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Reviews

Namenforschung morgen: Ideen, Perspektiven, Visionen (Name Research Tomorrow: Ideas, Perspectives, Visions). Edited ANDREA BRENDLER and SILVIO BRENDLER. Pp. 217 + index. Hamburg: Baar. 2005. Pbk. ISBN: 3-935576-30-5

Crystal balls are not normally part of the standard equipment competent students of names are supposed to have at their elbows, nor are the same onomasticians known to take incautious risks or to indulge in guesswork in the analysis and interpretation of their evidence. It is therefore surprising, though also refreshing, to come across an anthology of essays by scholars of considerable status in the field of name research, on the subject of how they see, or would like to see, the shape of future name studies. The nineteen, mostly short, articles contained in this volume were written in response to an invitation by the editors who had in mind creating an audacious parallel to an earlier collection entitled *Namenforschung heute* (*Name Research Today*) (Berlin 1971). All the contributions are in German, either originally or in translation, and their authors are generally resident in Germany or Austria, eked out by individual scholars from the Czech Republic, Sweden, Swedish Finland, and the Netherlands. Their credentials are well proven though the German essays have, not surprisingly, a slight bias toward the Leipzig School with which the editors have close connections. One of the papers (by Karina van Dalen-Oskam) is available in English and Dutch translations; otherwise, in the absence of English summaries, potential dreamers and forecasters require at least a working knowledge of German to appreciate fully the nuances of the authors' "ideas, perspectives and visions." In the anthology, the articles are arranged alphabetically according to the writers' surnames (from Anreiter to Wenzel); for the purpose of this review, however, it is hoped to distil from this "neutral" order discernible, subject-specific categories of prognostication.

It is tempting in that respect to try to divide the essays on the basis of the particular major onomastic sub-divisions which they address, i.e., chiefly toponymy, anthroponomy or literary onomastics, but that kind of grouping turns out to be not the most fruitful approach, for two main reasons. On the one hand, it often separates out what belongs together by discussing phenomena which are germane to more than one of these three sub-categories, and, on the other, panders to the frequent incompatibility of what, at first glance, appears to be a sensible taxonomy, since the third component of such an arrangement, the study of names in literature, in most respects overlaps the other two, the study of names of places and persons. If, however, in the course of this review, reference is made to the authors' perspectives from narrower angles especially observable in any of those categories, this is not to be mistaken for a contradiction, as it will simply confirm that, in the world of applied onomastics, general principles are often realised with limited parameters.

These preliminary comments have been prompted by the overwhelming initial reaction on the part of many of the contributors to this volume voicing their desire for the need for onomastic research to enter into bridging conversations or even to engage in co-operative ventures with neighboring fields of study, thus widening the horizons of the individual scholar involved, as well as of the profession in general. Peter Anreiter of Vienna sets the tone in the very first essay (13–21) by wishing for a deeper, interdisciplinary anchoring of name studies and by encouraging ways in which name scholars inform themselves in interaction with representatives of other disciplines, while at the same time paying more attention to actual name-bearers and name-bearing objects, thus engaging in less desk-work and more fieldwork. Silvio Brendler (Hamburg), with his wife co-compiler of this anthology, offers the same

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bridge-building image when confirming the inter- and multi-disciplinary status of name research and the desirability of net-working with other disciplines, while at the same time accepting its independent nature as an adaptable field of study (23–31).

In some instances the greater inter- or cross-disciplinary contact wished for is with specific, adjacent areas of research; thus Peter Ernst (Vienna) suggests closer ties with cognitive linguistics (32–44). In his view, cognitive name research, together with cognitive semantics and cognitive psychology, might fruitfully examine whether names are general linguistic symbols which are processed differently in the brain. Another Viennese contributor, Edgar Hoffmann, also concerns himself with onomastics as a cognitive science but differs from Ernst in so far as he regards the study of names first and foremost as a linguistic sub-discipline, while introducing the essential but potentially conflicting aspect of usage (82–96). He looks upon onomastics as the nodal point of greatly differing disciplines and therefore capable of handling several primary perspectives. Consequently he advocates that its unique position in the framework of cultural studies receive somewhat greater emphasis and articulation. In keeping with their own dominant research interests, Uta-Dorothee Immel and Michael Klintschar (Halle) view the future of name studies in a genealogical context, particularly in conjunction with the utilization of DNA analysis in a meaningful combination with the classical tools of onomastic and genealogical research (97–105). From a Swedish angle, Katharina Leibring (Uppsala), arguing for an exploration of the ways in which onomastics can contribute to a better understanding of the diverse new components of socio-cultural and linguistic origins in post-agricultural Swedish society, singles out some innovative and so far neglected areas of research, such as a greater interest in the study of personal names, to complement the already demonstrated interest in toponymic matters, research into animal names (zoonyms), names and naming on the internet, trends and facets of recent toponymics, names in multi-cultural societies and literary onomastics (117–27). Together with innovative activities, onomastics must continue the investigation of the linguistic structure of names and of their etymologies. Heinz Dieter Pohl (Klagenfurt) also wishes to see more interest in toponyms as connecting elements and shared cultural items in multilingual regions (153–60). In particular, he would like to raise the awareness of place names as defining elements in cultural landscapes and as gateways to the cultural heritage of an area. In contrast, Gerhard Schildberg-Schroth (Åbo), stressing the hermeneutic aspects of applied onomastics, wishes to find answers to the questions when, where and for whom and what (proper) names become communicative events (161–71). He regards onomastics as a universal, special discipline.

