

Reviews

Jewish Family Names and Their Origins: An Etymological Dictionary. By Heinrich W. Guggenheimer and Eva H. Guggenheimer. Ktav Publishing House, 900 Jefferson Street, Hoboken, NJ. 07039-7205. 1992. Pp. 882. \$99.50. Hardcover.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire. By Alexander Beider. Avotaynu, PO Box 900, Teaneck, NJ. 07666. 1993. Pp. 760. \$75. Hardcover.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland. By Alexander Beider. Avotaynu, Teaneck, NJ. 1996. Pp. 570. \$69.50. Hardcover.

Jewish Surnames from Prague (15-18th Centuries). By Alexander Beider. Avotaynu, Teaneck, NJ. 1995. Pp. 46. \$11. Softcover.

Each of these four publications makes a tremendous contribution to Jewish onomastics. While there have been thousands of books and articles on Jewish names, there was no one publication in English that had a truly extensive coverage of Jewish surnames. The Guggenheimer appeared first, in 1992, followed by the Beider Russian Empire book in 1993, the Beider monograph on Prague in 1995 and finally the Beider Kingdom of Poland in 1996.

While some readers will plunge directly to the dictionary section of the Guggenheimer book to look up a name, it is really necessary to read the 31-page introduction to get a full appreciation for what the Guggenheimers have done. They must have a tremendous background in Jewish history and culture through the ages to have produced this admirable work. The introduction explains that the focus is on Ashkenazic, Sephardic, Oriental, and Modern Israeli family names. Ashkenazic Jews are primarily descendants of those who lived north of the Alps. Sephardic Jews are primarily descendants of those who were exiled from Spain in 1492. Oriental Jews are descended from groups in Asia from such places as Yemen, Kurdistan, Bukhara and Persia.

Considering the wide variety of places, languages, and cultures of the Diaspora, it is a daunting undertaking to organize, evaluate, and

explain Jewish names. The Guggenheimers begin by describing different types of Jewish names. Some types are probably already familiar to many readers of *Names*. The more familiar types are names from the Bible (*Abraham, David*) and theophorous names (*Jonathan* 'gift of God'). Types not so familiar are Hebrew names derived from Talmudic or Medieval sages (*Abaye* 'patrician', *Hai* 'living'), adjectives from prayers (*Emet* 'true', *Yatziv* 'well-founded') and abstract nouns from religious thought (*Shalom* 'peace', *Sedaka* 'good deeds').

The Guggenheimers go on to introduce some less familiar sources of names such as the twelve stones in the breastplate of the High Priest (*Bareket* 'emerald' [the symbol of the tribe of Levi]), fruits of the Holy Land (*Feige* 'fig' < German), signs of the Zodiac (*Teomim* 'Gemini' < Hebrew [from the same root as the English *Thomas*]), good-luck names (*Bonaparte* 'good destiny' < Italian), biblical quotes mainly from the Psalms and the Song of Songs (*Manaim* [Psalm 133:1], "...how good and pleasant it is..."), and colors of the flags of the twelve tribes (*Roth* 'red' < German) can refer to the tribe of Reuben whose gem on the High Priest's breastplate is a red ruby.

Other types of names involve physical features, placenames, professions, house names, acronyms, patronyms, matronyms, and translations. (For those interested in a further description of Jewish name types see Kormos, et al. [1992], 26-29.)

The main feature of the Guggenheimer is the dictionary of 65,000 names. The general style for the entries shows (where applicable) the name and its alternate forms, its spelling in Hebrew, its meaning and/or its source, the language it came from, translations into other languages, kinnui names, patronyms/matronyms, and diminutives.

A *kinnui name* is often a name which is associated in some way with a Hebrew name. Thus, the name *Wolf* and its variations is a kinnui for Benjamin because when Jacob gave his final blessing to his sons, he compared Benjamin to a wolf (Genesis 49:27). Kinnui names can be in Hebrew as well as other languages.

As an example of the form of entries in the Guggenheimer, we can look at some of the information given at the entry for *Schiff* and related forms. We find that *Schif*, *Shief*, *Shieff*, *Shif*, and *Shiff* are variant

spellings. It appears as שיפ in Hebrew. It means 'ship' in Middle High German and Modern German. Translated into Hungarian, it became *hajó* and the associated name is *Hajos*. The Polish word for ship is *okret* with the name being *Okrent*. Similarly, for Russian, the forms are *судно* and *Sudnovsky*. The origin of the name goes back to Benedict Kahn of Frankfurt am Main. *Kahn* is a form of the Hebrew *Cohen* 'priest'; in German it means 'boat'. Kahn's descendants took the family name *Schiff*. *Schiff* is also a matronym from *Shifke*, an Ashkenazic name which is a kinnui for the biblical name *Shifra* 'the beautiful' (Exodus 1:15). *Shifra* was one of the Hebrew midwives who disobeyed the orders of the Pharaoh to kill the newborn Hebrew males. Composite names that have the *Schiff* root include *Schiffeldrim*, *Schiffenbauer*, *Schiffman*, *Shifer*, *Sturman*, *Shifrin*, as well as several others. So, we see that the name *Schiff* is derived from a translation of Kahn/Cohen into German-Yiddish and translated again into Hungarian, Polish, Russian and other languages.

Many entries have a reference to a root name, where there is more information. For example, the entry for *Chagall* refers to *Segal*, which is an acronym standing for *SEGAN Leviah* 'member of the Levites'. The entries vary a great deal in length and detail. Names which are in current use are in bold. The Guggenheimers show their skill in handling Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic and at least 15 other languages or dialects. Onomastic scholars and students of Jewish names will find a great deal here that will lead to the understanding and development of Jewish names.

