,155 feet. More accurate measurements show that the figure should be 10,992 (99-102). The highest peak in the Park is Eagle Peak, at 11,358 feet. Curiously, Haines makes no mention of this feature. Whittlesey (1988, 49) says that the name results from its resemblance to a "spread eagle."

From time to time Haines brings in personal stories. In the 1930s, as a young ranger, he was responsible for removing the coins and other objects that inconsiderate tourists had thrown into Morning Glory Pool. Using a long bamboo pole with a little net on the end, he removed the debris, sending the coins to the "Park fiscal office to be remitted to the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts, though many of the coins were so eroded by the slightly acidic water as to be of no further use as money" (154).

There are problems with the structure of *Yellowstone Place Names* which limit its usefulness. By clustering the names in chronological chapters, Haines has restricted himself to a detailed discussion of just over a hundred names, though of course the number of features is many times that. While it is true that he mentions the names of hundreds of other features in the Park, rarely does he take the opportunity to explain their origins. *Bunsen Peak*, *Capitol Hill*, *Solfatara Creek* and *Plateau*, and *Undine Falls*, to take examples at random, are listed in the twenty-eight-page index, but when we turn to the text we find that these names are cited as reference points only. To learn their origins, we must turn to Whittlesey's book.

A placename study that is not arranged in alphabetical order places special demands on its index, and Haines's index does not meet these demands. One of the problems is that the index tries to do too much. All of the indexed names which have met the approval of the US Board on Geographic Names appear in bold type, while those that have not appear in italics. The bold type names call so much attention to themselves that we expect a significant discussion of the name, and it is a disappointment when there is none. Another limitation of the index is that a number of names, even some that are fully approved and discussed in the book, do not appear in the index. Most noticeably absent is *Yellowstone River*.

Haines rarely gives a precise location for the places whose names he discusses, the single map is at such a small scale that it is useful only for major features. Haines is quite map-conscious and he has obviously looked at hundreds of historical and contemporary maps. He is also aware of the need for precise location, for he spends nearly two pages on one of Yellowstone's mystery names: *Lost Lake*. Many writers and maps have located a small lake not more than a mile from the highway between Lake Yellowstone and Old Faithful, but Haines simply claims that it's not there, that aerial photographs prove such a lake has never been anywhere near the spot claimed for it (124-26).

I will conclude my critical remarks with a comment on a section of the book that puzzles me. Haines claims that the origin of the name of a small lake just inside the East Entrance "is one of Yellowstone's inscrutable mysteries." The name is *Eleanor Lake*, which was named by Hiram Chittenden. "It is tempting to think," Haines writes, "that perhaps Captain Chittenden gallantly did as was done at Craig Pass—use

the name of some lady who passed by at the right time—but then he had a daughter by that name. Was it she, Eleanor Chittenden Cress, rather than a visitor? We will likely never know" (198-99). Unless I'm missing something, Haines seems curiously blind to the evidence in this case. The 1915 edition of Chittenden's book on Yellowstone, one of the three editions to which I have easy access, states clearly on page 100 that "Lake Eleanor, at the very summit of Sylvan Pass, is a little pond named for the daughter of General Chittenden." Whittlesey (1988, 51) offers the same explanation with no hint of mystery and suggests that Eleanor often helped her father with revisions in the later editions. Interestingly, the 1915 edition is not among the several editions of Chittenden's book cited in Haines's extensive bibliography, and these other editions do not include the note on Eleanor Lake.

The reader or traveler looking for a quick reference to the origins of the placenames in Yellowstone National Park may be better served by Whittlesey's book. Haines's *Yellowstone Place Names* has a different purpose. It is a scholarly, well-written look at the naming process of a relatively small but highly significant area of the United States. Readers taking the time to read this book from beginning to end rather than depending on the index to find information on specific names will be rewarded with a rich understanding of the history and names of the wonderland known as Yellowstone National Park.

