Reviews

Place Names of Alberta. Volume IV (Northern Alberta). Ed. Merrily K. Aubrey. Alberta Community Development, Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society and University of Calgary Press. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. 1996. Pp. xxvii+260. Paper, $29.95 CDN.

This is the fourth of a four-volume series on Alberta's official geographical names, a joint project of Alberta Community Development, the University of Calgary Press, and the Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society. Volumes I (*Mountains, Mountain Parks and Foothills* [1991]), II (*Southern Alberta* [1992]), both by Aphrodite Karamitsanis (see Embleton [1992]; Wonders [1991; 1992] for reviews), and III (*Central Alberta* [1994], by Tracey Harrison (see Embleton [1994]; Wonders [1994] for reviews) have already appeared. Volume IV is the final volume, completing the coverage of the entire province; this volume has already been reviewed by Wonders (1996). Each volume begins with an introduction, and ends with a bibliography and over a dozen color photographs of places (landscapes) referred to in the text. In addition, there are small historic black-and-white landscape photographs scattered throughout the book.

The introduction covers quite a bit of ground for its length, and could usefully be read as a separate essay. Northern Alberta (almost exactly the area between 55 and 60 degrees north latitude) has been influenced by the "aboriginal people [Chipewyan, Cree, Beaver; Slavey should also have been listed here], explorers [including the 'bush pilots' of the 20th C], the fur trade [Hudson's Bay Company, Northwest Company, X.Y. Company], missionaries, surveys, transportation [particularly the railway], settlement and industry" (xi). These of course are all reflected in the toponymy. There is also a substantial number of names commemorating Albertans who died in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Aubrey has written a particularly good section (xi-xii) on some of the differences between aboriginal and European naming, which I would like to quote from at length in order to bring it to the wider audience that it richly deserves:

> Aboriginal people most often named their world in a pragmatic way. From the names that survive, it appears that, as a general rule, they did *not* name places after people. They often named features according to physical attributes such as big, little, smoky, stinking; or by the food source that

> might be available at the site such as jackfish, beaver, buffalo or moose. They journeyed from Point A to Point B, and named the features on their route accordingly. Therefore, if journeys led across different places along a river, the river was not seen as a whole, but rather as a series of distinct, yet interconnected features. One portion might be known as Swift Current River, in another area it might be called Moose River, while in yet another area it would be called Meeting Place River. When this information was recorded by the explorers and scouts, usually one name was used, reflecting European naming convention.

There is also an excellent capsule history of the official naming practices and authorities in Alberta, and the relationship between provincial and federal responsibilities (xv-xvii)—again, this could easily be a freestanding short article. The introductory matter concludes with an explanation of how to read each entry, a list of photographs with credits, and then two maps, each of which also shows the appropriate part of the National Topographic System Grid—the first a general map of Alberta showing the division into four regions for the purposes of this series, with the region of this particular volume shaded, and the second a map showing this region in more detail (marking the major communities, roads, and rivers). The book ends with a fascinating one-page description of life on a survey crew, followed by three pages of historic black-and-white photographs. Like the introduction, this could also be read by itself, independently of the rest of the book, with considerable profit.

The main part of the text (as for each volume) consists of an alphabetical listing of the official placenames of the region. Each contains the following information:

1) The name and the type of feature ("generic") regardless of whether the generic is already part of the official name,

2) The National Topographic System Grid Reference,

3) A legal description, specifying section, range, township, and meridian,

4) The latitude and longitude,

5) The approximate distance to the nearest populated community "as the crow flies,"

6) A sentence to a lengthy paragraph describing the feature, the origin of its name, and any other noteworthy facts. Cross-referencing to other features is sometimes also given; where several features share the

same name, the information is only given once, and cross-referencing to it handles the other features.

Having read and reviewed the previous three volumes, it struck me all over again how even in such a recently settled area, a locality can have changed names several times; how even fairly recently established places can have names for which the origin is unknown or uncertain in surprising ways; how recent some of the name approvals are; and how many names have an asterisk as denoting "rescinded name or former locality." It would have been useful, and certainly also interesting, to know *why* a name is no longer in use: some instances clearly involve renamings (in which case one could again ask why), but what about the others? Even a name approved as late as 1963 can already be asterisked (Big Slough [17]). Another useful addition would have been some form of pronunciation guide (at the very least, indication of which syllable is stressed)—not just for the numerous aboriginal names, but even for names like *Audet, Auger,* and *Avenir* (just to choose three successive entries on page 7).

As with the three previous volumes, despite overall satisfaction with (and enjoyment from!) the book, I find minor quibbles, which I will now list in the order in which they occur in the book. (I will avoid mentioning any of the items cited by Wonders [1996, 77-78].) It seems unnecessary to include a 22-line description of bats in the entry for Bat Lake (9), especially when the other 7 lines of the entry leave it slightly unclear as to whether the name relates to the flying mammal or to the fact that aboriginal hunters took sticks to the tall grass to bat the creatures out; note that these two homophones "bat" actually have different and unrelated etymologies in English. A similar comment could be made about the entry for Caribou Creek (34), where 16 out of 22 lines are devoted to a description of caribou, and about the entry for Moose Bay (145), with 11 out of 13 lines giving details about the moose (here it definitely feels as if this is just to bulk up an otherwise short and somewhat uncertain entry). The entry for Bellrose Lake (13) indicates that "it is possibly named after the prominent family who settled in the area," and was "officially approved in 1952 after field research was conducted." Surely it would have been possible to give us a sentence or two about this prominent family. Was their name indeed Bellrose, or perhaps just Bell, or even Rose? In what respect were they prominent? Why is it not certain that this is the origin of the name? Blumenort (21)

is translated as 'Valley of flowers'. 'Place of flowers' would be correct. The history of the name Carlo Creek (35) is rather mysterious and surely unusual, and it seems hard to believe that more details would not be known: "This name was first recorded in the 1940s, was rescinded in 1958, then renamed. After whom it was named is not known." There is then a cross-reference to Morse Lake, but that entry (147) not only does not elucidate anything; it is not even clear why there is a cross-reference.

In the entry for Chester Creek (39), "the feature is likely named after Chester Day, a chainman on the J. A. Fletcher survey crew of May 1913," it seems most unnecessary to include "the word chester comes from the Latin word *castra*, meaning military camp," because it is not germane and this type of information is not generally provided for other first names or surnames occurring in other entries. The meaning of the Beaver name for Child Lake (39) is given without translation; surely it must be known (and if not, that fact in itself would be interesting). The same problem occurs with the entry for Cutbank River (49) with respect to the Cree name. The name Dagmar Lake (51) is said to have appeared as early as 1919, and "may have been the name of a survey crew member or a relative;" given that this is virtually always a female name, surely it would have been highly unusual for it to have been the name of a crew member, and we would more than likely have had a record of it if that had been the case. Darwin Lake (51) is "one of a series of features in the area named after deceased prominent geologists." Is this Charles Darwin (1809-1892)? The cross-referenced entries for Doris and Doris Creek (58) do not actually make it clear if the same Doris is involved, if the former is indeed named after the latter. Under Dover River (58-59), it is less relevant to mention "the term 'dover' is derived from the Welsh Gaelic word *dwfr*, and means 'the waters' or 'the stream'," than to mention the famous city in England of the same name (and whether that could be the source of the name, or whether it could be from the surname). The entry for Dunkirk River (61) devotes 13 of its 18 lines to the origin of *dun* and *kirk* and the privateers associated with Dunkirk in France, without telling us why *this* town was given that name (we are told that it was named too early for it to have been after the World War II battle). Similarly, for Leicester (12), it would have been more useful to have told us less about the British city and the origin of its name and more about why this Alberta locality might have

been named after it. Under Ellazga (64), we are told that "the 1928 *Place-Names of Alberta* refers to it as an aboriginal name meaning 'salt place';" it should be possible to at least comment whether or not this is possible in any local aboriginal language. The information on S.C. Ells contained in the 76-line entry for Ells River (65) is disproportionately detailed and lengthy compared to other entries, and for no obvious reason other than that maybe the information happened to be at hand.

