

Due to technical difficulties during the printing process, this review was not complete in the December 2006 issue of NAMES. Therefore, we are reprinting it here again.

International Glossary of Placename Elements. By Joel F. Mann. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press. 2005. Pp. xxii + 189. \$65.00. 7x10 inches. ISBN 0810850400.

The title of Joel Mann's new volume accurately conveys the sort of database he has created. This book is essentially an alphabetically arranged, multilingual morphological dictionary of toponyms worldwide. As such, it is a step toward addressing an outstanding need for crosslinguistic surveys of placenames, which will facilitate generalizations about how these names tend to be constructed. This area of research, in my view as a linguist, stands to add to the growing body of literature on language universals in potentially exciting ways. Given the customary assignment of onomastics to a peripheral status in linguistics, a great deal of most languages' morphosyntax has hitherto been excluded from grammatical analyses. (The exception that confirms this generalization is the literature on hypocoristics—which are taken as marginal, exotic formations, studies on which are typically published in isolation rather than integrated into holistic grammatical treatments. Cf. Mattina and Jack 1992; Bat-El 2005.)

It should be noted that Mann's intent as an "admitted layman" is not quite as analytical as this (1). In fact an even more accurate title for this book might have included the word "Etymological." His interest is primarily in showing the vast range of *meanings* used in placenames, in some ways mirroring the approach taken in popular baby-name books. That is, he presents a voluminous list of the etymological forms underlying toponyms. Awareness of its etymological nature is key to any appropriate use of this book. Because the book is arranged only by etymological forms (with English

meanings given), the user must proceed from Mann's suggestion of "How to Use This Book" (4):

[Y]our best approach is to break the name into syllables and start from there. . . . [¶] Beware of making unwarranted assumptions: placenames ending in 'ston' could be derived from 'stan', 'tun', or 'dun', three completely different words. . . . [¶] Remember, also, that the sound of a placename is often more important than the spelling.

For example, then, given the name *Asbestos* (a place in Quebec), the reader might search for an initial syllable *as-*. There are indeed entries for this form: they mean 'small hill, ridge', 'to dry, to burn', and 'ridge' in, respectively, Icelandic, Indo-European [sic], and Norwegian. The problem is that one ought to have looked under the entry *a-* 'not' [in Greek]. Thus, readers are well advised to proceed *letter by letter* rather than syllabically in seeking out the relevant etymology for a given name found on a map.

Flexibility with regard to syllabification will not suffice, however. Users must in many cases make just the seemingly "unwarranted" leaps of intuition against which Mann counsels. To continue with *Asbestos*, the reader who is not drawn into the *as-* analysis (which leads sensibly to *Bes* 'the goddess Bes' [Egyptian]!) will find *sbennynai* 'to quench' [Greek] to be the best match. It is not past doubt that the many readers untrained in Greek morphology will find this form an implausible match for *sbestos*, leading some perhaps to resyllabify again. (Perhaps this will lead to the conclusion that the Quebec town was somehow named for *Asbjorn* 'a male personal name' [Scandinavian]).

In most cases, only a single example is provided for a placename containing a given etymological element. Additional examples would have been most welcomed, since, as Mann implies, a given etymological source can surface in a variety of spellings (4). For example, *Tacoma* (in Washington

state) is also often found as *Tahoma*, and *Schkague* (in Alaska) is now normatively *Skagway*, yet the latter form in each case goes unmentioned here.

Similarly, cross-referencing to those alternate forms which are included here would have made this material more illuminating. For example, *san*, *sankt*, *sans*, *santa*, *santo*, *sao* [sic], and *sint*—not to mention *sveti*—are isolated from each other despite their common origin and meaning, ‘saint’ or ‘holy.’ *Seminole* and *Siminole* appear separately and are given completely different definitions.

Cross-references would have benefited not only the glossary but the language list, where the entry for the Salish family lacks mention of the separately listed Clallam, Spokane and Quin(n)ault. This list also omits Lushootseed, although the glossary includes *Seattle* from that Salish language.

