Reviews

Place Names: How They Define the World—and More. By Richard R. Randall. Scarecrow Press, Inc., 4720 Boston Way, Lanham MD 20706. 2001. Pp. vii-203. $25.00.

Richard Randall has written a very valuable and readable review about international toponymy, and about how the United States has not only contributed to the development of policies, practices and procedures at the international level, but has also implemented those requirements within the United States. It is a worthy addition to both public libraries and personal book collections with an emphasis on place name study.

Randall and I had parallel careers as professional geographers and as executive secretaries of our respective federal place name offices. We also shared the responsibility of representing the United States-Canada Division at the biennial meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) from 1973 to 1987. From 1973 to 1993 Randall was the principal United States delegate at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. He was a persuasive communicator and always represented the United States with distinction.

Randall has organized his observations and reflections into six parts, twenty chapters, and ten appendixes, followed by sources cited, useful published sources and a five-page index.

The first three chapters of Part I relate to the nature of place names, and the types of names that the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) deals with: physical and administrative names are reviewed (road, bridge, building, dam, reservoir, farm, and park names are among features not treated by the BGN). Randall draws attention to the major requirement of the map designer or cartographer to place type representing the extent of a feature, but does not state that the actual areal extent should be determined by the names authority. Only a single page is devoted to the origins of names, a subject of much interest to professional toponymists. He notes in the second chapter that the areal extent of many regions is usually indefinite, while their names are often basic ingredients of communication. In the third chapter he emphasizes that "no matter how detailed or simple, a map cannot adequately identify features without places names" (18).

In Part II, Randall explores in two chapters the ways that place names affect people. Chapter 4 provides numerous examples of how place names enhance communications in all aspects of life, and chapter 5 investigates place names used in literature, music, paintings and photography.

The two chapters of Part III explore the difficulty of knowing where places are located, understanding name changing, deciding what to do when there is more than one name for the same feature, and comprehending the complexity of languages around the world. Randall notes that some writing systems of minority languages produce complicated spellings, resulting in names that "may satisfy language needs of local populations and be linguistically suitable, but it is unlikely they convey information to people elsewhere" (p. 66).

Part IV and its five chapters are dedicated to "Efforts to End Confusion." They comprise 50 pages, a quarter of the book. Chapter 8 reports on the founding of the BGN in 1890, and its subsequent evolution through the twentieth century. Randall states that the "United States and Canada have a joint committee whose goal is to eliminate any different names of rivers or other features common to both countries" (77). Elimination is not the goal. It is awareness and mutual respect of different histories and cultures. He has additional comments on transboundary names in chapter 19 (142), which better reflect the awareness and the differences between the two countries.

Chapter 9 is devoted to the first U.N. conference in 1967, the resolutions from that conference and from the succeeding conferences held at five-year intervals. The eighth conference is being convened in Berlin in August-September 2002.

Randall explains that UNGEGN is comprised of experts from divisions consisting of countries having common languages or geographic contiguity. It meets every second year to implement the U.N. resolutions and to evaluate progress in their implementation. For linguistic and political reasons the original 14 divisions have been expanded to 22. Countries may belong to more than one division.

From his experienced vantage point, Randall urges UNGEGN to set up two groups to review the U.N. programs, with one comprising qualified toponymists and competent cartographers assessing the background and purpose of U.N. programs, and the second with private

citizens and user groups objectively looking at the issues and the means of resolving them.

Chapter 10 is devoted to the many toponymic and political problems relating to naming on the sea floor, in Antarctica and on extraterrestrial bodies.

Randall points out in Chapter 11 that

> while some terms and definitions may have varying interpretations from country to country, certainly there is concurrence as to the importance of a dictionary of terms. Clearly, additional work is required to develop a library of consistent nomenclature. It is not at all whimsical to call for standardization in this field. (105)

After 35 years of study, UNGEGN is a long way from achieving consistency in the definitions of toponymic terminology, with two or more definitions of several terms appearing in U.N. and UNGEGN documents and in other sources.

