The Great Big Book of Baby Names: A Complete Guide from A to Z. By Cleveland Kent Evans. Lincolnwood, Illinois: Publications International. 2006. Pp. 608. Paperbound. ISBN: 978-1-4127-1300-9.

The market is large and reliable for books on popular first names for babies. This type of book is bought by many people who participate in naming a baby and also by people who desire information on the linguistic origin, meaning, and popularity of the names of themselves and of other people. New books of this type are needed every few years because of rapid changes in the popularity of first names.

The numerous books of this type usually list in alphabetical order many first names, separately for boys and girls. The information includes for each name a single, superficial linguistic origin and the meaning in the original language. The brief information on most names was probably copied from a prior book.

The new book by Evans has great advantages over most previous books of the same type. The amount of information on the name varies from a single line to a full page. Linguistic origins and original meanings are described in detail for some names. Multiple and uncertain origins are explained. Information on the names often includes rank order frequencies in the United States, changes in popularity, special popularity for African Americans and other ethnic groups, different spellings, variants, and famous people with the name.

Evans is a scholar, with a Ph.D. degree in psychology. He has done research on first names for many years. He was President of the American Name Society, 2005-2007. He benefited from his previous experience of writing books of names for babies. His prior books include *The Ultimate Baby Name Book* (1994) and *Unusual and Most Popular Baby Names* (1996), both published by the editors of Consumer Guide. The new book is superior to his earlier ones.

An example is the new book's information on the name *Asia* for girls:

> Name of the continent, from a Greek word meaning "east"; also, occasionally a form of **Aisha**. Asia first entered the SSA top 1,000 list for girls in 1979 and rose steadily until it peaked at 195th in 1997. In 2004 there were more than 1,200 Asias born in the Unite States, ranking the name 231st for

> the year. The name has been particularly popular in the African-American community. (355)

Note: The SSA list is the rank order frequency, 1 being most frequent, for the first names of people included in the United States Social Security Administration.

> Another example is the name *Braden* for boys:
> Irish Gaelic *Bradain*, "salmon." Braden was rare as a first name until the 1980s, when it rapidly began growing in popularity as parents discovered it as an alternative for **Brandon** and **Brian**. It has continued to rise in the rankings ever since, though it has been overtaken by its own alternatives, **Aidan**, **Jayden**, and **Caden**. The sound of the name is the most important factor for most parents in choosing it, as is shown by the fact that **Brayden** is now the most common spelling, having overtaken the original in 2000. All the main spellings taken together were the 56th most common boys name of 2004. Other spellings: **Bradyn, Braeden, Braedon, Braiden, Braydon** (66)

The information on the more popular names is usually lengthier than these examples. *John* occupies more than a page and *Mary* occupies almost a page because of the long history of these formerly most popular first names.

Some names are listed for both boys and girls. *Casey* for boys includes the following statement: "Casey was a popular name in the 1980s and 1990s, but it has now begun to fall off. Remarkably, Casey has maintained almost an equal use for boys and girls in the United States for a generation" (78). *Casey* for girls includes the spellings *Casie, Caci, Kaci, Kacie,* and *Kasey* with the same pronunciation (383).

For each name, Evans combines the frequencies of the different spellings when their pronunciation is the same. Because first names are often spoken rather than written or printed, the pronunciation can serve as the definition of a name. A disadvantage to this practice is that the source of the information is usually the spelled instead of spoken name. The spelling can influence the choice of a name. Most people choose the name *Casey* because of its more traditional and popular spelling. Other people choose a different spelling because it is unusual. Some people choose the

spelling *Caci* or *Kaci* for a girl because the final letter "i" occurs almost exclusively in first names of girls.

Pages 4-31 of the book contain good advice and interesting observations on choices of first names. Various "fun lists," separately for boys and girls, identify ethnic preferences and names with diverse characteristics and purposes. The last page of the book contains a reference list of 31 pertinent books.

The book is easy to read, with generous spacing between names and no crowding of the text. The names of boys and their page numbers (32-327) are printed in blue. The names of girls and their page numbers (328-607) are printed in red. The colors were probably chosen by the publisher rather than by the author. The larger number of pages allocated to boys (295) than to girls (279) appears to indicate a larger average amount of information on names of boys rather than a larger number of names of boys. Names of girls are more diverse and therefore more numerous than names of boys.