In Beider's *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire (DJSRE)*, the focus is somewhat different. The Guggenheimers examined the whole world of Jewish names, but Beider looked at records from Eastern Europe in the early part of the 20th century. The region with which he was concerned is the Pale of Settlement, which included the area to which Jews were restricted until 1917: Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine.

The introduction is over 100 pages. It, too, contains a wealth of information for understanding Jewish names. Beider's point of departure was somewhat different from that of Guggenheimer. Beider used voting

lists from various parts of the Russian Empire while the Guggenheimers used historical records as well as other sources. Beider also shows the locality where a particular surname was found. Maps aid the reader considerably. The introduction also deals with the history of Jewish surnames in the Russian Empire, types of Jewish surnames, Jewish names identical with Gentile surnames, linguistic aspects of names, hyphenated surnames, most common Jewish surnames in the Russian Empire, and the most common surnames in the Soviet Union. There is a glossary and a bibliography of over 100 items.

The dictionary itself has 50,000 surnames. Each entry shows the surname and the geographical district where it was found. The style of the entries is slightly different from that used by the Guggenheimers. Each entry here includes a surname, where in the Russian Empire it occurred, its name type, its etymology and its related surnames.

We can take the name *Yakov* as an example. In English, we know it as the name of the biblical patriarch Jacob. It appears in a great many forms. We learn that it is derived from a male name and that it was found in the Tel'shi district of Lithuania. Forms based on it are *Yakovich*, *Yakovlev*, *Yakovson*, *Benyakov*, *Penyakov* and *Pinyakov*. The entry goes on to give several forms in Yiddish (e.g., *Yankov*), German (*Yakob* and eight others) and Polish (*Yakub* and others). Hypocoristic forms include *Yankel*, *Yanko* and several others. There must be at least 60 other names derived from *Yakov*. These include such widely different forms as *Kovka*, *Kop*, *Koppel*, *Kapilzon*, *Tapelzon*, and *Yakuba*.

A further example is *Portnoj*, which appears as *Portnoy* in its most familiar American form. It is an occupational name meaning 'tailor' in Russian. It was recorded in the Balta, Cherkassy, and Kanev areas of Ukraine, and the Orgeev and Soroki areas of Moldava. There are 11 surnames which use it as a root, including *Porton*, *Portin*, *Portner*, and *Portnikov*.

The *DJSRE* concludes with a presentation of the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System. The US Census originally developed Soundex to allow a name to be put into a numerical code based upon its sound. This is useful where the exact spelling of a name is unknown. Daitch-Mokotoff goes a bit further and has added refinements. It is particularly helpful

in dealing with names from Eastern Europe which often have been transliterated into English differently by different people. Thus, *Bernar*, *Berner*, *Bramer*, *Brinner*, *Broner*, *Fromer*, *Frumer*, *Prener*, *Verner*, and several other names would be coded the same way: 796900.

A third major contribution to the study of Jewish surnames is Beider's *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland (DJSKP)*. The format is similar to that of *DJSRE*. The story of names from the Kingdom of Poland is complicated since boundaries have shifted a great deal since 1772, when the first massive adoption of surnames by Polish Jews took place. This was when the Russians took Belarus. Languages have also changed. Beider's detailed 70-page introductory chapters help to explain the historic, political, and linguistic factors necessary for understanding Jewish names in Poland. There are over 130 books or articles in the bibliography plus many dictionaries, voter lists, memorial books, civil records, and other materials.

As an example of the format of the entries, we note that the name *Falk* was found in seven districts including Władysławów, Kalisz, and Warsaw. It is derived from the male given name *Falk* which is from Yiddish and means 'falcon'. There are several names with this root including *Falek*, *Felikman*, and *Falów*. The name was traditionally used as a kinnui for Yehoshua (Joshua).

Another name is *Szpektor*, probably found most often in North America as *Spector*. It, too, was found in seven districts, including Suwałki, Lipno, and Płock. There are ten other surnames based on this root, including *Szpektek*, *Szpektrowicz*, and *Spektarski*. It is an occupational name and refers to a *spektor*, which means 'teacher's assistant' in Polish. (I should note that in *DJSRE* *Spektor* is linked to *Inspektor* and was defined as an occupational name for a person on an inspecting commission for schools.) As with the Russian Empire book, there is a concluding section with the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System.

Finally, we have the Beider monograph on surnames of Jews from Prague. Here the historical period is somewhat different. For the Russian Empire study, the earliest date was 1804 when Czar Nicholas decreed that Jews should have family names. For the Polish Kingdom, the earliest name origin is 1772. However, for the Jews from Prague,

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family names began much earlier, in the 15th century. Beider did not gather data for the Czech names. Instead, he drew on the work of three earlier investigators. This study of Czech names is much shorter than the other two Beider volumes. It evaluates around 700 surnames by type: of Kohen or Levite origin, toponyms, derived from masculine given names, patronymics, derived from feminine given names, matronymics, occupational, personal characteristics, house signs, acronyms, and Sephardic.

As examples, we learn that *Moschel* was first recorded in 1632. It is a hypocoristic form of the biblical *Moses*. The patronymic form is *Moscheles*. The entry for *Kafka* shows that it was recorded in 1609. It is from the Czech *kavka* 'jackdaw'. An alternate etymology is that it is a hypocoristic form of the biblical *Jacob*.