In Chapter 12 Randall provides clear explanations of the words translation, transliteration, transcription and romanization, which are used for the conversion of names from one writing system to another. He touches briefly on the subject of pronunciation of names. The BGN has concluded that particular pronunciations cannot be standardized. There have been no resolutions on pronunciation of names passed at a U.N. conference.

The production and utility of gazetteers in both paper and digital formats comprise Chapter 13. Randall points out that "A gazetteer is a list of place names of a specified area in alphabetical order with latitude and longitude for each named feature." Of course, that is what a BGN gazetteer has become since World War II, with it needing only that specific information. However, there are other types of gazetteers that provide much more useful details about places. The BGN's gazetteers and those of many other names authorities are only cartographically oriented, and omit much of the toponymic and historic contexts prized by many users.

Part V has five short chapters concerned with the impact of U.S. and international names programs since the 1950s. In Chapter 14, Randall contrasts the consistent accuracy of BGN information in the Cold War years with the intentional falsifying of names and cartography by the Soviet Union. Chapter 15 emphasizes the essential requirement

of the U.S. Department of State to have accurate and reliable toponymic information. Chapters 16 and 17 draw attention to the importance of top quality toponymic information to the Central Intelligence Agency, other American agencies involved in collecting international intelligence, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Chapter 18 highlights the vast changes in the past ten years, as the effects of the Cold War dissolved, and political tensions relaxed to the point where formerly hostile nations readily share information on accurate place names and maps.

Part VI's two chapters involve the problems that names authorities encounter, such as settling disputes at home and abroad, and resolving problems relating to unusual and unacceptable names.

The 10 appendices provide details on common words derived from place names: the names of independent states of the world; the structure and functions of the BGN: selections from BGN gazetteers of undersea features and Antarctic names; examples of conventional names abroad; selections from the BGN digital gazetteer of Austria; examples of BGN and official Russian transliterations of names from Russian Cyrillic to Roman script; the romanization of Serbo-Croatian Cyrillic; how to access information about U.S. domestic and foreign names; and a list of other sources where one may obtain information on place names.

Randall set out to write a book in a popular style rather than one with a more academic nature, but he has really chosen the impersonal style reflected in the mountain of U.N. papers and reports that delegates are forced to scale at conferences and UNGEGN meetings. In the 48 pages of the chapters dealing with the United Nations and terminology, not a single individual is mentioned in the body of the texts. Here would have been the opportunity to reward the efforts of Meredith "Pete" Burrill, H. A. G. "Bunny" Lewis, Anatoli Komkov, Josef Breu, Eeva Närhi, Rolf Böhme, Francis Gall, Naftali Kadmon, Abdelhadi Tazi, José Gonzalez Aboín, Allan Rostvik, Helen Kerfoot, Peter Raper, Henri Dorion, Dirk Blok, and a host of others. There were several memorable events that took place at those conferences and UNGEGN meetings; their stories deserve retelling.

Perhaps I am revealing my distant Scottish roots when I draw attention to the 20 blank pages throughout the book, mostly to accommodate editors who insist on chapters always beginning on the right hand page. As well, there is a lot of white space elsewhere, an example being

Randall's 15 examples of conventional names in Appendix E, when there is space on page 178 for up to 30 more entries.

It is rather disconcerting to observe that there is not a single illustration, map, or photograph in the book. A map on page 13 could have better identified the region known as the Midwest than a verbal description of it. Photographs of road signs displaying more than one writing system could have visually presented some of the problems inherent in dealing with names.

Finally, Randall should have allowed another toponymic specialist with experience at U.N. and BGN meetings to scan his text so that the many errors in spelling and factual information could have been eliminated.

These criticisms aside, Randall's *Place Names* deserves much praise, and the nation that "leads the world in names programs" (xv) has reason to be justly proud of his sterling efforts in producing it.

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Names in English Renaissance Literature. By Dorothy E. Litt. Studies in Onomastics, Vol. 5. 2001. Edwin Mellen Press. Box 450. Lewiston, N.Y. 14092-0450. Pp. [viii], 219. $85.95.

