

Book Reviews

George R. Stewart, *Names on the Land: A Historical Account of Place-Naming in the United States*. Revised and enlarged edition with illustrations. Boston (Houghton Mifflin Co.) and Cambridge (Riverside Press), 1958. \$6.00.

This is not an entirely new book since it appeared first in 1945, and pages 1–386 and 439–441 (= pages 387–389 of the first edition) are identical, reproduced from the original plates. It nevertheless deserves to be reviewed in *Names* because 104 new pages have been added in the present edition and also because the first edition appeared several years before this journal came into being, so that the book is new for many of its readers. It has been reproduced with a few changes made in the plates (p. VII) but the text stands “almost as it was originally written” (*ibid.*). The actually new material is found in the added supplement, *viz.* chapters XLIV on Alaska names (cf. also the author’s article “The Name Alaska,” *Names* 4.93–204), XLV on Hawaii names, and XLVI on Current Affairs, 1944–58, Notes and References (all about 94 additional pages, 386–482, except the postscript [439–41] that belonged to the first edition also), plus 16 pages of illustrations set between p. 256 and p. 257. The notes supply references to special works but also some additional material, especially on controversial points, whereby the author also occasionally modifies his own views. The 28 pages of the index of the first edition are increased to 29 pages in the second to include additional names on Alaska, Hawaii, and from Current affairs as well. The type, the same in both editions, is fine and the printing excellent.¹

If the late Fernand Mossé, a reviewer of the first edition, were to write a review of this new edition, he would probably have

¹ In misprints, I encountered only four (*Burrell* for *Burrill* on p. 460 [note for p. 123, l. 6], *laughing-mattor* in both editions on p. 372, l. 13; *in* for *is* on p. 397, l. 12; *aborginal* for *aboriginal* on p. 407, l. 15 from bottom) and misaccentuation in a couple of Greek words (in both editions, p. 283, l. 9 from bottom).

changed his statement about the book.² For, beside the additions on names of Alaska and Hawaii and the changes noted during the fifteen year period 1944—1958, it now offers 437 notes and numerous references in them.

What does the author think of his book? On the dust-jacket a subtitle is added: "The famous classic of place-naming in the United States" and the author notes in his foreword (p. VII) with satisfaction that this "pioneer work" (p. VII) has been very often called a "classic," and for this reason he decided not to change the text. He, "born with a love of names" (p. VIII), considers it his own favorite among a rather large number of books he has written (p. IX).

"The purpose of the book is to present the process of naming <places>, not to make it a place-name dictionary" (p. 439) and it "deals primarily with processes" (440). The names discussed in the work were selected for four reasons (439): (1) names being of national significance, (2) illustrating the habits or fashions of place-naming, (3) falling into line in connection with the work of a particular namer, and (4) having a manner of origin that seemed of unusual interest. The author made use of seven classes of source materials (440f.); he used books but also gathered information from original sources and interpreted it "according to my own lights," he says (440).

Is it possible to treat adequately the place-names of a vast country that includes fifty states? "Even a whole library could hardly be sufficient for exhaustive treatment of the place-names of the United States," Stewart says (444) with some exaggeration. But he is right in declaring that a survey of place-names on a national scale is one of the future enterprises of American scholarship (439). At present, there is adequate coverage available for only seven states (Arizona, Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, California, West Virginia). *Place-Names of the United States* may cover a corpus of several volumes written by a number of trained American onomatologists as a well prepared and long project with exacting

² F. Mossé, *Onomastica* 1 (1947), 158: "Le livre de G. R. Stewart n'est pas un livre d'érudition. Il est dépourvu de notes et de références et ne comporte pas de véritable bibliographie. Écrit pour le grand public, le livre fait un tableau historique du développement des noms de lieu. Il satisfera des curiosités; s'il suscitait des vocations, il répondrait encore mieux à son but."

scrutiny of the recorded history of each name, but such a grand project may be realized in the next century.

