Book Reviews

Deutschlands geographische Namenwelt. Etymologisches Lexicon der Fluß- und *Ortsnamen alteuropäischer Herkunft.* By Hans Bahlow. Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann, 1965. Pp. xvi, 554.

This is a comprehensive etymological lexicon, tracing the name derivations of streams, rivers, fields, forests, mountains, districts and regions of south, west and north Germany. Prof. Bahlow, in keeping the investigation of each name free from all previous etymological theories, has endeavored consistently to find the literal meaning and ethnological derivation of each item (some of which are traced to the fourth millennium B.C.), while at the same time taking into account any other morphological parallels which may exist or have existed.

In his preface, "Spuren vorgeschichtlicher Bevölkerung," Prof. Bahlow provides a short geographical summary of the suffixes and consonant shifts most peculiar to each area covered; e.g., in the Rhine-Moselle district, where Celtic and pre-Celtic names are common, the frequent suffix *andra* is traceable to the *Scamander* of Homer's Troy (Iliad 20.74), *q.v.*, p. 487 *s.v. Trave*:

> ... Genauso vorgerm. (aufs Ligurisch-Venetische weisend) ist *Traben* a. Mosel (*Travene*) mit *Trarbach*: urkdl. *Travenderbach*, eingedeutscht aus *Travandra*, ein prähistor.-ligur. Bachname aus ältester Vorzeit wie *Malandra, Valandra, Asandra, Atandra, Balandra, Gisandra, Isandra, Wisandra, Camandra, Scamandra, Gimandra*, die von Kl.-Asien über die Rhone, die Mosel u. den Rhein bis nach Brabant u. Westfalen herüberreichen!

Elsewhere, east of the Rhine, through Thuringia, many river and district names extant today show only a vestige of the original Celtic, or sometimes Italic-Ligurian, endings, three examples being given as the Eder, Lahn and Sieg, which originally were *Adrana, Logana, Sigana.*

In tracing the *P-Anlaut*, Prof. Bahlow observes that the p > f shift in German in wanting in Celtic. Thus, certain names of Westphalia and the Netherlands, when showing *pun, pen, pan,* testify to pre-Germanic origins, *e.g.*, p. 379 *s.v. Püning*:

> *Püning* i. W. (1059 *Puninga*, 960 auch in E.) sind "Moder-Orte," aus vor-germ. Zeit, wie der P-Anlaut lehrt! Idg. (lett) *pun* "Moder" ist germ. zu

fun geworden, vgl. die Funne! Zu *Puneces-wurd*/England vgl. *Cerdices-wurd*: cerd "Schmutz."

The work appears competent beyond question, yet some inaccuracies do exist when, for example, the employment of Greek font is occasionally necessary in order to trace a derivation. On p. 301, *s.v. Lienen*, we read, "... vgl. lat. *linere*, 'beschmieren', griech. λίνευς 'Schleimfisch'." The Greek accent should fall on the ultima, not the penult. Again, on p. 472, *s.v. Tackeloh*, we find, "... vgl. griech. τάκω 'schmelzen, weich werden' bzw. δάκρυ 'Träne'." The normal Attic word is τήκω, τάκω being Doric. Such errors as these, however, are minimized by the fact that the German equivalent is always included, and do not, in my opinion, detract seriously from the overall usability of the work.

In sum, therefore, Prof. Bahlow has contributed a valuable, thorough-going etymological study which should command the attention of scholars in the field of German onomastics.

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The Place Names of Gloucestershire. By A. H. Smith. Parts One, Two, and Three, English Place-Name Society, Vols. 38, 39, and 40. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1964. xiii, 269 pp.; xiii 264 pp.; xiv, 272 pp. Part IV, 1965, XV, 274 pp.; end-pocket with maps. $8.00 each.

The Survey of the Gloucestershire place-names issued in four parts under the general editorship of A. H. Smith is another major achievement by the English Place-Name Society. After the magnificent eight volumes on the place-names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the present four-part study, a major onomatological undertaking on its own, probably could have been expected to be somewhat off the standard of the previous work. If anything, however, *The Place-Names of Gloucestershire* is superior, standing as it does as a compact unit of significant research. Perhaps practice in scholarly work tends toward perfection.

Part One deals with the river and road names of Gloucestershire and with the place-names of the East Cotswolds. Part Two deals with the North and West Cotswolds. Part Three deals with the Lower Severn Valley and the Forest of Dean. Part Four contains the introduction, bibliography, analyses, and index. Addenda and corrigenda appear in the front of each part. The practice of placing the introduction in the final volume has been continued, although to the reader the method can be confusing. It, nevertheless, allows the editor to survey his work after it has been completed. For this, the user of the volumes can be thankful.

