

Book Reviews

Names in South Carolina, Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, XII (November, 1965) 55 pp.

The twelfth volume of *Names in South Carolina*, edited by Professor Claude H. Neuffer, is a valuable contribution to name study. It is the first state place-name journal in the country and well illustrates what can be done in each of the fifty states. Much needs to be done in preserving the origins and legends of place names. In this interesting volume one finds thirteen articles dealing with names in specific counties and towns, plantation names and house-seats, early names of rivers, names and places on Cooper River and Folly Beach, as well as notes on names, such as the stories concerning the origin and derivation of Scape Ore Swamp, originally spelled and called Scape Whore, Whippy Swamp, Snuggity Swamp, and Ape Yard, not to mention Sugar Tit, Scratchnose Swamp, and Bucklick, which are left for investigation.

A number of the names in South Carolina, according to Ted M. Davis, are Indian. Jocassee gets its name from an Indian maiden and Tamassee from the name of a large ruby, supposed to have great healing power, which was possessed by a famous fire prophet. The meaning of the name is "the subject of God." Many of the names of the rivers are also Indian, such as Edisto, Ashepoo, Cheeha, Combahee, and Salkehatchie, as is pointed out in the article by Evelyn McD. Frazier and William E. Fripp.

Two of the important rivers, however, are of English origin: the Ashley and the Cooper are derived from the name of the Lord of Shaftesbury, Anthony Ashley Cooper. Another name of English derivation is Totness, a village of St. Matthew's Parish. Professor Neuffer states (p. 48):

"The name Totness was apparently derived from the old Devonshire town along the Dart River, holding a charter from Henry VII (1505) which stated that the mayor must be elected on St. Matthew's Day. Thus it was a fitting name for the village seat of these South Carolina Anglicans of St. Matthew's Parish."

Other interesting names of plantations in this parish are True Blue and Lang Syne. The former is reminiscent of the setting in John Bennett's novel *The Treasure of Peyre Gaillard*: True Blue Plantation and its mansion, Indigo House, names derived from the indigo grown there. The latter was the home of Julia M. Peterkin, the creator in American fiction of such well known characters as Maum Hannah, Black April, and Scarlet Sister Mary.

Much highly entertaining and significant material may be found in *Names in South Carolina*. It would be well if the other forty-nine states followed in the footsteps of South Carolina in the study of onomastics.

Margaret M. Bryant

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Personal Names: A. Bibliography. Compiled and Annotated by Elsdon C. Smith. New York: The New York Public Library, 1952. Republished, Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1965. 226 pp.

Names readers are familiar with the annual bibliographies of personal names compiled by Professor Smith. This volume is a reprint of his 1951 summary of books and articles available up to that date. In contrast to his later bibliographies, which offer single lists of articles, alphabetically arranged by author, for this volume he set up a classification system for the items he lists (e.g., "Names of Gods," "Law"). Although each item is listed only once, the cross-references he supplies make the volume a most useful one. Another difference in this early bibliography is his personal evaluation of each article ("good," "fair," "poor") according to its usefulness in dealing with names. He also tries to provide the names of at least one Eastern library and one in the Midwest for each listing.

This bibliography, a pioneer work in the field, still is the most useful compilation of materials available before 1952. It was first reviewed in *Names*, I (1952), 214.

Edward J. Alfonsin

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The First Water Colors of North American Birds. Edited by Thomas P. Harrison. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1965.

This scholarly and readable – and very beautiful booklet – is the best arranged and most complete summary of the origins of American Ornithology that I recall reading. It is concise, clear, and with a bibliography inclusive of all known sources in book and manuscript form for the early period covered.

Ornithologists may not agree with all the identities or meanings of the bird-names, but Dr. Harrison is not without authorities supporting his ideas in this difficult field, where lay evidence, often vague, must be relied on for scientific verity.

I recommend this book to members of our society interested in ornithological names. It may be destined to become a collector's item.

Charles Edgar Gilliam

Name Sources of Ohio Public Schools. By William T. Coyle. Springfield: Wittenberg University, and Columbus: The Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association, 1965. pp. 120.

This is a pamphlet listing the public schools in each city and town in Ohio with the source of the name. Most names are derived from their street, district, or town locations. Others are named after local or national personalities. In an interesting twelve-page summary the general reluctance of people to change from a familiar name is noted, together with the fact that Boards of Education are remarkably responsive to public opinion.

Elsdon C. Smith

Editor's Note: A new journal, *Eire-Ireland*, has just begun publication. This journal specializes in all aspects of Irish studies, including names, and may be of particular interest to members of the American Name Society. The address: The Editors: EIRE-IRELAND, Box 5026, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.