

## Reviews

*Noms et lieux du Québec. Dictionnaire illustré.* Eds. Henri Dorion, Jean-Yves Dugas, Jean Poirier, Alain Vallières, with the participation of Jean-Claude Fortin and Rémi Mayrand. Second ed., revised by Jean-Claude Fortin. Gouvernement du Québec, 1996. Pp: xxxvi+925. Price not given.

In 1993 there were in the Province of Quebec 108,000 officially registered toponyms (in the broad sense of the word, including undoubtedly also microtoponyms). Of these, this dictionary selects some 6,000 of the most important ones as entries. As the title indicates, this is not a gazetteer, nor is it a toponomastic dictionary, because not only the names, but also the history and the natural characteristics of the places, whether inhabited or not, are studied. (To my knowledge, among the languages with many speakers, only German has a term referring to such a complex type of study, namely *Landeskunde*, or if one's own country is the subject, *Heimatkunde*.) This "heimatkundlich" character of the dictionary is underlined by many photographs that adorn its text, showing some of the places and the eponymous persons for whom the names were given. The main structure of the dictionary, however, is carried by the onomastic component, a point highlighted by the presence, among the other introductory essays in the front matter, of Jean Poirier's "La toponymie du Québec." This essay, accompanied by several reproductions of old maps of the territory, gives a survey of the toponymy by its individual linguistic components: it appears that 72% of the toponyms are French, 12% are English, and 10% autochthonous; the remaining 6% defy classification. The aetiology of names, that is, the reasons for their selection (called here "les processus dénominatifs"), shows that Amerindian names sometimes yield a morphemic translation that is semantically quite simple; thus, e.g., *Magog* 'body of water', *Kénogami* 'long lake', *Kuujuuaq* 'big river'. In general, the motivations behind Canadian names do not seem much different from those we find in the US, with the exception of the vastly greater number of toponyms in Quebec derived from the names of Catholic saints.

There is an important terminological index in the front matter. Some interesting coinages are: *amérindianyme* (with *-anyme* rather than the more usually encountered *-onyme*) 'an Amerindian name'; *hagionyme*

'the name of a saint, and by extension, a placename derived from a saint's name'; *odonyme* 'name of a *voie de communication*', which is quite a broad understanding of the term, and interesting also because the Greek (and Latin) morphemes with initial *h-* (Greek *hodos* 'way') usually keep it in French;<sup>1</sup> *patronyme* 'family name'; and a distinction, deemed necessary, between a *spécifique* (e.g., *Saint-Jean* in *Lac Saint-Jean*) and a *spécificative* (*sur-le-Lac* in *Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac*).

The editors of the dictionary under review do not wish to overburden the reader with too many Graeco-Latin terminological coinages. This is quite obvious when we compare the term *hagionyme* taken polysemously as quoted above, with the usage recommended in Dorion and Poirier (1975), quoted in note 1, which distinguishes *hagionyme*, chiefly 'name of a saint' from *hagiochoronyme* 'place name formed from the name of a saint' (61). Clearly, the present dictionary does not wish to go so far, probably out of a laudable consideration for lay readers.

This stress on readability does not, however, entail a lowering of the level of the presentation. For instance, an entry such as that for *Anse des Acadiens* 'The Acadians' Cove' lists also the variant *Anse des Cayens*. Naturally, the linguist immediately perceives the phenomenon of lenition manifested in the variant; and since such variants are indicated wherever they occur, just going through the dictionary supplies rich information about the reduction phenomenon in allegro speech.

*Coulée des Adolphe*. Every word in this name offers a riddle: *des* requires plural yet *Adolphe* is in the singular. Adolphe, of course, was the name of the eponymous inhabitant, and he lived in the vicinity of the little creek with his sons, who were subsumed as well under his name. What an insight into the syntactic possibilities! *Coulée* is not peculiar to Quebecois or Canadian French generally; it also occurs on the southern side of the border, e.g., as the name of the little river that flows through the campus of the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. It is attested, too, in various parts of France, mostly in the form *coulis*.

*L'Afrique*. This is a placename, one which is not so surprising after all, when we learn that the area is quite sandy. Known also as *la Frique*, a form which is used by the (not numerous) local population in indiscriminate variation with the form *friche*.

That such variation is even stronger in Amerindian names is not surprising, because it represents not only variation of speech, but also varying attempts in orthography to approximate the form actually heard;

e.g., *Achawénégan*, *Chaouinigane*, *Oshaouinigane*, *Assaouinigane*, *Chawinigame*, *Shawinigan*, *Shawenigane*, *Chaouénigane*. Orthographic approximations of this sort are well known south of the border as well.

