Book Reviews

The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire. By A. H. Smith. Parts Seven and Eight, English Place-Name Society, Vols. 36 and 37 (Index). New York: Cambridge University Press, 1962. xvii, 307 pp., maps; xiii, 207 pp. $6.50 each.

The final two volumes of the outstanding eight-volume survey of the place-names of the West Riding of Yorkshire have been completed under the general editorship of A. H. Smith. The completion draws to a conclusion one of the major onomatological undertakings in English. The achievement is as great as, if not greater than, the contribution of Eilert Ekwall to English place-name study, and can be looked upon as a model for rigorous place-name studies in the future.

Part Seven continues the serious and accurate application of scholarship that distinguished the first six parts. It contains an introduction to the place-names of the West Riding, notes on the phonology and dialect, a listing and discussion of river-names and road-names, distribution maps, and some minor items, such as personal names in the place-names, feudal names, saints' names, Pre-Celtic and Celtic names, and French names. A full bibliography is also included. Since each of the first six parts surveyed particular wapentakes, Part Seven can stand as an introduction to the series.

The introduction goes beyond a general statement as to method and content. It stands as a scholarly treatise on the topographical-historical, geological, anthropological, archaeological, and linguistic background of the Riding as it relates to the place-names. The economically and objectively written introduction is both substantial and discriminating. The importance of place-name study as a discipline in its own right is amply illustrated, but the ancillary importance to the study of history is rapidly and clearly demonstrated in the study of names of British origin that have survived. Settlement boundaries can be fairly well delimited by the distribution of place-names that have known elements in them; for instance, the "distribution of place-names containing OE tun 'farmstead' fairly represents the extent to which colonisation had proceeded during

the Old English period." Historians may quibble with some interpretations, but the evidence of a line of place-names can be fairly conclusive. Both Smith and Ekwall have written elsewhere on the relationship between the study of place-names and history.

The editor is aware that the section on phonology and dialect does not treat linguistic matters in more than a cursory way. Enough material is used, however, to illustrate various phonological changes that have occurred in the names. Each example includes a reference to the part, or volume, and page where the entry can be examined. "Phonetic symbols to be used in transcription of pronunciation of place-names" are listed, but in only a few names (*Dearne* [diən, də:n]) are they used. English place-name scholars appear to be as shy and vacillating as their American counterparts in the matter of indicating pronunciations. On phonology and dialect, the author has pretty much followed secondary opinions and material.

Now that the general to all the volumes is available, although each has an introductory preface, the arrangement of the work as a whole can be seen. Anyone using the series should read the "notes on arrangement" (pp. 114–6) very carefully. Otherwise, he may become somewhat confused. In the first six parts, there are many entries listed without any comment. The reason is noted: "In many of the minor names and field-names the meaning is so obvious as to need no comment or so uncertain as not to merit it." Directions are given for finding information on personal names which are cited with no authority reference.

As important and interesting as the river-names and road-names are, still of more importance and value to the place-name scholar is the section on elements in West Riding place-names and field-names. These are given in their Old English, Old Norse, or Old French forms. Many elements appear here that are not listed in *English Place-Name Elements* (English Place-Name Society, Vols. xxv and xxvi); the list, furthermore, recapitulates the earlier recordings, making the section an almost indispensable reference work for anyone who pretends to do serious work on place-names in English.

Part Eight is an index of the place-names dealt with in not only the first seven parts of the *Place-Names of the West Riding*, but also of the *Place-Names of the East Riding and York* (English Place-Name Society, Vol. xiv) and the *Place-Names of the North Riding*

(English Place-Name Society, Vol. v). The compilation of this index was no doubt a laborious task, but one for which users of the volumes will be appreciative and grateful.

The format of these two volumes is the same as that of the previous ones, easy to read and pleasing aesthetically, models of excellent printing of scholarly books. The editing is skillfully done, with, apparently, no errors, other than the few that are listed in the addenda and corrigenda. The works continue in the standard that we have come to expect from the publications of the English Place-Name Society, and we can look forward to more such studies by English scholars.