Under Esher (67), rather than giving four lines on the possible Old English meanings of *esher* and then a vague comment on its Old Norse and Gaelic relatives, it would have been more useful to have pointed out that there is a common thread in several of the other northern Alberta railway stations (Esher, Surbiton, Woking) mentioned here as also named by a Mr. Prest. These are all nearby stations in Surrey, England, on one of the main lines leading into London from the south. This is handled better under Prestville (173), which at least mentions that these are all placenames in the area of his birth, but without making the additional very relevant reference to their being railway stations, and also under Wanham (223). The related entry for Woking (232) devotes two lines to the Old English origin of the name of Woking, still without mentioning the more relevant fact that the British town is an important railway station. All of this taken together implies to me that Aubrey must be unaware of this fact, as there was ample opportunity to mention it and choose it over other less relevant facts, if space was an issue.

The entry for Firebag River (71) contains interesting but far too much detail on the history of various types of firebag. The Beaver name of Fish Creek (71) is given, but not its translation. Rather than give two potential origins for Formby (75), both of which look dubious to me, it would have been more interesting to know instead why this lake "was named after a suburb of Liverpool, England." What was the connection, and isn't it a little unusual to transfer the name of a town directly to a lake, without there also being a town of that name in Alberta, or conversely a lake of that name in England—or is there? Under Fort Assiniboine (75), "likely named after the aboriginal group who were named by the Ojibwa," the Ojibwa form of the name referring to "their method of cooking whereby they boiled their food by placing heated rocks into water" is not given. We are told that Friedenstal (79), originally a German Catholic colony, "is said to mean valley of peace." Yes, it does, and this would have been quite easily checked and

rendered into a certainty. Frog Lake (79), officially named as recently as 1991, "was given this name by the early aboriginal people in the area and describes the number of frogs in and around the lake;" presumably this must have been in one of the aboriginal languages (what form in what language?), and thus this name must be a translation of that original name. Since Furlough Island (79) is named after Fred Furlough, it is not relevant to give a definition of furlough as "a leave of absence usually given to armed services personnel." Under the entry for Girouxville (82), there is a comment that "the area has been known to the Cree as *umstosee owuskee*, a term that may translate as 'Frenchman's Land';" this ought not to be difficult to check. Goldschidt [sic] Lake (83) is not explained; there is a cross-reference to Inkster Lake (104), but there is no mention let alone an explanation re Goldschidt there.

Hazelmere (95) is said to be named by a Mr. Jordan "after a town in England, where he was stationed at the Canadian training camp in Bramshott." It would have been useful to mention that the spelling has been changed compared to the English town, which is Haslemere. Heavysound Creek (96) is said to be "likely aboriginal in origin," but how is this known, without any aboriginal form being cited? And is it a phonetic imitation of the putative aboriginal form itself, or a translation thereof? Hinton (99) was named for a person of that surname; there is no need to then go on to give the possible Old English meanings for *hinton*. A similar comment could be made for Hoole (100). Hondo (99) "may be named after a town in Texas. *Hondo* is a Spanish word meaning deep;" some motivation ought to be given (why the Texas connection? Or is there something topographic which links with "deep"?). It was not necessary to give the Old English origin of Hythe (104), just the connection to the town in England. Under Ings Island (104), named for a well-known physician, it would have been interesting to know the connection to the area and the time-period. Similarly, why was Landels River (118) named after a Calgary inhabitant of that surname? The entry for La Petite Rivière Jaillante (108) doesn't explicitly state that the source is French; maybe this is considered too obvious to mention. The Cree name of Little Beaver Lake (123) is given, but not translated. MacKay River (133) is "also apparently known by a Chipewyan word meaning deep valley," but the form is not given. For Mistehae Lake (144), we are told that "it is from the Cree language

meaning big," but the form is not given; similarly, for Mitsue Creek (144), from a Cree word meaning "eating," the Cree form is not given. If Nampa (151) is based on an aboriginal word meaning "place," we should be given the form and the language. Namur Lake (151) is possibly connected to the Allies' offensive of 1915; giving the date of the naming would help readers to assess the likelihood more easily. Niggli (153) is named after a famous German petrologist, but we are given neither his first name nor his life-dates, unlike the information generally presented for the other names of this ilk. If Ninishith Hills (153) is "likely Chipewyan in origin," we should be given a potential form and meaning.

For Odisque Lake (156), neither the aboriginal form nor the language are given. Orloff Lake (157) is "reportedly...named after a Russian nobleman who first came to the area to fish but liked it so much that he decided to live in the district." It seems odd that this would not be more traceable, or verifiable, as to its accuracy. To say that the name Pony Creek (170) "likely refers to an incident involving a member of the equine family" is to use a very coy phrasing. The entry for Rainbow Lake (175) gives several possibilities, without ranking them as to likelihood, which would have been useful. Under Raup Lake (177), it seems surprising that the death date of the "well known botanist, Hugh Miller Raup (1901-?), field botanist for the National Museum of Canada...and ultimately...professor at [sic] forestry at Harvard" and author of a number of books in the field, would remain unknown, if a comparatively small amount of additional research had been undertaken. Sass Lake (188) "is an aboriginal word, likely Chipewyan, meaning bear." I am surprised that this could not be ascertained. If Tar Island (211) no longer exists, why doesn't it qualify for the asterisk indicating "rescinded name or former locality"? Under Timeu Creek (213), why was it not verified whether *timeu* is indeed a Cree word for deep? Similarly, under Whistwow Lake (228), why do we not have something more certain than "it is said that *Whistwow* is a Cree word meaning 'ducks losing their feathers'"? If Vanrena (218) is "a combination of portions of names of early settlers, including Mrs. Van," what were the other names involved (or why do we not know)? After stating that vixen is the female fox (Vixen Creek, p. 219), it is not necessary to go into the Old English origins of the word.

As can be seen, all of these quibbles are minor, could easily be corrected in a second edition, and do not diminish the overall value of the book. The problems, in my view, center around aboriginal names, certain types of loose end (where a tiny bit of extra research or another half-sentence would have resulted in a much more satisfyingly complete entry), and occasional problems of judgement relating to relevancy of information (including things that need not have been included but also leaving out things that should have been included). The book itself is physically an excellent production (binding, choice of typeface, quality of paper, etc.), and remarkably free of misprints (around half a dozen, none of which interferes with understanding).