On the other hand, Ernst Eichler (Leipzig) envisages systems of name types in their particular applications to be at the center of future name studies; he views such systems as sub-systems of the linguistic system, claiming that linguistics without onomastics cannot reflect the whole "life" of a language (33–35). From this point of view, it will be necessary to examine the relationship between single-language onomastics and "international" onomastics, especially since there exists no "grammar" of European onomastics. Along similar lines, Milan Harvalik (Prague) advocates the development of an international onomastic terminology when at present only competing terminological systems exist; he therefore proposes that systematic critical attention be given to a corresponding project which will make a valuable contribution to the dissemination of new ideas and the formulation of general principles (55–59). The future vision of Karlheinz Hengst (Leipzig) also relates to the internationalizing of onomastics but focuses on the literary variety or "poetonomastics," as he terms it (81–86). Among themes deserving attention he cites the reception of names in literary works and the treatment of names in translation. Hengst regards literary onomastics/poetonomastics as a key discipline at the intersection of several sciences. Rosa and Volker Kohlheim's special interest lies in the diffusion of heritable personal names in Europe (107–16). For that reason, they are looking to future research to illustrate the process of dissemination of the Byzantine model of bi-thematic personal names. Horst Naumann's (Grimma) list of desiderata relates to his own field of research: field names (121–39). As this topic is much neglected, he looks among others for a study of the several

levels of usage, the restoration of "lost" traditional names, motives and stimuli for their survival, better use of archives, the compilation of field name-books.

A few wish-lists are devoted to the improvement or extension of the study of personal names: the Kohlheims' interests have already been mentioned (107–16). Doreen Gerritzen's (Amsterdam) proposals concern research into first names since the names of children can offer insights into social change and the potential tension between the tendency to internationalize on the one hand and regional and national identity and loyalty on the other (45–53). Prerequisites for this kind of approach are the de-emphasising of etymological considerations and the establishment of international co-operation and strategies. Somewhat differently, an extension of the study of German surnames, as envisaged by Volkmar Hellfritzsch (Stollberg), would require more etymological research on an international level based on a systematic exploration of important anthroponymic archival material and of sources such as telephone directories for the definition of the spatial distribution of names or name types (61–79). In a combined contribution, Damaris Nübling (Mainz) and Konrad Kunze (Freiburg) have in mind the compilation of a four-volume Atlas of German Family Names as a desirable end-product of a computer-supported survey of German family names, a collection which would contain two volumes on linguistic matters (spelling, pronunciation, structure, function) and two volumes pertaining to cultural history, highlighting the inevitable connections between names and name-bearers (141–51). Jürgen Udolph (Leipzig), after a stock-taking exercise in a current onomastic research project, recommends its continuation and encourages the initiation of some new ones (173–81). He has for several years been successfully involved in organizing and administering such projects and therefore recommends some detailed administrative, operational steps, such as the critical appraisal of all German place names, the filling in of gaps in the *Hydronymia Germaniae*, a more intensive collection and interpretation of all field names, and strong support for the Leipzig chair in onomastics. Karina van Dalen-Oskam (Den Haag), arguing her case from the point of view of comparative literary onomastics, points out that visions in any discipline are essential and unavoidable (183–91). Using as her particular model a study of the use of names in two Dutch novels, she advocates the optimal employment of modern means of communication and information on the analysis of names. As an illustration of the potential application of her vision, she points to the initial phases of a digital project in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. Walter Wenzel (Leipzig), on the other hand, presents his ideas concerning the future tasks and desirable results of Slavic name research in general as encompassing personal names, river names, field names, name theory, terminology and the history of name research (193–210). At the end of this exercise he envisages the compilation of name books, name atlases, name encyclopaedias, name gazetteers, etc.