This new book by Evans is recommended as being by far the best of its type. It is appropriate for any person to use when choosing the name of a baby or when seeking information on selected first names. It is especially appropriate for scholars and scientists to use as a reference book.

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Apex Hides the Hurt. By Colson Whitehead. New York: Doubleday. 2006. Pp. 211. ISBN: 978-0385507950.

A novel about names! In *Apex Hides the Hurt*, an (appropriately) unnamed protagonist is hired to help re-name a town with a checkered history. Our hero is a nomenclature consultant:

> He came up with names. They were good times. He came up with the names and like any good parent he knocked them around to teach them life lessons. He bent them to see it they'd break, he dragged them behind cars by heavy metal chains, he exposed them to high temperatures for extended periods of time. Sometimes consonants broke off and left

> angry vowels on the laboratory tables. How else was he to know if they were ready for what the world had in store for them? (3)

So reads the first paragraph of *Apex*, setting the scene for the real hero of the story: names, names that mask, names that confuse, and names that reveal. The consultant travels to Winthrop, a town settled by free African American men and women in the time of slavery and originally named Freedom. Then the rich, white Winthrops brought commerce to the town with a barbed wire company and wrestled the name away from the town's founding fathers, Goode and Field, after a double cross on Goode's part.

So now we have the town of Freedom/Winthrop about to be renamed New Prospera by the current go-getting businessman Lucky Aberdeen, who refers to the name as Version 2.0. The current mayor, a descendant of Goode, votes against the New new name, while the remaining Winthrop in town votes with his founding fathers. Failing to agree on a new name, the town reaches a stalemate and so hires a re-imaging consultant.

Our consultant has just come off the biggest hit of his life, winning the Identity Award for Apex, a multi-hued bandage that hides the hurt of any skin color in the target market. He himself had hidden a hurt so well with Apex that he allowed an infection to destroy one of his toes. Since the amputation, he has been holed up in his house, with names in his head. His names are his company, his ticket to immortality. However, he doesn't know if he can still be a consultant:

> He had this suspicion that all he had inside himself now were Frankenstein names, lumbering creatures stitched together from glottal stops and sibilants, angry unspellable misfits suitable only for the monstrous. (21)

The story alternates between the present in Winthrop and the earlier scenario of our consultant, his big win with Apex, and his subsequent retreat into isolation. Even in Winthrop, he bars his hotel room from the housekeeper, another unnamed—and in this case unseen—character, who vows to break the locked door and "'Clean it up! Clean it up! Clean it allll up'" (132).

"Some names are keys and open doors" (69). This is our consultant's true mission in Winthrop, and he finds the door in an archived document, the original, unsanitized version of the town's founding and re-imaging as Winthrop, a history that had been hidden from the public.

The irony is that the man who named the bandage that masks all hurt and gets our skin color correct too—"the deep psychic wounds of history and the more recent gashes ripped by the present, all of these could be covered by this wonderful, unnamed multicultural adhesive bandage" (90)—opens the wounds of the town with this document. He discovers the name originally suggested by Field, the founder who didn't double cross and vote with the Winthrops. He discovers that this town could have, and should have, been called Struggle.

A reporter on the Lucky Aberdeen payroll interviews our consultant for a pro-New Prospera piece but, strangely, ends the interview by repeating a single question:

> "Are you keeping it real?"
> "Sorry?"
> "Are you keeping it real?"
> "What?"
> "Are you keeping it real?
> "What?"
> "Are you keeping it real?"
> "Yes." (106)

Our consultant says that his job "dealt in lies and promises, distilled them into syllables" (153), that he had given things "the right name but never the true name" (182), "a name that got to the heart of the thing," one that didn't slap "a bandage on it" (183).

In the end, our consultant keeps it real, and true, in his decision. Freedom/Winthrop/New Prospera is now Struggle. It must remain so for at least a year because, seeking to ensure that his decision was accorded due gravity, the consultant had made this condition a stipulation in his contract.

Founder Goode had voted with Winthrop so the town and its people would survive. The inhabitants had seen him as the Light, the optimist who gave them what they wanted. Field, the Dark, the

founder who kept it real, had lost the vote. Our consultant gave back to the town the name that Field had believed in. The name Freedom was someone else's name, imposed by Goode and Winthrop, and hence still slavery. But Struggle? Struggle was honest and freeing:"Was Struggle the highest point of human existence? No. But it was the point past which we could not progress, and a summit in that way" (210).