The lack of a reverse index, i.e., from actually encountered placenames to the meaningful elements each contains, hampers use of Mann’s commendably wide-ranging data. However, the layout of the volume is quite clear and easy to navigate. A section of brief taxonomic and geographic “Background on the Languages” included in the data set is helpfully placed at the beginning of the book, where it will surely be frequently consulted by those wanting to contextualize, e.g., names attributed to the Matabele language. An “Introduction” outlines Mann’s motivations in writing the book, and, like previous textbooks of onomastics, lists numerous notional categories of placenames. A page on “How to Use This Book” follows, as noted above. The remaining 184 pages are devoted to the glossary of placename elements.

Minor but numerous errors make it necessary to use this book with some care. Misattributions are probably the most dangerous of these. *Tacoma* is labeled Algonquian whereas it is known to be Salish, ‘permanently snow-covered mountain’ in Bates, Hess and Hilbert (1994). The name *Chinook* also should be labeled as Salish, since it is an exonym for the Chinook people to whom it is attributed here (Silverstein 1990,

544). *Sarga* is termed an Arabic name (Sergius) but should have been labeled as Greek, given the etymological impulse behind the volume. Similarly, *Nez Perce* is accurately termed a 'tribal name' but the meaning, 'pierced nose' in French, is omitted.

Typographical errors are inevitable in such a broad sampling of languages, and the editors at Scarecrow are to be commended for their work to minimize them. Those that do appear in the book are rarely going to be obvious to the nonspecialist, so some degree of caution is advisable on this score too. *Fjloi* 'bay' and *fjlot* 'river, stream' from Icelandic are errors for *flói* and *fljót* respectively (Icelandic/English Dictionary 2006). *Shahaptian*, while a spelling sometimes actually found, is very much disfavoured, *Sahaptian* being the norm.

Speaking of *Shahaptian*, this term is defined as a language, whereas it actually refers to a language *family* containing *Sahaptin* [sic] and Nez Perce. Such factual errors weaken the book's reliability for reference purposes.

All of the above issues can be easily remedied in future editions. Scarecrow Press might additionally consider offering this publication in a searchable electronic format, to speed the tedious lookup process. And the breadth of data could easily be increased by reference to more specialist literature, e.g., Palmer, Nicodemus and Felsman (1987) on Coeur d'Alene Salish as well as many items in Van Eijk's bibliography (2001) and the HNAI series (cf. Silverstein 1990). All of these provide copious toponymic data from indigenous North America.

This book will be of the greatest interest to the educated amateur, browsing out of the same historical and/or genealogical curiosity that inspired Mann to write it (189). Serious onomastic professionals who lack language-specific resources also will find this volume useful in many cases, given the sheer quantity of raw material it contains.

References

- Bat-El, Outi. 2005. "The Emergence of the Trochaic Foot in Hebrew Hypocoristics." *Phonology* 22(2): 115-143.
- Bates, Dawn, Thom Hess, and Vi Hilbert. 1994. *Lushootseed Dictionary*. Seattle: University of Washington.
- Icelandic/English Dictionary. 2006.
<http://www.zece.com/icelandic/>. 19 September 2006.
- Palmer, Gary B., Lawrence Nicodemus, and Lavinia Felsman. 1987. *Khwi'khwe hntmikhw'lumkhw: 'This is my land' / A Workbook in Coeur d'Alene Indian Geography*. Las Vegas: Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies, University of Nevada.
- Mattina, Anthony, and Clara Jack. 1992. "Okanagan-Colville Kinship Terms." *Anthropological Linguistics* 34(1-4): 117-137.
- Silverstein, Michael. 1990. "Chinookans of the Lower Columbia." In Suttles, Wayne, ed., *Northwest Coast*, 533-546. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 7. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.
- Van Eijk, Jan P. 2001. *An Annotated Bibliography of Salish Linguistics*. Ms. Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

David D. Robertson
 University of Victoria
 Victoria, BC, Canada

From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow: How Maps Name, Claim, and Inflamm. By Mark Monmonier. University of Chicago Press. 2006. Pp. xiv + 215. \$25.00. Hardcover. ISBN: 0-226-53465-0

When I first saw the title of this book, I thought "Not another one; not another uninformed list of offbeat, peculiar, titillating (surely you unexpected that!) or otherwise odd placenames." But I found to my surprise and pleasure that such was not the case.