References

Chittenden, Hiram M. 1915. *The Yellowstone National Park: Historical and Descriptive*. Cincinnati: Stewart and Kidd.

Gasque, Thomas J. 1992. "Publication Notes: Names Out West." *Names* 40: 312-17.

Haines, Aubrey L. 1996. *The Yellowstone Story: A History of Our First National Park*. Rev. ed. Niwot, CO: UP of Colorado. 2 vols.

Stewart, George R. 1945. *Names on the Land*. New York: Random House.

Whittlesey, Lee H. 1988. *Yellowstone Place Names*. Helena: Montana Historical Society P.

Thomas J. Gasque
University of South Dakota

Joodse voornamen in Amsterdam: Een inventarisatie van Asjkenazische en bijbehorende burgerlijke voornamen tussen 1669 en 1850 [Jewish first names in Amsterdam: An inventarization of Asjkenazi and matching civil first names between 1669 and 1850]. By Jits van Straten and Harmen Snel. Available from: Dr. Jits van Straten, Hertogweg 11a, N1-6721 Bennekom, Holland. 1996. Pp. vi + 178. Paper $30.00 postpaid.

The format of this book is a bit unusual as much of the explanatory material is in two languages, Dutch and English, so the work is available to a wide audience. The plan of the authors was to develop a system that would match civil and Jewish (Hebrew and Yiddish) names of Dutch Jews who lived mostly in Amsterdam between 1669 and 1849, a tremendous task.

It may not be generally known but Jews in Europe and North America have two sets of given or first names. One name is in the vernacular of the community or culture they live in and another is used in the Jewish religion and Jewish community life. For example, a man might go by Leo in the civil community but in Jewish religious life and the Jewish community he would be known as Yehuda (Judah). Leo 'lion' is "linked" to Yehuda, because when Jacob gave his final blessing to his sons, he compared Jacob to a lion (Gen. 49:9). In North America, it is not uncommon for a son who has the Hebrew name Shmuel (=Samuel) to have as his civil name a name like Sherman.

The pattern of having a civil or vernacular name for use in the general community is not confined to Jews. In the Chinese-American community there are also cases where the individual takes a first name that makes interaction easier with the majority community. A male example is Ān Dŭ 'calm' which becomes Andrew; the woman's name É Wá 'young beauty' becomes Emma. Notice that the sounds of the English name are somewhat similar.

The problems of language are considerable when dealing with Jewish names; van Straten and Snel use the term "Jewish" to include both Hebrew and Yiddish names. Hebrew is an ancient Semitic language which is used in worship and religious affairs. Yiddish is a more modern language derived from High German. Jewish communities in Europe since the Middle Ages have used Yiddish as a lingua franca. Both Yiddish and German are written with Hebrew characters. When names from either of these languages are written in a European language, they

have to be transcribed. Of course, this leads to possible errors along the way.

The main part of *Joodse voornamen in Amsterdam* is a long table of at least 4,700 entries of first names. These entries are based on records from two major sources: records of the Jewish community and records of the civil community. The records include marriage and death registers. The data are set up in five columns, the civil first name, the name in Hebrew, transcription of the Hebrew name into roman letters, Yiddish first name, and the transliterated Yiddish name.

Using the left column, which lists the civil names in alphabetical order, it is possible to identify the Hebrew or Yiddish names associated with them. Some civil names have many variations. For example, there are 26 entries for Judith. Judith, as a civil name, can also appear spelled as Judic, Judick, Judit, or Juduc; there are also variations in the Hebrew and the Yiddish spellings of the name. Knowing the civil name, one can identify all the possible variations in either Hebrew or Yiddish. As one examines the listing of the civil names, many associations are obvious, but some are difficult to understand. Why is the name Victor associated with Avigdor? It is probably because the sound is somewhat similar. Avigdor is also an important name in the Jewish world because it is one of the names associated with Moses.