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Malayan Place Names. By Durai Raja Singam. 4th Edition. Published at 29, Circular Road, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. 1962. 253 pp. Singapore $4.00. Paperback.

Mr. Raja Singam's fourth edition of Malayan place-names has undergone substantial changes since the first edition was published in 1939 when it appeared as *Port Weld to Kuantan.* The present edition has been revised to conform more with the method and format of place-name studies published during recent years in England, particularly the studies by Professor Eilert Ekwall, whose name is misspelled in the introduction to *Malayan Place Names.* The almost total lack of historical materials keeps the book from being academic in the mode of place-name study which we have come to expect. The author is well aware of this shortcoming, but he has, nevertheless, accumulated a large amount of interesting and informative material concerning place-names in Malaya.

The study includes a pronunciation guide, which is only an approximation of Malayan, but is perhaps sufficient. Geographical terms in Malayan place-names are also listed. The introduction, though written in a journalistic style, categorizes and classifies the nomenclature to be found in Malaya. The names include English, Malayan, English-Malayan, aboriginal, Indian (or semi-Sanskrit),

Tamil, Chinese, Persian, Siamese, Portuguese, and Japanese. The latter are survivals from the World War II occupation. Since historical accuracy could not be achieved, the author has resorted to folklore, legends, and information gathered by local residents and public officials for explanations and the filling out of an entry. The stories behind some of the names should entertain anyone interested in the folklore of Malaya; they are also usually pertinent to the names involved.

Since Malaysia has been invaded and occupied through the centuries by many peoples, alternate names occur; for example, English and Malay (Fort Cornwallis, Kota), Malay and Chinese (Rawong, Manlow), Tamil and Malay (Tangalai, Sungei Rambai), while "the whole country of Malaya is known by the South Indians as Penang and by the Ceylonese as Singapore." The movement westward by the Buddhists and the Indians in general has left the greatest impact on place-names in Malaysia. Although the evidence is meager, it is possible that the name Malaya itself may be derived from a Tamil name, Malai-ur, or "hill city." On the other hand, there is stronger evidence that the name came from Sumatra to the peninsula.

The origin of the name of Singapore (Singhapura) is more obvious. Disregarding folk legends concerning the sighting of a lion at what is now Singapore, we can recognize the two parts of the name Singhapore as "Lion City," in translation. *Singha* has the Sanskrit meaning of "lion," and *purani* or *pura* means "city." *Singh*, derived from Sanskrit *singha*, has been and is a popular Indian patronymic. All Sikhs are named Singh, but many other Indians, especially in the northern part of India, are Singhs, and place-names with *singh* or *singha* as first elements can be found in all sections of India, as well as in Ceylon, Bali (whose capital is Singaradja), Java, Sumatra, and Indo-China. *Pura* can be found in numerous Indian place-names, such as Nagpur, Ghazipur, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Kanpur (appearing as Cawnpore in English histories of India).

The discussion of the names Malaya and Singapore are only two of the many Malayan names treated at length in this book. The well-written entries are packed with esoteric information that occasionally goes beyond onomatological interest; but in a book that has for one of its purposes the desire to stimulate interest in

Malayan place-names, such information is probably necessary and, in this case, welcome. So would be a map of the area, but the book does not contain one. The lack, however, should in no way detract from what is apparently the first book-length study of Malayan place-names.

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A Dictionary of Nicknames. By Julian Franklyn. Hamish Hamilton Ltd., London, 1962. xx, 132 pp.

Readers already familiar with Mr. Franklyn's authoritative studies in the cockney dialect, *The Cockney* and *A Dictionary of Rhyming Slang*, will need no further inducement to explore his historical, sociological, and "reassuringly human" treatment of English nicknames. Of the over 2,000 nicknames included in the book, the majority derive from various dialect areas in England; about three hundred are designated as being from the United States, or from specific states; a lesser number are drawn from Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and Canada. The "Glossary" is preceded by a "Preface" and an "Introduction" and followed by a "Reverse Reference" and a brief "Index." There is no bibliography.