These few examples of linguistic interest cannot do justice to the wealth of information contained here. Indeed, every page brings up something interesting. For instance, under *Mont Arthur-LeBlanc* we read not only about this musician, but about a program of commemorative name-giving that put the name on the map in 1987. Similarly, reading about *Lac Carpocapse* we learn not only which species of butterflies this is, but also that there was a naming program that gave similar learned names to lakes in the La Vérendrye wildlife preserve in the 1970s.

Apart from the reproductions of old maps (some of them reproduced also under the entry for *Montréal*), there are 28 modern detailed maps covering the entire province, allowing one to locate the names listed in the entries. A rich bibliography and indices complete this excellent piece of work.

#### Note

1. Cf. in name studies *hagionyme*; *hélonyme* 'name of a marsh'; *hydronyme*; cf. also some coinages in other areas: *holocauste*, *horodateur* 'parking-ticket dispensing machine' (<Greek *hora* 'hour'). The form without the *h*- is defended in Dorion and Poirier (1975). This terminological dictionary lists *odonyme*, *odonymie* (with the expected meanings) (99). However, the form *hodonymie* is listed, with the following commentary: "Forme (fautive?) quelquefois employée pour *odonymie* qui est consacrée par l'usage (Carnoy 1952)...." Curiously, the entry for Carnoy (1952) in the bibliography of Dorion and Poirier (1975), reads as follows: Carnoy, Albert (1952), *Toponymie des chaussées romaines en Belgique et dans les régions avoisinantes* (Essai d'hodonymie [sic, with *h*]), *4e Congrès international de sciences onomastiques; Upsala, Actes et mémoires*, vol. 2, p. 212-220. This case shows how extremely difficult it is to maintain terminological unity in a field such as name studies, even when Greek morphemes are used for coining the terms.

#### Reference

Dorion, Henri and Jean Poirier. 1975. *Lexique des termes utiles à l'étude des noms de lieux*. Choronomia Series, vol. 6. Québec, Les presses de l'Université Laval.

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*Toponymie Van Waarloos*. By Robert Van Passen. Werken van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Toponymie en Dialectologie Vlaamse Afdeling 19, Tongeren, Drukkerij George Michiels N.V. 1997. Pp. 232. With fold away map.

This book is a dictionary of the field-names of a single township five miles south of Antwerp. It consists of a geographical introduction (situation, boundaries, hydronymy, geology, woodland, population), a very full discussion of the name Waarloos itself, and a list of sources, printed and unprinted. As an example of the excellent contemporary place name scholarship of the low countries, the treatment of the main name amply demonstrates its strengths. More than a hundred spellings are recorded, from *Warlos* in 1149, described as an *appenditium* of Kontich (*Contheca*), to *Waerloos* in 1818, followed by a history of previous explanations—*sans défense* ‘protectionless, without a castle’ (Kreglinger 1849), ‘place on a hill without water’ (Lindemans 1924), ‘guaranteed property’ (Roelandts 1928), ‘place without a ditch’, ‘hill or meadow surrounded by a ditch’ (Carnoy 1927; 1949) and much more. This is historically interesting but really unnecessary since the preferred explanation of Gysseling 1960, ‘look-out hill’, so well fits the topography and seems convincing. So, too, the admirably meticulous documentation of endlessly identical spellings seems overly conscientious.

The main part of the book is a Glossarium with explanations of 747 field and minor names, followed by an appendix listing the names according to their earliest appearance by half-centuries from before 1400 to after 1950, e.g., Aphrodite 1997, formerly the Bar Victory; Astrid, a café c. 1950; Bizar 1997, formerly Monte-Carlo, Nachtegaal and Joy; Caruso 1959; Cupido 1997, formerly Prima, Pullman, Chez-Elle, Milady and Pin-Up; Dandy 1993, formerly Ariba, Real, Goldfinger, Old Inn and Las Vegas; Expo 58, 1958, later Bar Flamingo. There is much of sociological interest here as for earlier half-centuries. The most prolific periods are 1600-1650 and 1750-1800.