Why is this system useful? There are two advantages. The first is genealogical. If a person is researching an ancestor who is Jewish or who may be Jewish and has some documents available in Dutch, there is a clue about which first name should be consulted in documents that may be in Hebrew or Yiddish. Sometimes the associated names are somewhat different. For example, the Hebrew form of Judith (Yehudit) can also be associated on the civil list with Grietje.

What if one has a name on a Jewish document and wants to know how that name may appear in a civil list? There is a second listing of 1,200 entries. In this second table, one can go from the Jewish name to an associated civil name. For example, Hodes is associated with Hester (=Esther) because Hodes is the Yiddish form of the Hebrew Hadassa (=Myrtle). In the Bible, the heroine Esther, whose Persian name means 'star', had as her Hebrew name, Hadassa.

The second advantage to this system is more onomastic. We can see how two cultures can interact, how Hebrew and Yiddish can interact and

be interpreted, and how Dutch can interact and be interpreted by each of them.

This has been a brief description of a very detailed book. There is a great deal more information included, such as a listing of pronunciation guides and of double names. There are also several plates of civil and religious documents. I recommend this book for onomastic, genealogical, Dutch, and Judaica collections.

Edwin D. Lawson
State University College
Fredonia, New York

Deutsch-slawischer Sprachkontakt im Lichte der Ortsnamen: Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des Wendlandes. Ed. Friedhelm Debus. Kieler Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte 15. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz. 1993. Pp. 223, Index, Map. DM 45.00.

The German University of Kiel in the country's northernmost state, Schleswig-Holstein, has, especially under the guidance of one of Germany's foremost name scholars, Professor Friedhelm Debus, shown a considerable interest in the placenames of the area which is its hinterland, and Ph.D. students seeking dissertation topics in Germanic Studies have frequently been encouraged to choose an onomastic subject. The results of their research have found a ready outlet and sympathetic editors in the monograph series *Kieler Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte* [*Kiel Contributions to German Language History*], many volumes of which have over the years been reviewed in *Names*.

In a sense, Vol. 15 (1993) of the series, though moving a little further afield, continues this tradition by being devoted to the publication of the *Acta* of a conference held 4-6 July 1991, on the same topic as the title of the book, *Deutsch-slawischer Sprachkontakt im Lichte der Ortsnamen: Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des Wendlandes* [*German-Slavic Linguistic Contact in the Light of Placenames, with Special Consideration of the Wendland*]. The volume's sixteen contributors discuss in considerable detail various relevant aspects of the placename material of the northern end of the former border area between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic, with special

emphasis on interdisciplinary questions. That centuries earlier Germanic and Slavic peoples were in cultural and, of course, linguistic contact with each other in that self-same boundary zone is perhaps a little more than a curious coincidence in the refiguration of Germany in the Yalta agreement which, by the time the conference was held, had already lost its divisive force. The main, though not exclusive, focus on the so-called Wendland serves as a reminder that in this northeastern part of Niedersachse ('Lower Saxony'), a Slavic language popularly termed Windisch, survived into the eighteenth century.

As the editor points out in the introduction, the conference addressed, with the aid of ancillary disciplines such as dialectology, settlement history, archaeology and geography (among others), such questions as: What do the German and Slavic placenames of this area mean? Where do they come from? When did they originate? Who gave them and who subsequently used them? Is it possible to establish a chronological stratification on the basis of their existence? What kind of linguistic changes have taken place since their creation? Is it possible to reconstruct their original forms in view of their problematical transmission? Do the recorded forms permit ethnographic conclusions? In which ways do these names serve as signposts for the settlement geography and the general history of the region?