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The Place-Names of East Flintshire. By Hywel Wyn Owen. Cardiff: U of Wales P, 1994. Pp. xxxvi+428. Abbreviations and Bibliography, Index and Glossary, Maps. £35.00.

The systematic study of Welsh placenames languished for a number of years, especially after the untimely deaths of Melville Richards in 1973 and Bedwyr Lewis Jones in 1992, both professors at the University College of North Wales in Bangor and Hywel Wyn Owen's mentors. It is fitting therefore that the author of the book under review is Head of the School of Community, Regional and Communication Studies in the same academic institution where he had access to the archives established and continued by the two scholars already mentioned. He has also benefitted from the recent establishment of the Place-Name Survey of Wales under the aegis of the Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales, with Professor Gwynedd O. Pierce as Director and Dr. Margaret Gelling, President of the English Place-Name Society, as one of its chief advisors. Toponymic studies in Wales appear therefore to be on the move again, using modern technology and computing techniques, and it is probably a fair judgement to claim that *The Place-Names of East Flintshire* signals the beginning of a new phase in Welsh placename studies, and its rigorous scholarship and adherence to solid scholarly principles is therefore particularly welcome.

The author himself regards his book more humbly as the first in a series of volumes on the placenames of Clywd (formerly Flintshire and Denbighshire), beginning with Flintshire. In these more restrictive terms, the book under review is intended to be the first of these, covering three lordships in the east of Flintshire—Hawarden, Hope and Ewloe. Dr. Owen has modelled his layout and presentation on the more recent volumes of the English-Place Name Survey which also include minor names and evidence recorded after 1500. In fact, his cutoff date is 1900 and he has included in this comprehensive survey all placenames and field names recorded up to the end of the nineteenth century. Each name is followed by the earliest recorded form, its date, subsequent references and the origin and meaning of the name. It is always dangerous to describe something as "definitive," but in this case such an evaluation would have considerable justification.

Dr. Owen's book is, to use modern parlance, very "user-friendly," for in addition to the main text and the expected bibliography and list of

abbreviations, it offers a list of personal names found in the placenames discussed and, most importantly, an extensive "Index and Glossary of Place-Name Elements" of nearly 100 pages which bears witness to the fascinating linguistic mixture of the area surveyed, in part due to the geographic location of East Flintshire adjacent to the English county of Cheshire but also reflecting a number of military and settlement movements from the seventh and eighth centuries onwards, as well as the Norse forays along the coast towards Chester and the Norse settlements in the Wirral. Not only is this index extremely helpful to the non-Welsh-speaking user of the volume but, containing cheek by jowel Old English *āld* 'old', *alor* 'alder tree', *āte* 'oats', Middle English **aley* 'alley', **auncien* 'old' and Welsh *allan* 'out, further', *anial* 'wild', *annwyd* 'the cold', *arffedogaid* 'a lapful', *argae* 'weir, dam' on the same page (333), it serves as a constant reminder of the linguistic palimpsest implied by the place nomenclature of the region. No wonder the author himself calls the index a "vital section" of the book.

The placenames of East Flintshire, on the one hand, share characteristics with other parts of Wales and England but, as Dr. Owen points out, their particular contribution to toponymic studies is their blend of Welsh and English and the fact that some areas of Flintshire are entirely Welsh and others completely English. As a result of this co-existence, certain features emerge: hybrid names, tautological compounds, translations, Welsh words absorbed into English speech, English words absorbed into Welsh speech, interference in spelling and certain sociological groupings. Although such features are not unknown in linguistic and onomastic contact situations elsewhere, their particular manifestations in East Flintshire are of more than local interest.

Dr. Owen's book is an encouraging sign of the current resurgence of placenames studies in Wales. The result of twenty-five years of painstaking research and fieldwork, it is also a personal triumph for the author. We are looking forward to further similar studies in the years to come.

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Studier över sörmländska sjönamn [*Studies on the Lake Names of Södermanland*]. By Svante Strandberg. Skrifter utgivna genom Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala, Serie B, Meddedelanden 8. Uppsala 1991. Pp. viii+300. Bibliography, index, maps, English summary. Swkr 125.00.

Professor Svante Strandberg's monograph on the lake names of Södermanland, a province in eastern Sweden, has only comparatively recently come to this reviewer's notice. Originating as the author's PhD dissertation at the University of Uppsala, it was published in 1991 in the prestigious series of publications which have come out of the Swedish Place-Name Archive of which, a few years later, Dr. Strandberg became Head, succeeding one of his mentors, Professor Thorsten Andersson. Although several years have passed since its publication, it is still appropriate to bring it to the attention of readers of *Names*, not so much because of the individual etymologies it suggests—a central concern of the thesis—but rather because of some of the general principles the author has evolved in his quest for an effective methodology and presentation.

Though river names have received considerable scholarly attention in many parts of the world, usually in conjunction with a search for the earliest discernible linguistic strata, the names of lakes have not figured extensively in hydronymic research; this does not mean, however, that Professor Strandberg's study is a first in this field, not even in Scandinavia. One only has to think, among others, of Elof Hellquist's *Studier öfver de svenska Sjönamnen, deras härledning och historia* (1903-06), Gustav Indrebø's *Norske innsjönamn* (1924, 1933), Erik Brevner's *Syöstra Närhes sjönamn* (1942), Peter Slotte's *Sjönamnen i Karlebynejden* (1978), and especially the earlier parts of John Kousgård Sørensen's multi-volume *Danske sø- og ånavne*, the eighth and last volume of which was published in 1996 (review in *Names* forthcoming). The volume under review does, however, have certain features which single it out from the other studies.

First and foremost, its approach is broadly interpretative. While this does, as already mentioned, necessitate the frequent discussion of etymologies, many of them new, it extends its scope into the exploration of adjacent areas such as phonology, word-formation, and semantic typology. Methodologically, it does so by devoting chapters to individu-

al names or name clusters and offering more general conclusions on the basis of this special evidence. Thus chapter 2 is built around the name *Fjälaren*; chapter 3 centers on *Forssjö*; chapter 4 is based on the names *Löppsjön*, *Skaksjön*, *Enbågen*, and *Flättersjön*; chapter 5 concentrates on the names *Blåkulla* and *Jättens handfat*, and so on. A close study of the name *Remna* leads to the conclusion that "in principle, the fact that a body of flowing water is small by no means rules out a very old hydronym" (259). Strandberg also considers such phenomena as change of name, ellipsis and reduction, and, in conjunction with these, the question of formally primary and secondary lake names, as well as analogy and linguistic connections between names geographically distant from each other. In his discussion of Swedish lake names in *-aren* (chapter 8), he focusses on Hellquist's previous examination of this name type and on his conclusions concerning it. Strandberg regards these names in *-aren* as "an excellent source of raw material for the student of morphological analogy in place names" (262).

The index of over 1000 names illustrates the broad base of Strandberg's survey, and his extensive bibliography bears testimony to his awareness not only of the relevant primary sources but also of the considerable array of secondary literature. Altogether, this monograph is a solid contribution to hydronymic scholarship, especially to the study of lake names, both in Sweden and elsewhere.

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Coltharp Bibliography Update

The 4th edition (1995) of the Bibliography of the Lurline Coltharp Onomastics Collection, compiled by Lisa Weber and Roberta Arney, is now available online at

http://www.utep/library/onomast.html

Proper Names in Modern Norwegian: A Grammar Study. By M.L. Alëkshina. St. Petersburg: Evropeiskiy Dom, 1997. Pp. 188. ISBN 5-85733-064-5.

