Reviews

Nicknames of Places. By ADRIAN ROOM. Pp. 357. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company. 2011 Reprint of 2006 hardcover edition. $55.00. ISBN-13: 978-0786466238

Thanks go to McFarland & Company for this 2011 reprint of *Nicknames of Places*, originally published in 2006 but never reviewed in *Names*. It is typical of the work we came to expect of Adrian Room — meticulously researched, informative, engagingly written, and a valuable contribution to onomastics. According to the publisher, the book contains some 4600 "secondary names" of places worldwide, although names in English-speaking and European countries are especially prominent. Room defines a secondary name as "a name, nickname, title, or slogan by which a place is known in addition to its formal or usual name" (1) and notes that such names fall primarily into one of two categories; they are either based upon formal names (Chi Town for Chicago, Honkers for Hong Kong, Darling-it-hurts for the Darlinghurst section of Sydney, Australia) or — and more interestingly — reflect descriptions or characteristics of a place, well-known, perceived, or otherwise (Honeymooners' Capital for Niagara Falls, Monarch of Mountains for Mont Blanc, Puke State for Missouri).

Although the majority of secondary names in this collection are those of communities, civil or natural features, Room wisely includes — in seven sizeable appendices: Regional Nicknames such as the New York's Hell's Kitchen, Ireland's Drumlin Belt, and England's Cleckheckmondsedge, which Room describes as "a contrived portmanteau name for the former conurbation of Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, and Liversedge" (275); Road and Street Nicknames such as Chicago's Magnificent Mile, New York's Avenue of the Americas, and the Netherlands' rue de Vaseline in Amsterdam's gay district; Romany Names of Places (although Room gives no reason for including these three dozen or so names, all but one in Britain); Renamed Countries (some fifty entries, apparently drawn from Room's extensive *Place-name Changes Since 1900*, first published in 1979); Roman Names of Towns and Cities in Europe (about 300 entries with both their Latin names and their modern names); English County Names, both current and former; and some forty Astronomical Names such as Diana, Phoebe, Selene, and Cynthia for the moon.

The appendices are followed by a most useful alphabetical index of the features named along with their secondary names. England, Ireland, London, and New York have generated the most nicknames with about fifty each, followed (at some distance) by Paris, Rome, Britain, and the United States. From this section we can see that Canada is also known as the Big Country, Big Moose, Canady, Dominion, Great Lone Land, Great White North, Great Weird North, Land of the Little Sticks, New France, and Our Lady of the Snows; and that Medellín, Columbia, now known for its drug cartels, is also known as the Land of Eternal Spring, the Lingerie Capital of Latin America, Manchester of Columbia, and Medallo.

As we might expect, most of the secondary names are laudatory; Room has entries for some fifty "Queens" ("King" does not fare nearly so well, with a mere half-dozen, and Prince and Princess are notable for their absence), some forty "Gateways" and fifty "Gardens," from the Garden State (New Jersey) to the Cabbage Garden (Victoria, Australia). (The motto of Chicago is *Urbs in Horto* "city in a garden," which the columnist Mike Royko claimed should be changed to *Ube es mea* "where's mine" to be more in keeping with Chicago's reputation of graft, cronyism, and political clout.)

Some, however, are less favorable. Georgia is the "Buzzard State," Placerville, California, is "Hangtown," both Hollywood and New Orleans in the United States, and London, England,

Dublin, Ireland, and Hyderabad, India, are also known as Sodom. (Once again Gomorrah takes second billing, with only one entry, in Alexandra, South Africa, where it is spelled Gomora.)

Room, of course, must be selective; space and time are limited, making it unwise and probably impossible to try to collect and record all of the sobriquets and other informal names of places, Sodom being a case in point. Certainly, many communities have thought of their neighbors as Sodom by nature, if not by name. According to the GNIS database, in the United States there are currently eight populated places officially named Sodom and another thirteen have Sodom as a secondary name; these include Ithaca, New York, home of Cornell University. It is unknown if any of the high school annuals bore the name *The Sodomite*.

Not only have financially and culturally important cities generated nicknames for themselves, they have become the nicknamesakes of other cities. Room lists twenty-seven secondary names for Paris, France, and twenty-four places called "Paris of . . .," including Paris of the Amazon (Manaus, Brazil), Paris of Siberia (Irkutsk, Russia), and Paris of the Desert (Marzuq, Libya).

The entries themselves are little jewels, describing the reasons for the nicknames and usually citations offering significant historical and cultural insights into their formation. We find, for instance, that Gotham was first used by Washington Irving in 1807 to lampoon New York culture and politics and that the oft-quoted "City of Dreaming Spires" for Oxford, England was derived from Matthew Arnold's 1866 poem *Thyrsis*. (A century later New York City was called the City of Dreamless Spires, and Oxford's rival Cambridge was called the City of Perspiring Dreams.)

