

For Onomatologists Only

Credits for new members: Mamie Meredith (2); Demetrius Georgacas (4); Elsdon Smith (1); Lalia Boone (1); Margaret Bryant (2); F. W. Bradley (3); Arthur Minton (1); Wilbur G. Gaffney (1); Maurice A. Mook (1); John S. Caponnetto (1).

Among the new members: Dr. John P. Pauls, 3422 Lyleburn Place, Cincinnati 20, Ohio, is interested in Slavic names. Professor Laurence C. Thompson, Professor of Linguistics and Russian, University of Washington, has done research in place names, Indo-European linguistics, Southeast Asian languages (especially Vietnamese), and in the American Indian languages. Mr. Martin Bury, who was persuaded to join the Society by Professor Maurice Mook, is interested in the names and models of automobiles. He has published an entertaining and informative book, *Rolling Wheels* (1953), in which a chapter is devoted to names. Mrs. Mildred R. Bennett, President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial, is rewriting and revising her book, *The World of Willa Cather*. The University of Nebraska Press plans to publish the new edition sometime in 1961. Mr. B. L. Trippett, Advertising Department, National Cash Register Company, Dayton 9, Ohio, has collected banking terms and would like to hear from anyone who has been working on such material. Professor James Alexander Thorburn, Department of English, University of Texas, El Paso, Texas, has written about place names, family names, and given names. Mr. Robert Klymasz is doing research in Slavic surnames in Canada.

Among the members: Dean E. T. Grether, Graduate School of Business Administration, Berkeley 4, California, whose administrative duties would seem sufficient, has also maintained an interest in, and files on, the historical development of trade marks and trade names. Mr. James E. Alatis is now working for the State Department. His excellent article, "The Americanization of Greek Names," appeared in the September, 1955, issue of *Names*. Other articles by him will be published soon. Professor Bertram L. Hughes is well along on his book on the contributions of the Cambrians (the Welsh) to the development and growth of the United States. Professor G. B. Droege recently acted as our representative at the

Naamkunde Symposium in Amsterdam. Dean Roland Dickison read a paper, "Arkansas College Names and a Cultural Inference," at the recent University of Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Mrs. Byrd H. Granger's revision of Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names* has been published by the University of Arizona Press. It contains more than 7,200 entries, as against the original 3,000, and has complete and up-to-date information on all the old and new Army posts, the Wells Fargo and other stage stations, the post offices of the past and present, and hundreds of Indian names and places, along with a pronouncing guide. All entries are keyed to the 43 new maps prepared by Robert T. O'Haire of the Arizona Bureau of Mines. Mrs. Granger traveled all over the state as she gathered new information of the kind that she felt certain Barnes would have added were he alive to do so. The book, which is 8¹/₂-by-11 inches and bound in gold cloth, with blue letterings and a crimson device, retails for \$10.

Professor T. M. Pearce, our President, has been doing research in the Folger library. Professor Thomas P. Field, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, will leave for an extended trip to Australia beginning June 1, 1960. Professor Field's research and collecting in Kentucky place names is extensive, including 32,000 card file entries and several papers. Does anyone know Mr. Benedict Kwan So Kwan? An important communication is awaiting him in the ANS Secretary's office at Youngstown University.

The United States government has assigned our Editor the task of compiling a Greek-English dictionary, a great deal of the work to be done in Athens. Congratulations, Professor Georgacas!

Professor Erwin G. Gudde's new edition of *California Place Names*, a publication of the University of California Press, appeared last spring.

Sputnik Linguistics

"Sputnik Started It: A Scholarnik Talks about Offshootniks" is the title of an article by Ruth Dunbar for the *Chicago Sun-Times* (January 2, 1960), in which she discusses Professor J. B. Rudnyčkyj's research on "sputnik linguistics." (Our readers will recall Arthur Minton's article, "Sputnik and Some of Its Offshootniks," in the June, 1958, issue of *Names*.) As the reporter points out, only two

years since sputnik sailed into orbit the English language has accumulated some 200 new "niks." After sputnik came "lunik," "kaputnik," and "beatnik," and then "nudnik" (a boring professor), "phoodnik" (a nudnik with a Ph. D.), and "popcornik" (a street seller of popcorn). According to Professor Rudnyčkyj, nudnik and phoodnik are used on many college campuses, and popcornik has turned up in Canada.

