

Book Reviews

On the Origin of the Saracatsans and Their Name. By Demetrius J. Georgacas. (Athens, 1949, pp. 151. Reprinted from *Archives of Thracian Folklore and Language Thesaurus* 12 [1945-6] 65-128 and 14 [1948-9] 193-270.)

This special study of Professor Georgacas is devoted to the highly interesting problem of the origin of the seminomads called *Saracatsans*, numbering some thousands in continental Greece and in some areas of neighboring Balkan countries, with which problem a number of scholars had dealt in the past. In this book views and theories are reviewed and scrutinized and the results of the new investigation are offered.

After a short preface (pp. 3-5) in which introductory remarks on the subject as well as on the relevant bibliography are made, the two problems are treated: (1) *Origin of the Saracatsans* (6-41, 71-72), and (2) *Names of the Saracatsans* (41-64, 86-128, 132-135). There follow bibliography and other information (136-142), a note concerning a new investigation of the problem by Roumanians (142-143), English summary (145-146), and an index of things and words (147-150).

The five theories advanced regarding the origin of the S. are analyzed and discussed; especially the one which supports the belief that they are of Aromunian origin, that is, Aromunian seminomads hellenized (N. Jorga, Th. Capidan, T. Papahagi, and others), is discussed at length. Therein Dr. Georgacas has succeeded in checking in detail and invalidating all arguments advanced with an admirable knowledge of language and folklore data. Beside the facts that the S. have been living principally in Greek territory, have Greek national conscience, speak Greek, possess a folk art with archaic Greek elements, the linguistic evidence proves to be the strongest; after an exhaustive investigation of over 100 terms (many of which the author explains historically or in their interrelations with the other Balkan languages), the author concludes that the S. have not been nomads from ancient Greek times but they, originally sedentary Greek speakers, became nomads in late medieval times.

Apart from the linguistic evidence from the vocabulary of these

nomads (over 100 terms and expressions are treated at length), we are rather interested in this review in the relevant nomenclature.

It takes 27 pages (41–64, 132–5) to treat the name *Sarakatsános*; the author rejects a dozen etymologies, testing each against sound and rigid linguistic and onomastic principles. The author's own explanation of the tribe name from a personal name (*Sarakatsános* from *sari* 'blond' and the surname *Katsános*; *Karakatsános* from *kara* 'black' and *Katsános*) is simple, convincing, and well documented. Here he speaks also of names compounded with *sari-* and *kara-* (54–56), of the name *Katsános*, of *Katsanochória*, and kindred names (59–61, 134–5), of *Kostatsháni* and *Karakoltsháni* (48–49), etc.

The well-known designation *Vláchos* is the object of an extensive treatment (18–19, 20, 29–30, 86–104); the author's thoroughness establishes here the true facts: the medieval name *Vlachos* early became an appellative noun meaning 'shepherd' in Greek and other Balkan languages. The author presents also derivatives and compounds of the name in Greek. In this connection the following names are also treated: *Ambljanítes Vláchi* (101–104), *Koutsóvlachi* (96–101), *Bourdzóvlachi* (102–104).

The names *Sirákos*, *Siráko*, *Sirakéika*, *Sirákovo*, and related names (18–86) are examined in a separate chapter.

The whole book, printed in two installments in 1945 and 1948 (because of the bad postwar conditions in Greece) with additions, has a certain lack of unity. But in essence, this specialized study establishes a model precedent for similar work to be done in such linguistic areas as the Balkans. I am glad to agree in this with all his critics such as Professor André Mirambel, Dr. Gordon Messing, Dr. John Cavarnos, and Dr. Costas Proussis.

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The Place-Names of Cumberland, Part III, Introduction, etc. By A. M. Armstrong, A. Mawer, F. M. Stenton, Bruce Dickins. (ENGLISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY, Vol. XXII, Cambridge University Press, 1952.)