Nicknames of Places is a trove of information, diligently gathered, artfully organized and presented. It belongs in every onomast's library.

Northern Illinois University   EDWARD CALLARY

Indexing Names. Ed. Noeline Bridge. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2012. Pp. 384. $55.00. ISBN 978-1-57387-450-2

Noeline Bridge, editor of this new volume published through the American Society for Indexing, is admittedly fascinated by names. That fascination, coupled with her background in library cataloging and her current profession as a freelance indexer, led her to *Indexing Names*. In the first chapter, Bridge writes, "[T]his book comprises a plethora of issues facing indexers in their everyday work, along with some that occur in less usual circumstance" (1). In order to address that plethora of issues in a single volume, she gathered indexers from all over the country with a vast array of specialties.

Bridge writes the first chapter, which takes the reader through her seven-pronged approach to name indexing while also introducing the contents of the book. *Indexing Names* is composed of twenty-five chapters divided into four parts: "By Nationality or Ethnicity"; "By Genre"; "Issues Involving Names"; and "Resources." Part I includes a chapter each on Classical/Medieval, Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese, Chinese Place, Hawaiian, Hmong, Indonesian, Te Reo Maori, and Thai names. Part II covers biographies, religion, U.K. royalty and nobility, art, and performing arts genres. Part III addresses fiction, corporation, and geographic names as well as including a chapter on automated name indexing. Part IV covers the Library of Congress authority file and a chapter on additional resources for personal name indexing.

Organization within chapters readily enables a reader to look up specific information: chapters are divided into sections, labeled in bold type, and often include bulleted lists. Examples are set apart from the other text, which makes them easy to find. This layout is particularly useful to quickly identify rules for each name genre. Because even the best set of rules cannot cover every possible name, chapters also guide the reader on how to address

unusual circumstances and potential problems. Each chapter includes relevant examples of both how to apply an indexing rule or recommendation correctly and how it would look if it were applied incorrectly.

Chapters in Part I include brief summaries on the history of the nationality/ethnicity as well as an introduction to that particular alphabet. Not every author addresses the technical side of indexing, but a number of them do. In the chapter on Arabic names, for example, the author includes a table to demonstrate conversion codes and typing shortcuts an indexer might use. The heading and first entry are shown below:

Diacritic	Conversion Code	Shortcut	Letter Name
'	[.]	.]	hamza

Chapters clearly state their intended application. Chapter 6, for example, states that it is written for a German indexer but also makes note of what could apply to the English indexer working with German names.

Part II complements Part I with chapters on indexing by genre. Where Part I often addresses context, Part II frequently speaks of the importance of subject knowledge. The chapters are impressively thorough for their length. Chapter 16, for example, covers treatment of names of nobility in the United Kingdom from the year 900 to present. The eclectic Part III feels like a catchall for topics that failed to fit in the other three parts, with a chapter on geographic names followed by a chapter on algorithms.

The clear organization that is apparent throughout the rest of the book is temporarily abandoned in Part III. For example, its opening Chapter 19 would have made an excellent first or second chapter but feels out of place this late in the book. Part IV includes two chapters that contain valuable information about resources for name indexing beyond the scope of the book. It is simple to follow and understand, especially for the novice. In addition to a list of resources, Chapter 25 goes beyond a typical resource list by including information on how to determine which resource to use and how and why each resource is useful. It offers a resource and a note on whether that resource demonstrates an already alphabetized sort or if it simply provides the rules on how to alphabetize the sort in given circumstances.

While each contributor knows his or her subject well, not all chapters are of the same caliber. Most are of the academic quality one would expect, but one or two chapters fail to meet the high standards found throughout the rest of the book. For example, one chapter cites Wikipedia, while another reads as a first draft.

Indexing Names remains true to its intended audience throughout: the beginning indexer. It would also be a valuable resource to an experienced indexer exploring a new specialty. The book works as a one-stop shop for rules, tips, and resources on a myriad of name indexing topics. It is easy to look up information by book genre or name genre. In less adept hands, a compilation like *Indexing Names* would repeat itself with authors overlapping one another's chapter subjects, but Bridge avoids redundancy by allowing chapters to reference other chapters rather than repeat the information. The book preserves the ease and continuity of a single volume while benefitting from multiple authors' expertise.

Though the onomastic scholar would find certain parts of each chapter interesting, e.g., the history and context of naming for each ethnicity/cultural group, most of the book speaks specifically to an audience of indexers. The beginner and the experienced indexer both benefit from the carefully selected summaries and guides that facilitate their work with names.

Utah State University   Jennifer Mansfield