Book Reviews

Dictionary of Russian Personal Names. With a Guide to Stress and Morphology. By Morton Benson. (University of Pennsylvania Studies in East European Languages and Literatures.) Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1964. Pp. viii, 175.

The lack of a dictionary of Russian surnames and given names has been one of the most pronounced weaknesses of Russian onomastics. The Russians themselves contributed very little to this field. Encyclopedias, telephone directories (if any!), calendars, and similar compilations could have served the purpose of finding a Russian family name. Even in such cases a non-Russian user would have difficulties in stressing properly, e.g., *Ivanóv* or *Iványov*. It is interesting to note that even *Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Enciklopediya* (The Great Soviet Encyclopedia) started to indicate the stress on Russian family names with volume VII, initially paying no attention whatsoever to this problem.

American Slavistics already has contributed some important works to the development of Russian linguistics. One can but admire the Russian word count performed by H. Josselson of Wayne University, and the American attempts to contribute to the English-Russian machine translation. The book under review is an important American contribution to the development of Russian onomastics, and, in particular, to its anthroponymy. Out of the vast multitude of Russian surnames only 23,000 have been selected by Benson, but even this number is sufficient to present basic trends in the accentuation of Russian surnames in general, and to give their morphology and inflection. A special section of the book lists family names of famous personalities in which the stress differs from the generally used one. The *Dictionary* also presents a list of common Russian given names and analyzes the formation of their diminutives.

The author faced considerable difficulties in view of the richness and variableness of the stress in Russian surnames. Native informants residing in the United States and in the Soviet Union collaborated in the compilation of the *Dictionary*. Consultants at several American universities and the Russian Language Institute of

the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, under the chairmanship of S. I. Ozhegov, made suggestions on various aspects of the work. Previously published works on Russian names, especially those by Unbegaun, Stankiewicz, J. St. Clair-Sobell, have been utilized. A special mention should be made of the cooperation of Melvin E. Deatherage, the compiler of a mimeographed study: *Soviet Surnames: A Handbook* (Oberammergau, 1962). His work was perused immediately after its completion, as Benson states on p. ii.

All in all, this work is an indispensable reference book for onomatologists, linguists, and teachers and students of Russian at all levels. It can also be useful to radio and TV announcers, government officials, scientists, librarians, etc., who find it necessary or desirable to know how to properly stress Russian family and given names. For the latter the *Dictionary* provides, as a practical aid, information on how to reconstruct the original Russian spelling of a name found in the popular English transliteration, e.g., *Chaikovski* (also: *Chaikovsky, Tschaikovsky, Tchaykovsky,* etc.) = *Čajkóvskij* (Чайковский). This feature increases the practical use of the *Dictionary* and makes it accessible even to those who do not know Russian.

Since the compiler included, besides Russian, several non-Russian (particularly Belorussian and Ukrainian) surnames in his book the volume has its value for Ukrainian onomatology as well as for Slavic in general. Benson's solid, versatile, and patient scholarship deserves praise. His book is a valuable and useful contribution to onomastics which I (and, I am sure, others also) will use with gratitude in scholarly reference work. We must congratulate all those concerned on its successful publication. Let us hope that the next volume of Benson's work will be similar to that by Elsdon C. Smith (*Dictionary of American Family Names*), with the history and etymology of Russian surnames. Such a book is badly needed in Slavic onomastics. Benson's skill, industry and wide knowledge of the subject would greatly facilitate the compilation of such a dictionary.

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English Place-Names in -stead. By Karl Inge Sandred. Studia Anglistica Upsaliensia, No. 2. Uppsala: Almqvist and Wiksells, 1963.

As the author points out in his Introduction, the more common elements of English place-names, except for *-ing*, have not been investigated to the same extent as those of Scandinavian place-names. The materials collected by the English Place-Name Society have, however, made possible such studies as the present one of *-stead* (OE *stede*), which like *-ing* belongs to the oldest stratum of Saxon place-names. As far as English is concerned, it has been "an active name-forming element for a very long time, covering, as it seems, the period from the Anglo-Saxon settlement to the centuries after the Norman Conquest" (p. 11), with such specialized meanings as 'church establishment' and 'farm.' Names in *-stead* are most common in the southeastern counties, usually as parish names (p. 14).