"If I ask you your name and you tell me something other than what it is, that's a lie," says the current Goode mayor (127). Our consultant now is through with lies. And so he leaves the town of Struggle.

Readers, too, might leave Struggle with the sense of vindication that I felt all through this book; names are crucial and vital and not to be uttered lightly. Those who study names and discuss them are also not to be treated lightly. Readers of *Names* will identify with the protagonist and gain a renewed sense of purpose. A world where name-givers are given awards: now that's a reality I whole-heartedly endorse.

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The Placenames of the Coast of Gozo (Malta). By Joe Zammit Ciantor. Santa Luċija, Malta: The author. 2000. Pp. xv + 121. Map, illustrations, appendices.
ISBN 99932 0 025 5.

A few years ago, I received a complimentary copy of a study of about five hundred of *The Placenames of the Coast of Gozo (Malta)*. To the best of my knowledge, this publication has never been brought to the attention of the readers of *Names*, and I want to remedy this omission in this brief review. The internationally recognized author is the foremost expert on the placenames of Malta and has the credentials required for what is a first and therefore innovative venture.

The small island of Gozo lies about 8 km northwest of Malta, sharing with it its highly stratified history: arrival of the Muslims c. 870; conquest by the Normans 1091; arrival of the Knights Hospitallers of St John 1530; surrender by Napoleon 12 June 1798; arrival of Nelson's men in October 1798; under British

rule from 1800 to political independence 1964. These political administrative changes brought with them linguistic influences, but today Maltese is the national language of Malta, with English enjoying the status of second official language. Maltese is classified as a Semitic language which, in its written forms, uses an almost phonetic alphabet of 30 letters/graphemes, i.e., 6 vowels and 24 consonants.

The author provides a helpful, full picture of this background and current linguistic practice since it is essential for an understanding of his name list. Gozo has its own dialectal subdivisions, but the influence of standard Maltese is especially felt in its capital, Victoria (Rabat). Before unveiling his coastal survey, Joe Zammit Ciantor also provides a detailed account of the history and meaning of the names *Malta* and *Gozo*. The best scholarship derives the former from Semitic roots implying "a place of refuge," cognate with a Hebrew verb meaning "to slip away." The latter, having had a large variety of spellings beginning with *Gaudos* and *Gaulos* in antiquity, is connected with *gwl* (pronounced *gol*), a Phoenician term for "a round ship"; its modern Maltese form is *Għaudex*.

In the fourth chapter of his book (39–75), the author presents the actual corpus of Gozitan coastal names, most of them unrecorded names collected from oral tradition but also incorporating names from written sources, particularly Canon de Soldanis' plan of 1746. The list of names follows the coastline clockwise from *Dwejra* in the west; an excellent map helps the reader to identify the location of many of them. Several names are attractively illustrated by color photos. This topographical presentation is followed by an alphabetical list and a glossary of words forming part of the place-nomenclature, thus making the topographical corpus accessible from a lexical perspective; in the first-ever published study of placenames associated with their precise locations on Gozo, many of the names are descriptive of the coastal features they designate (*almar* 'red,' *bajda* 'white,' *safra* 'yellow,' *baxxa* 'low,' *fonda* 'deep') or of the geo-morphology of the place (*wied* 'valley,' *irdum* 'cliff, ravine,' *ponta* 'point, landmark,' *blata* 'rock'). As a whole, they reflect the chequered linguistic history of the Maltese islands. As in any coastscape of any island, the most important names refer to inlets, bays and harbors which could provide anchorage for boats.

The book under review is a most welcome, well-researched and -presented survey of the names on the coast of Gozo off Malta. It is predicted that not only scholars but some of the many holiday-makers who visit the island every year will appreciate this publication since it provides keys to what otherwise would probably be fascinating but opaque names. The two-page appendix showing the name *Gozo* on some very rare maps is a little bonus.