This volume, designed to serve as an introduction and general-service book for the preceding two, which took up the place-names

of Cumberland in orderly detail, continues the English tradition of thorough and perceptive place-name scholarship. Although the names of four authors appear on the title page, Sir Allen Mawer died eleven years ago, and Sir Frank Stenton has not been active in the editorship of the Society's volumes for the past seven years. Consequently, credit for the bulk of the collection and arrangement of the Cumberland place-name materials must go to Miss Armstrong, and the interpretation of the material, with which this volume is primarily concerned, was given its final form by Professor Dickins.

Several features of English place-name study are likely to impress the American reader as he goes through the volumes devoted to Cumberland, and particularly this last one. First, there is the length of research time represented in one of these county studies. Work on the Cumberland names began in 1931, so that all told, these three volumes are the culmination of a project which took two decades to bring to completion. Second, there is the breadth and scope of cooperative endeavor which this work represents. The meticulous acknowledgments include not only the many libraries and private sources of manuscripts bearing upon the project but the staffs and pupils of ten schools who collected field names, a number of local antiquarians who read proof on the volume and contributed suggestions, and linguistic and historical scholars who offered specialized aid of many kinds. Scarcely anything that is done in this country, short of a dictionary, represents the combined effort of so many people.

Place-names constitute, in themselves, a unique reflection of the cultural history of an area, but scarcely anywhere is this feature so apparent as in England. Control of the country having rested, over the past 2100 years, in the hands of speakers of four different languages, the place-name history naturally assumes a complexity far beyond that characteristic of an area which has been generally monolingual. Not only do the place-names portray this linguistic mixture, but they reflect other aspects of the cultural history of the country as well, including the lore of balladry, of the Arthurian romances, even the lead-mining practices in one corner of the county. There is a richness here which would be difficult to match elsewhere and which the editors have exploited to the full.

The *Place-Names of Cumberland* represents some important changes in practice over the earlier volumes of the English Place-

Name Society. Field names, which have been very fully treated, are included in the index. An excellent relief map of the county is included with this volume, and the one late Old English text, the writ of Gospatric, which contains some pertinent evidence of place-naming, is reproduced, both photographically and in the text.

The problems which these four authors faced in reconstructing the history of Cumberland place-names were so thorny and the result so impressive that one hesitates even to venture any adverse criticism. The lack of Old English materials except for the single writ, the fact that there were Domesday forms for only four names, the absence of cartularies for many of the monasteries forced a greater dependence upon such records as the Pipe Rolls, the Assize Rolls, and the Pleas of the Forest than is usually the case. There are one or two matters of presentation, however, which seem, to this reviewer at least, capable of improvement.

The treatment of dialect suffers from the lack of any application of the phonemic principle, nor is the alphabetic order of the presentation of dialect evidence necessarily the happiest choice. In some instances, fuller explanation of dialect criteria would have been helpful. Certainly, Old English *a* before nasals followed by homorganic consonant clusters should be differentiated from *a* in open syllables or followed by clusters which did not cause vowel lengthening. One is never quite certain whether he is confronted with a local dialect development, a regional one, or something which occurred throughout England; the spelling *ar* for ME *er* is scarcely a development which could justly be attributed to any one dialect. The section on the distribution of place-name elements might well have been reinforced by a table or chart. Finally, the *Addenda et Corrigenda* to the twenty-one earlier volumes in the series would be placed more conveniently at the end of the book rather than between the text and the indexes.

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Onoma. Bibliographical and Information Bulletin. Published by the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES, at the INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF ONOMASTICS, Louvain, Belgium. (Volume II, 1951. Pp. 118 + 69. \$2.00.)

The Third International Congress of Toponymy and Anthroponymy, held at Brussels, in 1949, voted to establish the present

Bulletin. The issue under review here contains a variety of material, not all onomatological, in its 187 pages. The first nineteen pages are given over to two headings, *To the Reader* and *Communications*. These contributions are printed both in English and in French. Also in the rest of the volume there are sporadic attempts at bilinguality, or even tri- and quadrilinguality. Otherwise the journal presupposes that users can read English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. (An assumption, I hasten to add, which is, or should be, fully defensible.)

Pp. 20–23 announce the Fourth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, held in August, 1952, in Uppsala.