Sandred feasibly maintains that "the background against which the English place-names in *-stead* should be seen is the corresponding group of West Germanic names on the Continent" (p. 15), the distribution of such names in Germany coinciding with the areas formerly occupied by the Saxons. Many such place-names must have been brought to England by the Continental Saxons in the fifth century, though the element did not necessarily have the same meaning in the new settlement that it had had on the Continent. Sandred's study is confined to the English meanings of *stede*, *styde* (obviously related to *standan*, Gothic *staþs*, German *Statt*, Greek *stasis*) and other related English words, e.g., *staþol* (NE *staddle*, *steddle*, *stathel*).

All specialized meanings – and there are a fairish number of them in Old English – are to be traced back to the habitative sense 'place where someone or something stands,' including 'city, town, village, farm, estate, etc.' The word *stead* (to use the NE spelling of *stede*) might as affix denote nothing more than a building. *Stōw*, *stead*, and *steall* are etymologically related. All have, however, the same general meaning 'place,' though there are many specializations.

The importance of Sandred's work to place-name study lies in the fact that many of the Old English appellative compounds which

he cites (e.g., on pp. 56–81) came to be used as designations for specific places and hence became place-names; thus the work is of considerable importance in interpreting place-names in *-stead*, as well as in pointing the way for further studies of other place-name elements.

Names in *-stead* Sandred divides into two large groups, those in which the first element of the compound denotes "location of activity," e.g., *gemōt-stede* 'meeting-place,' *wīc-stede* 'dwelling-place,' and those in which it denotes "location of objects (or people)," e.g., *hām-stede* 'homestead,' *trēow-stede* 'grove.' Exceptional are *hēafod-stede* and *hēah-stede* 'chief place,' in which the first elements are attributive. The second of these occurs only once in recorded writings (in *Beowulf*) and may never have occurred in the general Old English vocabulary. A number of other exceptions from post-Old English times are listed in Chapter V.

In Chapter III Sandred proceeds to show that these Old English types in *-stede* continued to occur in the formation of place-names. Examples of place-names recorded as Old English appellatives include *Basted* (OE *beorh*), *Bursted* (OE *burh*), *Kirkstead* (OE *ciric*), and *ham(p)stead* and *Hem(p)ste(a)d* (OE *hām*). Other place-names not recorded as Old English appellatives, though it is likely that some of them actually occurred as such, include *Byerstead* (OE *bȳre*), *Halstead* (OE *heall*), *Ringstead* (OE *hring*), and *Wherstead* (OE *hwearf*).

There are many so-called field-names in *-stead*, a few of which were to become habitative names. Their first elements belong to the same categories as the originally habitative names. Many such field-names, however, were doubtless names of minor habitations which have not survived on Ordnance Survey maps; some are in fact duplicated in habitative names. Sandred's Chapter VI surveys such field-names in Essex (48 in number) and Hertfordshire (20 in number). He is able to conclude from this part of his study that "in Essex, where the habitative names in *-stead* . . . are so numerous, there is a still larger stratum of field-names in *-stead*, mostly formed, as it seems, with first el[ements]s of the same sort" and that in Hertfordshire "the proportions are even more striking, since there are only two habitative names of the type under notice" (p. 139).

On the basis of his evidence, Sandred concludes that, in view of the high proportion of field-names to habitative names, "it seems most natural to assume a non-habitative origin for both" (p. 165). Since these field-names are rather obviously of great antiquity, he concludes that the sense 'pasture (doubtless enclosed)' "provides the best basis for an explanation of *stede* in this very old group of names" (pp. 174–175), though other meanings, e.g., 'outlying area,' may in some cases be considered. Further investigations embracing the Continental West Germanic languages "may eventually lead to a definite solution of the problems connected with the words developed from the root **sta-*," about which Sandred admits himself unable to draw any final conclusions (p. 175). Such investigations will "also throw light on the conditions of farming and husbandry in the Migration Period."

Part II of Sandred's study (pp. 179–300) consists of the material itself, i.e., place-names on record before 1500. There are full bibliographies, a good index, and a number of maps. The work, originally a doctoral dissertation at Uppsala University, is a model of its kind.

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Indian Place Names of New England. Compiled by John C. Huden. (Contributions from the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, Vol. 18.) New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, 1962. xiv, 408 pp. $7.50.