Apart from historical, microtopical and sociological interest the value of the Glossarium with its concentrated focus on a small area and meticulous excerption of sources is the refinement that detailed microtoponymy can throw on general issues. One such is the element *laar*, ascribed the sense ‘woodland glade, open space in woodland’ by de Vries and de Tollenaere in their *Etymologisch Woordenboek* (1983) and related to OHG *hlar* ‘meadow’ occurring in the Dutch place name

Laar near Rhenen, *villa Hlara* 855, and the German place names in *-lar*, an element found from Thuringia to Belgium and Holland with outliers at Lahr in the Black Forest and Lohr am Main. It is often combined with a river name—Goslar, *Gosilare* 1019, on the Gose, Wetzlar, *Witflaria* 1141, ‘the pasture or enclosure on the *Wettiffa*’, *hodie* Wetzbach—and in field names with names of animals implying stock-rearing, e.g., *Osselar* < *oss* ‘ox’, *Orselar* < *ors* ‘horse’, *Varselar* < *varse* ‘heifer’. Some scholars trace this element to IE \**klei-* ‘bend’ and see reference to plaited fencing to keep animals in, but others relate it to G *leer* ‘empty’, MHG *lær(e)*, OHG *l(e)are*, OSax *lari* < WGmc \**læzi-/ja-* in the sense ‘harvested land, gleaned land, land picked clean’. A full account of this much discussed and much disputed element is given in Ward van Osta’s *Toponymie van Brasschaat* (Gent 1995, 670-73), another place name monograph in the same tradition reviewed by the present writer in the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* (29, 1996-7, 100-103). What van Passen’s study of *laar* and its diminutive *laarke* achieves is to underline the sense ‘open place in woodland’ from its association with *bosch* in another name, *Laarbos*, *Laerbosch* 1640, in a woodland area where clearing took place, from an instance called a *prieel* ‘an arbor’ (1722) beside another typical woodland name, *Visserhagen*, and from the specific collocations *eene plantagie oft een Laer* ‘a plantation or a *laar*’ (1628 x 1786) and *seeker laerken beplant met differente boomen* ‘certain *laarkes* planted with different trees’ (1755), which also show that *laar(ke)* was still a living appellative in the 18th century. In several instances the presence of water is mentioned (*een wateringe ende noch van een laere* ‘a water-course and a *laar*’ 1626) and *Laarbos* is surrounded by water on three sides. Finally, detective work on the local topography enabled identification of *Drie Laarkes*, *drie laerkens* 1501, with a small open triangular space in the old center of the village and suggests former currency of a meaning ‘open or empty place in a village’ which would fit many other locations.

Detailed linguistic and topographical work of this kind abounds in this book. Like Van Osta’s volumes, it is impressive testimony to the outstanding place name work carried out today in the Flemish Netherlands.

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*The Columbia Gazetteer of the World*. Ed. Saul Cohen. New York: Columbia UP, 1998. Pp. xxiv+3,578. Three volumes. \$750.

To say that *The Columbia Gazetteer of the World* is a very impressive work is an understatement. Consisting of three volumes totaling 3,578 pages and weighing nearly 21 pounds, it supercedes the *Columbia-Lippincott Gazetteer of the World*, published in 1952, as the up-to-date, preeminent comprehensive world gazetteer in English. This new work contains some 165,000 entries, at least 30,000 more than its 1952 predecessor. It is not a simple compilation of names of places and features along with their locations; rather, it is an encyclopedic gazetteer. As appropriate, entries provide information on pronunciation of the name, type of feature, area in square miles and square kilometers, elevations of landforms in feet and meters, and populations of settled places. Furthermore, it gives location by state or province and country, plus latitude and longitude, and distance in miles and kilometers to some, usually larger, relevant place. These basics are then followed by descriptive information ranging from brief notations for small places to substantial essays including physical, cultural, economic, historical and political facts for larger places such as states or countries.

As explained in the preface, the selection of entries attempts "to provide maximum coverage of places and features, while achieving a balanced profile of each country" (v). Since, assumably, the major market for the *Gazetteer* is the United States, it is not surprising that there are 40,000 U S entries. The numbers of entries for other countries generally reflect the size of the countries concerned: Russia merits 6,068, India 5,536 and Germany 4,618. Smaller countries have fewer entries: Luxembourg has 198, Belize 84 and Andorra 21.

The broad scope of the *Gazetteer* is reflected in the entry categories, which may be summarized according to three types. The first, the political world, includes "major geographic regions, countries, provinces, regions, states, districts, capitals, cities, towns, villages, neighborhoods,[and] special districts" (v). The second, the physical world, includes "continents, oceans, seas, gulfs, lakes, lagoons, rivers, bays, inlets, channels, streams, islands, archipelagos, peninsulas, atolls, mountains, mountain ranges, canyons, deserts, valleys, glaciers, [and] volcanoes" (v-vi). The third, special places, includes "national parks, reserves and monuments, historic and archaeological sites, resorts,

airports, ports, dams, nuclear plants, mines, canals, shopping malls, theme parks, stadia, military bases, fortified lines, [and] mythic places" (vi).