In its place Stewart's *Names on the Land*, dealing, as said above, primarily with processes of naming places and being the first work of its kind, is a well written and readable account and fills a real need for the educated American public at large (and for all lovers of names) who wish to be informed on the names of rivers, lakes, bays, mountains, plains, points, states, territories, counties, cities, towns, streets, and the rest. It is a synthesis of the process of naming at work (how names were given), of principles and rules, and interprets names in the light of recorded history and of the change of the times. The cardinal virtues of the book are, as far as I can judge, four: (a) clear exposition with no complicated and obscure terminology or interpretation of the names; (b) a historical exposition of the naming of the namable places as it took place in each period; (c) a pleasant style (not without humor interspersed) which is remarkably effective in a work dealing with over two thousand names; and (d) the masterly handling of the name material in forty-six chapters, which being mostly short can be read in successive sessions without one's losing the continuity of the whole. And the whole has the air of a history of the United States as it appears in its namelore.

What about the numbers of place-names? The United States displays a remarkable sparsity of place-names as compared with European standards, since estimates for the continental United States yield a figure of only a little over one name to the square mile as contrasted, e.g., with 150 place-names to the square mile in Sweden (so p. 418 and note 3 on p. 444). Even so the total number of the American place names runs into the millions (342, 381) with a tentative estimate by Stewart at 3,000,000 names and another million obsolete names (444, note 3). Among them there are some 50,000 inhabited places in the U.S. (242, 360) and another 50,000 extinct names that exist in the records (242). Mention is made of one man, A. H. Sylvester of the Forest Service (early in the 20th century), who alone planted 3,000 names (357). In addition, thousands of names maintain themselves on an informal basis, many new ones are being constantly invented, and many old ones die out yearly (377). Out of the U.S. place names estimated

in the millions, Stewart includes in his book a total of ca. 2400 in his 2562 entries of the index, which, as he indicated (483), does not list hundreds of other names cited in the text simply as examples.

The illustrations on sixteen unnumbered pages (inserted between pages 256 and 257) reproduce on better, glossy paper four maps, photo pictures of places with descriptive names, maps showing the distribution of watercourse generics (creek, brook, run, stream), maps dotting counties with saints' names, maps showing states with counties named for Washington, one indicating the distribution of *coulee* in place names, another showing the location of 32 Winchesters in 25 states, pictures of 18 signposts on U.S. highway 40 (reproduced from the author's well-known book *U.S. 40*), and two maps illustrating the distribution of *-ville* and *-burg* in N.E. states. All these 16 pages are new in the 1958 edition of *Names on the Land*.

With regard to the titles of the chapters, some do not seem to give their exact content in names, e.g. the title *How they fought again* (p. 295). It is true, on the other hand, that any arrangement of the material in a book of this form and scope had to be arbitrary. The *Notes and References* fill a real need in the book and help raise its standards.

It should be stressed that the book makes pleasant reading and informs the reader without boring him, especially through some tricky examples of names that we use without thinking of their origin and history: The refreshing style is that of a literary piece. The reader of the various chapters may have the impression, it seems to me, of reading short stories strung together and again of a continuous historical novel around the great theme of naming.

The chapters on the Board on Geographic Names (The rules and regulations, 340–346; Of modern methods, 353 ff.) are informative on the practices of that government body. The various modern methods of American naming are curious and interesting.

The author, officer for years and president (1957) of the American Name Society, says the following of the Society and its journal (433): "Perhaps the most important development has been the establishment of the American Name Society, with membership open to all interested people. Since 1953 it has sponsored the publication of the quarterly journal *Names*. Thus for the first time the

name-scholars of America have begun to attain a position that their European counterparts have occupied for a century." He might have added the names of two men who worked more than anyone else to establish it firmly, Professor Erwin G. Gudde of California, Editor for five years, and Elsdon C. Smith, first president (for three years) and indefatigable sponsor and promotor of the Society's affairs.

I could single out fine examples of the author's skilful discussion of place names and I could offer a few remarks here and there but for lack of space I confine myself to one point and it is one on which I must disagree with the author.