M.L. Alëkshina's *Proper Names in Modern Norwegian: A Grammar Study* provides undergraduates and advanced scholars alike with a useful introduction to the function of proper names in modern Norwegian. A linguist at Saint Petersburg State University, Alëkshina appends her study with a lucid—although substantially abridged—English translation of her Russian text. While the English section offers Westerners a glance at her volume's valuable contents, readers should note that it fails to include the informative linguistic tables that conclude the Russian portion of Alëkshina's study. Culled from extensive Norwegian archives of newspapers, magazines, radio and television scripts, and literary texts, Alëkshina's tables—along with her ample bibliography of important secondary materials—underscore the scholarly riches available in her study. Yet even in its English form, *Proper Names in Modern Norwegian* allows scholars to enjoy the diversity of Norwegian proper names and their significance in the world of Norwegian toponymics. An extensive study of the historical development of regional Norwegian toponyms and anthroponyms, Alëkshina's volume offers an insightful description of the grammatical components of proper names in modern Norwegian.

Alëkshina devotes particular attention to the ongoing issue of whether or not Norwegian proper names (PN) can be used in the plural. As Alëkshina observes, "Most PN researchers maintain that being an individual designation of a single object a PN is unable to pluralize, and when used in the plural it becomes rather a common noun (CN) than a proper name" (164). Alëkshina provides a useful international survey of the contemporary nature of this debate, in addition to furnishing readers with intelligible guidelines for determining the pluralization of Norwegian proper names. She accents her study with helpful asides about the many intriguing linguistic intersections between Russian and Norwegian, especially regarding the interconnections between traditional configurations of Russian and Norwegian anthroponyms. In this manner, Alëkshina's multilingual approach to the study of proper names results in a number of valuable conclusions about Norwegian anthroponyms and the ways in which they connote the "liberalism, parliamentarism,

politics, and the spirit of both the age and the country" (166). Alëkshina traces these linguistic tendencies among other Scandinavian languages as well, a nuance of her study that highlights the value and originality of her research.

Alëkshina also provides a detailed analysis of August Western's landmark early study of plural proper names in Norwegian (1921). In addition to engaging in a careful assessment of Western's classification scheme, Alëkshina augments her precursor's list with several meaningful additions of her own, including attention to anthroponyms, zoonyms, and toponyms in the plural form; the literal and figurative meanings of plural proper names; and the metonymic aspects of plural proper names, among other issues. In her analysis of the metaphoric and metonymic uses of plural proper names, for example, Alëkshina argues that a number and variety of contemporary meanings and trends mark their usage. "Despite the fact that metaphorically used PN plural forms abound in newspaper texts, their choice often depends on such personal factors as the age, outlooks, or extralinguistic experience of the writer," she observes, "not to mention the degree of the reality of the fact underlying the metaphor" (171). Alëkshina considerably deepens Western's earlier accomplishments by updating his research to include attention to prevailing psychosocial issues and their impact upon the contemporary application of plural proper names in Norwegian. "Though some tendencies in the usage of the PN plural are clear," Alëkshina writes, "it is to a considerable extent dependent on and determined by the speaker's individual views on language norms, personal extralinguistic experience, as well as emotional or situational factors" (172).

Yet Alëkshina's volume finds its greatest strengths in her analysis of plural proper names and the grammatical category of gender, a subject that Norwegian grammar texts typically ignore. Alëkshina devotes particular attention to the examination of the gender of proper names and the many ways in which it impacts syntax and subject-verb agreement in modern Norwegian. In addition to providing a readable account of the manner in which gender impinges upon anthroponyms and the names of cities, Alëkshina also discusses the shifting nature of gender when proper names signify different objects. Additionally, she updates our contemporary understanding of modern Norwegian to

account for historical changes in vocabulary and usage. "The names of music bands, athletic teams, as well as shops, companies, or party organizations," she notes, "are normally felt by the native speakers to represent distributive, rather than collective plurality of persons, and therefore these are substituted by plural pronouns" (186). By addressing the contemporary nuances of modern Norwegian grammar, Alëkshina provides scholars with a valuable corollary to the important research conducted by Western, Mikhail Steblin-Kamenskii, I.P. Paramonova, and others during the first six decades of this century.

The tables and appendices that conclude Alëkshina's volume further demonstrate the remarkable depth and originality of her research. While her tables enumerate and interpret the data upon which she based her study, Alëkshina's appendices—particularly the questionnaire that she used to compile more than 36,000 responses—underscore her interest in the exploration and clarification of the "gråsone" or 'grey zone' that marks our contemporary understanding of proper names in modern Norwegian. "Within this zone there exist no standard rules and prevail unstable trends, narrow in terms of the phenomena covered by them and influenced by native speakers' personal linguistic tastes," Alëkshina writes (186). Through her deliberate and learned analysis of current linguistic trends in modern Norwegian, Alëkshina not only updates the important work of her precursors, but also makes the gråsone decidedly clearer.

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Pomístní jména v Čechách; o čem vypovídají jména polí, luk, lesů, hor, vod a cest. [*The Anoeconyms in Bohemia; or, What the Names of Fields, Meadows, Forests, Mountains, Bodies of Water, and Roads Tell Us*]. By Libuše Olivová-Nezbedová, Miloslava Knappová, Jitka Malenínská and Jana Matúšová. Praha: Academia. 1995. Pp. 520.

The Czech term *pomístní jméno* pertains to a "proper name referring to any non-living natural object or phenomenon on Earth, and also to any man-made object on Earth whose purpose is not to be lived in and whose location is stationary" (15). This definition is so broad that it covers what is usually called, if we wish to use the Greco-Latin terms, hydronymy (the examples offered in the book range from seas to firefighters' water tanks); oronymy (explained as all the vertically articulated parts of the surface of dry land and of the bottom of any body of water); names of pieces of land (no Greek term in general currency) such as plots, fields, gardens, forests, groves, pieces of uncultivated land; hodonyms, such as names of streets, squares, highways, embankments, piers, paths, tunnels, railways, funiculars, etc.; and names of objects such as rocks, chapels, monuments, cemeteries, quarries, mining pits, road signs, and the like. This classification, or its more refined variant, is discussed in the first chapter by Olivová-Nezbedová (15-34). The advantages (or otherwise) of this classification are, however, not the main topic of the book, so they will not be the focus of this review, either. One point, however, must be made; namely, that before this terminological understanding was accepted by Czech onomatologists, the usage of the expression *pomístní jméno* was such that it applied in reference to those small objects, man-made or fashioned by nature, which are connected in some way, particularly in nature, with human life. These were mentioned above as the last subcategory and because of their typical size they are usually termed in English *microtoponyms*, while in German they are called *Flurnamen* because the majority of them pertain to agriculture in the broadest understanding of the word.