The eighteen essays in this volume cover a wide range of topics in the area of its title. Here are discussions of names of dances, of subscriptions to letters, place names in literature, specific names in Shakespeare and elsewhere, including Essex, Romeo, Raleigh, Queen Elizabeth, and many more, of namelessness and paired or linked names in Renaissance drama, various kinds of plays on names ("nominal jests") in literature generally, graffiti both outside literature and within it, and much, much more. Every page reflects the passion some of us share for names in literature. Those of us specifically interested in the English Renaissance will find here general observations, preoccupations, and particular suggestions that will reflect our own thoughts, sometimes half formed, and inspire us to more. It's a pleasure, if a little disconcerting,

to find oneself in the presence of someone who shares one's own obsession and, apparently, to the same degree.

These pieces represent over thirty years of Litt's interest in onomastics, though they cluster about the early nineties. Almost all have been presented at one conference or another, it seems, and twelve are listed as having been published before, mostly in proceedings volumes. The author, I gather, is well known to long-time attenders of conferences on names. (Wayne H. Finke supplies a preface.) For the most part, the essays reflect their origins in talks. They look to be of the length to be delivered in a 15-20 minute period, deal with their topics therefore neither extensively nor in great depth, and otherwise give the impression of being works in progress: "I am still feeling my way toward some of my conclusions" (72). Litt properly recognizes that she's dealing with a large subject, one on which major work is yet to be done. "What is needed is a committed [and] systematic approach to Shakespearean name-study, a more comprehensive direction" (74). Notes are provided for many essays and documentation for all.

Most interesting, I find, are details here and there that are new to me. That *Romeo and Juliet* has been called a "tragedy of naming" (65), for example, and that in *Macbeth* Shakespeare plays not only on *Banquo-banquet,* which we all recognize, and *Fleance-flees* (not mentioned here), but also on *ghost-guest* in the banquet scene. I have not given enough thought to graffiti in the period, I realize; I'll note especially the rebus left by the four Dudley brothers in the Tower as discussed by Litt in order to satisfy myself that her explanation is correct. Chapter XVIII, in my judgment, on various forms of nominal jesting (anagrams, rebuses, acrostics, epitaphs, riddles, and so on) is one of the best. I also liked the chapter on subscriptions in familiar letters of the period (XII), that which immediately precedes and introduces the signature below, though it has little directly to do with names. (My old acquaintance signed his letters "Yours without dissimulation.") For that matter, the essays on *Volpone* and "The Idea of the Wilderness" seem not to me to be on names, or not enough so.

I was pleased to profit from the discussion of the whimsical person known as "Nobody" (161), the examples given there being fresh to me. The sign of the bookseller John Trundle, it might be added, had on it a

picture of Nobody, to which there may be an allusion in *The Tempest.* To the discussion of the rebus on John Harington's name–the *hare, ring,* and *tun* in the poem and drawing (195)–should be added the fact that "grace of God," also in the poem, is a translation of his given name *John,* according to Elizabeth Story Donno in Litt's source (204). The chapter on Romeo might have taken on a different resonance if it had included the possibility that "Montague" may allude to the family of Shakespeare's close friend Southampton, the Montagues or Montacutes (as it was sometimes pronounced and spelled). And surely the "Hurlo Thrumbo" given as the author of *Merry-Thought* (108), which is not dated here, can be suspected of being a pseudonym, the scrambled letters of the real author's name, and thus part of our story. Anyone interested in names will pick up items here or there that should have been on their own lists for study. I'm grateful for references to John N. Carroll, Deborah T. Curren-Aquino, and Gareth Evans (80).

It must be said, alas, that this book should have had a serious proofreading. Time and again commas are wildly misused, as though there's a finger dragging on the keyboard: "The, unsuspecting Volpone . . . " (85). Other typos abound: "the function of illeism [?] in Shakespeare's early plays" (76). Spacing and fonts have not been managed accurately. Several different styles appear to have been used in the "Works Consulted" lists, and many entries give incomplete or misleading information. No two references to *Shakespeare's England*, Herford and Simpson's edition of Jonson, or McKerrow's edition of *Nashe* are the same. There is no evidence in the index of the reference to me on page 196.

But such are cavils when one is permitted to be for so full and happy an occasion in the presence of a lover of names and of a student of how they were used and misused in the English Renaissance. ("Just what I think myself, said Pooh.") When a comprehensive study of names in the period is written, it will tip its hat in the direction of Litt's book.