The sweeping statement (on p. 460f., note for p. 129) about European onomatologists, occasioned by the fact that British scholars do not discuss the name *Lover's Leap* (which occurs in the British Isles) seems to me injudicious. Stewart says: "This is the natural result of what may be considered the general policy among European onomatologists to ignore recent nomenclature. Few of them are really students of place-names. Instead, they are learned linguists, specializing in the etymology of names, but ignorant of the ways in which human beings actually give names, and not really interested in the matter. I consider this unfortunate." To condemn European onomatologists like this is a very serious matter. I do not think that it is true that they ignore recent nomenclature; on the contrary, the study of the dialects includes also the study of the names; the various place-names societies and onomastic journals in Europe refute Stewart's argument; the *International Center of Onomastic Sciences* in Belgium and its organ *Onoma* with bibliographies published in it demonstrate the opposite. Onomatology is not merely "European" but it is English, French, German, Swedish, Slavic, Greek, etc., and is at various stages of progress in different areas. The statement that "few of them are really students of place-names" is true and untrue. Students of names in Europe and in America alike are few, but there are more onomatologists in Europe; if he stresses "students of place names," one could maintain there are more students of place names than of personal names. In any case, Mr. Stewart's general statement contradicts what he stated on p. 433: "Thus for the first time [in 1953] the name-scholars of America have begun to attain the position that their European counterparts have occupied for a century."

As far as the method of etymologizing is concerned, it is the only one possible for names that are prehistoric or for names for which there is no information recorded; this does not mean that wild etymologizing should be defended. Furthermore, etymology in its broader sense of Meillet's concept includes the history of the words, and in our case of the names, and does not differ from the *historical* treatment of words and names.

I do not wish to imply that Mr. Stewart's judgment is not based on first-hand knowledge of German, French, and other onomatology of Europe but it so happens that in his book no reference whatsoever is made to any French, German, or other

standard works of European scholars on names on points of general principles in onomastics. A wholesale condemnation of hundreds of onomatologists is no credit to us.

In conclusion, I may say that Stewart's treatment of some specific place names may not be definitive but his book was not written to be definitive. But *Names on the Land*, the seventh in a list of the author's sixteen books, may be his best and, in any case, it is a classic. Much that he says about place-naming is sound, and many names are neatly classed together as governed by the same principles of naming. The exposition shows the prominent onomatologist at work.³ It is, therefore, recommended to those who deal with American place names, to European scholars, to those engaged in the comparative study of names, and to the teachers of geography and history, to all those who wish to acquire further understanding of American language, literature, geography, and history (for names are part of all these disciplines). We also hope that Mr. Stewart will continue his work on names for many years to come.

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Noah Jonathan Jacobs, *Naming-Day in Eden: the Creation and Recreation of Language*. New York, Macmillan, 1958. Pp. xiii, 159. \$ 3.95.

Mr. Jacobs, identified by his publisher as the Brooklyn-born Librarian of the Linguistics Department at the University of Jerusalem, has here put together a highly entertaining discussion of interesting names and their origins. As a unifying theme he employs Adam's experience in naming beast and fowl, together with his adventure with Eve and the apple. His adroitness in manipulating this theme for his purposes is little short of wonderful. In addition, he is witty and skillful at punning and other kinds of word play, allowing for occasional lapses.

³ See, e.g., the statements on the following pages (and lines in parentheses): 7 (16-18), 10 (20ff.), 18 (3ff.), 57 (16f.), 59 (18f.), 62 (3-5), 64 (24), 65 (8), 108, 114 (17-19), 187 (33ff.), 196 (1, 21f.), 203 (19ff.), 205 (9ff.), 379 (last two lines), 381ff., 412 (11f.), 431 (13-19), 437 (16f.), 444 (note 4), 449 (note 38), etc.

As an added dividend, for those who like it (and I do), he employs a vocabulary which smacks of the pages of such oldtime vocabulary builders as Robert Burton and Sir Thomas Browne. Out of many, I particularly enjoyed *hippocrepeian* (horseshoe-shaped), *satyriasis* (insatiable sexual desire of the male), *mumpsimus* (pigheadedness, even after one's error has been pointed out), *nosism* (narcissism or self-conceit), *ubication* (whereness), *impransus* (without breakfast), *boanthropy* (man acting like an ox — Nebuchadnezzar's trouble), *lipogrammatist* (one who omits certain letters in writing), *onolatry* (the worship of asses), *disquiperancy* (an unsymmetrical relation of things — I now have a name for the odd titles of Ivy Compton-Burnett's novels), *asteism* (urbane wit or irony — I must treasure this one with hopes of cultivating it), and *opisthography* (writing on the backs of sheets of paper — I have been doing it all these years without knowing the name for it). And all these matters presented with marked logodaedaly.