In most instances the *Gazetteer* uses the spellings recognized by the U S Board on Geographic Names for American and foreign names. In some cases well-known English versions of foreign names are used as the main entries, with the local names used as cross-references. For example, *Germany* is the main entry while *Deutschland* is cross-referenced to it; *Florence* is the main entry for the city in Italy, and *Firenze* is cross-referenced to it. Names in languages that do not use the Latin alphabet are transliterated, and in cases where there are well known or important variants, they are cross-referenced as well. For China, *Chang Jiang* and *Guangzhou* are main entries while *Yangzi River* and *Canton*, respectively, are cross-referenced to them.

The *Gazetteer* has done a fine job keeping up with changes in geographic names. Former colonies have become independent and many changed their names, e.g., *Gold Coast Colony* is now *Ghana*, *Northern Rhodesia* became *Zambia*, *Dahomey* is *Benin*, and *Dutch East Indies* is *Indonesia*. The former names are cross-referenced to the current ones. For some countries the process is a bit more complex: *Congo*, *Congo Free State*, *Belgian Congo*, and *Zaire* are all cross-referenced to the present *Democratic Republic of the Congo*. Changing political circumstances also resulted in name changes for many towns and cities, with the main entries found under the new names and with cross-references from the former names. Examples include *Breslau* to *Wroclaw*, Poland; *Leningrad* to *Saint Petersburg*, Russia; *Marienbad* to *Marian Lazne*, Czech Republic; *Hermannstadt* to *Sibiu*, Romania; *Bombay* to *Mumbai*, India; and *Rangoon* to *Yangon*, Myanmar. As should be apparent, the use of cross-referencing in the *Gazetteer* is both plentiful and helpful. There are more than 30,000 cross-reference entries in addition to 165,000 main entries.

*The Columbia Gazetteer of the World* is such an extraordinary accomplishment that one is reluctant to criticize. However, spot checking revealed some errors of basic information. The entry for *Sverdlovsk*, the oblast in Russia, indicates its capital is the city of Sverdlovsk. However, in 1992, the city of Sverdlovsk resumed its former name, Yekaterinberg. *Collo Collo* is described as a town and

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canton in Bolivia, located at an elevation of 12,631 ft/3,850 m. According to the entry, potatoes, rye, yucca, and bananas are grown there. How can the latter two crops survive in the cold climate at that elevation? The entry for *Novo Hamburgo*, a city in southern Brazil, fails to note its major shoe industry. In Connecticut, the town of Groton is described as including the borough of Groton. However, the borough of Groton ceased to exist in 1963, when it became the city of Groton; it is still a subdivision of the town of Groton. Also in Connecticut, *Old Mystic* is described as located on the Whitford River when, according to the 1993 United States Geological Survey map (1983, 1:24,000) of the area, it is on Whitford Brook, a tributary of the Mystic River.

There are also a few things that seem strange. For example, anyone searching for the *Irrawaddy River* will have a problem since it is neither an entry nor a cross-reference. Even if the reader knows it to be the chief river of Burma (which is cross-referenced to Myanmar) and reads the long and interesting entry for Myanmar, there is no mention of the Irrawaddy to be found. Instead, the characteristics of the Irrawaddy are given to a river named the *Ayeyarwady*. When the entry for *Ayeyarwady* is consulted, it is only in the last sentence of a substantial entry that one finds, "Formerly spelled Irrawaddy or *Irawadi*" (210). This then raises questions of consistency of usage since, near the end, the *Ayeyarwady* entry states, "The Irrawaddy is one of the great rivers of Asia and serves as the economic lifeline of Myanmar" (210). If that is the case, why is *Irawadi* cross-referenced to *Ayeyarwady* and not *Irrawaddy*, the familiar form in English usage? And why, in the entries for the *Salween* and *Myitkaka* rivers, are both described as flowing parallel to the *Irrawaddy* and not the *Ayeyarwady*? Another strange situation concerns *Fano*, an island in the North Sea off of Esbjerg, Denmark. The entry for *Fano* indicates that Odden is its main town, which is odd since the chief town is Nordby, and there is no settlement named Odden on the island.