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Family Names and Family History. By David Hey. London & New York: Hambleton and London. Pp. xiv-240. $24.95.

"Guessing the meaning of a surname," says David Hey (University of Sheffield), "is a dangerous game to play." He and his students have been tracing genealogies and attempting to locate the origins and concentrations of "stable hereditary surnames," as well as to delve into the meaning of surnames in Britain. This is not easy even when the surname derives from a place; one has to take into account the various spellings both of toponyms and personal names over the centuries, and local dialects (often affecting spelling). There are surnames spread all over the United Kingdom and termed here common surnames (found in 20-29 counties), regional names (10-19 counties), district names (4-9 counties), names found only in a few counties, and names found mostly only in one county. Some surnames originated with a single family or in a single place, while others (though clearly locative) are shared by families not all related. There are at least half a dozen places named Ashley, for instance, in Britain, from any one of which Ashleys may come, not to mention that name-changing, perhaps not as common in Britain as in America, at least in the case of English names, does occur. Ashley has been adopted as a surname (as well as being frequently used these days as a forename, which can to some extent also suggest some kind of family connection) when there is no connection. There is only one Denver (where the Danes came in) and only one Alsop (Alsop-en-le-Dale, on the border of Derbyshire and Staffordshire). Even "unique" names have an average of 3.7 to 4.3 bearers of the name unless (I suppose) someone has not created an absolutely singular name by name change and remained single.

Hey and colleagues rely not only on official records of vital statistics, hearth tax rolls, and so on, but also on telephone books. Using telephone books, I have often remarked, is decidedly not a really good way to do onomastic research. Many people do not have a telephone, although telephones are more common in Britain than in most countries. Some are by choice not listed, which the British call "ex-directory," and some of the names—and this is seldom admitted by researchers—are deliberately false, a way of being in the book for those in the know and

not having to pay extra to be inaccessible to other potential callers. On top of this, in Britain the largest "directory" contains 50 times as many names as the smallest, so dealing with statistics requires elaborate manipulation. The *UK Telephone Directory CD* is not the be-all and end-all of British surname sources. Not even Reaney and Wilson's *A Dictionary of English Surnames* (revised 1997) or Hanks and Hodges' *A Dictionary of Surnames* (1988) can serve as your singular source of reliable information.

Whether you just want to learn that Yapp is Anglo-Saxon for 'bent' (not 'mouth') or that Ambler (as with detective story writer Eric Ambler) can be either a nickname for one who ambled or an occupation for one who did enameling, there is plenty of information here besides how many of what name might be found in any individual British county. There are many names, from the earliest times to the present, long native and more recently brought in by immigrants ranging from Huguenots to Pakistanis. Hey is far from up to date on what now constitutes a "British name." He does not, for example, have Singh. There have been significant incursions since William the Conqueror and recent ones may have changed Britain far more fundamentally than did the Norman Invasion.

C. W. Bardsley (*English Surnames*, 1873) wrote that William the Conqueror must have "had an easy time of it. It is clear that he had only a handful of opponents to meet," if we are to believe all the claims of Britons to Norman descent. Actually, the number of Normans who arrived in 1066 and soon after was only about 5% of the local population at the time. But, as Tennyson claimed, "Kind hearts are more than coronets,/ And simple faith than Norman blood."

The original Britons, the Welsh, share a number of the top 20 surnames of the British Isles (including Jones which is common in Wales along with Evans 'son of John', Williams, Davies, Thomas, and Roberts) while Lewis was often substituted for Llewelyn and Edwards for Iowerth. Bevan is from ap Evan 'son of Evan' and Prosser is a Welsh name from ap Rosser 'son of Roger' and the same explanation holds for names such as Pritchett 'son of Richard' and Price 'son of Rhys'. The Welsh contribution to the present stock of English names has been considerable.