All four of these contributions offer much more than I can summarize in this review. Onomasts will have a great deal to think about for many years. Beider's approach is somewhat different from that of the Guggenheimers. The Guggenheimers have used a more historical approach and they have given many sources. However, they have not given specific sources for current names. Beider's Russian and Polish studies have been more empirical since he used voting lists and civil records. These are magnificent contributions to the field and anyone who wants to understand Jewish surnames must consult these sources.

Reference

- Kormos, Charles, Edwin D. Lawson and Joseph Ben Brit 1992. "Most Common Surnames in Israel: Arabic and Jewish, Part I." *Onomastica Canadiana* 74: 23-38.

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A Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms in the English Language. By T.J. Carty. Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 70 East Walton, 8th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611. Reprinted 1996, 1997 from the Mansell Publishing (London) edition (1995). Pp. xiv, 624.

You may not think that *Tennessee Williams* and *Gore Vidal* and *Anthony Burgess* are pseudonyms. They are not, however, the legal names of Thomas Lanier Williams or Eugene Luther Vidal or John Anthony Burgess Wilson. Each of these writers undertook to conceal part of his name. Some writers have used only initials: *H.D.* (you can hardly blame Hilda Doolittle), *O.S.* for Osbert Sitwell, *A.L.B.* for Anna Letitia Barbauld, *E.M.D.* (E. M. Delafield), *F.G.H.* for FitzGreene Halleck. Or *P* for Sir Richard Steele, *T.P.* for Thomas Power O'Connor, *Q* for Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. Or they confuse us with *A.B.* not just for Mrs. Aphra Behn but also the Rev. Gilbert Burnet, among others no part of whose name is *A* or *B*. They may even create the likes of *Ogdred Weary*. That's Edward Gorey, whom you know if at all because he drew the titles for *Mystery* on PBS tv. Also, we encounter the obviously phony *Werdna Retnyw* (spell each backwards).

Some other writers depart entirely from real names. They use noms de plume to hide completely. The identity of the eighteenth-century *Junius* has never been discovered. I think that of the sixteenth-century *Martin Marprelate* has. Some other Renaissance specialists disagree.

Scholars in the Renaissance often were known by Latin or Greek names. *Desiderius Erasmus* had one of each, although in Dutch he was Gerrit Gerritsoon (Gerard's son-actually illegitimate son of Gerard). I published in *Names* decades ago an article on how classical pseudonyms from the title pages of Renaissance works made a German *Schwartzerde* 'black earth' into a Greek *Melancthon* and how Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, who considered himself a better physician than the great Celsus, became Paracelsus. I like to keep mentioning him. People love his name. It's fun to say. Oddly, that kind of play doesn't appear to interest very much the inventors of fake names.

Many writers record for us the prejudices and political situations of earlier times by signing their works *A Lady who Prefers to be Anonymous* (Emily Jolly) or *A Lady of Quality* or simply *A Lady* (there are many examples of this). One has to be careful, however, for William Makepeace Thackeray wrote on occasion as *A Lady of Fashion* and as *Lady Nimrod*. Today unisex forenames complicate identifications.

Often we find such geographical references as *A Lady of Great Britain* (Susannah Centlivre), *A Lady of New York* (Mrs. Sarah Haight) and *A Lady of New Orleans* (Marion Southwood). These go along with *A Gentleman in America* (Thomas Cooper), *A Gentleman in Philadelphia* (John Dickinson) and *A Gentleman of New York* (William Irving). More often still a pseudonymous author wishes to give his or her work more credibility with some such signature as *A Patriot* (various), *A Barrister* (various), *A Gentleman of the University of Oxford* (Percy Bysshe Shelley was one of these), *An Eye-Witness* (various), or even *The Ex-Barber to His Majesty* (Asa Greene). Authors may even pretend to titles such as *Baron Corvo* (Frederick William Rolfe), *Count Sallagub* (Francis D. Dwyer), *Countess Barcynska* (Marguerite Florence Jarvis), or *Count Reginald de St. Léon* (whom you will not find in Carty's *Pseudonyms* section, strangely, but will run across in *Real Names* under Edward DuBois). Expectably, some noble persons write under real titles rather than given names. Those are not pseudonyms.

Pseudonyms may have all sorts of origins, from a babytalk mispronunciation (*Ouida*, Marie Louise de la Ramée) to a boast of a degree (*MA Oxon*, William Stainton Moses) to a misprint: the ligature Æ for George William Russell came when the printer signed one of the poems not *Æon* but *Æ*. Russell liked it and thereafter repeated the accidentally derived pseudonym. Naturally, most pseudonyms are not accidental.

Some false names have come along because the printer got the name wrong or did not know it. However, most are deliberate inventions of a writer to avoid connection with a controversial political pamphlet or an obscene work, for example. Or a writer may want to remain anonymous but does not care to sign *Anon*. *Anon*. may spur unwanted speculation and investigation. An effective disguise arouses no suspicion.

Running up against so many pseudonyms that his lists became a volume of over 600 pages with indexes of both pseudonyms and real names, the author (T.J. Carty is his real name) offers to booksellers, librarians and the reading public in general a compilation which must compete with William Cushing's *Initials and Pseudonyms* (1885, reprinted by Gale 1982) and his *Anonyms: A Dictionary of Revealed Authorship* (1889, reprinted by Adler 1968), Charles A. Stonehill & Andrew Black & H. Winthrop Stonehill's *Anonyma and Pseudonyma* (4 vols. 1927), Samuel Halkett & John Laing's *Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous English Literature* (1926-1962), Jennifer Ossman's compendious *Pseudonyms and Nicknames Dictionary* (2 vols., third

edition from Gale 1986), and Adrian Room's convenient and far less expensive *Dictionary of Pseudonyms and Their Origins, with Stories of Name Changes* (1989). There is also Frank Atkinson's *Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms* (Hamden 1977). Watch for Adrian Room's *Dictionary of Pseudonyms* to appear in a revised and enlarged edition from McFarland in 1998; that will be the one-volume reference book to buy.