Attempts to answer some of these, as well as other, pertinent questions reflect several major approaches. In addition to the supporting concerns already mentioned, such as dialectology (Stellmacher) and medieval settlement structure (Gringmuth-Dallmer), there are papers on hydronymic stratification (Schmid), on German placenames such as *Hitzacher, Harlingen,* and *Dannenberg* (Debus), the integration of Slavic placenames into German, e.g., *Landsatz, Kolborn, Krautze* (Hengst), hybrid names such as *Dumsdorf, Grünhagen, Restorf* (Sass), Slavic placenames and their reconstruction (Eichler, Schlimpert, Schmitz), placenames as sources of reconstructed appellatives (Bily), links and comparisons with neighboring regions, for instance the Altmark (Udolph), the Prignitz (Wauer), and the German-Sorbic contact area (Wenzel). The contents are rounded off by the abstract of a paper on Bavarian placenames containing the elements *Windisch* and *Winden* (von Reitzenstein), an examination of the relationship between name and number (Christoph), and an exploration of the computerized treatment of names (Pütz).

The contents of the volume add up to a very satisfying whole, not only with regard to the particular inquiry in which both the conference and the resulting *Acta* engage but also concerning wider and more general issues in the evaluation and exploitation of toponymic evidence in linguistic contact zones. This is onomastics at its best and at its most rewarding.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Ortnamn i språkkontakt: Metoddiskussion med utgångspunkt i ortnamnsskicket i ett finsk-svenskt kontaktområde [*Placenames in Language Contact: A Methodological Discussion Based on the Place Nomenclature of a Finnish-Swedish Contact Area*]. By Aino Naert. Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Nomina Germanica. Arkiv för germansk namnforskning 20. Distributor: Almkvist & Wiksell International, Stockholm, 1995. Pp 238, with German summary. Swkr 200.

One of the reasons why placenames, in contrast to most lexical items, pass with comparative ease from one language to another and consequently become valuable evidence for establishing relative linguistic stratification, is that they behave differently from other words in language contact situations. This behavior has, for obvious reasons, fascinated name scholars in those parts of the world (and there are many) where languages collide or interfere with one another, especially when individual speakers or groups of speakers share several languages now or have done so (often more than once) over the centuries. Onomastic research in these matters has, at its most effective, gone beyond a mere description of the phenomena, aiming to discover patterns and to develop methodologies by which to identify them.

The boundary zone between Finnish and Swedish is such a contact region, and the author of the monograph under review has derived his evidence from the placenames of Nagu, a parish in the Swedish-speaking part of the archipelago in southwest Finland. On the basis of his findings, Naert offers a general method of analysis of the toponymy in the older Finnish-Swedish contact areas, with special emphasis on a

characterization of loan names. Naert's argument draws widely on recent work in contact onomastics, not only in Finland and Sweden but also in Germany and Switzerland.

In order to safeguard the validity of both his research and his findings, he insists on the spatial and dialectal uniformity of the contact area, which has to be manageable in size, as well as on an expert knowledge, on the part of the researcher, of the historical development of the dialects involved. For an awareness of, and the ability to evaluate, potential interference in the transmission of loan names he also regards a general comparison of the structures of Finnish and Swedish as helpful, opening up a considerable range of opportunities to gauge interference from phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical points of view. In Naert's study the Swedish dialect of Nagu is the tradition bearer for the local place nomenclature whereas the loans originated in the medieval southwest Finnish group of dialects. Currently the Nagu dialect is the living spoken means of communication and Swedish is the dominant language.

In the contact zone he investigates, central criteria in the assessment of loan name material are syllable quantity, apocope and syncope. Interference occurs in both the vowel and consonant systems. Morphologically, the author concentrates on name endings, analyzing these with the help of a recurrent alphabetical name index, a method which is particularly under discussion in central European research into contact onomastics. Naert provides such a placename index in addition to the usual alphabetical index. His linguistic analysis has the modern dialect pronunciation as its starting point and, advising against impressionistic ad hoc interpretations, he pleads for a holistic analysis of the name material, dividing into categories that which is with certainty Finnish, with certainty Swedish, or in its origins obscure. This latter group benefits especially from the recurrent arrangement of the whole nomenclature. For a chronological assessment of the age of loan names several extra-onomastic factors have to be taken into account, such as spatial and diachronic demographic changes in the contact zone, although these should serve as additional aids only, while conclusions regarding the actual age of the names have to be reached on linguistic grounds.

