

## Book Reviews

*Ortsumbenennungen und -neugründungen im europäischen Teil der Sowjet-Union.* By Wolfgang Meckelein. (Ost-Europa-Institut an der Freien Universität Berlin. Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen, herausgegeben von Karl C. Thalheim. Band 2. Berlin, 1955. In Kommission bei Duncker & Humblot, Berlin. 134 p. with a map.)

The change of place names on a larger scale seems to be one of the characteristics of totalitarian way of life. In the Soviet Union, the change of geographical names has been practiced since 1917. Not only the names of big cities were substituted by new ones, e. g. *Petrograd – Leningrad*, *Caricyn – Stalingrad*, but also the small settlements or newly founded ones received “patriotic” names, e. g. *Svisloch – Oktyabr* (BSSR), *Kukarka – Sovetsk* (Kirov oblast’), *Bozhedarovka – Shchors* (USSR) a. o. To date, there had been no reference work in any western language where all such changes could be found and elucidated. The book under review fills a gap in this field. Meckelein lists 1363 names of the European part of the Soviet Union according to their original form in 1910 and changes as recorded in 1938, 1951, and 1953. His work is based on official Soviet publications, maps and other sources. All names have been presented in an international Slavistic transliteration of the Russian alphabet. A map illustrating the location and the historical data of the respective name has been added. A valuable bibliography supplements the book.

Meckelein did not publish his work for the onomatologist but for the general user. It is merely practical in purpose. The reviewer has checked its contents with his materials regarding the changes of place names in Ukraine. A number of names are not included in Meckelein’s book, e. g. *Zhovkva (-Nesterov)*, *Drohovyzhe*, *Jezupol*, and others. Some very important works have been omitted in the bibliography, e. g. *Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Ukraine*, Berlin 1943. Crimea and the Transcarpathian territory (Carpatho-Ukraine) have not been treated in the book.

Despite some shortcomings *Ortsumbenennungen* will serve as a point of departure for all future studies of the subject so far as the European part of USSR is concerned.

*University of Manitoba*

J. B. Rudnykyj

*Gazetteer of Canada. Manitoba.* (Published by authority of the Canadian Board on Geographical Names. Ottawa, 1955. 60 p. with map.)

Though Canada is claimed to be a "last" one among the countries cultivating the study of names (cf. Fucilla in *Names*, Vol. 2, 205) the publications of the Canadian Board on Geographical Names (formerly: The Geographic Board of Canada) as well as the series *Onomastica* published twice a year by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences – UVAN in Winnipeg seem to improve the situation. The recent volume of the *Gazetteer of Canada* is the third one of the series (after those devoted to Southern Ontario and British Columbia). Manitoba *Gazetteer* contains the names of all populated places and the names of the rivers, creeks, lakes, hills, and other topographical features of this province. The location of each item has been listed by the quadrilateral indexing system used in the previous issues. Some errors in the spelling of names could have been prevented by checking official publications of the Post Office, Canadian National Railway, and others (e. g. *Ukrania* instead of the generally accepted: *Ukraina*, even confirmed by the Board itself in previous publications). It is also regrettable that the origin and meaning of names has been disregarded.

*University of Manitoba*

J. B. Rudnyckyj

*Quatrième Congrès International de Sciences Onomastiques: Uppsala, 1952.* Édité par Jöran Sahlgren, Bengt Hasselrot et Lars Hellberg. (Vol. I: Programme. Deuxième Edition. Uppsala, AB Lundequistska Bokhandeln, København, Rosenkilde og Baggeres Forlag, 1954. Pp. 544.)

At the Fourth International Convention of Onomastic Sciences held at Uppsala, August 17–21, 1952, forty six papers were presented by delegates from eighteen different countries. With three exceptions all are published in the present volume.

As is customary at many gatherings with such a wide representation, the readers of the papers were volunteers. These were not submitted beforehand so as to make feasible any coordinated grouping nor was their suitability for oral presentation taken into account. Papers like Professor Buescu's "Un nouveau toponyme latin du défrichement en Roumanie," on the place-name Secătura and its