The new Room is eagerly awaited, for most relevant reference books are out of print. Most of them are not mentioned in Carty's brief bibliography. That is heavy on general literary and biographical reference books. Archer Taylor produced an excellent *Bibliographical History of Anonyma and Pseudonyma* (University of Chicago Press 1951), which Carty seems not to have consulted. Carty's book represents a bookseller's loving hobby, not a scholar's organized compilation. Because he deals in books, Carty misses whole categories of pseudonyms. For instance, newspaper columnists such as *Peter Simple* and *Beacomber* in the UK; *FPA*, *Suzy*, *Abigail van Buren* and *Dear Abby* and *Cholly Knickerbocker* in the US.

There are pseudonyms in both English and foreign languages used by English speakers: *Quinquagenarius* is the forgettable Thomas Godfrey Fausset, *Peccavi* is Robert Graves, *Palinurus* is Cyril Connelly. Understandably, when Latin and Greek were more a part of the educated person's life, pseudonyms like *Aristides* (Carty misses Joseph Epstein) *Scrutator* or *Senex*, were more common. It is striking that there are not more English and American pseudonyms drawn from modern foreign languages. Is it seldom useful for English speakers to pretend to be foreign? A Chinese writing in English may take a name that looks English. Goldsmith once pretended to be Chinese.

Where pseudonyms do get drawn from is pretty simple, though this book lacks a preface that addresses that. It does note that we encounter pseudonyms particularly in political and religious debate and other writing that may offend and precipitate retaliation, as well as writing that could wreck a reputation—a gay bibliographer in the first half of this century might stick on a latinate label—or be considered beneath the person writing. Many names can disguise the writing of too many books, too. Also, one can have one name as the author of one's best work, another or several others for—well, other stuff.

We notably have pseudonyms when women had to pretend to be men to be considered to be writing good material (*Acton Bell*, *George Eliot*, *Ellis Peters*). There are some examples of men pretending to be women:

Arnold Bennett as *Geraldine* (in fiction later on another male example of what the British call an “agony aunt” appeared as *Miss Lonelyhearts*). This reminds us that good research topics fan out from a book such as this, and that one of them could be the use of pseudonyms not by the authors but by the characters of fiction. Other males as women include Arthur David Schloss as *Lady Murasaki* and a number of “camp” writers that Carty misses. These false names are not easy to detect. I published several obscure articles on lesbianism under a female name. That was the only way for me to get past some radical dragons guarding the gates of certain lesbian periodicals.

You can find pseudonyms proliferating in such fields as children’s literature. There *Lewis Carroll* is a word-famous and so is *Dr. Seuss*. Carty does not have *Mother Goose* or lots of Americans of interest such as *Peter Parley* or *Martha Farquarson*, let alone more modern American writers in the fecund field of juvenile literature.

We find too-prolific authors of science fiction and Harlequin romances hiding under several names. Carty misses many. Also, pseudonyms abound in detective fiction. There *A.A. Fair* is Erle Stanley Gardner, as everyone knows; and *Edgar Box* is Gore Vidal, as a few know; and where there are many so-called serious writers who have dabbled successfully in this profitable trade without generally admitting it. We find florid names attached to historical romances (*Anthony Hope* for Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins) and spy stories (*John Le Carré* is David Cornwell). Carty is weak on modern examples of both.

We find pseudonyms in the literature of the occult. There you will encounter *David Cornwall* and many others not noted by Carty, though he can be excused for not listing some of the most famous names in this category, such as Éliphas Lévi, because they did not write in English, though they have been translated into our language. In addition, in the field of magic and witchcraft many books are fathered on real or imaginary early writers, such as Moses, King Solomon, one pope named Honorius, *Abramelech the Mage*, et al. There is in heresy and demonology as well as in theology and philosophy a whole large literature of falsely attributed works and mysterious writers—think of the *Pseudo-Dionysius*, maybe you know of *Paul Christian*—and in addition there are pseudonyms to conceal the identity of practitioners of the black arts. A few pseudonyms are chosen for numerological reasons. Those who took the names of angels did not make it into Carty’s lists. Neither did *Cheiro*, the leading expert on palmistry.

Pseudonyms appear whenever the topic is touchy. Consider early gay and lesbian literature, where Carty misses, among many others, *Donald Webster Cory*. *Don Cory* belongs in this reference book as an American, though he took his name from a character in a book in French, *Corydon*. Equally clever pseudonyms are sometimes attached to trivial horror stories and thrillers (where Carty seems sometimes to be unaware that some very popular books are by pseudonymous authors). They grace westerns and some other popular fiction which is not taken as seriously as it should be by the professors who can identify *George Orwell* as Eric Blair but don't know that *Frederick Manfred* is Feike Fiekeman (who had one of the best reasons for using a pseudonym).

On the subject of westerns, Carty includes Frederic D. Glidden. Glidden wrote more than 50 successful novels and more than 100 short stories, some of them first-rate popular culture material. He used a number of pseudonyms, not just the famous and cowboyish *Luke Short*. Carty lists this pseudonym but not all the others. In fact, when we look for complete lists of a writer's pseudonyms we may get a number of them, as with Defoe, but by no means all. (*Defoe* is not noted as a pseudonym, but it is; he was Daniel Foe. He improved his name, as did Edward FitzBall, *né* Ball, whom Carty does pick up.)