Pp. 25–64 present, to my mind, the important parts of the current issue, that is, scholarly and personal information of interest to the onomatologist: a report by E. Schwarz on work in onomastics in Germany and Austria between 1945 and 1950 (eight pages); an announcement by Carlo Battisti concerning the *Dizionario Toponomastico Atesino* (three pages); a note by Antonio Tovar, *Investigaciones sobre la Onomástica de la Hispania pre-romana* (page-and-a-half); then follow twenty-five pages of *Information*, dealing mostly, though not exclusively, with onomastic news of varying importance.

Pp. 64–75 comprise *Personalialia*, and *In memoriam* of several onomatologists, accompanied by eight full-page photographs. But there are, in fact, *Personalialia* liberally interspersed throughout the volume. While some of the news about workers in the field, known to me by reputation or in person (it was my great pleasure to meet many at the enjoyable and fruitful Uppsala Congress of 1952, efficiently and pleasantly arranged by the Royal Swedish Place Name Commission), is privately agreeable, it is professionally inconsequential.

On pp. 77–85 are listed some issues of a few onomastic periodicals, together with the titles of the articles contained in them. Since a fuller, though not a full, bibliography is given in the subsequent sections of the book, this partial cataloguing is redundant.

Then, pp. 81–119, there follows a department entitled *New Onomastic Publications, 1949–50*, which completes a bibliography begun in vol. I (1950).

Finally the volume closes, pp. 1*–69* [*sic*] with the following: *Onomastic Bibliography of Luxemburg: Addenda Onoma I, Belgium; Publications 1949–50 of Belgium; Addenda Onoma I* and

Publications 1949-50 of Denmark and Germany. This unorthodox arrangement is rather difficult to handle and it detracts considerably from the bibliography. Scholars who in a bibliography expect to find completeness (in so far as humanly possible) and indexes by authors' names or subject matter, will be disappointed by the absence of such aids. The CIPL Bibliography, the *Indogermanisches Jahrbuch*, and Elsdon C. Smith's onomastic bibliography published by the New York Public Library are more usable.

Since the Editor, who is also Secretary General of the ICOS, an eminently useful central and gathering agency for matters onomastic (reprints of articles and copies of books are solicited for a collection to be housed at the Center—authors please note!), admits that *Onoma* is now larger than envisaged and more costly than originally planned by the members of the Third International Congress (p. 11), the time has come to re-evaluate the whole enterprise, to gather opinions from readers and from members of the ICOS, and to decide just what purpose *Onoma* should serve in the future. It seems to me it could become either an informal newsletter, specializing in personal and university news in the field of onomastics, or else a full-fledged learned journal. There is enough talent available to discharge satisfactorily either of these tasks.

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The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World. LEON E. SELTZER, Editor. (x and 2148 pp. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS by arrangement with J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY, New York, N. Y., 1952, 9 × 12 inches.)

This large and comparatively expensive publication (\$47.50 list) is a major contribution to the field of geography and geographical names. It is the first comprehensive American gazetteer to appear since 1905, containing approximately 140,000 geographical names from all parts of the world. Data for populated places include recent authoritative population figures when obtainable (1950 Census for the United States); minor political divisions; principal economic activities; significant historical events and similar information. Material concerning natural features includes altitudes, extent, location and other details. Names of towns and cities are most numerous,

with less emphasis upon natural features. Unfortunately the editors have not included geographic coordinates for all places, and hence the geographic descriptions are incomplete. A description of the village of Killbuck, Ohio "33 mi. ESE of Mansfield" is hardly the equivalent of $40^{\circ} 30' 00''$ N., $81^{\circ} 59' 00''$ W. when locating a relatively small community on a good map.

Possibly it would have been too much to expect the editor to have included material on the origins of place names but the general selection of data concerning the various places has been carefully done. The editor has seen fit to include conflicting data where figures for population are not in agreement. The volume includes the sources of population figures, a list of abbreviations used and a key to pronunciation. Alternate spellings are cross-indexed with care. Anglicized forms of names such as Vienna are given preference with the local form of the name (Wien) appearing in secondary position.