To sum up, the contributors of the nineteen essays brought together in this volume under review show both a positive appraisal of the current status and value of name studies and a genuine desire to shape their future substance and intentions; suggestions for improvement do not, on the whole, stem from satisfaction with the present state of affairs but from the realization that the onomastic sciences have to move along in outlook, contents, and imaginative and relevant use of modern technology. The reader is left with the impression that the contributors to this volume relished the opportunity to dream a little, knowing that the particular future of their dreams may not really happen and that there is room for many futures, many tomorrows. In their variety, these grow out of, continue, and enhance the several presents which form the starting points of their visions. Even the most audacious projects come from proposers with their feet on the ground.

However different, and even contradictory, these futures may be, however broad or narrow their speculations may seem today, there is some validity to their articulation as more than just a stimulating nudge; all of them, in some way or another, envisage the removal of onomastics from whatever isolation in which it may still find itself today. The mode of research in which this is to be achieved may either derive from the realization that name studies are themselves inter-disciplinary, flourishing in a multi-disciplinary environment, or are, as one of the dreamers puts it somewhat paradoxically, themselves a universal speech special discipline. Somehow the visions of those who look on it as a sub-discipline of linguistics or understand it to be,

like linguistics, part of the cognitive sciences are not as divisive as one might have expected, for what ties all the visions of the future together is the language of co-operation, building bridges and interaction. Some of the adjacent disciplines which are cited in this report are genealogy, (applied) hermeneutics, geography (an atlas project), archaeology, cartography, dialectology, and biology (zoology and botany). In some cases, such contacts are needed to continue to create specific co-operative projects; in others they make phenomena like intertextuality, deconstruction and globalism possible. Some visionaries want to go beyond the etymologies of individual names; others insist on etymology as a central ingredient of name studies.

Many crystal balls, various refractions, many tomorrows.

University of Aberdeen, UK W.F.H. Nicolaisen

The One-in-a-Million Baby Name Book. By Jennifer Moss. Pp. xiv + 609. New York: Penguin. 2008. Paperbound. ISBN: 978-0-399-53430-0

A difference of this book from the many others on first names for babies is a connection with a website, http://www.BabyNames.com. The information in the book is largely based on the website, which was founded by the author in 1996.

This is an unusually large book, 9 inches high, 7.5 inches wide, 1.25 inches thick. More than 500 pages contain an alphabetical list of almost 8,000 names. Each name is designated as male, female, or unisex. An unusually large proportion of the names, more than 10%, are unisex.

The information on each name includes a rating from 1 "Not My Style at All" to 5 "Love It." The linguistic origin and the meaning in the original language are briefly stated. Some of the names identify one or more famous people given the name. Unusual information on each name consists of several personality traits "people think of" associated with the name and several other first names also liked by "people who like the name."

Following are examples of three names: a frequent male name, an infrequent female name, and a unisex name.

Michael: rating 4. Origin: Hebrew. Meaning: Who is like God?

Famous people: In the Bible, an archangel; Michael Douglas, actor; Michael J. Fox, actor; Michael Jordan, basketball player.

People think of Michael as handsome, funny, intelligent, caring, cool. People who like the name Michael also like Matthew, Nicholas, Andrew, Ethan, Nathan, Jacob, Daniel, Joshua, Christopher, Benjamin.

Venice: rating 3. Italian. English name of an Italian city.

People think of Venice as exotic, intelligent, artsy, pretty, creative.

People who like the name Venice also like Vienna, Victoria, Isabella, Olivia, Sierra, Scarlett, Vanessa, Natalia, Mia, Violet.

Casey: rating 4. Celtic /Gaelic. Vigilant in war.

Also an Irish surname; also spelled Kasey: "Casey at the Bat," famous poem; Casey Kasim, voiceover personality.

People think of Casey as funny, caring, intelligent, cool, pretty.

People who like the name Casey also like Bailey, Caden, Cameron, Riley, Connor, Dylan, Logan, Cassidy, Hayden, Brooke.

More than 70 pages of the book contain advice on choices of first names and lists of names in selected categories: old-fashioned, fictional characters, musical, celebrities, scientists, royalty, sports heroes, geographical names, common nouns, creative names, and meaning in the original language. A few anecdotes by visitors to the website are quoted. The book contains no list of the recent most frequent first names. Unusual names are emphasized in the author's recommendations and are probably desired by the majority of parents. The website lists the 100 most frequent male and female names in 2009.