Under the real name of *Hunter* we find in Carty a gaggle of fairly insignificant English and Scottish persons: Alexander, Alfred John, Bluebell Matilda, Elizabeth, John and Joseph, but where is Evan Hunter, the American bestseller as *Ed McBain*? Every reviewer of every compilation can always complain that this or that is missing. Reviewers are nitpickers by nature. But really—Ed McBain! When a compiler includes *A Noble Author* for Lord Byron's first poetic efforts (dismissed by the *Edinburgh Review* as the juvenilia of "this young lord") and leaves out one of the masters of the police procedural, certain shaky assumptions or, more likely, unfortunate limitations, are terribly obvious.

Carty includes both Ronald MacDonald and his son Philip MacDonald. Both wrote as *Oliver Fleming*. (Compare two Americans adding up to one *Ellery Queen*.) He has Kenneth Millar, the American who wrote as *John MacDonald*, *John Ross MacDonald*, and *Ross MacDonald*. However, Carty misses a former colleague of mine, Donald Heiney, who wrote under a somewhat similar pseudonym. I won't give it exactly. After all, if a writer wants some name other than his own attached to a work he may have a good reason.

A few details. Sarah Payson Willis (*Fanny Fern*) ought to have her married name attached; her third and last husband was the noted historian John Parton. Mrs. Harriet Jacobs should be Harriet Ann Jacobs. Sherwood Anderson's middle name was Berton. William Faulkner's surname was improved from the way his father spelled it. I wouldn't call any of this significant here, but Carty's system ought to be consistent and do so. I don't know if you can call politicians authors, because they tend not to write their own public statements, but *Gary Hart*, *Gerald Ford, Jr.*, and *William Jefferson Clinton*, among others, are not their original names. They are not pseudonyms, either. I believe some distinctions need to be made to straighten out full names and truncated or otherwise changed ones. I would not count *Ezra Pound* as a pseudonym for Ezra Loomis Pound or *Langston Hughes* one for James Langston Hughes or *J. Frank Davis* for James Francis Davis, Carty missing this last and minor American. I think we ought to distinguish completely altered names from partly altered ones (*Sarah Anne Lewis* for Estelle Anna Blanche Robinson Lewis, Carty missing the Robinson), obvious pseudonyms from ones that may actually—and may be intended to—pass for real names and others that are patently takeoffs on real names (Francis Cowley Burnand used *Dion Bounceycore* to skewer Dion Boucicault). I wonder what we should do about names changed for religious reasons (including the spate of African-American ones lately), and so on. I think *Amiri Imamu Baraka* (LeRoi Jones) should be regarded as a name change, just like *John XIII* (there were two of these), not as a pseudonym. And aliases and nicknames and probably stage names and the like are not pseudonyms either, though I suppose they could be employed as such. Pseudonymy is a huge subcategory of Alternative Names. The taxonomy needs to be cleared up.

A book of the size of *A Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms in the English Language* is simply too small to contain all that it claims to encompass. Frank Stratemeyer used some 60 pseudonyms that we know of, some male and some female. There is one single British author writing today who has written under literally hundreds of names. Voltaire was content with 70. Carty doesn't have to deal with *Molière*, *Voltaire*, *Anatole France*, but he does promise to deal with American and British, and Canadian and Australian and Caribbean and Indian and hordes of other writers in English. However, Carty doesn't have *Miles Franklin*, and considering the importance of the Miles Franklin Prize I should say that anyone who doesn't know the Australian star Stella

Maria (1879-1954) wrote as Miles Franklin doesn't know his Oz from his elbow.

Carty's collection is too haphazard to list even one pseudonym for all people who have used pseudonyms in English. As a rare book dealer in Whetston (North London), he put the 12,000 pseudonyms of 7500 individuals together as he happened upon them over a quarter of a century in the trade. The result is also too British; it was first published by Mansell, a Cassell imprint, in London in 1995. Canadians will want to face up to the fact that they need someone to attempt a comprehensive *Dictionary of Canadian Anonymia and Pseudonymia* for writers in at least French and English and maybe a lot more languages. I knew a Canadian lady—a real lady, widow of a knight—who wrote under the guise of a Caughnawaga princess. There are many other Canadian pseudonyms, if less unusual ones.

Buy this book and you will still have to research pseudonyms on the library's reference shelves. There repose the multi-volume compilations, costing hundreds of dollars and even then unable to tackle so big a task as pseudonymity. We await scanning all the world's information into an easily corrected, simply updatable vast data base courtesy of someone self-effacingly calling themselves *A Servant of the Servants of Literature*.

All that said, Carty's book is for browsing and keeping. Who was *Arminius von Thundertentroncle*? *Everard Plumbline*? *George E. Dale*? *Paul Pry*? *An Unworthy Member of that Community*? *Mary Westmacoff*? The book tells you, but it doesn't tell you where the pseudonyms came from. Even comic ones such as *Gaffer Graybeard* and *Orpheus C. Kerr* may need explanation now. (Did you get "office seeker"?)