Prefatorily, the author states his aim as "an attempt to record the robust, kindly pertinent nicknames given by the man in the street to his mate: to classify them and, as far as possible, define them and indicate their origins and the social limits of their usage." Terms of reference and terms of address supplement the principal categories: *inseparable* nicknames (those that attach to certain surnames), *inevitable* nicknames (those that are given because of one's personal appearance, physical characteristics, or birthplace and those that may be either personal and private, or public), and *general* nicknames (those nicknames in common use that do not fit into the other groups).

Mr. Franklyn mentions his indebtedness to his "informants" and to Eric Partridge, Wilfred Granville, Iona and Peter Opie, and Sir Anthony Richard Wagner. An examination of those entries which give the sources of information and which are labeled "American"

provides additional authorities: H. L. Mencken, who is mentioned in the "Introduction" and the "Index," Harold Wentworth, Stuart Berg Flexner, Damon Runyon, A. A. Roback, John S. Farmer, Henry W. Shoemaker, J. B. Bartlett, David W. Maurer, and M. H. Mathews.

An excellent introduction evaluating previous scholarship and investigation into British surnames and nicknames also contains Mr. Franklyn's regrets that he has been unable to obtain the necessary information on American names, and his admittance that "one treads upon dangerous ground in defining the usage of nicknames at home, without venturing abroad." His introductory definitions of the various classifications of nicknames, his insistence that "language is made in the market, not in the cloisters," and his informative remarks concerning the predominantly masculine use of nicknames and the tendency of the educated, more than the uneducated, to bestow nicknames that wound, greatly contribute to the reader's understanding of the glossary entries.

Terms to be defined are set in bold type, Roman oldstyle, with an indented form of paragraphing. Extremes of terms defined on a double-page spread are reproduced in small caps on the upper outside corner of the spread, and page numbers are placed on the upper inside corner of each page. Especially interesting to the American reader are such British inseparable nicknames as "Snowy," for any man named Baker; "Slide" Overett; "Jumper" and "Slider" Cross; "Chunka" Wood; and "Nozmo" King (from the frequently displayed, but usually ignored, sign, "No Smoking"). Examples of inevitable nicknames of arresting definition are *Skinnigut*, *Slasher*, *Basher*, and *Spot*. Among the general nicknames are those of long established application, such as *Cully* (early seventeenth century); those that are falling into desuetude, for example, *Telegraph Pole*, because most of the [British] wiring is now underground; and those that are put into temporary use, such as the complimentary *Shitface*, employed on convivial occasions. Mr. Franklyn does not include such American counterparts as the roughly affectionate *Turdhead* and *Turdknocker*, used in the southern mountain areas.

The American nicknames fall roughly into three groups. A small number of general nicknames, often those that may be found in a desk dictionary, include *Frosh* (the entry is headed *Fresh(er)*, with

Frosh as a sometime alternate); *Lummox* (entered as *Lummux*); *Tenderfoot*, limited in application to newcomers to the American West. Mr. Franklyn explains that *Butch*, a reduction of *Butcher*, "passes in Britain as an American masculine given name," but that he would be interested to know if Butch "is in fact merely a well-established nickname." Among the general nicknames of limited usage are *Jesse James*, *Mama Lucia*, *Blind Tom*, and *Fuzz*, from the argot of baseball players, stage hands, race-track workers, and members of the underworld, respectively.