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Proceedings of the 21st International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Uppsala 19–24 August 2002. Vol. I: Section 1 "Name Theory" and Section 6 "Names in Literature." Edited by Eva Brylla and Mats Wahlberg in collaboration with Vibike Dalberg and W.F.H. Nicolaisen. Uppsala: Språk-och folkminnesinstitut. 2005. Pp. xxx + 520. ISBN 91 7229 026 9.

Ibid., Vol. II: Subsection 2*a* "Names and Sources" of Section 2 "Names and Society." Edited by Eva Brylla and Mats Wahlberg in collaboration with Lars Eklund. Uppsala: Språk-och folkminnesinstitut. 2006. Pp. vii + 332. ISBN 91 7229 0321 5.

Atti del XXII Congresso Internazionale di Scienze Onomastiche, Pisa 28 agosto—4 settembre 2005. Sezione III: "Onomastica letteraria." Edited by Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Donatella Bremer, Davide De Camilli, Bruno Porcelli. Pp. 719. *il Nome nel testo,* Rivista internazionale di onomastica letteraria VIII (2006). Pisa.

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences, following in the footsteps of its predecessor, the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences, encourages the organization of three-yearly meetings at academic venues at which name studies are actively pursued. The twenty-first of such gatherings was held in Uppsala, Sweden, and the twenty-second in Pisa, Italy. The two countries concerned had been hosts of such meetings before, Sweden (Uppsala) for the fourth congress in 1952 and Italy (Florence) for the seventh in 1961. According to custom, the respective organizers of ICOS XXI and XXII have now begun to publish the congress *Acta* in what will ultimately be multi-volume sets. Two volumes have appeared so far (March 2007) of the Uppsala *Proceedings* (2005 and

2006) and one of the Pisa ones (2006). A complete review of either set is therefore not yet possible, but, as the completion of both sets of *Acta* still lies a while ahead, it may be useful to acquaint readers of *Names*, in a brief interim report, with what is available so far. Complete overviews will obviously be needed later to assess the whole contents of either set.

The complete Uppsala *Proceedings* will contain 200 out of 220 papers read at the 2002 congress on the general theme of "Names in Language and Society" and are planned to be published in five volumes. Vol. I is devoted to Sections 1 "Name Theory" and 6 "Names in Literature," and it is therefore co-edited by the two respective sections chairs, Vibeke Dalberg and W.F.H. Nicolaisen. It also contains the several addresses offered on various occasions and a survey by Eva Brylla of "100 years of official Swedish place-name research," as well as the three plenary lectures by Xosé Lluis García Arias (Spain), Albrecht Greule (Germany) and Svante Strandberg (Sweden). The good news for readers in the English-speaking world is that 16 out of the 23 in Section 1 are in English, the others being in German (7). A few topics to be highlighted as "appetizers" are "The structure of the onomasticon and name classification" (Akselberg), "A new theory of properhood" (Coates), "Towards a new millennium—towards a common onomastic terminology?" (Harvalík), "The meaning of proper names" (Hedquist), and "General theory of proper names. A retrospect" (Superanskaya).

Section 6 comprises 20 papers; of these only 6 are in English, 9 in German, and 5 in French. Topics to be noted are "Fictional names and onomastic translation" (Pablé), "Literary onomastics. An attempt at defining its status within the framework of onomastics" (Debus, in German), and two Harry Potter papers, "Harry Potter's world of names in translation" (Krüger, in German) and "Personal names in Harry Potter—rencontres linguistiques" (Leblanc, in French), a comparative analysis of personal names in the English, French, Spanish and German versions of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Volume II of the Uppsala *Transactions* contains 30 papers read in Subsection 2*a* "Names and Sources" of Section 2 "Names and Society." The languages in which they were presented are English (18), German (9), and French (3). As is to be expected from a subject so open to variation in legitimate treatment, the range of

individual topics encompasses a wide spectrum of thematic interpretation. This is indicated by such titles as "Border crossings, personal names, multiple and multi-ethnic identities" (Alia and McLane), "Place-names on maps indicating Balto-Finnish settlement" (Joalaid), "Values and antivalues in nicknames" (Kaleta), "The meaning of first names in children's developmental psychology" (Longobardi), "The settlement of a Norwegian valley through the evidence of place-names" (Schmidt), "Women's names in place-names – with special reference to topographical names in northern Sweden" (Falck-Kjällquist). The co-editor of the volume is Lars-Erik Eklund. I understand that Volume III will be published in the early summer of 2007.