Among the neologisms are "splitnik" (the American house sent to the Moscow exhibition last year: it was split through the middle to give Russians a better look), "dognik," "whuffnik," "mutnik" (the second Russian sputnik that carried a dog), "dudnik," "flopnik," "goofnik," "sputternik," "hoaxnik," "kaputnik" and "pfft-nik" (for America's first unsuccessful attempts to launch a satellite).

The following factors, Mr. Rudnyčkyj believes, have contributed to the rapid spread of "nikitis" in American English: the linguistic freedom and tendency in Canada and the United States to invent words, which has led to such creations as "tigernik," used in Winnipeg to describe a man watching a tiger; the nickname, "Nick," for Nicolas — thus, a sick Nick could be a "sicknik"; the phonetic similarity of the second component in such words as *bottleneck* — "bottlenik" was used when the American sputnik was in a bottleneck of production; and the many Slavic names which end in *-nik*, such as Rudnik and Reznik. In Professor Rudnyčkyj's opinion only a few of these terms — especially sputnik, lunik and beatnik — are likely to remain in American English long enough to work their way into a dictionary.

Murder and Onomatology

The April 9, 1960, issue of *The Nation* contains an article by George R. Stewart entitled "Murder and Onomatology," in which he tells of his tantalizing and fruitless search for a person bearing the name, D'Avious, in connection with the Motherwell murder trial. When Motherwell claimed that he was innocent and that someone named D'Avious had committed the murder, and when the latter individual could not be located, the California Attorney General's office asked Professor Stewart to give them whatever help he could. After consulting with Romance language experts and searching through numerous telephone books, Mr. Stewart turned

up one and only one good possibility — someone named Davios in Manhattan, who was not otherwise involved in the trial. This Davios [from Greek Δαβίδ, “David” ? — D. J. G.] was born on the Greek island of Tenos. “His name may be Italian rather than Greek in origin, since the Venetians have exercised a strong influence on many of the Aegean islands. He had told the FBI agent that he was, as far as he knew, the only person by that name in the United States.” The various forms considered by Professor Stewart include D’Avios, D’Avio, Avios, and D’Avis. However, his own opinion is that the name was coined, possibly starting with the common name Davis, or with the word *devious*.

Place-Names, Family and Baptismal (Font) Names

Professor C. H. Handschin of Oxford, Ohio, who has written an article that will appear in *Names*, gives lectures on place-names, family and baptismal (font) names. As he comments, “We in the United States soon discontinued naming places for royalty and nobility, and named a place for 1) the lay of the land; 2) its most striking feature (subjective or objective); 3) the former home of its first settlers or for one of his womenfolk; 4) a national hero; 5) a good omen; 6) a political or moral ideal; 7) a hope or a prayer; 8) a Biblical name or ideal; 9) its chief agricultural or industrial product; 10) its chief animal, or tree, etc.; or, we retained its Indian name.”

For anyone desiring to improve his retention of names of persons he meets, Professor Handschin makes the following suggestions: Get the name clearly and the spelling; ask the person about it — his name is “his dearest possession.” Speak the name several times while you talk with the person. Get any linguistic information on the origin of the name that the individual can give you; at least find out what country it comes from and what variant spellings are known. Tie up some characteristic of the person with the name: White was so named for his white looks; Cruickshank, for his bowed legs; Honest, for his honesty, etc. Rehearse the name a number of times that night before going to sleep. (Remembering names is the secret of success of many great men and women.) If possible, tell what frequency the name has in the United States. Mr. Handschin writes, “United States names are among the hardest to interpret

because the immigration officer didn't [always] understand, and wrote what he thought he heard. Next, neighbors had the same difficulty. Often the family or a son decided to change the spelling, to make it easier for everyone, especially for the children in school and elsewhere. What a curse a ridiculous name is for a child! I often change such a name for a family by changing a single letter. The community bestowed many [names] as nicknames or for a person's outstanding trait . . . [Of] the 125 United States top family names collected and studied by [Handschin] . . . the top eleven are Smith, 21,175 times; Johnson, 15,700; Miller, 13,325; Brown, 12,850; Anderson, 10,075; Williams, 9,875; Meyer (several spellings), 9,400; Jones, 9,200; Davis, 8,724; Cohen, 7,400; Wilson, 7,400; and so on down to the 125th — Carrol, 2,000."

Reprints

Mr. Virgil J. Vogel has recently published two onomastic articles: "Some Illinois Place-Name Legends (*Midwest Folklore*, Vol. IV, No. 3, Fall, 1959), and "The Origin and Meaning of 'Missouri'" (*Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society*, April, 1960). A paper read by our present Secretary, Prof. Kelsie B. Harder, at the 1958 annual ANS meeting in New York, entitled "Charactonyms in Faulkner's Novels," was printed in the *Bucknell Review* (Vol. VIII, No. 3, May, 1959).