The late Professor Vladimír Šmilauer (*piae memoriae*) succeeded in organizing a huge project of collecting these microtoponyms throughout Bohemia, begun in 1963 and completed only in 1980. (A report on that project is given by Olivová-Nezbedová [35-51]). An index of the lexical morphemes used in the formation of the microtoponyms collected

through Šmilauer's effort was provided in Libuše Olivová-Nezbedová and Jana Matúšová, *Index lexikálních jednotek pomístních jmen v Čechách* (Praha: Ústav pro jazyk český ČSAV, 1991), which was reviewed in *Names* in 1992 (40: 135-138.) That review articulated the wish to see those names not only indexed, but also interpreted and analyzed. The present book is the implementation of the project expressed in that wish, with a slight difference, however: one chapter was added concerning oronyms (by Malenínská on 244-285) and another concerning hydronyms (also by Malenínská on 285-303), both of them going beyond the collection of microtoponyms organized by Šmilauer.

As we all know, there are basically two methods of collecting territorially bound and dispersed data: Gilliéron's French method, which consisted of having a few co-researchers on a project travel through the territory collecting data through contacts with native speakers, and conducting the inquiry through conversations that were flexible as to the occasions and topics that might arise; and Wenker's German method (also called the Marburg school) that used identical questionnaires sent to hundreds of informants located throughout the territory being studied. Both methods have their advantages: Gilliéron's produced data collected by linguistically well-educated persons, who then participated in preparing the final product of the project; Wenker's method worked faster, and the questions asked in each locality were completely identical, but the quality of the responses, and hence of the data, depended on the degree of the informants' linguistic sophistication and conscientiousness. In Wenker's approach, selecting good informants in so many distant villages is the problem. Wenker's solution to this difficulty was to write to the local teachers and parsons; Šmilauer asked the local administrations of incorporated villages to designate a suitable person.

The data gained through this collection of microtoponyms can be contrasted or compared with corresponding data culled from other sources. It is perhaps surprising that there is a certain—admittedly quite limited—possibility of diachronic comparisons. Some microtoponyms are so old that they contain morphemes known in other Slavonic languages but lost in Czech. As far as written texts are concerned, only few microtoponyms are mentioned in historical sources, with some additional ones in old lists of properties. But already between 1713 and 1715 the taxmen of Empress Maria Theresa drew up a more comprehensive list

of taxable properties, followed in the period 1715-1735 by what bears the impressive title "ocular visitation," i.e., the assessors' perlustration. Emperor Joseph's taxmen followed suit by creating their catalog of properties from 1785 to 1789. It is only natural that many microtoponyms show up in these catalogs as indicators of localities or boundaries, props for orientation, and so forth.

Another comparison can be made with the local dialects; in some cases, some microtoponyms can refine our knowledge of dialect boundaries. Since many microtoponyms came into existence quite recently, at the time when many a dialect is losing ground to the general Czech idiom, it is interesting to observe the forms that frequently belong to the basilect, not to the rather literary acrolect of standard Czech. Again, the localization of these forms may be useful in determining the loss of ground suffered by the local dialects, to which these largely unauthorized, nonofficial, strictly popular coinages bear better testimony than do the standardized forms of names of incorporated places and the like.

Yet another interesting area of study is offered by the microtoponyms produced by the coexistence of Czech and German in Bohemia over many centuries. In this respect, it is necesary to distinguish various layers of German data. First, we have genuine German microtoponyms created by the Germans living in the peripheral territories of Bohemia up until the first years after World War II. They are not the object of this study. The collection of these was initiated in 1929 by Prof. E. Schwarz (then at the German University in Prague), and several works analyzing them were published; the last of them, as listed in the book under review, dates from 1990. Second, it is necessary to interpret the German forms of Czech names used by the Austrian authorities, both in the internal revenue catalogs mentioned above and later by military cartographers. The task is not difficult, although there may be some unclarities in individual cases. Far more interesting are those cases in which a German microtoponym was borrowed into Czech usage and got changed by phonological adaptation, misunderstood re-interpretation, attraction triggered by similarity to a Czech morpheme, etc. And lastly, the basilect of general spoken Czech contains more borrowings from German that the acrolect, and contained even more of them before World War II, or even before World War I. For instance, a microtoponym with the meaning 'at the camp' would have the form *u tábora'*

in the Czech acro- or mesolect, while that microtoponym has the basilectal form *u lágru'* (< Germ. *Lager* 'camp').

These and similar problems are discussed in several chapters of the book's second section: "Derivations of microtoponyms from proper names," by Olivová-Nezbedová; "Phonology of the microtoponyms" and "Morphology of the microtoponyms", both by Matúšová; "Lost general nouns in the toponymy of Bohemia" (i.e., survival in the microtoponyms of otherwise lost morphemes), by Maleninská; "Microtoponyms derived from personal names," by Knappová; "Microtoponyms of German origin," by Matúšová; and "Highways in Bohemia and their names," by Olivová-Nezbedová. Added to these chapters, which discuss mostly the microtoponyms collected in the Šmilauer campaign, are the chapters on "The oronymy of Bohemia" and "Remarks on the hydronymy of running bodies of water in Bohemia," both by Maleninská.

After this mostly linguistic analysis of the microtoponyms, the third section of the book recapitulates what nonlinguistic conclusions can be drawn from this material. The first chapter deals with "Microtoponyms and extinct villages in Bohemia," by Olivová-Nezbedová. An interesting chapter, this, showing how the existence of a now abolished village (hamlet or whatever) can be deduced from microtoponyms. The next chapter, "Information about property and the legal system drawn from microtoponyms," by Knappová, shows us that microtoponyms can inform us, e.g., about the ownership of pieces of arable land, or of forests, game-preserves, etc., in times past; the owner usually is not referred to by name, but by social status ("The Count's," "Parsonage meadows," etc.), so there are some insights to be gained in that respect. The next chapter, "Historical events implied in microtoponyms," by Knappová, is quite interesting, giving the reader a rich repertoire of things that happened to particular people. Someone was killed by lightning or by bandits, or someone was hanged somewhere, or else one emperor or another (or perhaps the count) stopped somewhere for some purpose, etc. Naturally, battlefields are remembered as such. However, this chapter perhaps reveals to the fullest the weakness built into Wenker's method: it is impossible to know how much one can rely on the informant. For instance, there are three different explanations of the microtoponym meaning 'at the imperial spring' (394), offered by three different informants. In most cases like these it is not possible to decide. For instance, there is a pond in Southern Bohemia called *Komorník*

'chamberlain'. The function of the chamberlain, when used in reference to aristocracy, was to administer finances. The informant gives (395) the (usual) explanation that the pond was built for a certain aristocrat, the owner of a nearby domain, who was Lord Chamberlain of the Markgravate of Moravia. The author seems to prefer an interpretation according to which the name of the pond did not pertain specifically to this Lord Chamberlain, but rather was part of the revenue-giving property of the local feudal overlord. A clash of opinions like this could perhaps be clarified by some research in the archives of Třeboň. However, in most cases there is no way that an outsider could decide among explanations. For instance, one large property, consisting of both fields and a stretch of forest, is called "Amerika;" the informant offers three possible explanations (389): it is so called because (1) people stole (wood, etc.) there as in America; or, (2) it is big like America; or, (3) American trees had been planted there. Only an insider could, perhaps, still have the memory of what the motivation was. On the other hand, some opinions could be rejected or emended without much research. For instance, one spring is called "Pagan well;" the informant is quoted (385) as saying that there had been an utraquist cemetery which was abolished during the Counter Reformation campaign and labeled as "pagan;" the name was then transferred to the well. ("Utraquists" was the designation for the Christians in the fifteenth century who adhered to the Hussite doctrine that the Eucharist ought to be received "sub utraque specie," i.e., both the host and the wine. In the sixteenth century the sect disappeared, the surviving membership and the opposition to the official Church being taken over by the more radical Protestantism of Martin Luther and the subsequent Reformers. The Counter Reformation began after 1620, by which time there were no specifically utraquistic, separate cemeteries in Bohemia, so the informant's explanation is not possible.) It is particularly the Hussite wars, which raged for some fifteen years in the early part of the fifteenth century over the whole of Bohemia, which offer the informants the possibility of explaining, at least tentatively, the numerous microtoponyms such as 'on/at the battlefield'; some of these such explanations would need support from other sources. On the other hand, the persistence of some microtoponyms is remarkable; for instance, a still-extant street name in Prague took over the name of a microtoponym of the sort just mentioned, a name pertaining to a battle fought in 1179.