Although most of Mr. Jacobs' examples are from English, he freely draws on a dozen or two other languages. Some of these clusters of parallel vocabulary make good reading, as, for example, that on the bat, as does such information as the fact that the Germans call the Italians *macaroni*, the Rumanians call the Bulgarians *onions and garlic*, and the Australians refer to Frenchmen as *wi-wis*.

One must hesitate to take all that Mr. Jacobs says at face value, however, for some of his statements are wrong or questionable. *Calico*, of course, is named after Calicut, not Calcutta. It is surely inaccurate, furthermore, to say that, whereas the Chinese substitute *l* for *r*, the Japanese do it the other way around. I can still hear our cute little girl guide on a rubberneck bus in Tokyo pointing out the *melly-go-lound* in a large park and the public *liblibly* not far away. To tie *pretzel* to the Latin *pretiola*, reward, seems to disagree with most dictionaries, and Old Nick, not St. Nicolaus, should probably be given credit for *nickel*. By the way, the author's presentation of *pygarg* as a kind of antelope whose name in Greek means white rump, given as an example of names of birds and beasts based on color, might well be supplemented with the name of the bird called the *wheatear*, whose name in Anglo-Saxon originally also meant white rump (to put it politely).

Mr. Jacobs has collected a large platter full of stories, jokes, puns, epitaphs, and scraps of poetry connected with the history of names,

and he serves them up with a garnish of philosophy, psychology, religion, and whatnot. Many of the stories are well known, but others, not among the usual chestnuts, will delight the jaded reader. Writing in a frisky, bantering style, with irrepressible verve and enthusiasm, he has concocted a good book for amateur lovers of names and their ways.

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Olof Brattö, *Filipe, Henrique e outros nomes próprios em Portugal e na Europa*. Gotemburgo: Instituto Ibero-Americano, and Lisboa: Casa Portuguesa, 1958. Pp. 58.

Brattö's booklet represents the European technique of *haute vulgarisation* at its most distinguished. It is written in an unobtrusively entertaining tone, on an adult level, and owes its charm and liveliness to the selection and blending of topics, some of which contain an inherently attractive element of surprise or exposé (e.g., the concluding chapter on false documents, dealing with all kinds of fakes and interpolations). Yet the demanding reader enjoys throughout a triple guarantee of professional seriousness: the author's long training under the guidance of that rigorous anthroponymist, Göteborg's Karl Michaëlsson, to whom the pamphlet is tastefully dedicated; his earlier weighty monographs slanted in the direction of Old Florentine onomastics (1953, 1955); and a surprisingly full apparatus of notes (pp. 35–49), separated by a helpful index from a short formal bibliography (pp. 53–55). As a result, whenever Brattö avers that a certain name made its appearance, let us say, in Italy earlier, and in the Iberian peninsula later, then in medieval France, the reader has the assurance that this statement is based not on guesswork, wishful thinking, or preconceived ideas, but on a careful, systematic perusal of many, if not all, relevant sources.

Since the writer's primary competence is in the domain of Old Italian, he has wisely chosen for his onomastic vignettes such anthroponyms as have pan-European implications, the more so as the treatment of strictly Galician-Portuguese material has to an appreciable extent been preëmpted by J. Leite de Vasconcelos (1928,

1931), J. M. Piel (with special reference to Germanic elements), and Pierre David (with respect to hagionymy). A postscript (pp. 33–34) appropriately indicates how much urgently needed research, despite the spadework carried out by those pioneers, remains to be done and along what line newcomers to the field should first bend their efforts.

