

## Book Reviews

*The Names of Jesus.* By VINCENT TAYLOR, Principal and Ferens Tutor in New Testament Language and Literature at Wesley College, Headingley, Leeds. (New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc., 1953.)

This work represents the First Series of the Speaker's Lectures delivered by Dr. Taylor at Oxford in 1951-52. Dr. Taylor earned his Ph.D. and D.D. at the University of London and was awarded the Hon. D.D. by both Leeds and Dublin. The author is more than a student and teacher of the Bible; he is a scholar, and with a rare gift—the talent to blend scholarship with readability. *The Names of Jesus*, therefore, becomes an important study for the theologian and an extremely interesting and enlightening book for the layman.

In his "Introduction" the author explains the significance of the study that he has just completed: "... the names of Jesus are both the foreshadowing and the precipitate of Christology in its beginnings; they anticipate developments and reveal what Christians thought in the creative period of theology. The question, who Jesus is, is approached best by considering how men named Him, for it is by His names that He is revealed and known."

The book is divided into two main sections: Part I, *The Principal Names and Titles of Jesus*, includes such designations as "The Son of Joseph," "The Son of Mary," "Rabbi," "Prophet," "Christ," "The Son of David," "The Son of Man," "The Lord," "The Son of God," and so forth—twenty-five in all; Part II, *Other Names and Titles of Jesus*, is subdivided as follows: (a) *Messianic Titles* ("The King," "He That Cometh," "The Holy One," "The Righteous One," "The Judge," among others); (b) *Messianic and Communal Names* ("The Bridegroom," "The Shepherd," "The Author or Pioneer," "The Stone," "The Head of the Body," and "The True Vine"); (c) *Soteriological Titles* ("The Saviour," "The Mediator," "The High Priest," "The Lamb," "The Paraclete," and "The Expiation"); (d) *Christological Titles Proper* ("The Image of God," "The Light of the World," "The Bread of Life," "The Resurrection and the Life," "The Firstborn," "The Last Adam," "The Beloved," "The Word," "The Amen," and several more). Not counting the variations on the same name, such as "Jesus Christ,"

"Jesus Christ Our Lord," "Christ Jesus," and "Our Lord Jesus Christ," et cetera, there are about fifty-five different designations for Jesus in the New Testament. This fact, in itself, is a revelation to the average reader, who may be well versed in the Bible, but who undoubtedly has never taken note of the large variety of appellations for the Lord. A significant point brought out by Dr. Taylor is that "the only names which Jesus indubitably used of Himself are 'Son of Man,' 'Son of God,' and 'The Son,'" which reveal "His own conception of His person."

In his "Concluding Summary" the author shows that the various names for Jesus fall into three periods: "The first period is obviously that covered by the historic ministry"; "the second period extends from A.D. 30 to 65"; "the third period is that of the second generation, extending from A.D. 65 to 100."

One of the many virtues of Dr. Taylor's book is conciseness. A wealth of material is included in the one hundred and seventy-five pages. No lengthy sermon is delivered for each name. The chapters, on the contrary, are very short; the references are brief and clear; the footnotes serve the important function of providing the reader with incentive for further study in the field.

CECILIA A. HOTCHNER

*Personal Names: A Bibliography.* By ELSDON C. SMITH. (New York: The Public Library, 1953).

*Personal Names: A Bibliography* shows meticulous care in research, painstaking attention to infinite details, and a clear understanding of great bodies of subject matter. One may easily wonder how many hours each day in his twenty-five years of scholarly investigation of sources Mr. Smith spent in the study of names—their origin, their meaning, and their variations. Then, too, he had to spend more study hours in classifying and evaluating the many books on names, and then additional hours in locating the libraries where various books on names would be available to the readers.

This scholarly compilation falls into six parts: (1) Preface. (2) Introduction. (3) Order of Arrangement. (4) Key to Library Symbols. (5) The List. (6) Alphabetical Index. Each part has a definite function in the *Bibliography*.

