

Meredith's novel *Sandra Belloni* (1886), originally published as *Emilia in England* (1864); the heroine, Emilia Sandra Belloni, is a beautiful, passionate young singer. (241)

The dictionary's 285 pages of name entries are prefaced by two valuable introductions. On pp. vii–x is the Introduction to the Second Edition. Foremost among the topics it addresses is “Coining a New Name.” Beginning with today's most popular form of coinage, the creation of names from unique letter combinations, the authors then discuss suffixation, e.g. *-ina*, *-etta*; blends, e.g. *Diana* + *Andrea* → *Diandrea*; respellings; and vocabulary words as names, e.g. *Poppy*, *Rain*. Next, the authors take up “Borrowing Names from Other Languages,” the adoption of names from a given language by speakers of other languages. Recognizing this growing practice, the authors assemble 13 appendices with “the most common names in some of the non-English cultures that will be of greatest interest to English-speakers” (x). The 149 pages that comprise these appendices make a significant contribution to the dictionary, useful for readers researching names of non-English origin and, more widely, for audiences interested in the globalization of the name pool.

On pp. xi–xxvii the authors include the extensive Introduction to the First Edition, which describes the scope of the work, the role of names as social expression and personal identity, and fundamental sources of names in European cultures, including Biblical and saints' names, names from classical antiquity, names from pre-Christian European cultures, and royal names, along with a short comment on the gender-marking of names, including women's names derived from men's. It concludes with six and a half pages on “Naming Practices in Different Cultures,” with micro-commentaries that can serve as preface, so to speak, to the appendices that would appear in the second edition 16 years later.

Following the main dictionary are those 13 appendices with names from specific linguistic origins, presented in alphabetical order: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Scandinavian, Scottish, Spanish, and Welsh. These compendia provide useful if shorter entries, three columns per page, in the same format as entries in the main dictionary, to which they are frequently cross-referenced. An entry from the seven-page Appendix of Russian Names serves as example:

**Timofei** ♂ From Greek *Timotheos* ‘honour God’. See Timothy in main dictionary. (383)

Although the Table of Contents (v) indicates a total of 22 appendices, the text provided for review includes only the 13 for names compiled by language of origin. Missing are Appendix 14 on unisex names and Appendices 15–22, which list the most popular names in the chief English-speaking countries (2003 or 2004) and by half-century for England and Wales and for the US (1954–2003).

Many online resources for onomasticians exist today, including two key first-name databases linked from the American Name Society webpage, BabyNames.com and Behindthename.com. Both dating to 1996, these important websites have seen exponential growth over the past two decades, growth related in part to the expansiveness of online formats, with the capacity for detail both verbal and visual, interactive displays, hyperlinks, and ready updating. Without doubt, some users exploring first names will gravitate to such electronic resources. Nonetheless, for the convenience I still attribute to hard-copy books and for the scholarly imprimatur of Hanks, Hodges, and Hardcastle together, I want *A Dictionary of First Names* on my reference shelf.

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**A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska.** By DOUG VANDEGRAFT. Kenmore, WA: Epicenter Press. 2014. Pp. 172. \$16.95. ISBN 978-1-935347-41-5.

What makes a bar notorious might not necessarily be its name. Local gossip, a disquieting event, real or imagined, even a questionable location may be factors. Still, eyebrow-raising bar names

appear in abundance in Doug Vandegrift's *A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska*. Collectively, they suggest that a name may be a vital ingredient in establishing a reputation for notoriety. Many of the bar names listed in the guidebook, such as *Moocher's Bar*, *Mug Shot Saloon*, *Skinny Dick's Halfway Inn*, *Time-Out Lounge*, and *Vagabond Inn* do evoke a degree of infamy, disrepute, dishonor, or general badassness. Others, like *Anchor Inn*, *Breakers Bar*, *Last Hook Off*, *Midnite Mine*, and hands-down my favorite, the *Polar Bar*, are punfully descriptive of their environments. Categorically, these names strike this reviewer as authentically Alaskan, whether one is tipping lightly at *Klondike Mike's Saloon* or downing a pitcher at *Kenai Joe's*.

Ever the intrepid researcher, Doug Vandegrift derived his knowledge of Alaska's notorious bars honestly. He investigated each and every bar featured in his guidebook. The author notes that he was fresh out of college when he arrived in Alaska in 1983 to work for the federal government. What began as a pastime for Vandegrift – he admits that residents of Alaska both work and play hard – evolved into a personal mission to visit every bar in the 49th state. He undertook his arduous journey in order to record for each establishment its history, the origins of its name, and its level of notoriety.