Surnames enable Hey to speak authoritatively about where Scots went to settle in England during the Industrial Revolution, although by concentrating on death records of 1842-1846 he cannot, of course, say much about the eras in which the Scots moved south in perhaps the greatest numbers. When speaking of growing numbers of these or any other elements of the population, of course, one has to take into account not only immigration but earlier marriages and later deaths, increase in family size, etc., not to mention that at some times it was far more attractive for (say) the Scots or the Cornish or some others to take off not for Lancashire or London but for Australia, Canada, the United States, and so on.

Hey's studies have enabled him to plot surname concentrations of those who stayed in Britain as well as to explain how names were adopted and transformed as they were handed down from generation to generation (Grenville, Greenfield, Grenfell) or moved from place to place (Norman Bohun to English Bone or Boone, etc.). He does not do enough with hyphenated surnames (Douglas-Scott-Montague and even fancier combinations) or surnames used in pairs without a hyphen (Ashley Cooper).

Some unusual surname creations are illustrated, not only the odd ones derived from nicknames—and I shall spare you a list of "funny names," though many readers may search for them in this fact-packed book—but such as Sackville-West (known from Virginia Woolf's girlfriend), created when George West married into the prestigious Sackville family of Knole (descended from the Norman Sauquevilles). Sometimes a man might take his mother's surname rather than his father's (as when one son of Lettice de Moreton of Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire called himself de Moreton rather than de Lostock).

Hey's book is much more detailed, of course, than Patrick Hanks' article, "The Present-Day Distribution of Surnames in the British Isles" which appeared in *Nomina* in 1993 and will be of great interest to onomasts and genealogists.

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Slovník pomístních jmen v Čechách, úvodní svazek. (Dictionary of microtoponyms in Bohemia, introductory volume.) By Libuše Olivová-Nezbedová and Jitka Malenínská. [Praha:] Academia. 2000.

In the early 60s of the last century, the late Professor Vladimír Šmilauer (Caroline University, Prague) initiated work on a collection of microtoponyms and (other) anoeconyms (such as fields, forests, meadows, paths, ways, hills, bodies of water) in Bohemia. The present collection contains some 500,000 entries of such names. A detailed history of all the successes and vicissitudes of the project (the latter mostly caused by the topsy-turvy politics of the epoch) is offered in the book under review (21 ff).

The large-scale collecting of material for this project was completed in the early 1980s. Unfortunately, in the same decade the project received a blow which was intended to be fatal: all work on it was stopped by the order of a new director. However, this decade still saw the disappearance of such obscurantism, and therefore the project soon started delivering a good harvest.

The first pertinent publication was Libuše Olivová-Nezbedová and Jana Matúšová, *Index lexikálních jednotek pomístních jmen v Čechách* [Index of the lexical units occurring in microtoponyms in Bohemia], Praha, 1991. The book was reviewed in *Names* 40: 155-158 (1992).

The second pertinent publication was Libuše Olivová-Nezbedová, Miloslava Knappová, Jitka Malenínská, and Jana Matúšová, *Pomístní jména v Čechách; čem vypovídají jména polí, luk, lesů, hor, vod a cest* [The anoeconyms in Bohemia; or, what the names of fields, meadows, forests, mountains, bodies of water, and roads tell us]. Praha: (Academia) 1995. The book was reviewed in *Names* 46: 57-63 (1998).

The first volume (1991) gave us an inventory of the lexis occurring in microtoponyms, and the second (1995) surveyed their most important semantic features. The present book is, then, the third in the series of preparatory publications; it zeroes in on the formal distribution of various types of information in the final dictionary, both in its printed and electronic forms. Nothing is forgotten, it seems to me: there is, e.g., the indication of the standard and the non-standard form, an analysis of its structure (prepositional or non-prepositional phrases, derivational suffixes, etc.), its origin, i.e., etymology and, if possible, motivation (aetiology), frequency of occurrence, and localization.

The last category of information deserves a remark. It has been more or less traditional in Czech toponymy, particularly after the earlier publications of Prof. Šmilauer, to localize the microtoponyms by the court districts in which the respective objects are found, and within the districts by relation to the seat of the court. The advantage of this system was that the court districts were smaller than the administrative, or political, counties or districts. However, these court districts were abolished more than half a century ago. The editors rectify this situation by inserting a large number of map sketches of the former court districts into the text. Indeed, the 65 printed pages of text contain 35 pages of identical map sketches. This bounty saves the reader much time and trouble. However, if the same ratio of text to maps obtains in the final edition, some 1000 pages of printed text will contain about 550 pages of map sketches. This ratio would be extremely user-friendly, but costly to the publisher. I hope the editors will succeed in keeping this ratio as favorable to the reader as possible.