A map of the Gloucester hundreds is included in an end-pocket of Part Four. The map is helpful, but unfortunately town names are omitted, no doubt out of deference to spatial needs. Seven transparency maps are also included, keyed to the larger map of hundreds. One map gives the geological composition of Gloucestershire; the other six indicate distribution of place-names, elements, and special forms in the County. Place-name geography is, of course, a well developed disciplinary part of English place-name study. The distributions of names delimit settlement boundaries, linguistic areas, and highlight other cultural aspects, including anthropological, archaeological, and historical. The maps reveal the distribution of names or name-elements from the Romano-British Period that survived into Old English times and later appear in the *Domesday Book*. One map shows Mercian forms, such as *waella* and *un(g)*, that are especially prominent in the west and northwest. As might be expected, the maps show that Welsh personal names, place-names and elements, saints' names, and surnames are distributed in the west beyond the Severn River. A few Welsh names, but only a very few, occur in the south. The maps strikingly supplement the account of the distribution given in the introduction.

A long summary of the place-name evidence of Gloucestershire would be out of place in a short notice such as is given here. Some intimation of the material, however, is necessary. Place-names exist for woodland terms in the extensive forest land, for river traffic on the Severn, for fisheries, for mining in the Forest of Dean, and for ancient sites ("mostly derived from common descriptive elements"). The Celtic element is well represented. Names from Roman occupation occur, along with the expected Welsh elements. Primary and secondary English settlements are reflected in the names. Very little

Scandinavian influence appears, but there is some influence from French and Norman sources, especially in the pronunciation. The editor compiles lists of personal names from Old, Middle, and Modern Welsh, Old English, Scandinavian, continental, feudal, and saints' names.

Besides the listing of common types of field-names, the editor notes some of the less usual modern types. Some of them are listed here as outlined in Part Four: (a) nicknames for poor land, including such names as *Bare Gains*, *Cold Comfort*, *Hungerstarve Meadow*, *Pickpocket*, *Pinch-poor*, *Scrat Arse*, and *Shittingitten*, and *Stink to Tetbury*; (b) nicknames for productive land such as *Cheesecake* and *Fat Pockets*; (c) names referring to shape, size or location, such as *Fire Shovel*, *Frying Pan Tail*, *Pygelegge*, and *Worldsend*; (d) transferred and biblical names; (e) references to folklore and customs; (f) lands for a specific church; (g) seasons, days or the week; (h) sports, such as *Bowling Alley*, *Cockpit*, and *Football Close*; (i) miscellaneous names.

The four parts are edited and printed in the same standards of the previous volumes issued by the English Place-Name Society. It is also good to know that volumes treating the place-names of Berkshire, Cheshire, and Westmorland are in an advanced state of production.

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Japanese Place-Names. By Kanji Kagami. Tokyo: Kadokawa Shoten, 1964. Pp. 162; Appendix, 64 pp. 260.

The text by the late Professor Kagami, a pioneer in Japanese place-name research, is a model of the method to use in the study of Japanese place-names, although the method can be applied universally. Professor Kagami primarily uses examples from Japanese sources. In his preface, the author emphasizes the abundance of place-names in Japan, their place in the history of "legacy" of Japanese civilization, and their significance.

The organization follows a manual outline. The chapters progress from a definition of place-name study and how to study place-names to methods of solving difficult names. Types of names are discussed, along with suggestions as to categorizing the types. The way in which place-names are distributed is covered in an important and original chapter. The means by which a place-name can be dated are given prominence through the use of some striking examples. The problem of orthography, a difficulty in Japanese, is not satisfactorily resolved. Two chapters are devoted to application and bibliography. A long appendix lists place-name elements, roots, and distribution.

Professor Kagami asserts that most Japanese place-names are named for their geographical features and apparently have remained unchanged for hundreds of years, acting the part of Hindai-Monji ("God's Age"), surviving as they do from the time before the introduction of Chinese writing. He follows Mr. Yanagida, another pioneer in place-name study, in his estimation of at least twenty million place-names in Japan. One difficulty the student faces in his study is that of different dialects. It is helpful if accord between a dialect form and the names of a geographical feature can be found. Usually, the accord will point to solutions of the origin of a place-name.