A larger category is comprised of nicknames for the states and their inhabitants. All states are entered with the exceptions of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Washington, and Wyoming. The entries are not as complete as Mr. Franklyn's American sources would permit. His inclusion of *Okie*, a semi-derogatory term, instead of *Sooner* for the Oklahoman – according to Mr. Franklyn, *Sooner* is an American nickname for an Australian – is enigmatical, as is his choice of *Polygamists*, over *Mormons*, or *Saints*, for the people of Utah. A few names for the residents of American cities are included, chosen perhaps for their possible appeal to British readers: *Baltimorons*, instead of *Baltimoreans*, *Chicagorillas*, *Bunnies* "for the population of Cedar Rapids: punning *see der rabbits*," and *Louisvillains*.

The largest group by far in the American nicknames consists of slurs for national or racial groups. Over 180 names are faithfully recorded, and of these, forty-five are said to be nicknames for the American negro. Since limitations of space forbid a lengthy discussion, perhaps one complete entry will suffice.

> Spade: is one of the nicknames applied in U.S.A. to a negro. From *Spades*, a black suit in a pack of playing cards. Spades in preference to Clubs (also black) probably because in fortune-telling by cards spades indicate ill-luck. and a negro in U.S.A. certainly has plenty of that. The term is slowly being adopted in Britain, and was used by Teddyboys *c.* 1947.

Definitions and etymologies are probably less satisfactory for the American nicknames than for the British. For example, *Stranger*, described as "a general mode of address, used particularly in the Western States of America," is of doubtful currency. The *Vacher* entry, explaining this nickname as "an old (now obsolete) nickname for an American cowboy: from the French," makes no

mention of the Mexican or Spanish-America vaquero of the southwestern United States. Pronunciations, except for those that indicate the omission of the letter *h*, are given as follows:

Ma (pronounce *Mah*)	Narrow (pronounce 'Narrer')
Mocha (pronounce *mok-a*)	Razzo (pronounce *Rahzo*)
Mochalie (pronounce *mok-a-alee*)	Queue (pronounce *Kwe-we*)
Nanny (pronounce 'Nanah')	Chocolate (pronounce Choclit)

No pronunciations are given for such words as Australian *Enzedder*, Cockney-Yiddish *Zaygeh*, Scottish *Smusch*, and Yorkshire *Mawmooin*. A clue to the pronunciation of *Pisan* probably is contained in the etymology: "From piss-and-wind: (in full, 'He is all piss and wind')."

A few British nicknames have had their origins in the American entertainment world. *Mickey Mouse* (for a motor mechanic) derives from Walt Disney's cartoon character, and *Rudolph* (for anyone with a red nose) comes from the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." The *Bing* entry reveals Mr. Franklyn's exercise of the Johnsonian prerogative.

> Bing: is the inseparable nickname of any man named Crosby: from the American vocalist who popularized the tuneless, out-of-step type of very prosy song that has now killed real vocal merit...

In addition to discovering some American influence on British nicknames, inseparable and otherwise, the American reader will be interested in such of Mr. Franklyn's prophecies as the probability that the nickname "Winnie," for the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, K.G., will become the inseparable nickname of all men named *Churchill*, possibly even those named *Spencer*; will be entertained by his inclusion of such dialectal, rhyming verses as 'Fattocks and Smallocks wor laikin at taw/Fattocks ga'e Smallocks a bat ower t'jaw; / Smallocks ran home to tell his mother, / Fattocks ran after, an'gav' him another' (under *Smallocks*); and given some insight (for example under *Flatty*) into the motivation of children in giving irreverent nicknames.

The dictionary, printed on India colored, soft finish paper, is well bound in red cloth, painted with small squares of gray (probably by the silk screen process) to produce a fine red-gray woven pattern,

on which the author's name and the title of the book are gold-leafed. An attractive jacket is printed with blue-gray background and maroon accent.

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Ukrainian Christian Names (A Ditcionary). Compiled by Roma Z. Gauk. Edited by Dr. Yar Slavutych. Edmonton: Orma Publishers, 1961. 31 pp.