The last chapter is "Traces of mining and related activities in microtoponyms," by Matúšová. This author is obviously fully aware (see 403 and also 327, written by the same author) of the uncertainty inherent in some of the information derived from these names. For instance, enough gold—in relatively small quantities, however, in any given place—was found in antiquity in various places, rivers, and streams that a microtoponym referring to "gold" can pertain to such a place; but it is also possible that it pertains by metaphor to the richness of the agricultural area. The same can be said of silver: in some of the places where silver was or could have been found, species of grass and other plants grow that have "silver" in their designation; therefore, it would require further research to decide what the motivation of the name was. But even with these restrictions, these microtoponyms and their frequent occurrence combined with wide distribution give a most interesting picture of some of the source of wealth in antiquity.

Let us now make some minor observations. The hydronym "Židova strouha," a small stream in Southern Bohemia, is not mentioned; given the rarity of names containing the morpheme *žid* 'Jew', it would be worthwhile to quote it.

Hertrpíhle (226), the name of a hill, is said to be Ger. *-bühel* 'hill', with the first part unclear; why not *Herderbühel,* with a personal name in the initial position?

Rollberg (260) is said to be the German name of the mountain *Ralsko*. As the official name, granted, but I know from personal experience that when the German population was still living in that area, the name actually used was *Rall*.

There is a complicated misprint on page 288, line 2 from the bottom: "z něho" must be emended to "z ní," because the form *Wottawa* clearly goes back to *Votava,* not *Vatava*. (The problem hinges on the gender of the Czech general nouns attached to the names, which entails the gender of the anaphoric pronoun.)

An interesting problem arises on page 325: is the derivation from *Bělá pod Bezdězem* really *Bezdědskobělsko,* or is it *Bezdězskobělsko*? History supports the -d-, of course (see 61, 73), but does the synchronically underlying form have the -d- or the -z-? Or is the derivation with -d- a historically fixed form?

On page 326, it would appear that the computer has misplaced the paragraph about the adjective *trhovní* 'market' by chance here, into the context of lich gates, funeral roads to cemeteries, etc.

This analysis and classification of microtoponyms represents a great and useful effort. Naturally, the motivation of many of them will never be known, because the reasons why the names were given were too private. Also, some information will have to be provided by other branches of scholarship and sciences. But many details of the onomastic map of Bohemia look quite different with the elucidation of these microtoponyms than without it.

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English place names (sic). New Edition. By Kenneth Cameron. London: Batsford Ltd. 1996. Pp. 256. £17.99.

English Place-Names first appeared in 1961 and rapidly came to be regarded as the best general book available on the topic. But scholarship marches on, much of it, indeed, due to the author himself, as Hon. Director of the English Place-name Survey (1967-93), editor of the *Place-names of Derbyshire* (1959) and *Lincolnshire* (1985 etc., in progress) and notable interpreter of the placename evidence for the Scandinavian settlement in England. In a seminal paper in 1966 the late John McNeal Dodgson overthrew the then accepted chronology of English settlement names and opened the way for a series of new studies by himself and other scholars. In a series of papers between 1965 and 1971 Professor Cameron established the scale of the Scandinavian settlement and the now accepted theory of a secondary migration from Denmark in the wake of military conquest. Those developments he brilliantly summarized in his Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial lecture to the British Academy in May 1976. In the twenty years since, sixteen further volumes of the English Place-name Survey have been published, including the ground-breaking *Introduction to the Place-names of Berkshire* by Margaret Gelling (1976) which together with her *Place-Names in the Landscape* (1984) has begun to teach us the significance and importance of the topographical element in English placenames.

The scale of these advances made further re-issue of *English Place-Names* impossible without substantial recasting of the material on Celtic names, English settlement names, Scandinavian placenames and place-names with pagan associations. Professor Cameron has most successfully updated his book in the chapters on these topics with characteristic lucidity. But more than that he has produced an altogether better and more user-friendly book. It is all too easy when writing on a very complex subject such as the transmission, meaning and significance of placenames to assume knowledge and to slip into technical terminology without noticing and without explaining it. A new opening chapter on the techniques of placename study is therefore a most welcome addition with its explicit and logical exposition.

It is, of course, very difficult to strike the balance in a general book between generalization and detail and questions of space must govern some decisions. A very large number of names is cited—the index contains some 4000; thus parts of the book come perilously close to being mere catalogs—with translations but not etyma, which can leave matters obscure. One would not wish to overstate the value of etymology as against the attempt to correlate placename elements with landscape features as so brilliantly done by Dr. Gelling. But it can occasionally cast light in dark corners and one wishes English placename scholars were more aware of this possible resource. Thus part of the difference between *hearg* and *wioh* is likely to be due to the fact that one seems to go back to a Germanic root with the concrete sense 'stone', the other to a conceptual sense 'separated, set apart, holy'. Similarly, although sporadic reference is made in the book to the possible economic and social significance of names, the very interesting theory of multiple estates, estate structures and specialized settlements seems to me to deserve fuller consideration. Despite new discussions and remarks *en passant* the book has not been fully rewritten. So it still to a degree betrays the concerns of the 1960s with its emphasis on the meaning of names and still perhaps takes rather too little account of the significance of names as signposts describing and categorizing the environment in terms crucial to the men and women who lived in it and worked and exploited it.

Professor Cameron is generous in his acknowledgement of the work of other scholars—the advances of the last 35 years have been and

remain a collaborative effort. Further, he systematically points to areas where further research is needed. Whatever quibbles one might have about emphasis on the detail with which the book is packed—one might cite the failure to explain the *wara* of *Dornwaraceaster*, for example, and, indeed, the comparative neglect of the fascinating topic of folk etymology; the lost chance to mention the famous Bognor Regis on page 134; the absence of reference to Finberg's essay on the Charltons; the occasional too ready use of the term "self-explanatory"—Norham in Northumberland is not self-explanatory unless one is reminded in the absence of a balancing *south ham* that it was *caput* of Norhamshire, one of the three districts of *North* Durham in the Middle Ages; the occasional disputable etymology—Boldon in Durham is more likely to contain **bol* 'a smooth round hill' as the topography suggests than Ekwall's *bothl* (which occurs as *bottle* in Northumberland and Durham) and Minehead almost certainly does not contain *mönith* but a hill-name *Mene* related to or identical with Meon Hill in Warwickshire; Billingshurst is in Sussex not Hampshire, lies on a ridge and must surely contain **billing* 'a bill-like hill' rather than a personal name; St. Aldate St. is not a unique name since it occurs in Oxford as well as Gloucester. Despite such quibbles this is once again the best general book on the topic—comprehensive, lucid, judicious, up to date and packed with information.