Two prominent examples are given to indicate how difficult names can be solved. The first one is the problem of Mount Fuji, a name which has never been explained to anyone's satisfaction. Many people believe that it is derived from the Ainu language. Others explain that its "F-sound" expresses the sound and "meaning" of fire. These fanciful etymologies are rejected. Professor Kagami pays attention instead to the slopes of the mountain and to the several place-names of *Fuji, Fuchi, Fushi,* etc., which exist there. He notes that the flower "fuji" (wistaria) hangs in the form of a slope and that *fuji* in some dialects stands for "rainbow," which hangs in the form of a beautiful slope. He concludes then that Mount Fuji is not Ainu in origin but that it was originated in the Heian Period. The other example is Nagoya, which the author explains as *nago* (distributes as "a plane") plus *ya,* a simple suffix, or, possibly, "valley." The explanation is logical, although it varies radically from the many others.

The geographical distribution of place-names exhibits unique patterns. One is the "water-ring" form, in which place-names spread from a cultural center in the form of a water-ring. Map illustrations are given to illustrate the phenomenon. "Similarity" is familiar to both dialect and place-name geographers. In Japan, many similarities are found between Western (Kyushu) and Central (Kinki) districts. Professor Kagami concludes that there was in ancient time a large migration of population from Kyushu to Kinki. "Fan-shape" forms also occur according to triangular dialect boundaries. "Hollow" areas contrast with "water-ring" ones. An old name will be a center, whereas new names spread in a circle around the older name form, which usually represents an old cultural center. Old names seem to resist encroachment.

Place-names in Japan tend to propagate radially and from west to east. Street-names, for instance, illustrate radial propagation as it is carried out by merchants. West to east propagation can be illustrated by the Malayan Ago-name which shows a movement of sea-side people inward.

Orthography plays its persistent and annoying role in recording of Japanese names. The problem is complicated through the use of Chinese characters and Japanese "vowel" marks that overlay, or attach to, the Chinese ones. The author seems to side with the Japanized forms so that the pronunciations can be illustrated in an almost one-to-one symbolism. He feels that Chinese characters are poor representations, complicated also, for the expression of Japanese place-names.

Professor Kagami's study deserves a universal audience, for his suggestions for place-name study are applicable anywhere. Although this short review can do no more than hint at the richness of the author's insights, perhaps we have pointed out the serious and even germinal work that is being done in the study of place-names in Japan. The small book is also attractively printed and illustrated, a model of the beautiful work performed by Japanese printers.

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Ryukyuan Names. Ed. by Shunzo Sakamaki. Honolulu: East-West Center Press, 1964. Pp. 208. Price $7.50.

This work consists of three monographs on Ryukyuan surnames and house names by Shunzo Sakamaki, Shuncho Higa, and William P. Lebra. Included is a collection of current Ryukyuan surnames listed both in alphabetical order and by the number of strokes in the first character of each name, collected by Teruo Tanonaka, and a list of current Ryukyuan place names arranged by regions, by alphabetical order, and by the number of strokes in the first character of each name, assembled by Shiro Amioka. Each name has the correct Chinese characters alongside.

Professor Sakamaki has prepared a scholarly piece on early Ryukyuan names in which he has included a note on phonetics, discussion of childhood names, early Chinese surnames in Okinawa and the names of nobility and commoners, together with early transcriptions of Ryukyuan names, ending with a comprehensive list of books consulted. Mr. Higa's contribution is on Okinawan surnames comprising a study of the written characters for surnames and place names and of changes in the ways of reading them. He has appended a list of names arranged alphabetically according to transcriptions indicated by official pronunciation after 1879, based on standard Japanese phonetics. Professor Lebra described the *yaa n naa*, or house name system, in the Ryukyuan Islands which functioned as an important identifying device before family names became universal and which were the basis of many surnames.

This is a most important work on the Ryukyuan names, not only because it is the only thing in the English language on the subject, but because of the careful, scholarly attention to detail apparent in the compilation.

Elsdon C. Smith

Nicknames of Cities and States of the U. S. By Joseph Nathan Kane and Gerard L. Alexander. New York: The Scarecrow Press, 1965. pp. 341.

This reviewer, a resident of Chicago for forty years, was under the impression that *the* nickname of the city was "the windy city"

(though weather bureau records fail to justify the designation). Now it is revealed that the nation's second city has no less than 39 recorded nicknames, ranging from such exaggerated booster slogans as "the Garden City" (from the motto, *Urbs in Horto*, inscribed on the city seal of 1837), to such scurrilous blasts as "the Crime Capital," an appellation earned during prohibition gang war days, which the city has been unable to shake off.

We in our innocence long supposed that New Orleans was *the* Crescent City, an apt reference to that city's location on a bend in the Mississippi; now we are jarred with the unromantic truth that three other places claim a like nickname (Appleton, Wisconsin, Galena, Illinois, Hilo, Hawaii); moreover, the Mardi Gras metropolis (a nickname *not* listed in the book) has seventeen other tags attached to it, including such an inglorious one as "Crawfish Capital."