I have chosen to highlight only those aspects of Naert's detailed and well-documented account (originally an Uppsala doctoral thesis) which might be of some wider benefit to similar studies elsewhere. Experts conversant with the special circumstances of Nagu and the southwest Finnish archipelago as a whole will, of course, derive much valuable information from the many illustrative examples provided. Considering the paucity of sophisticated research into this vital and fruitful area of onomastics (toponymic contact studies), Naert's methodological approaches and painstaking, detailed examination and interpretation of the Nagu evidence may well serve as a model for others.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Testimony of the Orkneyingar: The Placenames of Orkney. By Gregor Lamb. Byrgisey, Somerset, England. 1993. Pp. 176. £16.95.

There has never been a dictionary of Orkney placenames, although, thanks to the late Hugh Marwick, we have an excellent book on *Orkney Farm-Names* and several accounts of the placenames of individual Orcadian islands. The author of the book under review, himself a native Orcadian, also published a study of the placenames of the island of Sanday, *Naggles o Piapittem*, reviewed in *Names* 40: 211-12 (1992). His more recent publication is very different from all of these in its approach since much of it is concerned with names in the landscape while some chapters look at Orkney placenames from a historical perspective, linking them to the islands' past with particular emphasis on their strong Scandinavian influence. This is not surprising since Orcadians, and especially Shetlanders, having been part of Scotland for just over 500 years, still have strong connections with Scandinavia, especially with Norway. The title of the book appropriately stresses these links, echoing particularly the famous account of medieval Norse settlement and exploration, the *Orkneyinga Saga*.

The arrangement of the book is thematic and its presentational style is narrative. It is therefore not a dictionary although an alphabetical index of the 1800 placenames that form the substance of Lamb's study

may tempt readers to treat it as such, as long as they remember that the name spellings are not always identical with the forms in which they appear on the official Ordnance Survey maps. An appendix makes the text even more user-friendly by providing English-Norse and Norse-English parallel lists of elements, the former with actual placename examples, a guide to the ways in which the use of Norse consonants has changed in Orkney, and a concise inventory of Orkney surnames which have their origins in Norse placenames. Archival, cartographic and other sources are also indicated.

As a basic arrangement, the author illustrates each chapter by relevant placename elements and actual usage. In the chapter on "Hills, slopes and valleys," for instance, we find the statement: "*Kambr* is a cock's comb and is used metaphorically to describe prominent hills as in the Kame of Corrigalt (Harray), the Kame o Stews (South Ronaldsay) and the Kame o Hoy" (29). Or in the chapter on "The sea and the shore" we are told:

> Orkney's greatest bay has a very rare placename element. The 'Flow' of Scapa Flow has its origin in norse *floi*, a bay, but since the word also means 'deep water' it may be that this is the real meaning for, no doubt, the Norsemen plumbed the depths of this great haven. (51)

While the first three chapters open up Orkney's natural environment as referred to in the placename evidence, the fourth investigates the influence of the supernatural on the Orcadian landscape, and the next four attend to the historical background against which placenames were given. Chapter nine asks the inevitable question "What's in a Name?" and in the last chapter the author pulls together various strands, ties up loose ends and, in a gesture of welcome humility, admits, as all honest name scholars would have to agree, that "there are many hundreds of names for which no solution whatsoever may be offered."