The first volume to be published of the *Acta* of ICOS XXII not surprisingly draws its contents from Subsections 3*a* "Theory and Problems" and 3*b* "Varieties of Texts" of Section 3 "Names and Literature" of the congress, for the University of Pisa's reputation as an acknowledged center of literary onomastic research must undoubtedly have been one of the decisive factors in the acceptance of Pisa's proposal to host the 2005 International Congress of Onomastic Sciences "Names in Time and Space." In addition, the availability of the annual *il Nome nel testo* is likely to have made the choice of "Literary Onomastics" for the initial volume of the published *Transactions* doubly attractive. The *Proceedings* of Section 3 have the added advantage of having been accorded independent status as Volume 8 (2006) of that "international review of literary onomastics." As it is usual for international congresses to attract a proportionately much larger participation by scholars from the host country and as the study of names in literature is Pisa's forte, the list of contributors to Section 3 is consequently extensive. Out of a total of 60 papers included in Volume 8 of *il Nome nel testo*, 43 were presented in Italian, 12 in English, 4 in German and only one in French. If one also takes into account the likelihood of some of the Italian delegates having read their papers in languages other than their own, the contribution made by Italian scholars to this section of ICOS XXII is remarkable. This must be a very satisfying statistic for the people responsible for the emergence of Pisa as a leading center for the study of names in literature.

As Volume 8 of *il Nome nel testo* has a recognizable standing in its own right, quite independent of its derivation from

Section 3 of ICOS XXII, it seems to be appropriate, indeed called for, to review it more fully at this stage than the two Uppsala volumes. One observation which immediately offers itself as the result of a detailed study of all 60 papers is the remarkable, one might almost say astonishing, variety and flexibility of the approaches and perspectives in both the 12 articles addressing the theme of Subsection 3*a* "Names and Problems" and the inquiries into onomastic aspects of the works of single authors and genres in the 48 contributions to Subsection 3*b* "Names in Literary Varieties of Text." The 20 papers of the undivided Section 6 "Names in Literature" of the previous congress in Uppsala had already given us a foretaste of the steady progress made in this field of study in recent years, and a projected volume of *Onoma* dedicated to literary onomastics will undoubtedly reinforce this perception, but in the meantime ICOS XXII at Pisa has already added to the existing inventory of relevant publications a substantial corpus of results of new research which will inevitably advance both literary and onomastic knowledge and the methods and strategies by which such knowledge can be obtained.

On the whole, it is probably true to say that the investigation of the kinds of issues which are aired under 3*b* ultimately leads to the formulation of more general principles as included in 3*a*, but Volume I of the *Acta* of ICOS XXII (and Vol. 8 of *il Nome nel testo*) clearly shows that this does not mean that more limited innovative studies cannot, indeed must not, stop or slow down when significant results have already been achieved. This becomes obvious in the continuing scholarly interest in the question of the translatability of proper names to which articles in both subsections make important contributions, presumably because this is one of the issues which unmistakably shows up the gap between words and names. A good example in this respect is Laura Salmon's essay in which, starting from a multidisciplinary framework concerning both translation theory and literary themes, she uses a selected corpus of translated proper names from the Italian version of Sergis Dovlatov's novel *The Reserve* to develop specific translation strategies to get round the asymmetrics among different onomastic systems (77–91). From a different point of view, Natalia Byjak suggests in a well-documented article that, while translating the names of real historical persons and literary characters in fiction, two main aspects should be taken into

consideration: (1) how the name is written in the original to render its form in the recipient language as correctly as possible; and (2) the level of fame of the real person or fictional character for the reader of the translation (27–36). Such problems regarding the "translation" of proper names in literary texts are also at the center of Dietlind Krüger's paper in which she emphasizes the importance of literary onomastics for the translation of these texts.