The size or importance of a city seems to have less relevance to the number and variety of its nicknames than the dilligence of its civic promoters, or its rival detractors. Jacksonville, Florida, for example, has 21 nicknames, compared to 13 for the sprawling complex we know as Miami. Fifty-four alternative names are given for Washington, D.C., only three less than for New York City. San Francisco has 34, compared to 22 for Los Angeles, while Reno, Nevada, strangely, has only one, ("Biggest Little City in the World") Compared to 11 for Las Vegas.

The vast majority of the nicknames recorded here bear the clear stamp of chamber of commerce slogan-writers; with deadly monotony one scans pages of "capital" cities (228 of them), ranging from the 51 actual capital cities to ex-capitals (e.g., Vandalia, Illinois, "the Wilderness Capital," and Danville, Virginia, "the Last Capital of the Confederacy"), on down to such homely booster slogans as "Bratwurst Capital of the World" (Sheboygan, Wisconsin) and "Asparagus Capital of the World" (Isleton, California). Since there is no way to adjudicate rival claims, we have three "Lumber Capitals": Tacoma, Washington, Roseburg, Oregon, and Portland, Oregon, not to mention several other called "Lumber City," "Lumber Queen," etc. We even have a "Murder Capital of America" (Memphis, Tennessee, also called "Homocide sic Headquarters"), and three "Murder Capitals of the World": Birmingham, Alabama, Dallas and Houston, Texas.

Hackneyed and often inappropriate self tributes stretch over many pages in dreary repetition: "Athens of ...." (26 of them), "Birthplace of ...." (23 of them), "Center of ...." (3 pages full), "Cradle of ...." (numbering 19), and "Crossroads of ...." (totalling 39). Thirty places call themselves the "City of Homes," while eleven are the "City of Opportunity." Such indefinite adjectives as "beautiful," "progressive," and "scenic" recur with depressing regularity.

Some of the nicknames, to be sure, were plainly coined by sworn enemies of the proud cities, and these are surely more interesting, if not always more accurate: "A Circus Without a Tent," "Nineteen Suburbs in Search of a Metropolis," and "The Capital of Crackpots (all for Los Angeles); "The Capital of Miserable Huts," "The Great Sobornian Bog," and "The Mud Hole City" (all for Washington, D.C.); "The Bitches' Heaven," and "Panhandler's Heaven" (Boston, Massachusetts); "The Old Maid City, Looking Under Her Bed Every Night for an Ocean" (the longest nickname in the book, applied to Duluth, Minnesota); "Hole in the Ground" (for Albany and Kahlota, both in Oregon); "Mobtown," (Baltimore); "Pig's Eye" (St. Paul), "Red Light Queen" (Muskegon, Michigan); "Sin City" (Atolia, California); "Cinema Land" (Hollywood); and "Sodom of the South" (Memphis, Tennessee).

Other nicknames, while not so uncomplimentary, are bizarre or humorous, such as "Rollicking, Hilarious Tent and Shack City" (Lawton, Oklahoma), "Town Two Miles Long and Two Yards Wide" (St. Francisville, Louisiana), "Only Electric-Lit Cemetery in the United States" (Butte, Montana), and "Only Town in the United States with an Apostrophe in its Name" (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho).

All city nicknames in the book are listed twice; first, under their proper names alphabetically listed by states, and, second, in an alphabetical list of nicknames for the country as a whole. The same procedure is repeated for the nicknames of the states. It seems to us that the space might have been put to better use. The authors could have done something to make this work of more value to scholars, such as providing more than a slight hint concerning their sources. We are told in the introduction that published promotion brochures "is one of the prolific sources of nicknames," but we learn no more, especially about the sources of the derogatory nicknames.

Seldom, too, do the authors take pains to tell us the meaning of nicknames which are not self-explanatory, such as "Shak-rag" (Mineral Point, Wisconsin), and "Home of the Yankee Count," (Woburn, Massachusetts). On the other hand, where the reason for a nickname is obvious, it is solemnly stated anyway. Thus, we are gravely informed that Florida is "The Alligator State" because of alligators, and that Nebraska is called "the Beef State" because of "cattle production." The authors get a star for letting us know that "Gotham" originates with Washington Irving, but they get demerits for accepting one of the least creditable theories of the origin of "Hoosier," without mentioning that others exist. They get another red mark for alleging that Iowa is called "the Hawkeye State" because of "Indian Chief Hawkeye." There is no such person in the history of Iowa.

This book is a mere directory, perhaps of some use to journalists looking for new and snappy variations for headlines and lead paragraphs. For scholars its main use, it seems, would be to provide simple raw material for more research.

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