Crucial to his presentation is the chapter which he entitles "A Pictish Land." The pre-Norse period is a particularly difficult one in the history of Orkney and of the Northern Isles in general, and the placename evidence for it has to be handled with great caution and sagacity. Having already warned us in the introduction that he takes "the standpoint that the native Picts spoke a Celtic language" and "that the Picts were converted to Christianity" (2), Lamb bravely meets the

challenge of interpreting the landscape of the *Orkneyingar*, i.e., the people whom the Norsemen encountered in the islands from the ninth century onwards, and its placenames, including the name *Orc* itself. On the whole, he emerges from the discussion of this notoriously difficult subject with considerable credit, even if one may not agree with all the interpretative details or be fully persuaded by all his conclusions. For one thing, Orkney, like Shetland, lacks even traces of the placename categories so typical of what one might call "Pictland" proper and, although it shares to some extent the material evidence for the former presence of "archaeological Picts," it is not at all clear what language they spoke in the Northern Isles of Scotland. The name *Orc* itself, and certainly the sporadic occurrence of what seem to be Gaelic (not Pictish!) toponymic elements are not sufficient proof for the one-time presence of Celtic "linguistic Picts." Our lack of means with the help of which we can come to grips with the language(s) spoken on pre-Norse Orkney may be frustrating, even infuriating, but at present we unfortunately have to learn to live with it.

Lamb is obviously at his best when dealing with the Scandinavian past of Orkney as evidenced in its placenames, and one comes away from his account with a very satisfactory and illuminating impression of life in the islands in Viking and post-Viking times. On the whole, the book is indeed a "testimony," as the title claims, and as such a valuable contribution to the study of the *Orkneyingar*. People with an interest in Orcadiana will want to add it to their libraries; others may want to consult it as a useful introduction to the subject.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Place-Names of Northern Ireland. Vol. VII: Country Antrim II. Ed. Fiachra MacGabhann. 1997. Pp. xxi+408. The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland. £20.00 Hardcover, £8.50 Paper, per volume. Series discount.

This volume, the seventh in a series which I have highly praised in the past, is a worthy successor to its forerunners. As the second volume devoted to County Antrim, it covers Ballycastle and North-East Antrim.

In style and format it conforms to the conventions of the series and impresses, like its predecessors, through its extensive listing of early spellings, balanced discussion of derivations suggested in the past, sound reasoning in support of the derivations advanced by the editor, and meticulous linguistic and onomastic scholarship overall. It would take weighty arguments to dissuade me from the view that the series as a whole and each volume in it, including the seventh, represent the very best that toponymics has to offer in the English-speaking world today.

Administratively, the volume covers the parishes of Armoy, Ballintoy, Culfeightrin, Grange of Drumtullagh, Ramoan, and Rathlin Island, all in the Barony of Cary. Situated at the northern end of Ireland, the area is of considerable interest toponymically not only from an Irish point of view but also from a Scottish perspective. Cary lay within the territory of Dál Riada from where the earliest Gaelic-speaking settlers, i.e., the Scots, reached Scotland, and a close comparative scrutiny of the placenames contained in this volume and of the Dalriadic parts of Argyll, etc., can therefore be expected to pay rich dividends in the exploration of the usefulness of placename evidence for the elucidation of Dark Age migration and settlement in northeast Ireland and southwest Scotland. Especially names like Slievepin or Gortamaddy, Gortconny and Gortmillish, containing the elements *sliabh* 'mountain' and *gort* 'field', respectively, should be of considerable interest in this respect, in addition to the generics *achadh* 'field', *baile* 'townland', and *cill* 'burial ground'.

Volume VII has the same handy appendices and cartographic aids as the previous six. Unfortunately, it is again necessary to voice the fear that this splendid series and the data base from which it is derived may not be continued in the present form, if at all, because of fiscal stringencies. Let us hope that such drastic measures may not be taken for some time to come, not least for the sake of the team of researchers associated with the project.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Zu Ergebnissen und Perspektiven der Namenforschung in Österreich [*On the Results and Perspectives of Name Research in Austria*]. Edited by Friedhelm Debus. Beiträge zur Namenforschung N.F., Beiheft 41. Heidelberg, Germany. Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 1994. Pp. 181. Maps, Index. DM 58.00.