The book was originally to be called *Fighting Words*, a much more fitting and descriptive—but admittedly less eye-catching—title than *From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow*. Through a series of case studies, Monmonier, a Distinguished Professor at Syracuse University, shows how applied toponymy, a child of the late nineteenth century, has responded to the heightened social and political sensitivities (and tensions) of the late twentieth century and how it has become in a number of crucial instances a tool if not an actual arm of governments as they seek to establish and legitimize themselves and to cartographically maintain and even spread their authority—the map as sword. Monmonier reports on a number of current, prominent controversies over placenames, especially those which are seen to be racially, ethnically, or socially offensive in the United States (especially names with *squaw*); those dealing with toponyms which are nationalistically contentious (taken from the recent histories of Cyprus and the Middle East); and the case Korea is attempting to make over the name *Sea of Japan*. Chapters on naming in Antarctica and in outer space are included presumably because the same kinds of controversies can be expected as more names are applied and as more nations jostle for position in these domains as well. Monmonier has prepared himself well and the text is replete with references to GNIS, the UNBGN, and interviews with Richard Randall, Roger Payne and others associated with U.S. and world agencies whose work deals with the adjudication, formalization, or standardization of geographic names.

Since each chapter of *FSTTWM* deals with a distinct subject and can be read independently, I will summarize them individually.

After an introductory chapter, chapter two provides an overview of map construction, printing, and distribution in the U.S., beginning with the late nineteenth century, including a summary of the history and work of GNIS and construction of the National Geographic Names Database, and a brief

history of the publication of the name lists which were originally compiled with the purpose of creating a comprehensive national gazetteer in mind.

The heart of the book begins with chapter three, "Purging Pejoratives," which recounts Monmonier's search through the GNIS database for derogatory placenames such as *Dago*, *Gringo*, and *Jew*, but especially *Squaw*, of which there are 785 occurrences, the vast majority west of the plains, with 166 in Oregon and 104 in California. Monmonier goes into considerable detail explaining both the ease with which *squaw* names can be changed, citing the Minnesota case, where only two instances remain, and the difficulty, citing the Arizona case, where there are currently 76 occurrences. He delineates many of the practical problems involved in changing these names, such as the non-availability of a ready substitute (as there was in 1963 when the BGN changed names containing *nigger* to *Negro*, and in 1974 when it changed *Jap* to *Japanese*), and the emotional and social problems involved when addressing the problem by people who have lived with these names for decades and in dealing with critics who see such changes as simply meddling with local usage or as political correctness running wild.

Monmonier then turns to "Body Parts and Risqué Toponyms," names diligently sought after by bluenose busybodies, such as *nipple*, *breast* and *tit* and that old standby *intercourse*. (*Intercourse* is so widely known that it must be ubiquitous as a placename; however, there are only two *Intercourse* clusters in the United States, the better known in Lancaster County, PA, and the lesser known in Sumter County, AL.) Monmonier refers to such naming as "verbal cussing" and includes among his examples such risqué only if you work at it names like *French Lick*, *Blue Ball*, *Bird-in-Hand*, *Dildo*, and *Bloody Dick Creek*, and the more opaque *Teton*. (Monmonier, generally meticulous in his research, errs when he claims that *Teton* is from Spanish and he misses the derivative, *Tetonia*, ID).

“Going Native” is a discussion of campaigns to restore the native names of such features as Devils Tower, Mt. McKinley, Mt. Rainier, and various features in Hawaii. In general Monmonier is evenhanded and reasonably detached in his presentation of the effects of names on maps, but here he becomes highly involved, at times too involved. His position on renaming—the restoration of aboriginal names—is clear: do it immediately and if the Domestic Names Committee is unable to act because of their policies and procedures, then Congress should step in. Anyone standing in the way of making these changes at once is, in Monmonier’s words, using “stratagems” or “ploys” or simply “meddling” (60). The Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development is accused of having a “perverse preference” for the name Mt. McKinley rather than Denali, which was endorsed by the Alaska legislature (77).