Here's a sample: Winifred Ashton's *Clemence Dane* is from the church of St. Clements Dane in The Strand. That I know as a byproduct of writing about her in reference books. But what did she *mean*? Explaining, not just recording, all pseudonyms would be an impossible task. Even an attempt at some, however, might well reveal what is fascinating in all names, the complex psychology behind deliberate selection. It is naming as human behavior rather than names as verbal artifacts that is worthy of our concern. Onomasticians who are more than hobbyists must always look at minds, motive and meaning, never mere lists of examples. And more than accidental factual universes.

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Placenames of the World. Origins and Meanings of the Names for Over 5000 Natural Features, Countries, Capitals, Territories, Cities and Historic Sites. By Adrian Room. McFarland, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. vi + 441 pages. \$65.00.

To select 5,000 place names out of the innumerable names of features and places, inhabited or otherwise, is a task requiring a ripe judgement and a competent, reliable intuition concerning what the intended reader can be expected to be looking for in a book like this. Let us say at the outset that, by our judgement, the selection here is highly successful. The reader gets some names from all parts of the world, not just from the better known areas, although, naturally, there are not too many names from any one country. I opened the book by chance to p. 197; there one finds the following entries: **Lafia** (city, Nigeria), **Lagos** (city, Nigeria), **Lahaina** (c., Hawaii), **Lahore** (c., Pakistan), **Lahti** (c. Finland), **Lake Charles** (c., Louisiana), **Lakeland** (c., Florida), **Lakewood** (c., Ohio), **Lakshadweep** (island group, Arabian Sea), **Lalitpur** (town, Nepal), **Lambeth** (district of south central London, England), **Lampedusa** (island between Malta and Tunisia), **Lan Xang** cross-referenced to **Laos**, **Lanai** (island in the Hawaii group), **Lanark** (town in Scotland), **Lancashire** (county, England), **Lancaster** (town, England). The majority of names listed pertain to inhabited places.

Naturally, any other compiler or any reviewer may well ask questions such as why **Mariscal Estigarribia** (a town in Paraguay) is included, but not, say, **Nitra**, a town in Slovakia; there are five large, important islands near the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea: **Brač**, **Hvar**, **Korčula**, **Krk**, and **Rab**, of which **Krk** is included (with its Italian name **Veglia**), along with **Hvar**. Why not the remaining three? Why **Lambeth**—is it perhaps that Mr. Room is of the generation that loved to dance the Lambeth walk? As far as historic sites go, **Baalbek** and **Petra** are there, so why not also **Machu Picchu** and **Mohenjo Daro**? One could continue in this vein; however, there is hardly a good answer to any questions of this sort; I even think that such questions, while pesky, are basically unfair, because the severe limitation to a choice of a mere 5,000 names precludes systematic considerations.

The names are quoted in their official forms; traditional forms, such as **Laccadive Islands**, are cross-referred to their present-day version

Lakshadweep, in this case. This policy is implemented with great regularity; the only systematic exception is the case of Ukrainian places, which are still called by their Russian names: thus **Lvov** (with only the German form *Lemberg* indicated) instead of Lviv, **Kiev** instead of Kyiv.

The entries contain, first of all, information on geographical location. This information is generally correct, with only rare exceptions, such as **Lake Peipus**, which is said to be located in western Europe: however, seeing that it is located between Estonia (hence the Estonian form *Peipsi jarv*) and Russia (there called *Chudskoye ozero*), one would prefer to be told that it is an eastern European body of water. The Tatra Mountains are said to be located between Poland and the Czech Republic, whereas it is Slovakia that comprises their southern slopes. Both these slips are probably caused by the recent rapid changes in some European political boundaries. As can be seen, the uninhabited places are listed under their traditional English names; Estonian and Russian versions of **Peipus** are given; the Slovak (and Czech) version of **Tatra** is "Tatry," which was probably deemed not worthwhile listing. Mt. Everest is listed under **Everest**; its Tibetan name *Chomolangma* is given in the entry. The name of the island **Borneo** is well explained by the reference to the name of the sultanate **Brunei**; but its southern, slightly more indigenous name, Kalimantan—less used in the West—is not indicated within the entry **Borneo**, although it has its own entry under "K." **Sulawesi** and **Sri Lanka** are listed under these official forms with the traditional *Celebes* and *Ceylon* mentioned and explained in the entry, but under **New Zealand** the recently adopted second official name of the country, Aotearoa, is not mentioned. Obviously, the indigenization of names in the former colonial territories will yet require some effort.

The other outstanding feature of the entries are the etymologies of the names. They are generally chosen from the best, reliable sources, which in itself is a great achievement. Only occasionally would one entertain some doubts; thus, for instance, it requires some credulity to accept the idea that the first part of the Latin name of **Famagusta** (Cyprus), namely *Fama Augusta*, is an adaptation of the original Phoenician etymon *khamat* 'fort'. And an alternate explanation of Estremadura/Extremadura has been offered: *-dura* in Spanish is a deverbal nominalizing suffix (as in *cerra-dura* 'closure' from *cerrar* 'to close'), and *extremar* is a technical term meaning to lead livestock,

chiefly sheep, southward to winter grazing lands; *Estremadura*, then, was a term denoting this seasonal transhumance, and by extension the region of the Iberian Peninsula that was the destination of these winter migrations. It is natural that the explanation of the names in the etymologies frequently adds to the succinct histories of the places' foundation, thereby increasing the informative power of the book.