A preface by Cleveland Kent Evans praises the book and emphasizes the contributions from the website BabyNames.com. The present reviewer also reviewed a recent book by Evans, *The Great Big Book of Baby Names* (2006) for *Names* (55: 2007, 173–75). The book by Evans contains more scholarly and detailed information, especially on the linguistic origins and meanings of the names. The information is lengthier for the more popular names. The information by Moss on the traits people think of and on the other names people like is repetitious. The book does not adequately document the source of this information and of the ratings.

The book by Moss has distinctive merits. The good advice and perceptive comments are clear and witty. The alphabetical list of names is an especially useful source for identifying unisex names.

University of Pittsburgh, USA HERBERT BARRY III

Namengebung in Ostfriesland. By MANNO PETERS TAMMENA. Pp. 942. Norden: Soltau-Kurier-Norden. 2009. € /US$ 53.87. ISBN: 978-3-939870-59-3

On November 5, 1992, the *Charter of Regional and Minority Languages* was signed by the Federal Republic of Germany for the protection of minority languages. According to Part II, Article 7d of the Charter, the member states agreed to "the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life . . . as an expression of cultural wealth." Among those languages provided for in the charter is Frisian. Not be confused with *Plattdeutsch*, Frisian is a West Germanic language which is usually divided into three major groups: Northern, Western, and Eastern.

It is primarily to be found in isolated island and mainland costal communities in and around the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany. Although there is considerable disagreement over the exact number of native speakers today, it is generally agreed that Frisian is an acutely endangered language. With the publication of the book under review, however, a significant step towards preserving this onomastic bounty has been taken. Interestingly, unlike so many other scientific works on naming which go relatively unnoticed by the general public, this work almost immediately won the attention of both the nationally syndicated and regional press.

In part this unusual amount of media coverage was no doubt due to the sheer volume of this reference. With nearly 1000 pages, the book clearly eclipses such popular works as Duden's evergreen *Das große Vornamen Lexikon*, which discusses "only" 8,000 different German first names (ISBN: 978-3-411-06083-2). What further sets this publication apart from the regular crop of generic baby naming books is the fact that this reference is exclusively devoted to the scientific investigation of personal names found in *Ostfriesland*, East Frisia. As such, this publication seems to have hit the German-speaking book market at the just the right time.

As many scholars have already observed, in recent years, so-called "nordic names" (e.g., *Antke, Imke, Marit, Meike, Theda; Finn, Knud, Nils, Sven, Tammo*) seem to be enjoying a renaissance. For this reason alone, this publication seems to hold a certain fascination for the increasing number of new parents in the perennial search for unusual yet traditional first names. Readers who suddenly find themselves in this category will be astounded by the onomastic treasure trove to be discovered in this mammoth work. From *Aabel* to *Zyvert*, *Aaltje* to *Zywer*, Tammena's reference contains an alphabetical listing of no less than 45,000 male and female East Friesland names which the author has painstakingly collected over the past six decades (389–934). However, as lay readers will soon discover, this work is by no means suited for light, casual reading.

Along with the aforementioned name lists, this work also contains detailed information on the etymology, orthography, derivation, and pronunciation of East Frisian personal names. Punctuating this regional exploration are countless fascinating parallels drawn between onomastic patterns found with many of Frisian's modern sister languages. An example is the use of the patronymic suffix *–son* "son," which is widespread in today's Scandinavian surnames.

In Friesland, this same affix has also been extremely productive and has resulted in the generation of such surnames as *Ryckerssoen*, *Berndessoen*, *Heintzen*, and *Paulsen*. However, as Tammena is careful to point out, among the Frisians, nothing is as simple as it seems. In many instances, it is not the patronymic marker *–son* but the combined weak genitive *–s* and *–en* which underlies such surface forms as *Claasen*. Linguists interested in unravelling the historical ties among Northern European naming systems will doubtlessly find this exploration into this lesser known Germanic language of great potential interest.

The same can be said of onomaticians interested in comparative diachronic developments which English personal names have undergone. Like its closest surviving West Germanic relative, the Frisian language has also been dramatically influenced by a never-ending tide of foreign languages. And, like English, one of the languages which left an indelible mark upon the onomastic store of Frisian is French. As Tammena describes in vivid detail, the seventeenth century saw the sudden influx of French Huguenots into many Frisian-speaking communities (43–44). The result was not only the introduction of French names such as *Annette*, *Georgette*, and *Henriette*, but also the genesis of many onomastic hybrids through the affixation of traditional Frisian names with loan French suffixes like *–ette*. This sociocultural development culminated in the emergence of names like *Arjette* [←*Arjen*], *Elbette* [←*Elbe*], *Stinette* [←*Stine*], and the potentially misunderstood *Brunette* from the Frisian girl's name *Brune*. Since the eighteenth century, the number of French names has ebbed, and other foreign names have streamed in (e.g., *Adem*, *Joschka*, *Nicole*, and *Ilona*).