One last remark on this is the following: any idea that the localization of microtopoyms could be based on the present administrative districts, or counties, would lead to disaster; the re-doing of all the geographical indications would take so many *years* that the present-day districts would certainly be abolished in the meantime. (While this was being printed, I have learned that the administrative districts will be abolished.)

This discussion of the contents and structure of the entries is condensed in a German abstract (51-58), followed by examples of individual entries, mostly those whose first letter is *a-* or *b-* (59-124). The rest of the book contains several *very* rich bibliographies on the subject. The item "J.K. Pauly, Křestní jména a křestní patronové. Praha." (157) will need the indication of the rest of the bibliographic information. Other (not numerous) omissions of this type will be emended in the final edition, I trust. For example, on 102 it is not clear what the source of the quotation concerning *Bublavka* is. On 95, there is a cross-reference to *Bohdal*, but this item is not included in the present volume.

Finally, the editors will have to determine what they consider to be microtoponyms. The traditional (somewhat vague) understanding is that microtoponyms are smaller objects in the terrain, usually not inhabited

but frequently used by people; the English term "microtoponym" and the German term "Flurname" reflect this understanding.

However, the second of the three preliminary dictionaries (1995) adds to this inventory also the names of mountains and bodies of water. This understanding is reflected by the term "anoeconym." I hope the editors will keep the traditional, more restrictive, understanding; for instance, the name of a game preserve or of an orchard usually offers both problems and information different from those offered by the names of rivers such as *Jizera* in Bohemia, *Isère* in France and sim.

Let us hope this toponymical dictionary will be finished as soon as possible.

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African Muslim Names: Images and Identities. By Sharifa M. Zawawi. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, Inc. 1998. Pp. xviii + 186. $18.95.

Sharifa M. Zawawi has produced a highly informative description of African Muslim personal names, useful not only for people of African descent but for anyone who wishes to know more about names in the Islamic tradition. This very accessible volume provides a large body of historical, social and religious information for anyone interested in learning more about the African Muslim tradition and Islam. The author's outline of linguistics and culture considers not only African Muslim naming practices but also demonstrates that shared naming practices provide the foundation for a significant bond of identity among many people of African descent and Muslim heritage. The volume adds to our understanding of how given names construct social meaning and how individual and community identity is maintained through names and naming.

A short but informative introduction is followed—in Part One—by seven concise chapters, each of which describes a basic aspect of

naming in the African Muslim tradition. Part two consists of four lists of first names characteristic of two major language groups in Africa, Hausa-Fulani (male and female), and Swahili (male and female).

In the introduction Zawawi makes clear that she is attempting to fill a gap in the literature that claims to cover Muslim names. She seeks to describe more fully the significance of names in use by African Muslims as well as those adopted by people of African descent living elsewhere. In her first book on African names, *What's In a Name? Unaitwaje? A Swahili Book of Names* (1993), Zawawi noted that the peoples living across Africa regularly bear names that are of religious or cultural significance. Of course, names taken by Muslims are most often of Arabic origin and are adapted to the structure of the local African languages. They are in widespread use among the African peoples living in areas where Islam has been practiced for centuries.

Zawawi provides detailed notes and references to the contributions of other scholars who have conducted studies on African culture and civilization. She stresses the importance of naming as social practice and the central role it plays in establishing and maintaining African identity. As Zawawi says, "African Muslim names are derived from words that have their context in a language and time, are meaningful and are chosen with great care and affection" (xvii). Zawawi does not discuss, however, the extent to which non-Muslim Africans may (knowingly or unknowingly) adopt Muslim or non-Muslim names of Arabic origin.