Membership Committee

Dean Roland Dickison of Arkansas College (Batesville, Ark.) has been added to the Membership Committee as Regional Representative for Region G, which includes Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

ANS Archives

Through the suggestion and aid of Mr. George Jones, Librarian, Youngstown University, Youngstown, Ohio, the archives of the Society are being established in a special area set aside in the library for books, manuscripts, offprints, reprints, clippings, and any other material pertaining to names. All such material donated by the Society will be marked as Name Society property, and all material

sent to the Secretary for deposit in the archives will be acknowledged. Please send your contributions for the archives to the Secretary, Kelsie B. Harder.

Contributions to the archives have been sent in by Demetrius J. Georgacas (8 items), George C. Grise (1), Meredith F. Burrill (1), Virgil J. Vogel (1), Claude H. Neuffer (1), and Mamie Meredith (12).

Place-Name Literature

Requests for information concerning place-name literature are now being answered by Mr. Richard B. Sealock, Librarian, Kansas City Public Library, Ninth and Locust Streets, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Secretary

The Secretary needs information concerning any theses or dissertations written under the direction of members of the Society. Professor T. M. Pearce directed an excellent dissertation by Edith H. Peterson, "*Symmetric History*": *A Study of Thought Patterns in the Prose Works of Thomas Hardy*, in which personal names and place-names in the Hardy canon are discussed and analyzed at length.

The Secretary would also appreciate any news items, such as the reading of papers by members, publishing of articles and books, or any other information, whether pertaining to names or other scholarly activity.

1959 Program Notes

The following informal notes were made by the Vice-Chairman of the Membership Committee during the 1959 *ANS* meeting in Chicago to record some of the highlights of the Program and, where there was discussion, to note some of the comments on the papers.

Among other things in his talk on "Street Names in Baghdad," Mr. Jack A. Dabbs pointed out that there are many streets but few accepted street names in Baghdad: instead, the inhabitants mostly use well-known buildings as points of reference. The most famous thoroughfare is Rashid Street, but the street itself probably does not

go back to Harun-al-Rashid; it was probably constructed between 1917 and 1932. *Discussion*: Professor T. M. Pearce commented that "85'N3'1" is a typical street address for that area, the "85" signifying the district. Professor Harold B. Allen remarked that in Cairo legal names are not known to taxi drivers — the names change overnight.

Professor E. C. Ehrensperger raised a troublesome question in his paper, "To Hyphenate or Not to Hyphenate," regarding whether or not the term *place-name* (as a noun) should be hyphenated. His tentative conclusion is that Europeans tend to hyphenate but that American scholars tend to leave out; however, it is used in popular literature. Dr. Philip B. Gove, General Editor of the G. & C. Merriam Co., informed Mr. Ehrensperger that there was a two-to-one preference for hyphenation in the Merriam Webster files, which represent a good cross section of popular usage. *Comment*: It was recommended that the Editor of *Names* either take a firm stand on the matter, or at least require each contributor to the journal to be consistent in his own work.

In "'New Light' on 'Old Zion'": A Study of the Names of White and Negro Baptist Churches in New Orleans," Mr. G. Thomas Fairclough observed that New Orleans is the largest city in the United States that lists colored churches separately. He said that street names are the most popular element used in church names, and that white Baptist churches are more conservative than colored. Among the Negro churches in the city *Zion* is the most popular component occurring in mixed name groups. One church has the name, Amo-Zion; could it have some connection with Amazon? According to Mr. Fairclough, otherworldliness is the keynote to these names. *Comment*: Professor Maurice A. Mook pointed out the ethnic contribution to names here. See now *Names*, June, 1960, 75-86.

"Topographic Names on the Gulf Coast of Florida," the paper read by Mr. E. Wallace McMullen, was limited in scope to four counties in the Tampa area. *Discussion*: Shakit Creek (in the Sarasota region), one of the names included in the paper, was compared to Shake-Rag Creek (on the east coast [of Fla.], near Melbourne) by Mrs. Lalia P. Boone. Professor John C. McGalliard inquired about the pronunciation of the "x" in Saxasota, an early variant form of Sarasota; there was no information on this particular subject. Professor Demetrius J. Georgacas asked if the last element in

Sarasota could be the same as that in Minnesota; but Mr. McMullen replied that in this instance such an explanation is doubtful because of the great geographical separation of the two names.