Mr. Smith's approach in the accumulation of data and in the compilation of thousands of titles is that of the scholar thoroughly

interested in his subject matter, but his method of presentation is that of the investigator imbued with the spirit of imparting an interest in his subject to the layman and the general reader. Such a reader sees quickly that the author really pursues his subject out of a spirit of both learning and love.

*Personal Names* has two hundred pages of classified and evaluated titles of books and articles relating to names—their sources, meaning, and variation in use. In addition to giving a veritable compendium of such information, the compiler has evaluated in a clear way these sources by a system of grading. In this way he gives the prospective investigator or reader the benefit of twenty-five years of scholarly investigation in the evaluation of each work on names by characterizing the item as *good*, *fair*, or *poor*. By such a plan and practice in weighing the merits of a treatise on names, the author enables the reader to choose the work on the subject that approaches his interest and need. For example, on page 26 of *Personal Names* that interesting and informing work entitled *The Romance of Names* by Ernest Weekley is listed; then there is additional information as London, 1914, 250 p.; 2nd edition, revised 1914; third edition, 1922; fourth edition, 1928; and graded *Interesting, Good*; copies available in New York Public Library and in Chicago Public Library. Such information from such an authority on names as Mr. Smith immediately tells the reader that this Weekley book is a popular, reliable, interesting, and easily available treatise on the subject of names. Other bibliographic items can be judged in the same way.

To be sure, this bibliography on names is not complete, and some readers may feel that important classes of works on names, even though scarce and possibly not of general interest, have been omitted. For example, one reader might desire a section of titles connected with flowers and personal names, or fruits and personal names, but there must be a limitation and established bounds for all such works. A good author makes a choice and selection, and then he must develop his ideas on such a basis. Mr. Smith has accomplished this end.

He has by his *Order of Arrangement* selected many such interesting, inviting, and suggestive titles as *Change of Names*, *Fashions in Names*, *Influence of Names*, *Names in Literature*, *Nicknames*, *Names of Boys and Girls*, *Odd Names*, *Puns on Names*, *Psychology of Names*, *Superstition and Magic of Names*, *Sound of Names*,

*Bible Names, Trade Mark Names*, and dozens of other classifications just as fascinating.

Altogether, Mr. Smith's compendious selection of titles in his *Bibliography*, his inviting classification of these works, and his personal evaluations will show that he is more than a highly competent onomatologist who has made a most valuable collection and compilation of data on names, and has given reliable evaluations of such material out of his experience of twenty-five years of scholarly research. He is the same wide-awake humanist—an observer of men and manners—that wrote *The Story of Our Names*, a monumental work on names, which is listed on page 25 of this great bibliography on *Personal Names*, and which is but one of his three thousand items in the work.

To either the specialist on names or to the ordinary reader about names Elsdon C. Smith's monumental work entitled *Personal Names: A Bibliography* is a most useful and authoritative source book.

DAVID BROOKS COFER

"Idaho Town Names." By FRITZ L. KRAMER. (In *23rd Biannual Report of the Idaho State Historical Department*, Boise, 1953).

Fritz L. Kramer analyzes place names by a method new to western United States. The study comprises the major portion of the Idaho Historical Department's 1951-1952 Report.

The author first groups 738 Idaho town names into the eight classes suggested by Mencken:

1. Those embodying personal names;
2. Those transferred from other and older places;
3. Indian words and names;
4. Biblical and mythological names;
5. Names descriptive of localities;
6. Names suggested by local flora, fauna, or geology;
7. Fanciful names;
8. Names derived from languages other than English.

Then by means of tables and a series of maps he shows trends in town naming by decade from before 1860 to 1952. For instance, the 1860-1869 map readily indicates that in that decade (a) the settlement of Mormons, (b) mining ventures, and (c) the Civil War account for the town names, whereas the map for 1890-1899 shows that town names are a function of the establishment of railroad lines.