Chapter One, "What's in a Muslim Name?," establishes the Islamic context in which African Muslim names are best understood. Zawawi reviews the principal tenets of Islam and provides quotations from the Qur'aan to show connections between the practice of Islam and the practice of naming. Muslim and non-Muslim readers alike will appreciate this and succeeding brief sections describing the spread of Islam to Africa, the linguistic and cultural influences of Islam on African communities and the nature of Swahili and Hausa-Fulani societies. Islam and the naming practices of its believers connect peoples of East and West Africa. Accordingly, identities converge and cultural lines are joined where names and meanings of names are shared in Islam. Zawawi makes it clear that shared cross-cultural practices are the norm in East and West Africa where Arab, African, and Muslim communities and cultures

have mixed for more than a thousand years. Hausa-Fulani and Kiswahili, lingua francas in West and East Africa, respectively, provide extensive evidence of lexical influence that flows from regular contact with Arabic, a language of not only great commercial importance, but deep religious and socio-cultural significance as well.

Chapter Two, "Names and Naming," succinctly describes the key mechanisms of naming: how names are chosen and given; traditional name-related rituals and ceremonies; the necessary connection of a name and one's reputation; and forms of address. "[Rituals] reflect the easy alliance of Islam and local African customs and traditions, handed down through the ages" (15). One such ritual for a baby born Swahili Muslim is performed on the day of its birth when a kinsman whispers in its ear "*Allahu Akbar*" 'God is great'. On the same day a crushed date may be rubbed on the baby's palate to accustom it to eating. Zawawi refers to this practice as *taHniiq* (14), but this is surely a misprint for *taHniik*. *TaHniiq* is derived from *Haniqa,* meaning 'angry, furious', while *taHniik* is from *Hanaka* 'to make experienced, worldly-wise' and is related to *Hanak* 'palate' (Wehr 1976, 210). The ritual is a mix of Arabic language, Arab, and African tradition and is commonly accepted and understood as an Islamic religious practice.

Citing the Qur'aan, Zawawi devotes the third chapter, "Muslim Names" to showing in detail the significance of names in Islam and to enumerating those which are most directly connected with God. The passages cited demonstrate that these names are just as significant to Muslims of African Muslim tradition as they are to devout Muslims elsewhere. In rapid succession she summarizes the beliefs and practices that lead to the most appropriate ways to name, according to Islamic teaching. These include the proscription of bad or abusive names, the tradition of *besmallah* (calling upon God), and the appropriate use of the name *Allah* itself, including its derivations. She lists each of the 99 beautiful names of God (the attributes of God), such as *Al-raHman* (m), *RaHma* (f) 'the compassionate', and *Al-malik* (m), *Malika* (f) 'the king, the queen'.

The third chapter also includes names derived from or connected with worshipping God, such as *Badruddiin* 'the crescent of the faith'; names of the prophets, with both Muslim and Biblical forms; 31 names

attributed to Muhammad, such as *Sayyid* 'master'; revered names of the Prophet's family, such as his daughters Zaynab and FaaTima; names derived from verses in the Qur'aan and from the Islamic calendar, such as *Mu'min* 'believer' and *Nahaar* 'daytime', respectively. Zawawi's presentation of names that are traditionally and universally respected in Islam serves well those readers who seek appropriate Muslim names. These readers may also wish to consider advice given in other authoritative publications such as Ahmed (1999) and Hakeem (1997).

Chapter Four, "Arabic Muslim Names," considers names which are widely accepted but which are not necessarily religious names. Zawawi lists more than 300 such names, most of which refer to natural and environmental features, such as *Bahraam* (m) 'Mars', *Qamar* (m) 'full moon', *Najma* (f) 'star', *Azhaar* (f) 'flowers', *Ghazaal* (m) ~ *Ghazaala* (f) 'antelope, attractive'. While some of these names may be only of borderline acceptability to many Muslims, there is little doubt that history, custom, and tradition contribute to their favored status. In the great expanse of Africa, acceptable names are not always of recognizable religious significance. As Zawawi points out, "Underlying concepts we see today as secular once had religious significance in pre-Islamic times" (62).