One gathers that Brattö's studiously sparing exemplification has not been entirely casual, though he at no time pauses to account for his pattern of selection. In some instances the sheer intricacy or picturesqueness of the routes of transmission, I suppose, recommended a name for inclusion, as when *Filipe* is shown to have spread from Byzantium to Kievan Russia, thence, on the one hand, to Scandinavia, and on the other, through the personal endeavor of Russian-born Queen Ann of France (11th century), to her adopted country, and eventually to the entire west. (This is, incidentally, the same queen, Brattö might have reminded us, who did such a distinctive service to Romance linguists by once writing her French name and title in Cyrillic characters.) *Henrique* presumably qualified for a liberal share of space, because the Portuguese reader at once associates this name with the founder of his country's first dynasty. If the finely graded spectrum of descendants of *Iacobus* comes up for inspection more than once (pp. 20–22, 26–27), such extra measure of attention may testify to the intersection, at this particular point, of Biblical and Byzantine cultural trajectories with the itinerary of late medieval pilgrimages to Santiago (= *Sant-Iago*) de Compostela. A few moot points of sound development are discreetly relegated to the notes, allowing the vitally important pattern of historical cross-currents, affecting above all Church and nobility, to stand out in undiminished relief.

Here and there the specialist will be tempted to pencil in a question-mark. One misses a brief comment on the contrast, in modern Spanish, between *Felipe*, applied to natives (including famous monarchs), and learned *Filipo* (*de Macedonia*); the gap between the two forms was narrower in the Middle Ages, when the last-mentioned was known as *Felip(p)o*, cf. *Alexandr-e, -o* beside mod. *Alejandro*. Of the two explanations offered for the Ptg. topon. *Fipo*, only the first carries conviction. The attempted separation of OSp. from mod. Sp. *Enrique* (Brattö traces the former to Provençal and

the latter, of all sources, to Low German) must be written off as infelicitous. A brief hint (influence of *aráb-igo*, *-ico*, and the like) would have sufficed to explain the striking accentual opposition between Hisp. *Américo* and cognate It. *Amerigo*. *Berengario* is best labeled hybrid, since the suffix alone appears in learned shape. The different adoption of imported names by Spanish and Portuguese (*Federico* ~ *Frederico*, *Felipe* ~ *Filipe*, *Guillermo* ~ *Guilherme*, *Martín* ~ *Martinho*; orthographically, also *Enrique* ~ *Henrique*), being apt to titillate any uninitiated reader's curiosity, might have deserved heavier emphasis. Furthermore, a few words on Sp. *Cristóbal*, a Christian name familiar to everybody from Columbus, would have given point to the statement that Ptg. *Cristóvão* was influenced by *Estêvão*. The analysis of *Oliveiros*, a lately much-discussed name rich in epic reverberations, is downright meager, the incidental statement on the characteristic patronymics ending in *-ez* (*-es*) fails to do justice to the complexity of this much-labored problem, and one is forced to ferret out of n. 69 a slender shred of information on the noteworthy ancient triad *Isidro* ~ *Esidre* ~ *Isidoro*. If the available space was at a premium, such issues should have altogether been omitted rather than being diluted or drastically simplified. The author's Hebrew is in need of some refurbishing (the patriarch's name was *Yacaqob*), and the sustained neglect of the Slavic world — except for Queen Ann — amid such ebullient enthusiasm for Byzantium and its Venetian prong strikes one as inexplicable.

But these are, after all, minutiae. Essentially, Brattö deserves praise for having skillfully and impartially divided his attention between the Germanic and the Judeo-Christian strains (the former centered in France, the latter anchored in Rome and in Constantinople), between deeply rooted indigenous and floating migratory formations, between the aristocratic and the rustic (or plebeian) layer. In concluding, let me commend him most of all for having produced, in a language not his own, a highly readable booklet which — a veritable *tour de force* — is bound to whet the layman's appetite and yet to raise no expert's eyebrows.

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Arizona Place Names. By Will C. Barnes. Revised and enlarged by Byrd H. Granger. Illustrated by Anne Merriman Peck. Tucson, The University of Arizona Press, 1960. Pp. xix, 519. \$10.00.

To this reviewer, the publication of a comprehensive collection of state place names constitutes a major publishing event. To a good many people, a new edition of place names is about as important as a new issue of the telephone directory: you have a list of places with their names and where to find them. That is all. But to the true place name collector, a name is not only the identification of a place in time and space, but it unlocks its entire meaning. In fact, the name is all there is to a place, any place, so far as human beings have an interest in it. Without a name, a place simply would not be: without a history of the name, the place has no meaning.

