

## Book Notices

*Native Canadian Geographical Names: An Annotated Bibliography.* Second Edition. Compiled by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. Available from CPCGN Secretariat, 650-615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E9. Pp i-174. \$12.00 (Cnd).

This second edition extends the listings in the 1993 edition from some 1200 items to 1428, divided into 2 sections. The first (1205 entries) consists of works relating to native geographical names in Canada. These are inclusive rather than exclusive and include many items whose primary purpose is not with native names per se, but where native names are mentioned or glossed, such as those found in explorers' journals or travelers commentaries. The second section contains an additional 223 titles relating to aboriginal geographical names in other parts of the world. Most of these concern native names in the US (primarily Alaska), but others deal with names in Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America, and other countries and areas as well. Even China has an entry. All items are annotated concisely, English items in English, French items in French.

The two major sections are followed by a list of the nearly 200 periodicals cited, a very useful hierarchical list of the locations covered, an alphabetical index of the locations (with item numbers), an alphabetical index of the native groups and languages (with item numbers), a very welcome list of the items dealing with methodology, and a sample of the form used to report on the items.

This is an excellent publication, inclusive, current and virtually error-free. (Item 1323 lacks a date.) The list of sources is impressive and valuable in its own right. The compilers and editors have created a first-rate reference work, one which is an obligatory starting-point for research on native toponymy in North America.

I do have several suggestions for making a third edition even more useful. Variant names and variant spellings present major problems for

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any indexer. And while I agree with the compilers that it is not their purpose to standardize the names of peoples or languages, it would be good to extend their practice to cover all instances of possible confusion. At the entry for Lappish, the compilers say "(see Sámi)" and for Kutchin "(see Gwich'in)." But Chippewa and Ojibwa have separate entries listing unique items and without cross-references.

It would also be helpful to extend the cross-references hierarchically so that, e.g., the entry at Iroquoian would indicate that there are further, more specific, entries at Huron and Mohawk.

Also, just as the hierarchical list of geographic locations is convenient and useful, a similar hierarchy of peoples and especially languages would be equally so. This would facilitate area and family studies.

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names has done toponomy a great service by compiling this bibliography. I hope they will extend their efforts and become the major clearinghouse and bibliographic center for native geographic names and native geographic onomastics throughout the world.

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*Pronouncing Dictionary of Proper Names.* Ed. John K. Bollard. 1993. Omnigraphics, Inc. Penobscot Building, Detroit, MI. 48226. Pp. vii-894. \$78 (Hardcover).

Pronunciation is arguably the most problematic aspect of name studies, so problematic in fact that pronunciations are often used sparingly or omitted entirely, leaving substantial gaps in otherwise comprehensive research. It is often difficult to disentangle the real from the perceived pronunciation, the actual from the assumed (or desired). Even when a legitimate pronunciation is determined, there is the problem of representation, how to communicate the pronunciation in a clear, unmistakable fashion to readers, many and probably most of whom cannot be expected to know the 100 plus symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Bollard and his associates at Omnigraphics are to be congratulated on generally solving these problems and producing a major reference work and a book of lasting value to people who work in and with the media, to diplomats, educators and politicians, and especially to onomasts. This is a book that most of us would turn to time and again as we encounter the name of a new personality on the world order, the name of a new group or language, or the name of a foreign city or locale. I checked the pronunciation of the names of physicist Richard Feynman, for Aeaëa, the island home of Circe and for the Irish name Ruaidhri and found all three.

The publicity materials accompanying the book claim that more than 23,000 names are included. The range is astonishing: from Piobaireachd (a style of bagpipe music) to the Tribeca neighborhood of New York to designer Pauline Trigère, to Xau lake in Botswana to Moammar Qadhafi to the Uzi machine gun to ASCII and WYSIWYG. Even the names of international beers are here: Singha, Xingu, Pilsner Urquell, Cupido and Dos Equis.

Useful features include a dual system of representation, a “popular” phonetic rendering similar to but far superior to that found in most dictionaries and a transcription in IPA, differences between US and British pronunciations (indicated in the one case by \$ and in the other by £), and a listing of pronunciations, especially of personal given names, when they differ by country or by function. Thus the pronunciation of Helena is given four times: when it refers to the capital of Montana, when it is a personal name in English, in Dutch and in German. Robert, as a personal name, has eight entries.

So far as I can tell, Bollard and associates have got the pronunciations exactly right and they have correctly differentiated the proper areal and functional variants. DeKalb is correctly indicated as generally l-less in the Southern US and Don Juan, the legendary lover, is distinguished (at least in pronunciation) from the Don Juan of the Byron poem. And, in most cases, they’ve even got it right when the names of US cities are pronounced differently from those of their continental antecedents, e.g., Cairo, Calais, Midlothian, Versailles.

All variants, however, are not included. There is no indication that Apache is pronounced differently when it is the name of an American Indian nation and when it refers to a member of the Parisian netherworld or that the Genoa in Illinois has stress on the penult rather than the

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antepenult or that the New Mexican town of Thoreau ends in [u] and not [o]. But these omissions do not detract from what is a significant reference work of lasting onomastic value.