For any well equipped public or educational library this volume is essential since the amount of material it contains is so great that it could be regarded as an encyclopedia as well as a gazetteer. The editor and his large staff are to be congratulated on the quality of their work and this reviewer notes with pleasure that the editorial staff included one of the ranking American geographers, Dr. J. K. Wright. The volume can be heartily recommended to anyone who has need of a quick source of reliable geographic information concerning foreign and domestic places.

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Onomata, Revue d'Onomastique Grecque, No. 1, July, 1952. Editor: JOHN A. THOMOPOULOS (17 Galaxeidiou Street, Athens 2, Greece).

The study of names of ancient Greece went hand in hand with the study of the ancient Greek language and literature in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, whereas the investigation of medieval and modern Greek names started slowly and casually in the late 19th century with Byzantine studies. It was only in the present century that medieval and modern Greek names found a more systematic start of collection. The medieval names have been excerpted in the Mediaeval Archives (Academy of Athens) since

1930, while the French Byzantinist Vincent Laurent is working on Byzantine prosopography. Modern Greek names have been collected along with dialectal material in the Archives of the Historical Lexicon of the Greek Language since 1914. Names have been treated historically and linguistically in Greece and outside Greece beginning in the 19th century, a long series of name collections have been published, and individual names have been treated in studies and articles. Yet, a systematic work has not yet been created, an onomastic institute (of the sort of the Swedish "Institutet för Ort-namns och Dialektforskning i Göteborg") does not exist, and a name society to promote such studies is still lacking.

In recent years the young Greek linguist and onomatologist John A. Thomopoulos, who has been doing research in Greek names, had the opportunity to observe closely the advanced onomastic work in Sweden and decided to start, with praiseworthy ambition, a new name journal, the first number of which circulated in the fall of 1952.

The journal accepts for publication articles on Greek names in Greek and the four leading European languages (English, French, German, and Italian).

Contents of the first number are as follows:

K. Amantos, The Importance of the Modern Greek Place-Names (pp. 1-3);

J. Sahlgren, The Swedish Names of the Greeks of Dnieper in Constantine Porphyrogenitus (4-7);

Jo. Thomopoulos, The Rossic Place-Names in Constantine Porphyrogenitus (8-10);

L. Parnell, Difficulties in the Investigation of Ancient Greek Nomenclature (11-12);

J. Thomopoulos, The Meaning of the Place-Name *Ellinika* (13-21);

Idem, The Onomastic Studies in Greece (22-26);

Idem, Statistics of the Place-Names of the Island of Ceos (27-29);

Onomastic Anthology (statements of scholars on names: 3, 10, 21);

Onomastic Chronicle (30-33; on p. 33 the "American Name Society" is mentioned);

Bibliographic Note (34).

"Names," itself a new journal in America, wishes the new sister journal ONOMATA the best of luck and a successful future for

the advancement of our common work. The ambitious work of Mr. Thomopoulos deserves support from all colleagues who are interested in the nomenclature of the long prehistoric and historic periods of Greece.

D. J. G.



In Delano's *A Sojourn with Royalty* we find on pp. 84 ff the following bit of folk-etymological interpretation of the name of one of the prominent capes of our Pacific coast.

"What cape is that?" asked some one in our group.

"Cape Mendocino," was the response.

"Mendocino! a singular name. I wonder what the origin of it was."

"Why," said Derby, with the utmost gravity, "in former days it was an important fishing station. The fishermen usually occupied that cove for their headquarters, and fished as the season and weather permitted. One morning two boats started out and threw their nets over. One of them, by some mischance, had its net badly torn, so that it became necessary to go ashore for repairs. Accordingly they started, when they were hailed by the other boat. 'Where are you going?' 'Going ashore.' 'What for?' Shouting at the top of his voice, as if to overcome the force of the wind, the boatman replied, through his trumpet-shaped hand: 'To mend a seine O!' and thence the cape took its name, which has since become perverted into Mendocino."

For a moment no one thought the explanation a hoax, as it was given in such an off-hand ready manner; but a moment's reflection showed me the ludicrousness of the idea, and I began to laugh. Directly it came with full force to the group, and Derby had succeeded in raising a general guffaw.