For the past several decades various agencies in South Korea have been arguing that the name *Sea of Japan* should be changed to *East Sea*. In fact last year I was invited to a conference devoted to why such a change not only made contemporary sense but was historically correct as well. In discussing this dispute Monmonier very neatly summarizes the work of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the British Permanent Committee on Geographic Names, the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and especially the role of the Foreign Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in transliterating, translating or otherwise converting from one script (or none) to another or, as is more likely to be the case, to Roman.

Chapter seven, “Erasures,” presents two case studies where one group has been forcibly evicted by another and the enforcers proceeded to cleanse their newly acquired territory of its former placenames. In Monmonier’s words, “[E]xpel the alien, erase his toponymic imprint, and both map and land are yours” (106). One of the two cases is Cyprus, where the Turks

began removing placenames and changing others from Greek to Turkish north of the now UN-patrolled green line in 1974 (these names are not accepted by the U.S. government), and the other concerns how placenames have been (and are still being) put to use as markers of control and ownership of territory in the Israeli-Arab conflict. Monmonier notes that in the West Bank and Gaza “Arab names hang on nicely,” but Israel proper has seen a widespread eradication of Arab placenames, which disappeared as the villages they named disappeared, thus demonstrating “the rhetorical power of maps” (105).

Chapter eight wanders from the general subject of the previous chapters but still maintains a connection with the often contentious act of place naming by focusing on names in Antarctica, on the ocean floor, and in outer space, and the agencies which (nominally in some cases) are responsible for their names, primarily the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN), the U.S. Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF), and the International Astronomic Union (IAU). Monmonier relates the history of naming in these areas and the principles which (again at least nominally) guide the naming processes, from astronomer William Gilbert’s naming of thirteen lunar features around 1600 to the establishment by ACAN of a hierarchically ordered list of features and acceptable names for each order. First order features such as coasts and large glaciers are to be named for people who led or sponsored expeditions while third order features such as hills or coves may be named for “lesser” contributors, expedition members or even those who assisted in the training of polar explorers.

To say that *FSTTWM* is well researched would give new meaning to “understatement.” Given its just over 200 pages, the book contains an amazing 400 plus references (among which are some 80 web sites) and an astonishing 507 end notes. There are a few typographical errors, confined mainly to the notes and bibliography. *American Illustrated*

History should be *American History Illustrated* (182), “of” is omitted in note 13 (152), “in” is omitted in note 53 (165), and “entomological” should be “etymological” in note 3 (151).

While most topographers will be familiar with the basic facts of the cases Monmonier presents, merely knowing the facts is to miss Monmonier’s more insightful argument, namely that placenames are far more than simple markers of location; they are social constructions which create, define and validate the particular reality desired by the namers. This being the case, a more appropriate subtitle for the book would be *Whose Reality?* The notion that names create reality is not new, of course. Richard Randall covers much the same territory, although not as systematically or as extensively, in *Placenames: How They Define the World—and More* (2001), but Monmonier is a master stylist and a first-rate interpreter of toponymy whose arguments are presented in minute detail and rich in anecdote. As he says, “[T]oponyms, like boundaries, are political constructions, subject to change” (94). And he sums up his arguments nicely: “[T]o the victor goes the toponymy along with other spoils of war. But . . . the losing side can make its own maps, designed to refresh memory, sustain dreams, and reinforce resentment” (121).

Edward Callary
Northern Illinois University

Surnames, Nicknames, Placenames and Epithets in America: Essays in the Theory of Names. Edited by Edward Callary. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2006. Pp. ix + 281. \$109.95. ISBN: 0-7734-5544-2

Full disclosure: I was the editor of this journal for five of the twenty years from which Edward Callary selected articles for this new collection, and I am pleased to see that several of the essays that I ushered through made the cut. Following the lead of Kelsie Harder (to whom this present volume is dedicated), whose *Names and Their Varieties* (1986) reprinted a selection of essays from the first thirty volumes

(1954 through 1982), Callary has chosen essays from volumes 31 through 50 (1983–2002) to include in this book. The task was formidable. In those twenty years, nearly 360 essays (excluding book reviews and miscellaneous material) were published, and from this large number he has selected only seventeen.