So what are some suggestions for a second edition? There are minor individual problems, e.g., the insertion of the name of the Italian town *Aquila*; the name is alphabetized here in this edition by its form with the article, *L'Aquila*, but the form without the article would seem to be the more normal one. Indication of pronunciation is a problem, of course, even for English monolingual dictionaries; still, the pronunciation of the name of the Hungarian town *Dunaújváros* would probably be better captured by the transcription "doona-ooy-varosh" than by the present "doona-ooee-varosh," because the representation as it presently stands could suggest a disyllabic pronunciation of "ooee," just as is the case for the forms before the first and after the second hyphen. And the pronunciation of the name of the Polish town *Bydgoszcz* (presently misprinted *Bydgoscz*, p. 70) is perhaps better represented by "bid-goshch" than by "bid-gosh," although an allegro pronunciation may simplify the cluster. However, there are also some broader considerations, such as the filling of gaps in onomastic systems. Pages 424-25, e.g., give the reader a list of the names of balneal coasts, from *Costa Blanca* (between Valencia and Alicante, Spain) to *Côte Vermeille* (to the West of Perpignan, France), including jocular formations such as *Costa Geriatrica* (southern coast of England). Very good, but why not include the "mother of all these *costas*," namely, the *Côte d'Azur* (between St. Tropez and Menton, France)? The list of Roman names of towns and cities (Appendix 2) is both interesting and useful; it goes without saying that it would not be possible to enumerate all the Roman names, but one good candidate for inclusion there would be *Complutum*, the Latin name of today's Alcalá, because the university was located there before it was transferred to Madrid, and many a scholar has been baffled by the *Universitas Complutensis*, not realizing that it is none other than the University of Madrid. The useful list (Appendix 7) of general nouns derived from place names, such as *coach* < Kocs (Hungary), *spa* < Spa (Belgium), *veronal* < Verona (Italy), cannot be complete, either; but *Worcester sauce* might be included to someone's

profit. In any case, the inclusion there of *syncretism* < Crete is very welcome, because of the frequent but erroneous opinion that the etymon is something like Lat. *cresco* 'grow'. The presentation and printing of this edition are, on the whole, fine, but there are a few sporadic and minor errata: the spelling of the indigenous name for the Basque Country (p. 415) should be *Euskal Herria*, the words "of is" are transposed in the entry *Carcassonne* (p. 76), and one finds a transposition of letters in the word "language" on the *Contents* page (v), a superfluous "at" in the entry *Krk* (p. 191), and a superfluous "in" in the entry *Tudela* (p. 367).

Just like the other books by this author, this is not a research tool, but a very solid piece of information and, for the buffs, entertainment.

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Exploring the Past Through Place-Names: Woolverstone. By Sylvia Laverton. Stamford: Paul Watkins. 1995. Pp. xii+116. Maps and Photographic Plates. £17.95.

Woolverstone is a parish on the Shotley Peninsula in the English county of Suffolk, and the book under review critically examines the placenames of that parish as evidence for what toponyms do so well, i.e., for the illumination of the history of a circumscribed area and, particularly, of the development of its landscape. The results of the author's survey, the process by which they have been obtained, and the principles by which they have been organized and interpreted are set out chiefly in six chapters which focus, respectively, on the local history "from Wolverston Manor to the present-day Woolverstone: 1300-1900," "Woolverstone Parish: 1840-1990," "Wolverston to Woolverstone: place-names 1300-1840," "A 'Map' of the Manor: 1350-1600," "Roads and Tracks" and "Place-names, settlements and landscape." These chapters are supplemented by an appendix of placename meanings and derivations, a glossary of technical terms such as *carucate*, *enfeoff*, and *pightle*, a list of references, a bibliography and an index of personal names.

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It is symptomatic of Laverton's approach that the underlying list of geographical names associated with the manor and parish of Woolverstone, together with their meanings and derivations, appears as an appendix (73-93) rather than as part of the main text or even as an introductory starting point. Etymology, though by no means neglected or regarded as irrelevant, is not at the heart of this study, it seems, a perception which is supported by a similar list of names culled from a variety of sources between 1300 and 1840 (19-47) in which information about the current location and status, as well as the recorded history of the features named is provided, referring to such aspects as changes in ownership, size, rental value, usage, and economic and agricultural data. Examples are:

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| Brampillion | A thirty-acre croft for rent of 3s. at Easter and Michaelmas, between church land on the east, John Culpho's Piksomers on the west, one head on Churchewey and the other on John Culpho's Bernecroft. <u>CR. f. 22 20 Hen. VII 1505.</u> |
| Whinney Field | Sold by Philip Catelyn to William Andrewes. <u>S1/10/3.1 1628.</u> Listed in a schedule of estate lands. <u>S1/10/4.1 1830.</u> Today it is the eastern part of West Field as shown on the 1840 Tithe Map; part was planted with trees in the early 1920s and is still known as Whinney Field Wood. |

What matters primarily in this microtoponymic exploration is the historical and current content of each name and only secondarily its linguistic origins, a principle which makes for a welcome change from so many other investigations of the place-nomenclature of a limited area. Placenames are viewed both as an integral part of local history and as keys to it. Early maps, especially the Tithe Map of 1840, therefore play an important role in this explorative exercise, serving as pointers to past space and also to its incorporation in the modern landscape. There cannot be many studies of this kind which make such extensive and imaginative use of what, in a broader sweep, might be regarded as "minor" names.

Methodologically, this is therefore a pioneering investigation, and it is not surprising that a didactic element in the author's presentation and intentions is never concealed. Laverton's study has obviously—and quite rightly—benefitted from John Field's ground-breaking *English Field-Names* (1972) and Margaret Gelling's *Sign-posts to the Past: Place-*

names and the History of England (1987). John Field's sequel, *The History of English Field-Names* (1993) appears to have been published too late for the period when the work for this monograph was actually carried out.

