

Book Reviews

The Norwegian Language in America: A Study in Bilingual Behavior. By EINAR HAUGEN. Volume I: The Bilingual Community; Volume II: The American Dialects of Norwegian. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. Pp. xiv, 317; vi, 319-695. Price \$8.00).

The first volume of this scholarly work provides a comprehensive background for the study of the Norwegian language in America, and its influence on the emigrating Norwegian in his study of the English language.

Members of the American Name Society will be chiefly interested in the chapter entitled, "Names in a New World." Here Professor Haugen ably discusses the problem of surnames for the Norwegians in America and compares the naming customs in Norway with the onomastic problems in America. The inevitable change and corruption of surnames and given names is delineated. Even customs with regard to naming animals are noticed in some detail. The chapter is concluded with an analysis of place names in Norwegian communities in America.

The second volume is devoted to an analysis of the Norwegian dialects in America as spoken by informants in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, together with North and South Dakota.

ELSDON C. SMITH

Namenforschung als Wissenschaft. By HANS BAHLOW. (Neumünster, Germany: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1955. DM 3.20).

According to the author, German place name research has been all wrong and has to be placed on a new basis. Like most crusaders and reformers he goes to extremes: all German onomatologists from Jakob Grimm to Hans Krahe have erred, and the standard work, *Deutsche Namenskunde* by Adolf Bach, is a "complete caricature of German nomenclature." There is a grain of truth in Bahlow's contention. Until Germany took the lead in science and scholarship and was politically united, Germans suffered under a similar

national inferiority complex as other nationalities suffer today. (See "Editor's Page" in the September issue of *Names*.) Hence we find in the writings of German philologists attempts to create in German geographical names a national mirror of German history and culture. Often they did not stress sufficiently that many of the geographical names of central Europe developed at a time when Celtic people were in possession of Western Europe. Now the author goes to the other extreme by tracing back all hydrographic names (he pays little attention to orographic features) to the many Celtic words meaning 'swamp': "thereby also the name of the *Germanen* is finally indeniably explained as a Celtic folk-name (dwellers by a swamp)."

Since the author may have something to contribute to our science we can only wish: first, that he would get rid of the idea that only he is right and every other German onomatologist is wrong; and, second, that he would acquire a style that can be understood by anybody who can read German. Instead of stating his argument and supplementing it with illustrations and examples, he throws at the reader all the knowledge he has acquired in an arrogant and confusing manner. Let us hope that our German colleagues will be able to translate this telegraphic style, spiked with exclamation points, into readable German.

Our readers might be interested to know that (according to the preface) the author was in charge of the first academic assignments in the field of onomastics at German universities (Rostock and Hamburg). The first course in onomastics at an American university was conducted several years ago by our vice president, George R. Stewart, at the University of California.

ERWIN G. GUDDE

Ohio's Western Reserve, The Story of Its Place Names. By DAVID LINDSEY (Cleveland, The Press of Western Reserve University, 1955. Pp. v-vii—111, \$2.75).

The Western Reserve is an area lying in the northeastern corner of Ohio and encompasses 12 of the state's 88 counties. The region extends from the Pennsylvania state line west to Sandusky Bay and lies largely north of the 41st parallel. Many of the counties border on the south shore of Lake Erie. The author has included parts of

Ottawa and Ashland counties, which were not part of the historic Western Reserve; and parts of Summit and Mahoning county, lying south of the 41st parallel, for the sake of completeness.

He has limited his study in inhabited places: cities, townships and villages. He does not account for the names of rivers, lakes or other geographic features except as they bear upon the naming of populated communities.

Professor Lindsey has taught history at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, for ten years. He says that when he came to Ohio he was struck by the repetition of New England names like New London, New Haven, Boston and Plymouth in this part of the state. A search, which started out of personal curiosity, led him to seek data on the origin of these names in various libraries in the region, and from other sources in county and municipal offices, from newspaper editors and informed local inhabitants. Much of his information was gleaned from county histories and other published works. These are listed in a bibliographical note (p. 106).

The names are arranged alphabetically by chapters, a chapter for each of the 12 counties. The attractiveness of the book is enhanced by the use of black and white illustrations done by Professor Howard Oagley, a colleague at Baldwin-Wallace. Its usefulness as a reference tool is improved by the repetition of a diagrammatic outline map of the "Reserve" at the head of each chapter. The location of the particular county covered by the chapter is set forth in solid black.