Overall, the *Gazetteer* reveals few problems with misspelling. But it was not reassuring to find the preface stating that "the *Gazetteer* includes every incorporated place and country [sic] in the United States" (v), or, in the *Anaconda* city entry, to find a reference to "Discovery Basin Sky [sic] Area" which surely should be Discovery Basin Ski Area (102). And the Myanmar entry states that "foreign oil exploration firms withdrew from their offshore sights [sic]..." (2096).

Compared with the 1952 *Columbia-Lippincott Gazetteer*, the expanded and updated 1998 *Columbia Gazetteer of the World* is superior in important ways. Whereas the 1952 work was printed on very thin paper, the 1998 work is printed on heavier paper which surely should prove to be more durable in frequent use. The pages in the 1998 work repeat the three-column layout of its 1952 predecessor, but in the new work more space between the lines makes for easier reading. Also, the entry names are now in bold sans-serif letters which greatly facilitate searching for a specific entry. All organizations, especially libraries, as well as individuals with a need for knowledge about places in the world should have this *Gazetteer*. It is, clearly, the most comprehensive encyclopedic reference of its kind.

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*Den store Navnebog [The Large Book of Names]*. Ed. Eva Villarsen Meldgaard. Copenhagen: Aschehoug Danske Forlag, 1998. Pp. 292. Dkr 169.00. ISBN 87-11-12635-3.

In countries in which parents have more or less a free choice when it comes to naming their newborn offspring, it is difficult to imagine that there are other countries in which this choice is limited by law to an—admittedly lengthy—prescribed list. Denmark is one of these countries and Danish scholars with a special expertise in personal names may therefore have an additional, official role to play as advisors or members of the committee which assists the Church Ministry (!) in the preparation, maintenance and enforcement of such a central list. The author of the volume under review is the foremost of these experts who has also for many years been attached to the Institute for Navneforskning [Institute for Name Research] in the University of Copenhagen which has recently become very closely involved in the management of the list in question. She is therefore eminently qualified to compile a compendium of Danish first names which goes far beyond the usual popular “how to name your baby” publications. The fact that Dr.

Meldgaard's book, first published in 1994, has now necessitated a third, updated and revised printing only four years later, bears witness to the keen interest that Danes in general, and presumably also name scholars in other Nordic countries and beyond, take in the subject, especially when the compendium is based on sound scholarly principles and contains information not only about the names' lexical meaning but also the number of their bearers in 1985, their historical and other origins, their degree of popularity, their geographical distribution within Denmark, and any discernible trend in their usage.

In the Introduction, Dr. Meldgaard briefly defines the nature of first names, presents an overview of the Danish names' history and sources and, with the help of statistical displays, provides ample information about the most popular names in Denmark, first the top twenty in chronological categories (Middle Ages, 1650, 1750, 1850 and 1950) and then the top ten in 1980-1985, according to geographical location. This is followed by a list of names borne by at least 25,000 Danes, arranged according to percentage figures. For boys: Peter 4.63%, Christian 4.20%, Erik 3.91%, Jens 3.58%, Hans 3.51%, down to Emil 0.82%. For girls: Marie 8.03%, Anna 3.43%, Margarethe 3.40%, Karen 2.71%, Kristine 2.34%, Kirsten 2.31%, down to Ulla 0.85%, and a discussion of name fashions. She also supplies tables comparing Denmark's ten most popular boys' and girls' names with the top ten names in Sweden, Norway, England, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and France, along with showing the names which are associated with every day of the year in the Danish almanac.

The extensive central portion of the book (42-254) is devoted to an alphabetical listing of 500 boys' names and 500 girls' names, systematically providing the range of information mentioned above, from Abel to Aage, and Abelson to Aase, respectively. Thus we learn, for example, that the boys' name *Asbjørn* has been used since about 1800, that there were 1996 bearers of it in 1985, that it was at its most popular in the 1940s, and that there has been a rising trend in its choice since the 1980s. It is a Norwegian form of Danish *Esbjørn* (*Esben*) and it is a compound of *as* 'god' and *bjørn* 'bear'. In contrast, *Mikkel* has been on record since the Middle Ages, was the name of 6,191 males in 1985, has been popular since the 1970s and is to be regarded as a name of fashion.

It is the Danish and Low German form of Michael. A well-known literary figure is Mikkel Thøgersen, the main character in Johannes V. Jensen's novel *Kongens Fald* (1990-91).