In his Introduction, Vandegrift explains his interest in his subject matter (hours spent in Alaskan bars and a penchant for local history) and reveals the chief catalyst (a high school chum's visit) for the writing of his book. As the author relays anecdotes about his Alaska years in an unpretentious yet descriptive style, he reveals to readers his own personable nature: "For years I had heard stories about Rose's bar in Pelican, a remote town in Southeast Alaska. Rose's is an establishment that the Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board used the word 'notorious' to describe. What a treat it was to visit this famous bar and actually talk to Rose Miller!" (9). Simply put, Doug Vandegrift appears the kind of guy with whom one would want to clink beer mugs, perhaps in one of the very bars he describes in his guidebook. The prefatory chapters, "What Makes a Bar Notorious," "In Search of Alaska's Oldest Bars," and "A Short History of Alcohol and Bars in Alaska," provide important context for the lengthiest section of Vandegrift's guidebook. The expansive "Notorious Bars of" section is subdivided by regions, and true to the volume's title, provides detailed entries for each of the bars the author deems "notorious."

In terms of its methodology and scope, the volume is guided by sound principles, including crucial onomastic criteria. One might say that the author set the bar high. To qualify for inclusion in Vandegrift's guidebook, three conditions had to be met. The bar had to have been in existence for at least 25 years, in operation at the same address, and open under the same name – or at least still known by its original name among local residents. As the author explains in his introduction, "My standard lead-off question was, 'How long has this bar been here?' followed by 'Has it always been in this same location?' and 'Is the (name of bar) famous for something?'" (9). Vandegrift's third research question should pique the curiosity of every onomastician or imbiber – not mutually exclusive categories, of course – who is reading this review.

That Vandegrift is a cartographer by training is evident in his volume's spatial organization. His guidebook maps out the locations of over 130 bars to assist tourists, travelers, pilgrims, and the merely thirsty to their destinations. The author groups his notorious bars (non-notorious bars, along with restaurants, are not included) geographically. Featured are bars located in five Alaskan regions: the Southeastern, the Southcentral, the Interior, the Southwest, and the Western. Excluded from the guidebook are the Arctic and the Yukon–Kuskokwim delta regions, where the sale of alcohol is prohibited by law, and hence no public bars exist.

Entries are uniform in their presentation and content. In the heading for each entry, essential data are provided, including the notorious bar's name, address, phone number, date of license issue, and amenities. While many of the amenities are expected, such as darts or live entertainment on weekends, some are more eclectic. Fresh Dungeness crabs in season. Horseshoes! Shuffleboard, anyone? In the entry proper, readers are provided with a passage detailing the bar's "History and Notoriety." Typically, in this section, an explanation is provided for the bar's name. For instance, we learn that *Fat Albert's Tavern* in Beluga was named after the bar's founder, Albert Van Huff, and not after the Bill Cosby character. The final section in each entry offers readers tips about

“Visiting” the establishment. The following excerpt from the entry on the *Forelands Bar* in Nikiski, Alaska is representative of the volume’s entries as a whole and contains an account of name variation and indeed some “notorious” pub history:

The Forelands was born in the early days of the Kenai oil boom. The name refers to the nearby east and west forelands, points of land that form a narrowing of Cook Inlet. [...] The spelling has varied from Forelands to Fourlands to 4 Lands, and from 1984–1986 it was known as the Nikiski House. The original sign, spelled Fourlands, was removed and never replaced when the Kenai Spur Highway was widened. [...] Eadie Sutton Henderson, the renowned owner of Eadie’s Last Frontier Club, did a striptease dance at the Forelands in 2000. Even though she was in her seventies, she still had a beautiful body and danced very gracefully. Henderson still retained a certain dignity and advised a local girl who also danced that evening to “don’t show no rabbit.” (86)

Vandegraft adds visual interest to his guidebook by including several pages of photographs at the beginning of each regional division. These include exterior and interior views of the bars, portraits of bar owners and customers, and action shots depicting events held at these establishments. Additional images include historic posters and signage. Interspersed throughout the attractive volume are artistic renderings of Alaskan wildlife in shadow profile form; recognizable with ease are the moose, bear, and caribou icons. Thus, there is much to see as well as read in this guidebook.

I recommend this genial and obliging guidebook. Whether you are (a) planning a bar crawl through the Land of the Midnight Sun, (b) interested in notorious establishments and their equally notorious names, (c) a mild-mannered place names enthusiast such as myself, or (d) all of the above, Doug Vandegraft’s *A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska* is sure to prove informative and of interest.

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