The origins of this volume lie in the presentation of the 1992 prize of the Henning-Kaufmann Foundation for the Advancement of German Name Research on the basis of Linguistic History to the Austrian onomastician Elisabeth Schuster, on 30 March 1993 in Vienna. The book contains Professor Friedhelm Debus' *laudatio* on the honoree, her own acceptance speech in the form of "Observations on *Umlaut* in the Place Names of Lower Austria," and papers by two of the foremost Austrian name scholars, Professors Maria Hornung and Peter Wiesinger on "Field-Name Studies in Lower Austria" and "Austrian Place Names in Macrotoponymic Perspective," respectively. A name index serves as a key to all four presentations.

While Friedhelm Debus sketches the academic achievements of the recipient of the prize, especially her work on the three volumes of the project on "The Etymology of the Placenames of Lower Austria" (9-17), Elisabeth herself traces the history of the occurrence and toponymic effects of the *i*-umlaut (or mutation) from the ninth century onwards (19-34), and her mentor, Maria Hornung, provides a detailed account of research on field names in lower Austria, particularly in conjunction with the projected *Field-Name Dictionary of Lower Austria* (35-50). Peter Wiesinger's contribution, much extended in its published version (51-169), can be read as an introductory overview of the chronology and linguistic stratification of Austrian placenames over the last 4000 years. The place-nomenclature of Austria reflects eight, mostly sequential, linguistic influences: non-Indo-European, Indo-European preceding the individuation of separate languages, Celtic, Romance, Germanic, Slavic, German (much of it tribal), and Hungarian. The most ancient of these strata, possibly represented by names like *Wipptal* and *Wilten*, may have Etruscan connections, whereas the oldest Indo-European layer consists mostly of river names that can be scribed to the so-called "Old European" hydronymy from about 2000 B.C. onwards (*Ill*, *Argen*, *Eisack*, *Drau*). Celts, settling in Austria from the end of the fifth

century B.C., left as their legacy river names like *Frutz*, *Glan* and *Ischl*, and settlement names like *Bregenz*, *Düns* and *Brixen*. From the beginning of the Roman overlordship in 15 B.C., Romance languages initially created mostly settlement names but later also field and mountain names (*Gaschurn*, *Braz*, *Graun*, *Muntigl*, *Gurten*). From the second and third centuries A.D. onwards, these were followed by Germanic names (*Mühl*, *Thaya*, *Pulkau*), many of which were mediated by Slavic-speaking people who settled in the more easterly parts of Austria from the sixth century B.C. leaving, of course, also their own toponymic heritage (*Raming*, *Palt*, *Loiben*, *Tradigist*, *Ferschnitz*). Names of German origin constitute by far the largest group and were given from about the sixth to the twelfth centuries A.D., with some of them remaining productive until the fifteenth century. Wiesinger classifies these according to elements: *-ing*, *-heim*, *-hofen*, *-tett*/*-stetten*, *-kirchen*, *Sankt-*, *-aha*, *-wang*/*-weng*, *-dorf*, genitival habitation names, and names of clearings (*-reit*, *-schlag*, *-schwand*/*-schwend* and others). Hungarian (Magyar) placenames occur predominantly in the Burgenland (*Antau*, *Vörösvár*, *Kismarton*).

This brief summary of a much more detailed and extensive survey can only hint at the chronological succession of linguistic strata and the toponymic evidence for them. Wiesinger illustrates his account felicitously with fifteen distribution maps which not only introduce a spatial perspective but also demonstrate that the stratification is much more complex because of regional variations, bilingual situations, replacements, etc. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the most accessible and instructive overview of the toponymic palimpsest of Austria permitting well-informed glimpses of an enduring heritage perpetuated by (one might almost be tempted to say "entrusted to") the placenames embedded in the Austrian landscape. An extensive bibliography supplies further support for Wiesinger's argumentation.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen
University of Aberdeen, Scotland