Among the girls' names listed, Jette, a short form of Henriette, can be termed a 20th-century name that was most popular in the 1950s and 1960s, with 28,662 girls being named Jette in 1985. There is a downward trend in its usage. Pernille, having been around since the Middle Ages, has become fashionable again since the 1970s, so that there were 12,650 bearers of that name in 1985. It is a development of Latin Petronella; Saint Petronella was the legendary daughter of St. Peter but there are also discernible literary influences, for instance through Holberg's comedies.

There are few, if any, comparable name books in other countries that provide this kind of information but the volume under review is obviously not intended to offer a historical account of actual documented name spellings. Its special strength lies in its monitoring of name usage. The book concludes with a list of "well-known" names on the previous central name register, as supplemented and emended by the Institute for Navneforskning, under Dr. Meldgaard's direction. This helpfully points out names for which there are only up to three documented bearers and which therefore deserve to be classified as extremely rare and not as "well-known."

For anybody with an interest in Danish given names and especially in their usage, *Den store Navnebog* is an essential compendium which should be consulted before one turns to any other guide. The underlying statistical evidence gives it a solid base and an opportunity to approach the presentation of its entries systematically and with confident common sense. Even the quickest of perusals is bound to remove the fear or suspicion that a curtailed approved list is likely to cramp young parents' style when it comes to the daunting task of naming their children, for the index of names available for usage is extensive, imaginative and varied. Its compulsory limitations merely eliminate the irresponsibly exotic and crankily harmful from being imposed on indefensible children.

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*Personnamnsboken*. By Marianne Blomqvist. Helsingfors: Oy Finnlectura Ab, 1993. Pp. 286. Bibliography, name indices.

In the preceding review of *Den Store Navnebog* by Eva Meldgaard, it is possible that I may have given the impression that this was a unique publication in the field of personal name studies in the Nordic countries. Without intending to take away from my high praise for that compendium, I wish to draw readers' attention to Marianne Blomqvist's *Personnamnsboken* (the book of personal names) in which the author, the foremost authority on Swedish personal names in Finland, presents a survey of Swedish-Finnish forenames and family names, from the Middle Ages to the last decade of this century.

After a brief introduction to the terminology used by name scholars (in Swedish) when researching or discussing personal names, Professor Blomqvist provides a historical account of forenames and their evolution and influences in Swedish Finland, against the background of settlement history. In the Middle Ages, she distinguishes Norse names, Christian names which tend to supplant the former in late medieval times, and German names, especially under the influence of the Hanseatic trade connections. For the post-medieval period from the sixteenth century onwards she is able to provide ranked tables of favorite names in a number of specific locations, and also makes a brief excursion into the names used by Swedish emigrants to North America where *Källström* becomes *Kallstrom*, *Ågren* is spelled *Ogren*, and *Östergård* turns into *Ostergard*, eliminating all traces of Swedish diacritic symbols and the pronunciations they represent, and where a woman called *Johanna Karlsdotter Bjurbäck* becomes *Hanna Carlson*. She also discusses the introduction of multiple naming (*Carl Gustav, Anna Catherina*) in the baroque period, with a tabular analysis of the various permutations, and a variety of social and literary influences. Naturally her material becomes more accessible in the current century and gives her an opportunity to provide tables and diagrams as to naming fashions, name frequencies, regional distribution, and comparisons with Sweden.

Blomqvist's third chapter is devoted to the important influence of almanacs on name choices, particularly through the celebration of name days based on the association of certain names with certain dates. In chapter IV, she investigates family names, and it comes as a surprise