It cannot be said, however, that Professor Cameron has been well served by his publisher. There is one poor map (taken from a book published in 1953) and no illustrations in a book crying out for maps and pictures. There are far too many misprints—co-existance (33), Angmermering (71 and Index) for Angmering, found for founded (126); at least 18 instances of faulty punctuation, accentuation, spacing and wrong use of italic or Roman type. As the printer could not manage capital thorn, there seems to be no virtue in insisting on the use of the rune when *Th* would perfectly well do (except, perhaps, when citing MS forms). On the other hand, there can be no excuse for the confusion of the ligatures œ and æ which occurs throughout, except carelessness.

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Kentucky's Salt River Valley. By Robert M. Rennick. The Depot, P.O. Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035. 1997. Pp iv-175. Paper.

Rennick's meticulous studies of the post offices in Kentucky continues in this survey of the post offices of the Greater Louisville Area, noted here as the Salt River Valley counties, including Jefferson, Meade, Bullitt, Spencer, Nelson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Casey, and Hart. His other volumes are surveys of the post offices, past and present, in the Bluegrass region. They contain treatments of five counties that fall into the Salt River system, so they are not included here. The method and format are the same as used in the Bluegrass surveys. When Rennick surveys the background and naming of a post office, he includes a brief history of the community or area, along with date and circumstance of its establishing and naming, along with the name of the first postmaster or person who started it, the date it closed, the derivation of the name, and other names the post office has held.

Contrary to popular belief, post offices were not always stable, in fact seldom are, moving at times from one area to another, from someone's home to someone else's home, or completely re-established elsewhere. Rennick's investigations and conclusions are models for others who are working in postal history and models for anyone who works in placenames. His introductions reveal his successful methods and should be studied (and followed) by all persons interested in placename studies. And he answers the question of when a post office is a place or several places. Generally, he considers as one place when the name does not change when location changes, unless the site is moved several miles away and a name change has occurred. Then he considers the latter another post office and a different place.

Rennick surveys 431 operation post offices that served a definable community of some kind. Few of them now exist, usually being closed in the first decade of the 20th century when Rural Free Delivery was ushered in, coupled with the building of better roads and the extended use of the automobile, which made remote areas more accessible, decreasing the need for so many postal facilities in remote areas no longer remote.

Since Rennick's method has been described in earlier reviews of his postal history studies, space here need not be devoted to the details that he accumulates for each name, all extremely valuable to the historian

and tantalizingly interesting to me, a scavenger among what others outside the placename enthusiasts call trivial. Rennick is a master at making the onomastic fact a burst of knowledge for the historian (and Rennick in so many ways is a historian), social scientist (Rennick's university teaching subject and his lifelong career), and onomatologist (Rennick's vocation as a researcher).

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From Red Hot to Monkey's Eyebrow. By Robert M. Rennick. UP of Kentucky, 663 South Limestone Street, Lexington, KY 40508-40008. 1997. Pp ix-80. $9.95, paper.

Odd placenames occur wherever odd people live, and that is anywhere and everywhere. Whatever is "odd" may also be "colorful," "curious," "fanciful," "humorous," "two-headed calves," or "unique." But Bob Rennick does not claim a monopoly on such names for Kentucky, for he notes that such names can be found in every state; it is just that collectors have not come forward with stories about them. Perhaps now that this small monograph has appeared, others will follow suit with such items from elsewhere. Still, it is doubtful that any other collector will have Rennick's tenacity to ferret out the stories behind such names. These stories may not carry the authenticity that some placename scholars require in their chase after the onomastic fact, but they have a folk truth about them that needs recording as much as does the crystal pure fact. Certainly, folkloric facts exist just as surely as do the onomastic ones. Rennick, of course, is conscious of both and here records in a separate section the onomastic fact when it differs from the folk version.

Narratives of some 70 "unusual" names appear, along with references to approximately 200 other placenames, normal and colorful. Some of the names occur in other states: *Lonesome* (widespread as a specific) *Creek, Paradise* (common in many states), *Morning View, Hell* (common), *Albany* (folk belief from "All Benny"), *Why Not* (in several states), *Sedalia* (in several states, apparently beginning in MO as the

daughter of the founder), *Buncombe* (originating in NC), *Needmore* (widespread), *Deadman* (as a specific, widespread), *Kettle* (usually an incident name), *Feliciana* (in LA), *Elkhorn* (as a specific), *Tearcoat* (WV, VA), *Defeated* (as a specific in TN), *Drowning Creek* (OK and probably elsewhere), *Nonesuch* (MA and probably elsewhere), *Buzzard Roost* (several states), *Lickskillet*, and possible some others. The stories about the origins may differ, but a commonality seems to run through them. If the names are not incidents for which the name is obvious, as an occurrence of drowning or the finding of a dead person, then they are conditions either believed or real arising from terrible living conditions or from environments that are paradisiacal or have excellent views. Rennick gives the local variation of such situations and incidents.

Some names are indigenous to KY, including *Kentucky* (several possible origins have been suggested, but no satisfactory meaning for the name has been found. *Dreaming Creek* resulted from a dream by Daniel Boone, so it is claimed. This origin is given in other placename dictionaries. *Lulegrud* is another Daniel Boone attribution; a member of his party was reading aloud from the travels of a "Samuel Gulliver" when a band of Indians attacked. Boone later recounted how they had driven away the Lorbrulgruds and gave the name (in shortened form) to the stream where the attack occurred. Boone "related the story in a September 16, 1796, deposition in the Draper Manuscripts."

Red Hot resulted from an incident in which a sawmill fireman put so much wood in a boiler that it exploded. *Monkey's Eyebrow* supposedly came about when an especially imaginative person said that a view looked like eyebrows and that the people who lived there were monkeys. Rennick writes, "At least that's the story they tell in those parts." Here, I leave it to those who buy the book to learn about *Helechawa, Rabbit Hash, Black Gnat, Whoopfhrea, Tywhapity*, and the others delightfully narrated by Rennick, whose abilities as a story teller are not widely known. We can be thankful that he has finally decided to put his placename stories into print. We will have to wait for his recounting the many folk stories he has collected.

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Study of Placenames of Ongole Taluk. By P. Nagamalleswara Rao. Ongole, India: P. Padmavathi, Lawyer Pet, Ongole 523 002, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh, India. 1995. Pp. xiii-162.

India is often said to be the cradle of linguistics (with reference to the Sanskrit grammar of Pāṇini, of the 5th century B.C.), and modern linguistics has been actively pursued in that nation in recent times. However, Indian scholars have published relatively little in the field of onomastics, or specifically in toponymy; hence the present etymological dictionary is something of a pioneering work. The title may need some explanation: "Ongole" represents ['oŋgo:l], an anglicized spelling of Telugu [oŋgo:lu], the name of a town and surrounding "taluk" (administrative unit) in the state of Andhra Pradesh, in southern India. Under the Indian "linguistic states" system, Andhra Pradesh is the chief home of Telugu, which is spoken by some 60,000,000 people and belongs to the Dravidian language family. Although this language family is, in origin, unrelated to Sanskrit and the modern languages of northern India, the Dravidian languages have many loan words from Sanskrit, some of which occur in the placenames listed in this book.