The only other such book is by R. A. Douglas-Lithow.[1] Though Douglas-Lithgow has several hundred more names than Mr. Huden, his names are often duplicated, and their translations are scanty, sometimes missing. And Douglas-Lithgow does not have anything comparable to Mr. Huden's glossary, index, and list of "common root words." Thus the present book, with about 5300 Algonquian place-names and some fifty Iroquoian – all well organized and all

[1] *Dictionary of American-Indian Place and Proper Names in New England with Many Interpretations* ... (Salem Press: ... 1909).

translated – excels Douglas-Lithgow and bears out the claim of the Heye Foundation: "It is the most comprehensive compilation of the Indian place names of ... New England ... published to date."

The core of Mr. Huden's book is his alphabetical list of intermingled Algonquian and Iroquoian place-names. Each name is followed by its locality, its particular Indian dialect, and its purported meanings. Earlier in the book Mr. Huden demonstrates the analysis of four typical Algonquian place-names. After the alphabetical list he gives a catalogue of the "most common root words" found in New England's Indian place-names. Since Mr. Huden in his alphabetical list omits etymological comments, one feels that it was his hope that the reader – by studying the author's rules and model analyses, and by consulting this catalogue of roots – would make his own verification of the accuracy of the meanings.

Mr. Huden's introduction, his "Word about Maps," and his bibliography (112 items) are incidental. More important are his place-name glossary and the index. The glossary is an alphabetical arrangement of English topics and phrases placed alongside the Indian place-names whose purported meanings correspond to them. It guides the reader to names that may mean, for example, 'Big still water' (Jimskitikuk) or 'Drowned land' (Maasbaak). It is also of value to the reader seeking a résumé of the native activities disclosed by the meanings of New England's Indian names. If such a reader were interested in carvings, or in a variety of fish, Mr. Huden's glossary would tell him that (to abide by the translations given) there are 'Bird carvings' at Sepsis-edal-apskit, rock carvings at Assonet, and 'Frost fish' at Papanomscutt.

The index lists the current names of New England places that have had earlier, now extinct Indian names. Many of these current names, such as Nashua and Norridgewock, are themselves of Indian origin. Nashua has alongside it, in boldface, Pennichuck, Watanic, Wataqua; and one supposes that these are earlier, now extinct names for the Nashua locality. Norridgewock is followed by the boldface Narantsoak – presumably Norridgewock's earlier, now extinct name. This index, then, is not so much an index as a synonymy. That is, Nashua = Pennichuck, Watanic, Wataqua; and Norridgewock = Narantsoak. The status of the synonyms would be clearer if there was an asterisk before each name that is now extinct.

Mr. Huden states that his book is not "an original work," yet he does not specifically name the originators of the place-name meanings he gives. He does speak, however, of "the technique followed by the compiler in arriving at the meaning of many of the place-names in this volume." One supposes, then, that a number of the translations are Mr. Huden's. But should he not state which? For it is likely that he also includes some meanings from the 112 works he lists in his bibliography. In the interest of truth, I feel that the reader should be told who thinks *Cuttoquat*, for example, means 'At the great tidal river,' and why. And I feel that he should be told who thinks that *Panhanet*, for example, means 'At the small creek or inlet,' and why. Perhaps for Cuttoquat it is enough to find, from the list of roots, that the name seems to contain "ket-" (great) and "tegw" (river) PLUS the locative "-et, -ot, -ut." But what of Panhanet, for whose purported meaning one can find only "pi-" (small, little) and the locative "-et"? For *Panhanet* to mean '. . . creek or inlet,' the Algonquian root *-ahan* (PA **-ahahw-*, *-aha-* 'waves, flood, alternate motion') is needed. This root does not seem to be in Mr. Huden's list. And it is not certain that Mr. Huden's "pi-" is the opening root of *Panhanet*. Mr. Huden lists other similar roots ("pan," "pan-," "pon"). And Tooker,[2] for instance, mentions the eligible root *pena*, Narragansett *penayi*, 'crooked.' There is no doubt that many of the apparently plausible meanings that have been handed down for the various New England names are suspect in the light of present-day Algonquian philology. It is therefore disquieting to see in this book so few debates on such matters, and to find relatively neglected the need to justify, in dubious cases, the grammatical application of this root or that.

It was not Mr. Huden's intention, so he tells the reader, to include "extended linguistic analyses." Yet he is assuredly responsible for calling the reader's attention to etymological errors that have lately been exposed, and to etymological discoveries that have lately been made. He does not always do so. Consider, for example, his treatment of Acadia, Maine (p. 16), which he appears content to attribute to a Micmac root meaning 'earth, place, land' (cf. PA **axki* 'land'). However, W. F. Ganong[3] has shown that the name Acadie can be

[2] *The Indian Place-Names on Long Island* . . . (1911), p. 189.