Thus, through a cartographic approach, what might have been a wordy analysis is presented clearly and concisely in a minimum of space. Kramer closes his study with a 66-page glossary of Idaho town names and a comprehensive list of pertinent books, manuscripts, maps, and newspapers.

H. M. LOVETT

*Name That Animal*. By ERNEST C. DRIVER, professor of zoology, Smith College. (Northampton, Massachusetts: Kraushar Press, 1950, pp. 558).

*Name That Animal* is a book that has as its purpose to provide the reader who is not a scientist with a practical guide and key to the identification of land and fresh-water animals, chiefly east of the Rocky Mountains. Professor Driver feels that the literature of animal taxonomy is not readily understandable by the general student, and that consequently the belief has become current that only experts can identify animals. Professor Driver also deplors the fact that "most zoological training given in our schools and colleges has been directed almost entirely along the lines of preparation for medical work and very little towards appreciation of living animals" (p. 16). He is aware of the tremendous importance of such work, but he also has the feeling that man should become acquainted with the animals that live with him on this globe, and that he should, within limits, learn their names, at least of those in his own neighborhood.

*Name That Animal* devotes a chapter, a general outline of classification, to each of the following: Protozoa, moss-like and jelly-like animals, rotifers and Gastrotricha, mollusks, arthropods, fishes, salamanders, frogs and toads, lizards, snakes, turtles, birds, mammals, eggs, and tracks. Each chapter contains an introduction and a bibliography for those who may desire to investigate further.

It is a fine thing to have a field manual of animals complete in one volume—there is no claim that it contains every genus—with the scientific and common names. Here the beginner can see the classification and names of most of our animals but, unless he applies himself diligently he may well find himself lost in a labyrinth of scientific nomenclature.

STERLING A. STOUDEMIRE

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*The Place Names of Boone County, Missouri.* By ROBERT L. RAMSAY. (Publication of the American Dialect Society. Number 18. Nov. 1952. Pp. 45).

The approach to the study of place names in this volume is intensive in contrast to the extensive method used in *Our Storehouse of Missouri Place Names* by the same author. (*Names*, March 1953).

The influence of Daniel Boone and of Kentucky is traced through thirty or more names in the Missouri county, an influence which characterizes Americans, not as lacking in originality, but as having a deep sense of kinship. The names are classified according to the pattern described in the *Storehouse*; there are genial comments concerning the people "whose deep-rooted and steadfast patriotism, practical minds, and distinctive sense of humor" are reflected in their choice of such names as Lexington and Columbia, Dripping Springs and Terrapin Neck, Devil's Icebox and Smackout for their settlements.

So startling in its boldness is a folk-etymology theory advanced to explain Perche Creek and Little Bonne Femme Creek that it would be declared untenable were it not for admiration of Dr. Ramsay's scholarship. He believes that these two names are shadows of the Sioux, inhabitants of the region before the Algonquins came along with their words like Missouri, Mississippi, and Maniteau; and darting among the shadows the redoubtable professor leads us through ancient tales of raging floods and places of refuge, *paçi* or hilltops, *çondse* or hillside forests, and *waxaga* or thorny thickets. *Paçi*, he says, became on French tongues Percé, on American Perche. By extension Percé became also Persia [p3§1] and explains a town of that name in the county. The theory also accounts for the source of two names outside Boone County, Sans Dessein and Ohaha, up to this time unknown.

The search for the significance of Bonne Femme Creek is simpler. Unable to consider as a possibility the rare appearance of a good woman to account for the name, Professor Ramsay has delved into the *Bulletins of American Ethnology* edited by Francis La Flesche and found the importance of *la bonne femme* in Osage society. The wife of the *Honga*, or Good Man, was respected as the religious leader of the women, presiding over the corn-planting ritual, leading her sisters in beautiful chants, and representing the potential powers of the tribe through the warriors, born of women. "No wonder streams were named for these worthy Osage women!" the author declares.

MAYME L. HAMLETT