Dr. Byrd H. Granger has brought together material which she and others have been collecting for years in order to revise Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names*, which was published in 1935. A "Pronunciation Guide" to the Indian names has been added to the Barnes volume, and the classification of names by county groups has been substituted for his overall alphabetical listing. An "Index" guides the reader to the county where the name is discussed. The original Barnes bibliography has been greatly expanded, and for the overall state map found in Barnes, Dr. Granger has supplied maps for each county, marginally numbered and lettered for exact place name locations. Few of the names appear on the maps, however, and the reference apparatus, though exact, is a bit cumbersome. One wonders whether it is any more satisfactory for locating places than directions based upon the points of the compass and mileage from federal and state highways, major settlements, and known landmarks. However, Dr. Granger also uses such data occasionally to supplement the map citations.

The method of Barnes has, on the whole, been followed, i.e., giving elevations, county location, map references, but the materials have been entirely rewritten and source references indicated by a key to the bibliography or to the biographical section where thumbnail sketches are given of more than 150 individuals who have contributed to the dictionary. The book is a large handsomely bound volume with wood or linoleum block illustrations for each county chapter, picturing the chief industrial or agricultural ac-

tivities. Thus, a book gleaned from many minds and the application of many hands finds its way to the bookshelf. One can predict that it will rest on many a reading desk, and will long absorb the attention of readers everywhere.

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Captain T. D. Manning and Commander C. F. Walker, *British Warship Names*, Putnam, London, and Cornell Maritime Press, Cambridge (Md.), 1959, pp. 498. \$7.50.

In a country where the tradition of the seas is so strong, the names given to the ships that protected the country are important not only to the men who serve on them but to the citizens as well. Indeed, next to personal names and place names, ship names probably generate the most affection.

The authors, two naval officers, found that they had a mutual interest in these names. Later when they shared quarters in London during the war, they both served on a committee charged with selecting names suitable for H. M. ships. Choosing really suitable names they found to be no slight task.

Three books had already been published on British ship names, *Men-of-War Names* (2nd ed., 1908), W. G. Gates, *Ships of the British Navy* (1905), and H. S. Lecky, *The King's Ships* (1913). In this country Robert W. Neeser's *Ship Names of the United States Navy*, published in 1921, is comparable.

After introductory chapters, the dictionary begins on page 67. It sets out, in alphabetical order, the names of important naval ships with a list, under each name, of the ships that have borne the name together with the date of introduction of the ship into the Royal Navy and the war records of the ships bearing each name. In most cases the meanings or derivations of the names have been given.

Elsdon C. Smith

Evanston, Ill.

James Pennethorne Hughes, *How You Got Your Name*, London, Phoenix House, 1959, pp. 120.

This is a small, popular book on the origin and meaning of surnames. The author is not an onomastic scholar and his book contains nothing new on the subject. An inspection of his brief list of "Authorities" brings into focus his limited and spotty knowledge of the subject.

However, he has written a good, general, although not particularly accurate, account of the four classes of family names which may excite an interest in some persons to pursue the matter further. And that is good.

Evanston, Ill.

Elsdon C. Smith

Sever Pop: Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnyčkyj. Notice biographique et bibliographique et Résumé de sa Communication. Louvain, Belgium: Centre International de Dialectologie générale, 1958. Pp. 29.

This book was dedicated to Professor J. B. Rudnyčkyj, Head of the Slavic Department of the University of Manitoba, and President of the Canadian Association of Slavists, the Canadian Linguistic Association, the UVAN (Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences), and the American Name Society (1959), in celebration of his twenty-five years of "internationally known scientific activity."

E. W. M.

Rudnyčkyj, J. B., compiler, assisted by E. H. Bedford (Russica), J. Hirschbaum (Slovakica), D. Sokulody (Ukrainica), V. Turek (Polonica). Winnipeg: Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, 1958. *Slavistica* No. 33. *Slavica Canadiana ad 1957*. Pp. 48. 50¢.

Part I: Selected bibliography of Slavic books and pamphlets published in or relating to Canada with supplementary listings for 1951—1956.

Part II: Reviews, comments and reports.

E. W. M.