[3] *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, Section II, 1915, pp. 375–448.

traced to the *Larcadia* of such early maps as Ruscelli's (1561), a time when there had not yet been any contact between the French and the Micmacs. Thus there is strong evidence that Acadie (Acadia) is not from the Micmac but from the European. As for the omission of a discovery lately made, consider Mr. Huden's treatment of Oregon, Massachusetts (p. 157). To account for this name, Mr. Huden, besides taking a glance at Wauregan, Connecticut, suggests French *ouragan*, Latin *origanum*, Spanish *orejón*. But he omits George R. Stewart's theory[4] that the Pacific Oregon (and all derivative Oregons) is from a misreading of "R. de Ouaricon – sint," an error for the Wisconsin River ('Ouisconsing') on Lahontan's "Carte generale de Canada." These lapses are perhaps attributable to Mr. Huden's passive role of compiler.

In Mr. Huden's list of "common root words," there is a general insufficiency that may be attributed in part to Mr. Huden, and in part to the still relatively undeveloped knowledge of the subject. Algonquian roots are highly delicate in their infinite grammatical vicissitudes. Here Mr. Huden assembles an unsifted and undocumented mass of perhaps 400 Algonquian "root words" without making nice distinctions between them, and without an attempt to establish probable PA archetypes. It was his purpose, of course, to aid the place-name student. Yet I fear that his lists may do a disservice to Algonquian philology by giving the amateur the impression that to determine Algonquian roots it is only necessary (after allowing for variant spellings) to mark off syllables. Instead, documented comparisons are needed; and the omission of them is a slight to the care lately taken by Michelson, Bloomfield, Geary, Siebert, Hockett, and Voegelin to rebuild the Primitive Algonquian language and thus lay a foundation for accurate Algonquian etymology. Mr. Huden (no doubt unintentionally) further buffets Algonquian philology when he suggests that Algonquian students "...have concerned themselves with grammatical and comparative studies, often failing to establish basic vocabularies for use in continuing research by others." It is these grammatical and comparative studies that are really the research. Only through them can reliable basic vocabularies be reached, and full accuracy in Algonquian etymology be attained.

[4] *American Speech*, 19.2 (April 1944).

Despite the foregoing limitations, Mr. Huden deserves praise for producing a book that records the purported meanings of so many New England Indian place-names. Though the reader cannot always tell who found the meanings, or exactly how they were reached, yet by following Mr. Huden's rules and turning to Mr. Huden's list of roots, the reader can form a rough idea of their accuracy. Not all scholars will be satisfied with so unanalytical a work. By some it will be looked upon as light reading. Yet if one takes Mr. Huden's book as it is, he will see that the author, besides fulfilling his purpose, has achieved consistent organization, a helpful glossary, and a quite ambitious catalogue of roots.

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Code Names Dictionary, Edited by Frederick G. Ruffner, Jr. and Robert C. Thomas. Detroit, Gale Research Company, 1963. Pp. 555. Price $15.00.

Here is a unique dictionary which will be invaluable to future historians when working with source materials and writing about the history of recent wars and of our times. The subtitle states that it is "a guide to code names, slang, nicknames, journalese, and similar terms: aviation, rockets and missiles, military, aerospace, meteorology, atomic energy, communications, and others."

Code names are words used to designate a person, place, object, operation, or plan of action. The term includes acronyms and nicknames. They have two principal uses: (1) to conceal the identification of a person, place, object or course of action; and (2) to serve as a quick, definite designation or identification of a person, place, object or course of action. Sir Winston Churchill says that in time of war such names should not be boastful and overconfident in sentiment, invested with an air of despondency, or have a frivolous nature, but they should be well-sounding names which do not suggest the character of the operation or disparage it in any way.

The history of code names goes back to early times, but it was in World War II that the practice became widespread, although the earlier World War produced many code names. Many were also employed in the Korean conflict.

Now both military and scientific communities have a strong penchant for giving secret or non-secret code words to new projects of all kinds. In peace times easy identification rather than concealment is the main purpose of most code names.