In addition to such diachronic developments, this work is also an excellent reference for investigating synchronic variation. In particular, attention is given to describing naming patterns which can be found in many German dialects but which have a special twist in East Frisia. For example, for generation upon generation, the Bible has served as a popular source of personal names for German speakers. Despite steadily declining numbers of church-goers in Germany, these names continue to enjoy considerable popularity in German families. In East Frisia, the Bible has also remained a popular inspiration for first names. However, the word-formation processes which have been applied in this region have yielded several regional specialities. For instance, from *Abraham*, *Johannes*, *Lukas*, *Thomas*, and *Peter* have evolved *Abrahannes*, *Lucks*, *Maas*, and *Peet*. Similarly creative processes were behind the generation of many female Bible-based personal names. In major Northern German cities like Hamburg and Hannover, the names *Anna, Elisabeth, Eva, Margaretha, Rahel*, and *Sara* can be found. By comparison, in the rural townships of East Frisia, the following regional variants have taken root: *Antje*, *Beetje*, *Evatje*, *Trientje*, *Racheltje*, *Sarientje*, and *Zarola* ([*Sara*]+[*Carola*]).

Although the reference under review draws many such cross-linguistic comparisons, the author nonetheless carefully maintains the focus of the book — highlighting those patterns which are particular to the East Frisian onomastic landscape. For example, in many Frisian families, it was once commonplace to give children first names which had been derived from the kinship terms "father," "brother," "son," "mother," "daughter," and "sister" (e.g., *Fadriko, Fedreke; Brore, Bruderus, Brouder; Sonke, Sunke; Moder, Moederine, Muderike; Famke, Feene, Fohntje*; and *Süster, Susterke, Siesse*) (63–69). Although the original meaning of these names has been largely lost, the continued presence of these names is a resilient, tangible marker of the importance which the Frisians placed upon the family.

Another East Frisian naming pattern which gives additional evidence for the strength of the family ties in this region can be found in the tradition of naming children after deceased relatives. As Tammena reveals, it is the enduring adherence to this tradition which has led to such seeming anomalies as the East Frisian woman, *Peter Peterson*, who was named after her deceased father in the sixteenth century (117). This tradition may also be the secret behind onomastic oddities like *Katharino, Greto, Mirando, Olgo*, and *Sylwio*, the masculinized forms of the traditionally female names *Katharina, Greta, Miranda, Olga*, and *Sylvia* (130–136). To help readers understand the intricate role which genealogy plays in name formation among East Frisians, this reference also provides countless detailed family biographies where the personal names are traced over several generations.

The book ends with an appeal to other onomasticians to join in the efforts to preserve the Frisian language and its many dialects. Towards that end, Tammena addresses (albeit all too briefly) many onomastic mysteries which still remain unsolved today. Sadly the time remaining to solve these and other riddles may be rather limited. From the Napoleonic Invasion of the nineteenth century to the relentless erosion of the agrarian-based economy throughout the twenty-first, the days remaining to English's oldest and closest surviving relative may be numbered. From this perspective, the Tammena tome is much more than a superb onomastic case-study. It is also a surprisingly moving and deeply inspirational homage to the people and the language of his beloved homeland.

In recognition of this accomplishment, Tammena was given the coveted *Totius Frisiae Siegel* award for his scientific contribution to the preservation of the German cultural heritage. The reference itself has been roundly praised by European scholars in German onomastics as a linguistic triumph, a must-have for modern researchers interested in Germanic naming patterns. As the internationally renowned Professor Wilfried Seibicke of the University of Heidelberg wrote in the book's forward: "Ich wünsche diesem Buch viele Leserinnen und Leser — nicht nur in Ostfriesland; denn es erschließt jedem sprach- und/oder kulturgeschichtlich Interessierten auf allgemein verständliche Weise eine reizvolle deutsche Namenlandschaft" [I hope this book reaches many readers far beyond East Frisia for it successfully reveals in an accessible manner the enchanting panorama of the German onomastic landscape to all those who interested in language, culture, and/or history] (12). The greatest criticism of this book? As yet, it is only available in standard High German. And, alas, there are no plans at present for either an English or Frisian translation.

University of Cologne, Germany I.M. Laversuch