(Within the past month or so, Omnigraphics has published a "new" edition of this book, which I have not seen but which claims to add to the original some 5000 items and an additional 100 pages. The new edition is welcome since it includes the pronunciation of names which have only recently become prominent, such as Zalata Filipovic, Srebenica and Brett Favre. The price has also been increased as well, to \$88).

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*What's in a Name? Reflections of an Irrepressible Name Collector.*  
By Paul Dickson. Merriam-Webster, Inc., 47 Federal Street, P.O. Box 281, Springfield MA 01102. 1996. Pp. xv-268. \$14.95. Paper.

Paul Dickson is the undisputed heavyweight champion of onomastic popularizers; his books on names are approachable and interestingly written and at the same time based on solid research, thoroughly surveyed and insightfully interpreted. Dickson has probably done more to spread the good words of onomastics than anyone else now writing; for this reason alone, the publication of this book is welcome. It is perhaps the most valuable of the "accessible" name books currently available.

*What's in a Name?* is an updated and slightly revised version of the author's earlier *Names*, published in 1986. In the nearly dozen years since then, Dickson has continued to seek out, organize and assimilate names in all their variety, along with all the social and historical facts he can amass about them. The result is a popular florilegium of names for the 90s and beyond. Michael Jordan is here (anagrammed as "Land heroic jam"), so is Oprah (for Harpo [Oprah spelled backwards] productions), Holy Bull (a racehorse owned by the Vatican), Dick Curd (spokesman for the Carnation Milk Company), Nuclear Freeze (a concoction of the Garden of Eatin', a health foods manufacturer, based

in California, naturally), a pool player known as Butch the Horticulturist, and Sheena Shirley Orr, whom you might know better as Sheena Easton.

With a single exception the chapters in *What's in a Name?* are the same as those in the earlier book and much of the text is the same, but each chapter has been corrected and brought up to date with additional elaborations and more current examples. The exception is the chapter "Unruly Citizens," which was omitted from this book since it was greatly expanded and published independently as *What do you Call a Person From...?* in 1990).

The interest and usefulness of the present book is increased by the addition of an index, something the earlier work lacked. It is now easy to locate such topics as Crab Names, Hoax Names, John Doe, and Podunk. Unfortunately, the bibliography, although it has been changed slightly by the deletion of several entries, does not appear to have been updated; the most recent items are from 1984. There is, however, frequent (but general) documentation in individual entries. Dickson mentions the American Name Society and other onomastic organizations frequently and favorably. Fortunately, earlier references to the American Names [sic] Society have been corrected, although readers are still invited to join ANS for a mere \$15.00 per annum.

Everyone can profit from this book, from the most amateurish dabbler who has just recently become interested in "funny" names to the most seasoned onomast who may have contributed to the research drawn upon by Dickson. There is a surfeit of onomastic material: the stories behind the names, the frequencies of given and surnames, name changes, names in sports, business and entertainment, asteroid names, automobile names, .... Dickson has a remarkable ability to distill vat upon vat of otherwise miscellaneous material into golden onomastic liqueur. This is a delightful book and one that promotes a healthy interest in names; for our sake as well as Dickson's, we can only hope that it will become a best seller.

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*A World of Baby Names*. By Teresa Norman. Perigee Books. Berkley Publishing Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. 1996. 574 pp. \$14.95. Paper.

This is not a scholarly book in the strictest sense of the word, since there are no footnotes and the bibliography consists primarily of reference works rather than monographs, journal articles or conference papers; and yet *A World of Baby Names* contains a wealth of useful information on names and name giving in most of the world's major contemporary cultures.

The brief general introduction is followed by 31 chapters, each one dealing with given names within a particular country or ethnic group. There are the expected chapters, e.g., on German names, Scottish names and French names, along with a number of very welcome, more unusual chapters, e.g., on Chinese names, Hawaiian names, Japanese names, Korean names, Polynesian names, African names, Hindu/Indian names, and North American Indian names. Chapters are also devoted to Biblical names and Mythology and Astrology names.

Each chapter begins with a short but concise introduction (usually no more than one page), which sets the names in context. These introductions contain a great deal of interesting historical and social information about the general origins of names and the social and cultural history of naming in the area concerned. The information is pertinent and so far as I can tell accurate. The introduction is followed by an extensive list of names, grouped by gender. The number of names varies from chapter to chapter, from a hundred or so for Chinese and Korean to what looks like upwards of a thousand for English (the American section is substantially smaller). Overall, according to the publisher, there are more than 30,000 names. Each entry includes the linguistic and semantic derivation of the names along with related forms, diminutives and pronunciation. Many of the entries, in particular those of names which derive in their current form and usage from specific individuals, e.g., Jawaharlal, Tatanka Iyotanka 'Sitting Bull', include enlightening mini social and cultural histories of the names and of the people from whom they derive.