that hereditary surnames did not become obligatory in Finland till 1921, although there had been a period of transition in that direction. Blomqvist treats Swedish-Finnish surnames historically in five social classes: Aristocracy, Clergy, Bourgeoisie, Soldiers, and Country People. In the first category, we find names like *Tandefelt*, *Nordenheim*, *af Stenhof*, *von Bonsdorff*, *Stewen-Steinheil*, and *Hisinger-Jägerskiöld*. To the second category belong *Topelius*, *Castrenius*, *Nylander*, *Folander*, *Cannelin*, *Wecksell*, and the like. By the eighteenth century, some of the most common surnames borne by townspeople were *Bäck*, *Tegengren*, *Sastman*, *Möller* and *Printz*, and soldiers had names like *Dufva*, *Hurtig*, *Lode*, *Munter* and *Stäl*. Among names of commoners we find in the nineteenth century *Roos*, *Brunström*, *Kalenius*, *Skarin*, *Brommells* and *Slotte*. By 1990, the ten most frequent Swedish family names in Finland were *Johansson*, *Lindholm*, *Nyman*, *Karlsson*, *Lindström*, *Andersson*, *Lindqvist*, *Lindroos* and *Lindberg*. More than half the family names consist of two elements, like *Ahlbäck*, *Andsten*, *Asplund*, *Backholm* and *Boman*. Blomqvist illustrates this category with a table of some of the most common combinations of specifics and generics like *Lind-* 'linden', *Ny-* 'new', *Ahl-* 'alder', *Sten-* 'stone', and *Ek-* 'oak' with *-lund* 'grove', *ström* 'stream', *-berg* 'mountain', and *-qvist* 'twig'. She also includes a table of the most common *-son* names, such as *Eriksson*, *Johansson*, *Karlsson*, *Andersson* and *Gustafsson*. Further sub-sections are devoted to the dissemination of names, the names of women (including metronymics), and the relationship between name bearers and their mother tongue. Brief chapters on the orthography of names, name law, sources and references, the 2500 most common Swedish forenames and the 1000 most common Swedish family names in Finland follow, as well as a copy of the Name Law of 1985.

Blomqvist's *Personnamnsboken* is a thorough, detailed, and very accessible account of the historical evolution, growth, and current situation regarding Swedish personal names in Finland, offering answers to just about any question one may wish to ask. All statements and conclusions are based on an expert knowledge of the material and underpinned by appropriate examples and tables. It is a joy to read.

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*The Place-Names of Wales.* By Hywel Wyn Owen. Cardiff: U of Wales P/The Western Mail, 1998. Pp. xxii+103. Map. £4.99.

At long last, we now have what those of us who have an interest in the place names of Wales, but do not speak Welsh, have been waiting for—a reliable dictionary of Welsh place names. The toponymy of Wales as a whole has in the past been mainly dealt with as part of compendia devoted to the place names of Great Britain or the British Isles, such as Gelling, Nicolaisen and Richards (1970); Field (1980); Room (1988); or in Welsh, as for instance Williams (1945, 1969).

As is to be expected of a publication in a series of “Pocket Guides,” Hywel Wyn Owen’s book does not have any aspirations to be comprehensive, limiting itself to nearly 250 names of habitations, such as major towns and cities, and prominent or well-known villages, although names of rivers and hills are incidentally included in the discussion of settlement names. The names are listed by both their Welsh and their English forms whenever appropriate, and the information provided for each entry includes the meaning of the name, the toponymic elements it contains, the county in which the designated place is situated, and a discussion of early spellings and of historical and topographic details relevant to the name.

Not surprisingly, the book is dominated by Wales as a country of historical and contemporary language contact, and even a cursory examination of the entries produces some discernible categories and classifiable patterns in the reflexes of linguistic relationships of names in a bilingual and bicultural country, as long as it is borne in mind that, for a variety of reasons, such patterns are not evenly distributed across Wales:

- (A) Welsh > Anglicized name form: Aberafon—Aberavon, Blaenau—Blaina, Caerffili—Caerphilly, Caerdydd—Cardiff, Pont-y-Pŵl—Pontypool.
- (B) Welsh only: Aber-Craf, Amlwch, Bedwas, Dowlais, Rhondda, Penarth.
- (C) English only: Broughton, Caldicot, Holt, Queensferry, Shotton.
- (D) English > Welsh: Ammanford—Rhydaman, Buckley—Bwcle, Gresford—Gresffordd, Hope—Yr Hôb, Overton—Owrbyn, Wrexham—Wrecsam.
- (E) Unrelated names: Brecon—Aberhonddu, Knighton—Trefynlo, Swansea—Abertawe, Chepstow—Cas-gwent, Fishguard—Abergwaun.

As summarized here, the evidence is somewhat misleading because the various categories do not, in reality, carry the same weight. As is to

be expected, categories A and B are the most common. Phonological adaptation, however, does not only occur when Welsh names are Anglicized (Aberdyfi > Aberdovey, etc.) but also when a much smaller number of English names passes into Welsh, as in category D (Overton > Owrtyn, etc.). Instructive is the large number of unrelated names in category E, like Swansea and Abertawe. Not every actual example fits neatly into the perceived patterns; for instance, an original Welsh Aber-Mawdd has become Barmouth (via Abermouth) in English and Y Bermo in Welsh. Similarly, Cardiff is not a straightforward Anglicization of Welsh Caerdydd but derives from an earlier form Caer-Dyf (Kairdif 1106) before the colloquial alternation of Welsh *-f* and *-dd* had its effect on the name. Several of the unconnected Welsh names add further examples to the list of compounds containing the most common Welsh toponymic generics encountered in the dictionary: *aber* 'river-mouth', *caer* 'fort', *llan* 'church' and *tre* 'farm'.