Where Harder was concerned with showing the many ways of looking at name study, Callary's collection, as suggested by his subtitle, *Essays in the Theory of Names*, is thematic. In fact, Callary insists that the collection does not represent the "best" articles published in that period; rather, he hopes "to present a picture of the concerns and state of onomastics in America in the closing decades of the 20th century" (vi). Toward this end he has divided the collection into three sections.

The first section, "Theory and Practice of Onomastics," starts with a general discussion of name theory, with John Algeo's 1985 article "Is a Theory of Names Possible?" and Wilbur Zelinsky's recent (2002) essay "Slouching Toward a Theory of Names: A Tentative Taxonomic Fix." The other two essays in this section show onomastic theory in practice: Lawrence M. Baldwin and Michel Grimaud's "How New Naming Systems Emerge: The Prototypical Cases of Columbus and Washington" (1992), with most of its examples taken from the names of streets; and D. K. Tucker's "Distribution of Forenames, Surnames, and Forename-Surname Pairs in the United States" (2001).

Section 2, "Personal Names in American Society," like section 1, progresses from general to specific, with a variety of topics covered. Albert Mehrabian's 1997 article looks at the impressions created by given names, followed by two articles on nicknames, a general discussion by Theodore J. Holland Jr., from 1990, and a specific focus on coal miners' nicknames and the ways they create group solidarity by James K. Skipper Jr., from 1986. Thomas E. Murray (2002) looks at the changes in the recent past in how we use titles to address others, and

Thomas L. Clark (1986) examines names in the gambling industry. Irving Lewis Allen (1983) shows how personal names have become ethnic epithets, and Herbert H. Barry III and Aylene S. Harper (1993) discuss the feminization of unisex names in the decades from 1960 to 1990.

The third section is called "Geographic Names in American Society." Two essays give an overview of toponymic studies in the U. S. Roger L. Payne's 1995 essay discusses the development and implementation of the nation's official database of geographic names, followed by Grant Smith's "What Do We Want to Know About Placenames?" (1992), urging the development of a set of standards built upon the way language is studied. The remainder of this section comprises essays that look at specific naming patterns. William Bright (2000) analyzes the controversial "S-Word," placenames with the word *squaw*, from a sociolinguistic perspective. Michael H. Kelly (1999) shows how placenames incorporating words related to violence are more common in the South and West than in the North and suggests that there is a connection with a "Culture of Honor" in these regions. Ren Vasiliev (1989) traces the pattern of the placename *Moscow* across the country, and Robert H. Rennick (1984) looks at certain U. S. placenames that were either changed or retained in the two World Wars, especially *Germany*, *Berlin*, *Tokyo* (or *Tokio*); despite efforts of patriotic groups, most of these names were not changed.

Rather than reprint the original essays exactly as they first appeared, Callary reformatted them for consistency of form and method of documentation, correcting errors as he found them. Then he gave the authors, when possible, the opportunity to revise and update their material if they wished. Sadly, several of the contributors have died in the years since their original articles were published: Irving Lewis Allen, Thomas L. Clark, Michel Grimaud, and James K. Skipper Jr. And after the book had gone to press, we lost another of the authors, William Bright, who died in October 2006.

The essays proper are preceded by an Introduction jointly written by two of the outstanding scholars of personal names, Cleveland Kent Evans and Edwin D. Lawson. They discuss the importance of name study to an understanding of our culture, past and present, and suggest that this collection should offer a “challenge to readers, scholars, and researchers in a variety of fields to recognize the importance of names in their disciplines and to further elaborate what has become a truism, that onomastics can broaden and deepen our understanding of the human condition” (ix).

Callary has limited his choices to two of the four major interests of onomasts in the American Name Society, personal names and placenames. He leaves out any articles on names in literature—and many have appeared in *Names*—and on corporate and brand names, a growing onomastic field. To be fair, Zelinsky includes these topics in his all-inclusive typology, but more detailed treatment must await a future collection of essays. Callary’s collection is a wise and wonderful snapshot of the field of name study.

Thomas J. Gasque
University of South Dakota, Emeritus
tgasque@usd.edu