Mr. Wilbur G. Gaffney's "A Potential Influence of Given Names on Character and Occupation" stirred up considerable interest, not only at the annual meeting but also in newspapers throughout the United States (see "For Onomatologists Only" in *Names*, June, 1960). In the discussion following the reading of the paper Professor Kemp Malone agreed in principle with Mr. Gaffney, citing as an example a bishop named Noble Cilly Powell. Professor Francis L. Utley mentioned the president of Ohio State University, whose name is Novice Fawcett.

Professor Ruth L. Pearce's paper on "Welsh Place-Names in Southeastern Pennsylvania" dealt with names like Bala-Cynwyd (Bala is a place-name in Wales, and means 'efflux, outlet'), Bryn Mawr (a name brought over from the eastern part of Wales), Bryn Athyn (which means "hill of cohesion"), Uwchlan (a partial translation of the English "upland"), Tredyffrin ("town in the valley"), Duffryn Mawr ("great valley" — now called Green Tree), and Balwyn (from Bala and Wynfield). *Discussion*: Someone in the audience mentioned Lampeter and Tredyffrin, which he said had been "transplanted" from Wales, and added that Uwchlan was earlier than Bala-Cynwyd.

In "First Names Among the Amish," Mr. Maurice Mook, limiting his treatment to male first names, listed John, Daniel, and Jacob as the commonest names, in the order of preference. He also said that "Moses" was usually called "Moz" among the Amish. *Comment*: Mr. Mook commented further that the Amish came from Anabaptists in Switzerland and the Palatinate who later became Mennonites; the Mennonites consider the Amish Mennonites, but the Amish don't — both are right.

(About twenty-five people were present at this point in the program, at 3:00 p.m., an increase in attendance over previous years.)

An interesting discussion followed Mr. Sterling A. Stoudemire's "Columbus as a Giver of Names." Professor Dabbs urged similar studies which he felt would throw a good deal of light on history. He also wondered why Columbus didn't use the names already there in the areas of his discovery, since the explorer knew he was entering a high civilization.

In "Religious Place-Names of New Mexico" Mr. T. M. Pearce said that Dawn Lake is the same as Blue Lake, and that both are translations of an Indian name; Bible Top Hill has a depression at the top; San Miguel Mountain also has the name, St. Michael Mountain; and Anglo-Saxon influence is exemplified by Hell Canyon, Hell Mesa, and Hell's Hacienda. *Comment*: Mr. Dabbs added remarks on the name Trinity, connected with some incident related to days of feasts, which is located on the White Sands Proving Grounds.

According to Edwin H. Bryan, whose paper entitled "Surnames in Hawaii" was read by Eugene Muench, some Hawaiian names are derogatory — for example, the translation of two of them are "deceitful," and "the one who shakes with fat." However, derogatory names form only one of the eight categories into which Mr. Bryan divided Hawaiian surnames.

(*Please note*: Omissions of references to other papers or other points of discussion in the program merely signify that the Vice-Chairman was unable to write down as much information as he would have wished. If there are any errors in the foregoing material, it is hoped that they are the result of unintentional mistakes in transcription.)

Worth-while Projects

Professor Harry R. Warfel once remarked that the United States Patent Office is a veritable gold mine of onomastic information. Is anyone interested in tackling a governmental agency for such a purpose? Also, Mr. Elsdon Smith suggests that a good article could be written on the nicknames of our most current celebrities (that is, those since 1955, when Shankle's *American Nicknames* was published.)

Acknowledgments

For their contributions to this installment of "For Onomatologists Only" special thanks are due Messrs. Kelsie Harder, Elsdon Smith, Demetrius Georgacas, J. B. Rudnykyj, and George R. Stewart.

Dr. Burrill Becomes Secretary of the A.A.G.

Recently Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, a former President of the *ANS*, became Secretary of the Association of American Geographers (A.A.G.). The principal publications of the A.A.G. are (1) its quarterly journal, *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, for research papers of high quality, now in its 49th year; (2) its bi-monthly news journal, *The Professional Geographer*, which carries short articles and various news items; and (3) monographs. Among his other assignments Dr. Burrill has held teaching positions at Lehigh University and the University of Oklahoma. For more than fifteen years he has been Chairman of the Board on Geographic Names in the United States Department of the Interior. Dr. Burrill, who has contributed several articles to *Names*, is particularly interested in the distribution of topographic terms in the United States.

E. W. M.