Chapter Five, "Roots and Derivations," affords readers insights into the morphological patterns and affixation processes associated with Arabic verbs and nouns. Zawawi lists examples of masculine and feminine variants and discusses comparative, diminutive, and alternative spelling forms. These processes make it possible to select a name so that desired traits as well as appropriate gender can be attributed to the named. Zawawi lists more than 400 masculine and feminine names that follow these morphological patterns and associate praiseworthy attributes with the named person; *Hamiid* ~ *Hamiida* 'grateful, goodness', for example, or *Mufiid* ~ *Mufiida* 'useful'.

Chapter Six, "Name Changes," outlines the reasons why names are changed in Muslim society, especially as a result of adoption, marriage, and immigration. Problems persist for those whose naming practices are inconsistent with the communities they join or in communities where Muslim names and practices are unwelcome, misunderstood, or even prohibited by law. Zawawi offers advice to those who feel obliged to

change their names, and provides sources of information that explain how and why one might wish to make an official name change. She recounts the histories of name changes for some African immigrants to America, and discusses the possibilities of altering names or returning to original African or African Muslim names. Names are frequently changed to seek modernity, to mark conversion to a new religion, or to respond to the new needs that a change in occupation or status may permit or even demand. Zawawi also briefly explains the emergence of new names or nicknames that alter more traditional names, especially for African Americans, as when *MaHboob* becomes *Bob,* and *Fatma* becomes *Fatu*.

Chapter Seven, "African Names and Meanings," is a linguistic description of African Muslim names and their meanings. African names, generally considered to be of indigenous African, Muslim African, or Christian African, have undergone regular alterations as they are absorbed by speakers of different languages. Hausa-Fulani speakers, for example, will use the particle *dan* 'son of' in lieu of the Arabic equivalent *ibn* or *bin*, while Swahili speakers maintain the use of *ibn* or *bin*, as in Arabic. Zawawi describes additional features such as use of the particle *Mai* or *Ma* 'owner of', which is added to a name in Hausa-Fulani; use of chronological numbering for names, and day of birth names in both Hausa-Fulani and Swahili; the attachment of place names to personal names in Hausa-Fulani; retention of the father's name by Hausa-Fulani and Waswahili women who marry; and the presence and use of titles before and/or after personal names. *Sarauta*, the system of rank in Hausa-Fulani and similar to that used in Arabic Islamic names, is said to be rigid but found mostly in rural communities.

Part Two is an onomastic dictionary consisting of lists of Hausa-Fulani Muslim Male Names (nearly 500), Hausa-Fulani Female Names (about 150), Swahili Muslim Male Names (about 950), and Swahili Muslim Female Names (nearly 500). Zawawi explains that few female names were available for Hausa-Fulani since relevant telephone directories and other listings contain few women's names for a number of reasons, including the widespread practice of using patronymic family names.

One of the strengths of this book is how it demonstrates that names specific to religion can be adopted and altered by communities in ways that are consistent with the religious and cultural practices of the group. Members of a community are thus able to identify themselves as members of a religious group, and to draw upon the strengths of shared beliefs and community relations, while at the same time maintaining their own cultural and traditional practices.

This volume offers an intriguing glimpse into the mosaic of cultures and practices that characterize African communities around the world. It also demonstrates that linguistic and cultural aspects of names occur in visible and meaningful patterns. Readers interested in Arabic and Muslim names will find this work on African Muslim names helpful in understanding the nature and extent of Arabic and Islamic influence in different communities. They will not find Arabic script in the text, nor lengthy definitions or glosses for names that carry multiple meanings. Zawawi's work is scholarly yet accessible to those who seek a general understanding of African cultures and names. African Americans and others who consider African Muslim names for their children or themselves will find in *African Muslim Names* a helpful guide as they look for meaningful and respectful personal names. The book makes a valuable addition to the library of names in Africa.

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The Lurline H. Coltharp Collection of Onomastics, housed at the University of Texas at El Paso library, is one of the world's premier collections of onomastics and related materials. The collection includes items on all areas of onomastics and is especially strong on onomastics in the Americas.

The collection was inspired and originally endowed by Lurline H. Coltharp, a past president of the American Name Society and a long time professor of Linguistics and English at the University of Texas, El Paso. Her special interest was names in Latin America.

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