For readers not familiar with the linguistic situation in Wales, the author, in the Introduction, provides useful, brief discussions of such topics as "Place-names and history," "Place-names and the landscape," "The study of place-names," and, very importantly, "Place-names and the Welsh language." He also includes a short bibliography and an index of about 350 names referred to under other entries. The total number of Welsh place names to which some kind of reference is made in Hywel Wyn Owen's *Pocket Guide* is therefore almost 600, an excellent introduction to a subject on which the curious enquirer has so far lacked reliable guidance.

#### References

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*Ahnen und Heilige: Namengebung in der europäischen Geschichte (Ancestors and Saints: Naming in European History)*. By Michael Mitterauer. Munich: C.H. Beck, 1993. Pp. 516.

It is easy to overlook the fundamental significance of this book for the study of personal names, for it is only its subtitle that alerts us to its essential theme and broader purpose. Once we recognize its basic intentions, however, we realize that we have happened upon one of those remarkable books which is an illuminating guide to the very core of European cultural history. It is gratifying to see how careful examination of the naming processes and of their products, (personal) names, has allowed the author, professor of social history in the University of Vienna, to paint a picture which is at once specific in detail and general in its conclusions and to present a very satisfying account of the origins and development of patterns and systems in personal naming in Europe. While genealogical considerations are unavoidably clamoring to be taken into account, Mitterauer's onomato-centric approach makes it possible for him, indeed forces him, to cast his net more widely and to include social dimensions of family structure as well as concerns of historical anthropology.

In a sense, this is a book about dramatic changes in naming practices and expectations, a process for which the first half dozen chapters prepare the reader through detailed descriptions and analyses of Jewish, Greek, Roman, early Christian, Byzantine, and pre-medieval religious naming traditions. These six "preparatory" chapters (all of which are rich in substance and detail, deserving much fuller attention than they can be given here) guide the reader to the seventh, which concentrates on the origins and development of the traditional European system of naming, highlighting the phenomenon of what Mitterauer terms the great "Name Decrease" (*Namenschwund*), both in numbers and variety. This process is primarily due to a preference in Europe for saints' names as models, even though the direct connection with particular saints has diminished, since the high Middle Ages. Mitterauer points out, however, that it would be simplistic to assume that this is the only cause for the reduction in the name inventory since the decrease had already started before the introduction of saints' names into naming practices. He also emphasizes the parallel development of surnames and, more essentially, the underlying fundamental changes in the structure of society, warning against any interpretation of the relevant onomastic

phenomena as mere "fashion." It is also helpful to remember that saints' names can become the names of aristocratic bearers or of epic heroes, sometimes with all three connotations in one person, and can, if inherited, turn into models as names of ancestors. As early as the fourteenth century, because of concentration on aristocratic names like William and Richard, and saints' names such as John and Thomas, the process of limited name choices shows considerable intensity. Imitative naming has not been restricted to these name categories, however, but also included as models to be honored or at least acknowledged by the names of feudal superiors, martyrs, inspirational members of monastic orders, royalty, godparents, relatives, etc. From this listing alone, and there are other groups of names that might have been mentioned, it becomes clear that the author's reluctance to divide the inventory categorically into names of religious and secular origin is fully justified.

While this central chapter is built around the concept of imitative naming, of the use of models as the main motivating factor in the history of European monastic practices, it is followed by a coda or postlude in which the author outlines the principles of contemporary naming which has, in many respects, moved away from the well-established traditions and displays new, sometimes adventurous attitudes. In the last hundred years or so, these new motivations appear to have considerably decreased the instances in which children are named after their parents or after other family members, a development for which the author provides statistical underpinning. A much more liberal approach to the act of naming has opened up the canon of hereditary names and has for a variety of other considerations been allowed to influence the process of choosing a name for one's child.

It is with great regret that I end this brief review with a sense of failure, for *Ahnen und Heilige* cannot be summarized, abstracted, or properly evaluated without a detailed presentation and discussion of the wealth of evidence which has made it possible for the author to portray diachronically, in a series of synchronic sketches, the cultural history of a continent, in the course of an investigation at the center of which are the names of persons, of namers and those named, as individuals and as social beings. The book, one might say, is a celebration of onomastic scholarship at its most effective and searching.

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