variants, or Professor Collinder's investigation bearing on the Swedish place-name Luleå are of such extremely limited range that they could hardly have aroused any interest in the hearers. One wonders, too, how audiences kept from being lulled to sleep by the interminable listing of names in Professor Baudot's paper on place-name suffixes in France, "Apports de la toponymie à l'histoire des civilisations et des migrations de peuples," Professor Nissilä's "Einige niederdeutsche Personennamen in Finnland," Professor Séguy's "Noms de métiers dans l'onomastique toulousaine au XIVE et au XXe siècles," and, especially, Professor Griera's "Les *Rationes Decimarum*, sources de valeur considérable pour l'étude de la toponymie." Only when put in print does the element of monotony in them tend to diminish, making it possible to assess their true value. Anomalies of this sort are perhaps inevitable. To a certain extent they are condonable if we concede that the fundamental purpose of an international congress is after all to bring together scholars with kindred research interests. However, the majority of the other numbers by virtue of their treatment and subject-matter turned out to be generally attractive, among which, to mention a few that have particularly appealed to me, are A. Badia-Margarit's "Toponymie et histoire dans le Chemin de Saint Jacques en Espagne"; Z. F. Findikoğlu's "Le problème des noms de famille considéré comme un courant culturel en Turquie"; E. Kranzmayer's "Die slawischen und die romanischen Ortsnamen Österreichs"; C. Higounet's, "Les mouvements de population dans le midi de la France du XIe au XVe siècle d'après les noms de personne et les noms de lieu;" J. M. Piel's "Blüte und Verfall der westgotisch-hispanischen Personennamen." A. Caferoğlu's "Le culte du cheval dans l'onomastique turque" makes enjoyable reading and it must have been equally enjoyable to those who listened to it.

What strikes one forcibly in covering the *Mémoires* of the conference is the fact that the science of onomastics is rarely an isolated phenomenon. The materials which it discusses automatically transform themselves into historical or geographical contributions that are often of considerable consequence.

*Northwestern University*

Joseph G. Fucilla

*Maine Place Names and the Peopling of its Towns.* By Ava Harriet Chadbourne. (The Bond Wheelwright Company, Portland, Maine, 1955, 530 pages, \$ 7.50.)

This is a noteworthy contribution to the history of our easternmost state. It is an excellent example of sound historical research based on geographical names. To be sure, the author, professor emeritus of Education, has not restricted herself to the origin and meaning of place names. As the subtitle indicates she writes the history of the "peopling" of the towns of Maine — not merely a dictionary of geographical names. For this reason the title is perhaps not so well chosen. Ordinarily we would expect an alphabetical reference book of all geographic features when the title indicates that the volume treats the "place names" of a certain state. That, however, is a minor point, which should not detract from the value and interest of the book.

The first lines of the "Forward", in which Professor Chadbourne refers to Stephen Benet's well-known lines:

I have fallen in love with American names,  
The sharp gaunt names, which never grow fat

are followed by a paragraph worth quoting verbatim:

I too have fallen in love with American names, especially those in the State of Maine, but I do not find them sharp, gaunt and thin, for often when I look down upon the map of Maine, I feel that I am turning the leaves of a Book of Remembrance; for here are Indian words, rich in meaning, colorful and reminiscent of a bygone day; French, English, Irish, German, Scotch and Swedish words, revealing important records of human history, migrations and settlements, as well as expressing the love and longing of the early Maine colonists for their faraway homes.

Elisabeth K. Gudde

*Bulletin Signalétique: Philosophie, Sciences Humaines.* (Paris: Centre de Documentation du C. N. R. S., vol. X, No. 1, 1956.)

This reference work is a continuation of the *Bulletin Analytique* which was reviewed in *Names* of September 1955 (pp. 195f). The format has been enlarged (ca. 8×10") with double columns. There is great unevenness in the treatment of the various subjects. Most of them are on an international basis, with contributions in all

languages listed — a preponderance of the literature in French, to be sure. Others are almost exclusively restricted to books and articles written in the French language. Our field of name research is one of these step-children, at least in this particular issue. In the section “*Onomastique*” forty-four items are listed, together with a few references to works in other sections. Of these forty-four items two refer to articles in German, three to French reviews of German books or articles, one to a French review of an English book, one to an American contribution. Of periodicals in onomatology only the *Revue Internationale d’Onomastique* is indexed. The name of our departed colleague Albert Dauzat, appears in the index no less than eleven times as author — a clear indication of the loss to our field of study by the sudden death of the great scholar.

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After the above was written No. 2 of the 1956 volume of the *Bulletin* was received. It is fortunate that I said cautiously “at least in this particular issue,” for the section “*Onomastique*” in this second number has a decided international aspect. Among other non-French literature, six articles, one book review, one note, and even the popular column “Your Name”, published in *Names* during 1955, are reviewed. It is not quite clear on what basis this selection was made. However, the inclusion of some material from *Names* means a step toward the goal of an international index.

Erwin G. Gudde