There is a bibliography of some 60 items, a few of which, e.g., Reaney, Hanks and Hodges, MacLysaght, Stewart, are standards, but

most, especially those dealing with the sources of Native American and Asian names, would be unknown to most onomasts.

It is practically impossible to criticize the content of a book such as this one because it is so encyclopedic in its coverage and contains so many thousands of entries. However, my spot checks, especially of the items where the author might go for the catchy folk etymology, suggest that Norman has done her homework well; she has the right story about the origin of *Vanessa*, she correctly uses words such as "cognate," and she correctly differentiates among pet names, diminutives and shortenings.

This is a book which obviously has been well-researched (it is also very well-written) and one with which both the author and publisher have taken great care. There are thorns and eths and all manner of diacritics, all appropriately used. It represents the best in what I might describe as the niche between original scholarship and onomastic popularization. It is based on solid scholarship and it treats names and the socio-historical contexts of naming seriously. This is a book which can be read profitably for one purpose by prospective parents and for another by veteran onomasts. Since the book pulls together a great deal of information, much of it difficult to obtain elsewhere, it should be of interest and value to most readers of this journal.

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*People's Names: A Cross-Cultural Reference Guide to the Proper Use of Over 40,000 Personal and Familial Names in Over 100 Cultures.* By Holly Ingraham. McFarland & Co., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. 1997. Pp xiii-613. Hard cover. \$65.00

I was initially put off by this book for its odd statements about cultures and naming, strangely out of place in a serious work. Among the many unusual statements are Ingraham's claims that languages of the Philippines are "bizarre and frustrating" because "the sound 'F' is absent from all of them" (266), and (concerning Korean) "a large chunk of people...are now named Park or Kim, with deleterious moral results"

(259). I wonder if they were named Min or Han would they be more moral?

However, as I continued to read through the book, I was drawn more and more toward an appreciation of the remarkable job Ingraham has done in compiling and organizing names from an incredible number of the world's cultures.

There are two basic sections in *People's Names*. The first, Contemporary Names, consists of names in Eastern Europe, Western Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, South Asia, North Asia, The Pacific, Africa, and (native) North America. The second, Historical Names, has chapters headed Old Names, Renaissance and Reformation, Middle Ages, Dark Ages, and Ancient Europe. This arrangement makes for some unanticipated associations. Basque names are found in the Middle Ages section, and Old Names consists of Breton names, Yiddish names and Victorian American names. Unusual combinations, to be sure.

Ingraham claims that the book is intended for "general users" and has been made necessary by "modern, international multiculturalism" (xiii) because contemporaries, whatever their line of work, are faced with unfamiliar names and need a basic knowledge of names and their use so as not to embarrass themselves or their organizations. However, it is clear from the discussions that it is primarily intended for authors, especially authors of historical fiction. Thus nearly half the book is given over to pre-modern names, identified by period. Ingraham has also included two devices directed specifically toward nymically-challenged writers: an addendum of Names Without Languages, which includes tips for authors on how to create names with associative values from syllables which may or may not occur in any human language, and a system for devising names by drawing from a deck of cards coded with permissible name parts.

Typically, each section begins with a short introduction to a cultural group or geographic area, sketching in broad outline its history, its major language(s) and religion(s). This is followed by comments on the names and naming patterns of that culture or area, a pronunciation guide, longer or shorter as needed, and lists of given names, gendered wherever possible. Finally, there are lists of family names. For the most part, the names in the European and Asian sections are un glossed while



those in the Pacific and Africa are glossed. Arabic names are all translated while Israeli names are not.

In many ways this is a remarkable compilation of onomastic material. Ingraham has brought together (as has Norman in the above notice) an impressive amount of information, much of which is otherwise scattered and difficult to find. Especially welcome is the inclusion of substantial numbers of names from "minor" naming cultures such as Cornish and Frisian, Tuareg and Nepalese, Comanche and Tahitian.

Even experienced onomastic scholars will find much of value in this book, but they are advised to use it with caution. I have no way of directly verifying either the commentary or the names themselves. There are no citations although a few sources are mentioned in the text but unreferenced. There is a bibliography of some 75 items, but readers of this journal would immediately notice the absence of such standard sources as George R. Stewart, Elsdon C. Smith, and P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson. Furthermore, the author claims to have looked through every article in every issue of *Names* for possible material, but no citations appear and Ingraham refers to *Names* as the Journal of the American Names [sic] Society (603). Without sources or personal knowledge, it is impossible to corroborate such statements as "[In Shawnee] two name-givers will ponder an infant's name in an all-night vigil. In the morning, each will offer the parents a name, so they have two choices" (343).

But even without the usual scholarly apparatus, and noting the caveats mentioned above, this is a handy guide to names and naming practices from around the world; the introductions are sound, although sketchy, and the book is up to date, distinguishing, for example, Ukrainian names from Belarusan names from Russian names.

The page numbering in the table of contents is off by two from page 345 to the end; however the numbers given in the index are correct.

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