In Subsection 3*b*, at least five congress delegates also choose to explore questions regarding the translation of names in literature: Maria Avdonina points out that, in the absence of a kind of "encyclopaedic" knowledge that earlier readers might have had, new strategies in the translation of literary names are required to reanimate lost links of the dialogue between author and reader (187–97); Paola Calef draws attention to problems arising from the treatment of both personal names and placenames in a fifteenth-century Castilian translation of the *Divine Comedy* (256–66); Zsusanna Fábián looks at personal names in the six Hungarian translations of Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio* (355–67); Alessandro Orengo describes the different ways in which Oskan Erewanc'i translates into Armenian proper names in the Latin texts of the *Grammaticalius Libri Tres* by Tommaso Campanella (549–58); and Giuseppe Porta highlights the close interdependency between the glosses in common nouns that appear in the Tuscan translation of official documents and the etymological analysis of proper names (645–49).

In a couple of instances, two different scholars have chosen to attend to the same works, one of which is Thomas Mann's *Mario and the Magician*. On the one hand there is Richard Brütting's attempt to contribute a deeper knowledge of the author's onomastic procedure by studying the toponyms and anthroponyms in the text of that story (240–54). On the other hand Maria Gabriella Riccobono focuses, among other things, on the analysis of the surnames and Christian names in Mann's *Tristan* and *Mario and the Magician* (651–60). *Beowulf* is also at the center of two papers, i.e., Luca Panieri's study of personal names as an aid for dating this Old English epic (559–65) and Teresa Pàroli's investigation of the names *Beowulf*, *Hrothgar* and *Grendel* in the same narrative (591–609).

Most of the other articles are not so easily grouped together but show, in a sense, their authors' fascination with the great variety

of writers and genres chosen for exploration. In the following, mention is made of just a few of these which caught this reviewer's eye, without implying any qualitative judgment concerning the many other instructive contributions: Clara Antonucci's presentation of the names as stories in their symbolic function in Toni Morrison's writings (177–86); Alessio Bologna's analysis of the nickname of a character in a collection of folk tales, as an expression of common anti-Jewish prejudice in fifteenth-century Italy (229–37); Sante Farnararo's survey of Isaac Asimov's choice of names in his science fiction (369–80); Volker Kohlheim's examination of the function of names in Jean Paul's novels (445–53); Luiza Marinho Antunes' paper on names in nineteenth-century Brazilian historical romances (493–503); and Per Vikstrand's exploration of the use of women's names in Ian Fleming's James Bond novels (699–710).

There is, of course, much more, where this comes from, but a review is not supposed to be a table of contents. As a final commentary an overall impression must therefore suffice. What is reflected in this volume of essays, so it seems to this reviewer, is a sense of adventure, either continued from previous occasions or newly embarked on. Here are some veterans in the field of study that has become known as literary onomastics, and there are some recent recruits who are maybe considering the onomastic aspects of literature or the literary facets of onomastics as a recent addition to their scholarly interests, but whatever their background, there is a sense of freshness and of discovery, or perhaps rediscovery, to their essays. No wonder Pisa has developed such an excellent reputation for the scholarly exploration of this particular brand of intellectual inquiry! Whether one regards this compendium as a reflection of some of the activities of ICOS XXII (2005) or as Volume 8 of *il Nome nel testo*, it makes a very satisfying read, a veritable cornucopia, and one can only hope that the study of names in literature will continue to prosper at ICOS XXIII (2008) in Toronto.

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Naming Edmonton: From Ada to Zoie. By City of Edmonton. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press. 2004. Pp. lvi + 421. Hardcover. $49.95. ISBN 0-88864-423-X.

This book of official local placenames sets a benchmark for publicly funded scholarship, and the taxpayers more than break even. A consortium of local and provincial agencies have joined to fund an attractive, usable and encyclopedic reference work on the onomastics of Alberta's leading city. It is worth mentioning that this textbook-sized volume is printed on sturdy, glossy stock with liberal use of color and hundreds of tasteful sepia-tone historic photos. Its visual appeal alone would ensure that the book's constituency would find this an inviting read.

The team of scholars and editors who did the work of cataloging Edmonton's placenames and researching their histories is to be credited as well. A number of talented photographers, cartographers and graphic artists contributed their talents to an exceptionally productive collaboration. These people are unfortunately far too many to name here (xi), but credit is due for a well-focused end product.

The user-friendly nature of *Naming Edmonton* is established in an easily located section at the front of the book. A page is devoted to a sample entry, with the standard format used in the book broken down into features that are each explained (xii). This is followed by advice on "How to Use This Book" (xiii-xiv) and a concise table of the abbreviations used throughout (xv).