The author presents an interesting account of the beginnings of the Western Reserve as chapter 1, affording him an opportunity to explain the origin of many of the names appearing in the succeeding chapters. The last chapter, numbered 14, is entitled "Names in Retrospect." It is an excellent essay on the subject of choosing a place name.

The entries vary in length. Some are limited to two or three lines, merely giving the reason why the place got the name it has today. In other cases, where information was obtainable, he gives the founding date, name of founder or first settler, and often an entry occupies half a page. Some are 15 or 20 lines in length, delineating in considerable detail a romantic incident which may have decided the name of the town. The book is logically arranged as a reference

work but in addition to this it contains sufficient historical lore to provide much of interest and entertainment for the casual reader.

Akron, Ohio

WILLIAM D. OVERMAN

Onomata. Revue d'Onomastique Grecque. 2-3. Athenes 1954. Editor: JEAN A. THOMOPOULOS (Galaxidi Street 17, Athens 2, Greece.)

The first number of this journal appeared in Athens in 1952 when its editor still resided in Sweden (see my report in *Names I* [1953], 147-149) and the present two numbers (48 pages in all) appeared in Athens while he lived in Addis Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. The contents consist of a two-page article of Professor Ivar Lundahl on the name *Delphoi* (pp. 1-2) and of various articles, notes, and bibliography all written by Mr. Thomopoulos himself, namely

"Les toponymes préhelléniques de la Mer Égée." This is a paper read by its author at the 4th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences at Uppsala in 1952. There are many good points in the paper, but I would not agree with all his conclusions.

"Whence the family name Myriallis" (in Greek). The assumption of a hypothetical form **amiraris* is not necessary.

"Byzantino-Slavic." He discusses some new books, especially R. Trautmann's *Die slavischen Ortsnamen Mecklenburgs und Holsteins*, Abh. d. Akad. d. Wiss. zu Leipzig 45 (1950), Heft 3, and more extensively K. Jazdzewski's *Atlas to the Prehistory of the Slavs* (Acta Praehistorica Universitatis Lodziensis, Lodz, 1948), to which Thomopoulos brings objections and counterarguments concerning the Slavs in Greece in the middle ages. I have not expressed doubts about the Slavic provenience of the Slavic *Melingi* and *Ezeritae* in the Peloponnesus, as Thomopoulos inadvertently states; it is Professor C. Amantos who had doubted their Slavic origin. I have merely explained the name of the *Melingi* as Greek and that of the *Ezeritae* as a Greek formation (see *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 43 [1950] 301-303; I wrote on p. 333: "The *Ezeritae* and the *Melingi* most probably adopted the names created by their Greek speaking neighbors . . .").

Chronique Onomastique comprises the following items:

The 4th International Congress of the Onomastic Sciences in

1952, pp. 38–41; *Hellenic Place-Name Association*, p. 41. Thomopoulos discusses in a few lines the problem of forming such an association with the goal of making exhaustive records of the place-names of the Greek regions and of establishing toponymic or onomastic archives. I personally agree with the formation of a Hellenic “Name Society” but the setting up of onomastic archives requires much work on the part of that society to persuade the Greek government to initiate and pass the necessary law and its implementation with adequate funds. Mr. Thomopoulos may start preparations for founding the association and my hopes are that many will be ready to help.

Reviews: The book of C. I. Papachristodoulou *Place-Names of Rhodes* (in Greek) (Rhodes, Dodecanesus, Greece, 1951) is reviewed, pp. 42–44 (on *Apakú* see D. J. Georgacas, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 44 [1951] 148).

Livres reçus are listed, pp. 45–48.—Fifty-seven items are listed.

Now that Mr. Thomopoulos is back in Greece, we wish him more regular publication of his journal and persistent work for the establishment of a name society, the need for which has received wide acknowledgment. Such a body would then work for the creation of onomastic archives.

DEMETRIUS J. GEORGACAS



The California Academy of Sciences recently published a volume entitled *A Century of Progress in the Natural Sciences*, in honor of its centennial. My contribution to it is an essay, “A Century of Astronomy and Geodesy in California.” Members of the *ANS* who are interested in the subject may obtain free a reprint of this article by writing to my home address, P. O. Box 512, Orinda, California.

ERWIN G. GUDDE