The dictionary attempts to provide extensive coverage for recent wars and actions of the armed forces since 1945, and for aviation and aircraft, space exploration, missile systems and equipment, weather phenomena, data processing and atomic energy projects.

Tropical storms identified by girl's names are code names also listed in the dictionary. Lord Haw-Haw, the English radio propagandist; Tokyo Rose, the American-born Japanese woman who broadcast to Allied troops from Japan; and Seoul City Sue, the North Korean who broadcast to U.N. troops in Korea, and others are identified in this useful work. Even Beardless Barbara, the American woman who broadcasts for Castro in Cuba today, is identified.

Almost every page lists some innocent-looking word with a meaning which an enemy power would have paid a king's ransom for in time of war. In dispatches during World War II *Admiral Q* was the secret code name for President Franklin D. Roosevelt. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was concealed under the word *Duckpin*. *Mickey Mouse* was an early U.S. Army microwave radar nicknamed for its two-dish antennas which were shaped like mouse ears. *Monkey-puzzle* designated Japan. *Mike* operations were a series of planned invasions on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

Many old fighters will delight in leafing through this dictionary for familiar code names. The editors state that a revision is planned, and ask for suggestions.

Elsdon C. Smith

Names and Places: With a Short Dictionary of Common or Well-Known Place-Names. By Gordon J. Copley. Phoenix House, Ltd., London, 1963. Pp. xiv + 226, 16s.

There is a great deal of solid material in a little space in this carefully constructed and well-written volume. Approximately the first half is devoted to discussion of kinds of names on the map of Britain, the second to "a short dictionary of common or well-known

place-names." After the latter section are placed a glossary of words which most often occur in place-names, and an index. Every name or term in the body of the text is registered in dictionary, glossary, or index, or in more than one of them. Once the reader grasps this fact, he can find what he wants if it is discussed in the book. He must persevere in turning from one list to another until he locates the entry he seeks. It is an involved organization but a logical one.

In the main part of the book the author first discusses, with good examples, the chief kinds of place-names, moving on to pre-English place-names and river-names, to English and Scandinavian river-names and place-names, and to landscape names. Names reflecting the names of people and those reflecting the coming of Danes and Normans complete the survey.

The book is not highly technical – it emphasizes meaning rather than linguistic development. It can be read with pleasure and profit by the intelligent and interested amateur who will doubtless be pleased, beyond the discussions of major matters, to discover (for example) that Baldock (Herts.) is the medieval name of Baghdad; Knights Templar, who had been on the Crusades, named the town. He will be amazed to learn further that no fewer than eight counties have settlements named California. He may even want to try his hand at unravelling the meanings of Billericay, Billinge, Cheviot, Kettering, Macclesfield, Melksham, and Pickering, all of which have so far resisted scholarly attack.

Dr. Copley has skillfully selected and presented salient principles and examples from a great body of material in which he is thoroughly at home.

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Why Did They Name It ...? By Hannah Campbell. New York, Fleet Publishing Corporation, 1964. Pp. xv, 207. Price $4.50.

This is not a book on the origin of brand names. It is a collection of stories outlining the history of nationally-famous products and their inventors, illustrated with reproductions of old-time advertise-

ments. The meaning and origin of the well-known brand names are only an incidental part of some of the stories.

The sketches are interesting; they include Sanka, Maxwell House Coffee and Life Savers among the foods. Famous whiskies have their anecdotes. There are accounts of well-known brands of cigarettes. A section is given over to home remedies, such as Noxzema, Murine and Vaseline Petroleum Jelly; cosmetics like Cutex, Ivory Soap and Burma-Shave have their interesting items. A section of narratives on transportation and one on miscellaneous items complete the book.

Not a part of this book but one that is sorely needed by big business is a comprehensive study on the influence of certain kinds of names in inducing people to purchase the product. If such a study were made, perhaps the Brand Names Foundation or some other business organization could be persuaded to aid the American Name Society in publishing the results.

Elsdon C. Smith

Pet Names. By Jean E. Taggart, New York, The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1962. Pp. xii, 387.

This is a good work for consultation by youngsters with a new pet, a good book for children's libraries. For some it may open their eyes to the large body of material they have from which to choose. The meaning or some brief comment is given for each name.

Separate sections are allocated to birds, cats, dogs, fish, horses, insects and other pets. There is an index which will direct one to names for pets of the principal breeds of birds, cats, dogs, horses, etc.

Elsdon C. Smith