General notes on Edmonton's official placenames occupy pages xvi-xx and thoughtfully include information on how to propose a placename and how to contact relevant officials. Particularly valuable for imparting a sense of the town's evolution, and accordingly that of its placenames, is the historical sketch with its prose (xxi-xxviii) and timeline (xxxix-xxxii) overviews of local history. Used in conjunction with the catalogues of obsolete toponyms (see below), these will be very useful resources for work at the crossroads of history, ethnography and linguistics. Twelve reference maps of the various sections within city limits follow, each detailed enough to show every feature indexed in the book (xxxiii-[lvi]). Two facing pages are devoted to each map, maximizing legibility, and visually contrasting type faces and colours distinguish

various kinds of features. Here too it is obvious that usability was a carefully planned goal.

The bulk of the book is of course given over to the cataloging of placenames themselves, and this section is conveniently highlighted by orange edges on its pages, visible even when the book is closed. Pages 1-359 are alphabetically arranged into sections by the first letters of currently used toponyms. Local interest will no doubt be piqued by the artistic photos introducing these sections, each featuring a close-up of the relevant letter as found on some Edmonton landmark. (The location for each photo is listed on pp. 419-421.)

Each placename is listed with, at a minimum, a verbal description of its location, a cross-reference to a similarly named feature, a category label (neighborhood, park, street, bridge, etc.), the year the name was officially approved, the general section of town in which it is found, and precise coordinates for locating it on the included city maps. An example of such a sparse entry is *Abbotsfield Road*. But by far most of the names here are accompanied by richer information. This usually includes at least a paragraph of detailed prose about the namesake or inspiration for a given toponym, citing dates, describing personalities, narrating events, and so on. Lively reading is further enhanced by the selection, on a majority of pages, of one entry to be illustrated by a period photograph. The substantial article on *Ada Boulevard*, for example, is arranged over a full-page photo from circa 1912 of the lavish Magrath Mansion discussed therein. The creators of *Naming Edmonton* deserve praise for having carefully put every placename they list into a meaningful historical perspective. This feature of the book ensures its success as a tool for both local citizens and academic users.

Two appendices expand the book's coverage beyond present-day toponyms. First is "Lost Waterways" (362-363), which uses a map and vivid prose to tell how and where a number of streams and lakes have disappeared from Edmonton. Similarly deepening readers' understanding of local placenames is the extensive "Lost Names" (364-403). Here hundreds of obsolete names are preserved for future generations, cross-indexed when possible with existing features. This indexing against currently used names is thorough, but an unexplained minor gap is the reference to

"Unnamed" contemporary counterparts, as in the "Alexandra Terrace" entry.

A measure of the exhaustive work that went into compiling *Naming Edmonton* is the bibliography of published, archival, periodical and Internet sources (405-408), itself a wealth of good leads for onomastic researchers. The book ends with another thoughtfully provided tool, an index of surnames found among Edmonton toponyms (409-418).

This volume's great strength, that it exhaustively catalogs every Edmonton toponym in past or present official use, unintentionally leaves one area tantalizingly unaddressed. That is unofficial names, which are mentioned in passing (364) but not systematically collected. Neither are toponyms given for numerous sizable bodies of water and parks depicted on the maps as being well within city limits. Many of these, one imagines, must be known to locals by conventional names. We can hope that a future edition may turn the talents of the book's fine research team towards documenting them.

As the oldest large settlement in the province, Edmonton is precisely the kind of locale best suited for folk-toponymic and -geographic research, cf. Lornell and Mealor (1983). Due to its rapid development, the far West of both Canada and the USA is rich in placenames never officially registered with any government bureau: Victoria has *The People's Republic of Fernwood* (tribe.net 2007); Spokane, WA has *The Sandpit* (Palisades 2007) and *Felony Flats* (Wikipedia 2007); British Columbia has *Lillooet Flat* and *Camp 16* (Archives Deschâtelets n.d.) and *New West[minster].* Proceeding along lines inspired by Wilbur Zelinsky (1980, e.g.), longitudinal research on such names could expand knowledge of shifting cultural-region boundaries in Canada.

In summary, a range of students and researchers as well as Edmontonians will find *Naming Edmonton* an admirable and valuable addition to the bookshelf. Its very few shortcomings are far outweighed by the book's exemplary research and presentation.

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