Nagamalleswara Rao's book is a model of systematic organization. It includes a sketch of Telugu grammar as applied to placenames; a survey of the geographical, historical, and social features of Ongole Taluk; an etymological dictionary of 107 placenames, which constitutes the core of the book; an etymological list of generic terms that occur in those placenames; and an appendix which contains several indexes, a bibliography, and a map. In discussing placename origins, the work draws on very scholarly analyses (such as Burrow and Emeneau's *Dravidian Etymological Dictionary*), but also, perhaps too uncritically, quotes a wide range of apparent folk etymologies. Thus the name *Ongole* itself is rather straightforwardly derivable from Telugu *on* 'one' + *go:lu* 'hill'; however, no fewer than nine alternative origins are listed, including an interpretation as 'one brinjal' (Indian English for the vegetable the British call 'aubergine' and Americans call 'eggplant').

The initiative of Nagamalleswara Rao and his family, in making this work available, are highly commendable: his wife is named as publisher, and the computer typesetting was done by his brother. One may hope that the book will inspire other studies in the local placenames of India.

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The Surname Detective. Investigating Surname Distribution in England, 1086-Present Day. By Colin Rogers. Manchester and New York: Manchester UP. Paper.

With its appealing cover and lack of jargon, *The Surname Detective* ought to be a welcome addition to the libraries of both onomasts and general readers. The introduction, which should be read seriously, sets out the purpose and scope of the work in non-threatening terms.

The main purpose of the book is to show the geographic distribution of 100 British surnames, drawn from names found in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. (Some familiarity with post-1974 English county names and locations is assumed.) The book is also concerned with the origin of surnames, but the emphasis is not etymological. Rather, the author asks why certain names were hardy enough to survive from the Middle Ages to the present and to have assumed their current distribution, almost more a biological question than an onomastic one. Rogers works backward from the known (modern period) to the less known (the Middle Ages) via the post-medieval period. There are generous maps along the way, on which, however, the printer has economized by giving legends on only the first two pages in cases where the name shown has two or more maps. Furthermore, there is no general map of Britain, only sketch maps showing the outlines of the post-1974 counties. Genealogists and others concerned with their family histories may find some interesting ideas and methods here, but the book is not written with these researchers in mind. There are many suggestions as to resources in England, beyond the obvious points of departure such as county records offices and census reports, and there is a more than adequate bibliography, supplemented by appendices of name maps and sources for names before 1700, by county.

At times the statistics used in working out proportions of a particular name within the population as a whole went beyond this very non-mathematical reviewer. Fortunately, however, the book does not depend on mathematics and statistics to achieve its goal. The maps and the lists of manuscript sources for the medieval period go beyond the obvious and make the book quite valuable. This is a very pleasant introduction for beginners and a nice addition to the collections of more advanced users.

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A Dictionary of Muslim Names. By Radwan Hakim. P.O. Box 4059, Alexandria, VA 22303. Pp. 159. $7.95. Paper.

Hakim has brought together some 900 male and 800 female names to help parents choose a Muslim name for their child. The introduction, which among other things warns parents to pronounce names correctly, is followed by a transliteration and pronunciation guide.

There are separate sections for the Attributes of Allah, although not all of the 99 names are given (*Kabir* 'the Most Great', *Hakim* 'the Wise'); Compound Names with Allah (*Atallah* 'the Gift of Allah', *Nasrallah* 'the Victory of Allah'); Names of Mohammed (*Adel* 'Just', *Ahmad* 'Praiseworthy'); Prophets in the *Qur'an* (*Daud* [=David], *Isa* 'Jesus'); Compound Names with "Eddin" Suffix (*Salah Eddin* 'Righteousness of Faith'; *Nour Eddin* 'the Light of Religion'); Male Names (*Majd* 'Glory', *Rashed* 'Mature'); Female Names (*Amal* 'Hopes', *Nedaa* 'Call'); and Names That Could Used For Both [Sexes] (*Hekmat* 'Wisdom', *Jamal* 'Beauty').

The form of the entries is as follows:

Transliteration	*English Spelling*	*Meaning*	*Arabic Spelling*
Dāwoud	Daud	David (Beloved)	داود/داوود
Na'im	Naim	Comfort, ease, abundance	نعيم

Unlike those in other dictionaries of Muslim names, the entries here are unusual in that they give pronunciation (the transliteration column) and the spelling in English as well as the meaning and Arabic spelling. No other dictionary I have seen gives this much information.

The meanings are certainly not as complete as those given by Mona Baker in Hanks and Hodges (1990) or as some of those defined by Schimmel (1989), but Hakim's book is handy and has a great deal of information. It compares favorably with that of Fatima Suzan Al-Ja'fari (1977). It is certainly a good resource, especially at this price.

References

Al-Ja'Fari, Fatima Suzan. 1977. *Muslim Names*. Indianapolis, IN: American Trust Publications.

Hanks, Patrick and Flavia Hodges. 1990. *A Dictionary of First Names*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Schimmel, Annemarie. 1989. *Islamic Names*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP.

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Western Lore and Language. By Thomas L. Clark. Salt Lake City. U of Utah P. 1996. Pp. xvi-266.

The American West has long been a major source of new words and new meanings for old words, so prolific that it has generated several dictionaries of its own. Tom Clark's lexicon of the West is more extensive than most since it extends the notion of "West" to that area of North America which lies within the Mountain, Pacific and Alaskan time zones and expands coverage to those words which were coined in the western states, gained currency there or are generally associated with the history and culture of the west, including words relating to Alaska or derived from Alaskan languages, surfing terms, Western tribal names, words relating to miners, ranchers, gamblers, railroaders and loggers. Even contemporary western words such as *sagebrush rebellion* and *silicon valley* are included.

Word coinage in the west, because it has been-and continues to be-so extensive, provides a natural laboratory for looking at word formation in a number of lights since it includes all the usual processes and in profusion. Often overlooked in taxonomies of word formation is the considerable role played by names, geographic names in particular. There are names here in abundance, working in subtle and complex ways which defy simple classification as "toponyms" and "eponyms", unfortunate and vague terms which cover a range of motivations and processes of word formation, social and linguistic. *California* alone has sixteen entries, from *California C-note* 'ten-dollar bill' to *californicate,* the extension of (unwelcome) California lifestyle and attitudes to neighboring states. *Alaska* prompts Clark to point out the unusual behavior of the modifier *Alaskan*, which may take final -n while other similar names do not (Alaskan Jay vs. California Jay). Shifted versus derived modifiers exist in even more complicated patterns with frequent alternations within individual names (Canada goose vs. Canadian bacon).

Tom Clark has been a member of ANS for many years, so it is no surprise that many regional placename generics are found here: *alberca* 'watering hole', *barrance* 'ravine', *corrugate* 'secondary irrigation ditch', *estero* 'inlet', *hoodoo* 'spire', *pozo* 'well', *vega* 'valley'.

A book for browsing, for keeping and for using.

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