

Review

Onomastica. Pismo poświęcone nazewnictwu geograficznemu i osobowemu [A periodical devoted to geographical and personal naming]. Wrocław, Poland. (Volume I, 1955. Pp. 252. Volume II, nos. 1, 2, 1956. Pp. 440.)

THE GROWING INTEREST IN ONOMASTICS in post-war Poland, encouraged largely through the efforts of Witold Taszycki, has thus far produced seven major monographs.¹ Until 1955, however, there was no single outlet for any smaller works devoted to the science of names. To remedy the situation, the journal under review (the first of its kind in Poland) was founded. Under the general editorship of Taszycki (assisted by an editorial committee consisting of Rospond, Hrabec, Rudnicki, and Stieber), the periodical is to appear in yearly volumes of two fascicules — except for the first year (1955), when only one fascicule was issued.

Each fascicule consists of a section containing "Articles and Materials," one of "Reviews and Polemics," and a final section entitled "The State of Onomastic Studies." Judging by the items which have so far appeared in the last section, it is to be devoted to reports on

¹ Witold Taszycki, *Słowiańskie nazwy miejscowe (Ustalenie podziału)* [Slavic place names (An establishment of a classification)]. Cracow, 1946.

Jan Rozwadowski, *Studia nad nazwami wód słowiańskich* [Studies on Slavic water names]. A posthumous publication edited by Lehr-Spławiński and Safarewicz. Cracow, 1948.

Stefan Hrabec, *Nazwy geograficzne huculszczyzny* [Geographic terms of the Hucul area]. Cracow, 1950.

Witold Taszycki, *Patronimiczne nazwy miejscowe na Mazowszu* [Patronymic place names in Mazovia]. Cracow, 1951.

Mieczysław Karaś, *Nazwy miejscowe typu Podgóra, Zalas, w języku polskim i w innych językach słowiańskich* [Place names of the type *Podgóra, Zalas* in Polish and other Slavic languages]. Wrocław, 1955.

Halina Safarewiczowa, *Nazwy miejscowe typu Mroczkowizna, Klimontowczyzna* [Place names of the type *Mroczkowizna, Klimontowczyzna*]. Wrocław, 1956.

Karol Zierhoffer, *Nazwy miejscowe północnego Mazowsza* [Place names of northern Mazovia]. Wrocław, 1957.

work in progress,² reviews of onomastic studies in other countries (Trypućko has a fine historical account of Swedish work in II, 2, pp. 379–402; the first part of an account of Bulgarian work by Duridanov is included in the same issue, pp. 365–379), and bibliographies. Of considerable importance is a bibliography, by Zierhoffer, of onomastic work on Poland (1907–1944) which includes work written by Poles (whether it refers to Poland or not) in II, 1, pp. 181–209; II, 2, 402–429; with a promised continuation. Each fascicule is rounded off with French summaries and an index of terms.

Among the articles of greatest general interest one may note Taszycki's excellent review of what is known about the etymology and history of the name of the *Wawel* (the Polish equivalent of Westminster Abbey) in I, pp. 41–59, and Rospond's polemical article concerning the etymology of *Śląsk* (Silesia) and its derivatives, also in I, pp. 7–40. He advances strong arguments against the etymology prevailing in German scholarship (connecting the term with Ptolemy's Σιλιγγαι) and in favor of that preferred by modern Polish scholars (who would derive it from the stem **sleng*- "wet, humid, slippery" originally applied to bodies of water). Another item by Rospond worthy of note is the beginning of an historical and methodological article on Slavic onomastics in II, 2, pp. 217 to 248. Finally, no linguist should miss Kuryłowicz's thought-provoking considerations on "La position linguistique du nom propre" in II, 1, pp. 1–14. According to him, linguistic interest in proper nouns as a separate category begins when there are formal differentiae (flexional, accentual, or syntactic) distinguishing them from common nouns. Historically, these differentiae come into being when some formal change occurs in common nouns which does not spread to those common nouns which are simultaneously used to designate persons. At that moment the latter become a distinct

² Two important large-scale undertakings are reported on in I, pp. 193–211. In Cracow, a workshop under the direction of Taszycki is preparing a dictionary of medieval Polish personal names up to the year 1500 (the limiting date was established to coincide with the limits set for the *Old Polish Dictionary*). In Wrocław, Rospond is in charge of a similar dictionary of Silesian names from 1500 to the present. In both projects the preliminary work of collection and arrangement has been done and the enterprises have reached the editorial stage. In the near future, if all goes well, we can expect the first fascicules of dictionaries which will be major events in Polish onomatology.

linguistic category which 1) may remain archaic, unproductive or, 2) may become a productive device used for the creation of new proper nouns. Occasionally, successive chronological stages can even be distinguished as, e. g., in French, where one has both *Mercier* and *Lemercier* formally distinguished from *mercier* (*à Mercier, à Lemercier, but au mercier*). A particular feature of proper nouns is taken to be their often hypocoristic morphological process of formation, genetically connected with the diminutive in the common noun (*maison: maisonnette, Anne: Annette*). The hypocorism comes into being, historically, when the corresponding diminutive process undergoes an innovation. As a matter of principle, then, the historical explanation of a hypocoristic or patronymic formation is to be sought in attested (or reconstructed) diminutive formations. Kuryłowicz illustrates these (as well as other) theses with examples taken from several languages.

Polish scholarship is to be congratulated for the initiation of what, to judge by its first issues, is to be an important journal displaying a high level of scholarship. I can think of only one stricture: so far, only two articles have been published in French; there are no articles in any other Western-European language. Such a language policy, if continued, will only isolate an excellent periodical from the wider audience it deserves.

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