In addition to, or perhaps in spite of, its obvious local and regional significance for the people of Woolverstone, the Shotley Peninsula and the county of Suffolk, this book is bound to have a much wider appeal, demonstrating both the value of field-names as fruitful sources for local history and the ways in which they may best be utilized; the inclusion of illustrative source materials such as court rolls, maps, estate plans, aerial photographs, sketches, engravings and the like are especially helpful in this enterprise. What also becomes irrefutable in general terms is the essential connection of the study of placenames with research into the prehistoric, historical, cartographic, paleographic, ethnographic, religious and legal facets of the culture of any given area, to name but a few of the relevant ancillary and complementary modes of local studies. While this monograph persuasively shows that it is not possible to explore the past through placenames alone, their contributions are nevertheless not underestimated, and any open-minded student of the past may well benefit from looking to Laverton's "exploration" as a useful model even in circumstances very different from the ambience of an English manor and parish.

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The Place-Names of the Isle of Wight. By A.D. Mills. Stamford: Paul Watkins. 1996. £7.95. Pp. 126. Paper.

Islands have a special appeal for researchers and fieldworkers of all kinds, students of placenames included. They are usually manageable in size, well-defined in their extent, challenging in their double manifestation in landscape and coastscape, and rewarding because their seeming limitations paradoxically offer diversity and intriguing scope. It is not surprising therefore that A.D. Mills, one of the stalwarts of the English Place-Name Society and author of its county volumes on Dorset, as well as of a *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, decided to devote the volume under review to a study of the origin and meaning of about 600 names

of places on the Isle of Wight, off the English channel coast not far from Portsmouth and Southampton.

In addition to its insular charms, the island must have had a special fascination for a scholar whose academic interests have for many decades been in medieval and pre-medieval English, as it offers linguistic and onomastic glimpses of that geographically more circumscribed and therefore less influential settlement area of the Jutes who, together with Saxons and Angles reached what was to become England from the middle of the fifth century onwards.

The resulting publication is not the first on the subject; in 1940 the Swedish scholar Helge Kökeritz published an earlier book with the same title but, almost sixty years later, Mills has brought to bear on the examination and interpretation of the names of Wight the latest in toponymic scholarship and methodology, inherited from his long association with the high standards and expectations of the E.P.N.S. survey. The layout and the kind of information provided are therefore what one would expect of the various, more recent, volumes of the county series; there is no need to describe them in detail here. As far as the features whose names are included in the volume are concerned, in addition to towns, villages and hamlets, Mills covers natural features such as rivers, streams, hills, woods, wells, bays, promontories, as well as archaeological sites, farms, bridges, etc. The publication under review can therefore be regarded as the most detailed, comprehensive and reliable account available on the subject and although I am reluctant to use the term "definitive," it would probably not be out of place in this instance.

As expected from non-onomastic evidence, the earliest placenames of the Isle of Wight are of Old English origin; some of these reflect the fact, already hinted at, that "the Jutes colonized the island during the 6th century, establishing an independent province with its own kings" but most of them go back to the period after 686 when the island was conquered by the West Saxons. Placenames which are likely to belong to this early Jutish/Saxon dialect are Brading, Chale, Clatterford, Corve, Hardingshute, Shate, Sheat and Shide, because the elements they contain are, as Mills points out, relatively rare in other parts of England: *breid* 'hillside', *ceole* 'ravine', **clater* 'loose stones', **corf* 'gap' and so on. As elsewhere, the place-nomenclature of the Isle of Wight is, of course, cumulative and names have consequently been added to the earlier name

stock in the Anglo-Norman, medieval and even post-medieval periods, providing ample evidence of the linguistic stratification of the island.

The island name itself is, however, older than any of these, since it is recorded as *Vectis* as early as the middle of the second century in Ptolemy's *Geography* and as *Vecta* in the fourth century *Antonine Itinerary*. In Anglo-Saxon garb it appears as *Wiht*, *Wit* or *With*, and via *Wicht*, *Wict* and the like, has become *Wight*, which was originally only one of the variant spellings. The most probable etymology of the name links it with Welsh *gwaith* 'turn, course', apparently referring to its situation between the two arms of the *Solent* (probably another Celtic name).

In general, the placenames of Wight do not differ greatly from the placenames of southern England, in structure or in meaning, and in his introduction (7-19) Mills extracts from this microcosm of the large place-nomenclature illuminating information about the earlier landscape, the history, the economic and social life, and the folklore of the island. In this distillation and in most of his other comments, Mills clearly has a wider audience in mind, including the local inhabitants and the many holiday makers and visitors who come to Wight each year. At the same time, however, there is much to interest name scholars in his commentary, as the volume is an excellent example of how one can reach out to a larger readership without losing authenticity and scholarly rigor.

As I have personal connections with Jutland, it has given me particular pleasure to discover toponymic reference to Wight's Jutish past in the shape of name like *Bathingbourne* and *Whippingham* which contain the personal names *Beadda* and *Wippa*, respectively, which may have applied to Jutish (or Saxon) leaders or chieftains; or the placename *Chessell*, which designates the site of a sixth-century Jutish cemetery; or *Niton*, which apparently contains an old Jutish form of the word *new*. I have also found it profitable to browse through the substantial "Glossary of the Elements Found in Wight Place-Names" (115-126) which Mills has included. My only disappointment is that the names *Scotland Corner* and *Scotland Farm* were, in the Isle of Wight, not given by a nostalgic Caledonian but refer to a "particular payment of tax" (Middle English *scot*).

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