Since the publication of B. Hrinchenko's anthroponymic *appendix* to his 4-volume *Ukrainian-Russian Dictionary* (*Slovar'ukrayins'koyi movy*, Kiev 1907–1909) – being a Ukrainian-Russian dictionary of Christian names (vol. 4, pp. 548–563) – no essential changes in the development of the Ukrainian anthroponymic collections can be recorded. The state of things was not changed with the edition of a little Ukrainian-Russian and Russian-Ukrainian dictionary of first names, *Ukrayins'ko-rosiys'kyj* i *rosiys'ko-ukrayins'kyj slovnyk vlasnykh imen*, edited by I. M. Kyrychenko and published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Kiev in 1954 (second edition: 1961). The same can be said of Gauk's compilation: it certainly will not revolutionize Ulrainian onomastics as a scientific discipline, but perhaps will help parents of Ukrainian origin to choose names for their newly-born children in English-speaking areas in the world, in particular in Canada and the United States of America.

Gauk's compilation is in no way a complete list of Ukrainian names. As she states in her preface on p. 3, "the selection was limited to those names in common usage today together with those which may in the future receive general acceptance." These purely individual principles had led the compiler to include many rare names such as *Azaria*, *Althea*, *Alvina*, *Astoria*, *Veron*, *Volia*, *Dalmat*, *Naoma*, to exclude *Avakum*, *Bohdar*, *Boronyslav*, *Zhdanna*, and *Isydor*; and to confuse *Hordiy* with *Gordon*, *Mechyslav* with *Mecheslav*, *Marciyal* with *Marshall*, *Fotyna* with *Fatima*, etc. It was in 1627 that P. Berynda in his *Lexicon* differentiated *Anna* from *Halynia*, Latin *Gallina*. Hrinchenko in his aforementioned *appendix* of 1909 confused both names in Ukrainian: *Hanna* and *Halyna*,

and this confusion was carried on up to 1954. Kyrychenko's dictionary clearly distinguishes between *Hanna* (= *Anna*) and *Halyna* (= *Gallina*). The same distinction is found in the second edition of his dictionary of 1961. Contrary to that, Gauk repeats Hrinchenko's identification of *Hanna* and *Halyna* of 1909 (p. 17).

The presentation of the material is arranged alphabetically. The Ukrainian name (with its variations) is followed by the date of "Patron Saint" in the Gregorian Calendar and, finally, by the English anthroponymic equivalent. In case there is no such equivalent a simple transliteration of the Ukrainian form is rendered, e.g., *Yura*, *Yuras*, *Yuriy*, *Yurko*, *Yurchyk*, etc. Here, however, again one looks in vain for a consequent transliteration, be it linguistic (international) or popular English. Thus besides *Svyryd*, *Svyatoslav*, *Yukhym*, *Yar*, etc., we find *Valia* (which should be: *Valya*), *Darusia* (: *Darusya*), *Ena* (: *Inna*), *Olha* (: *Ol'ha*), *Vera* (: *Vira*), etc. A missing English-Ukrainian part, or at least an English-Ukrainian index, would greatly increase the practical value of this booklet.

A special problem arises when the identity of "Patron Saints" is considered. Some of the names have been prematurely elevated to names of Saints, e.g., *Boyan*, *Volia*, *Zhdan*, *Zoria*, *Inna*, and *Yar*. This refers also to such theophoric names as *Bohdan*, *Bohomyr*, *Bohuslav*, etc. Here again a pure individualism of the author suggests the corresponding calendar dates: Why *Zhdan* should be celebrated on June 30th and not, e.g., on January 8th? Why *Inna* is referred to July 3rd, and not to April 19th? Why *Emma* has no name day? – all that remains a secret of the author.

There is no doubt that a great deal of good will, time and energy has gone into this compilation. It indeed may serve (even for the compiler herself) as a basis for further work in this field. Canada and the United States offer unlimited possibilities for Slavic anthroponymic investigation, and so far very little has been done in this respect. We look forward with great interest to the next, improved and enlarged, edition of Gauk's work.

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