

Mark Twain's "Duke" and "Dauphin"

The Duke in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* is no "mere" fictional creation, snatched out of thin air because the author needed a verbose impostor. First, the legend of exiled noblemen, fleeing to the United States (as the Duke himself says) to "breathe the pure air of freedom," was not an uncommon one. Secondly, the heir wrongfully deprived of great estates was a stock figure in contemporary melodrama; and the Duke had been, among other things, "a theater-actor – tragedy, you know." And, thirdly, we know from the *Autobiography* that Mark Twain was drawing on personal memories of a distant relative with a similar tale of a usurped earldom¹ – later to be embodied in the more respectable and appealing Colonel Sellers of *The American Claimant*.

But why specifically the Duke of *Bridgewater*? It is, to be sure, a sonorous British-sounding place-name; and it does provide the Dauphin with his sardonic *Bilgewater*. These two reasons alone might have served a lesser artist; but possibly the Duke became the Duke of Bridgewater for two rather more potent reasons.

First, Francis Egerton, third Duke of Bridgewater, was better known than many other noblemen. Using his own personal fortune, he had, between 1760 and 1800, become the "Father of the English Canals." In his time, this was roughly equivalent to one man's building – without stocks, bonds, or government grants – the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Duke was not being altruistic; he owned vast coal properties and, by lowering transport costs, could enlarge his market. In this he succeeded so well that the "annual revenue yielded by the Duke's canals reached ultimately 80,000 pounds."² Note that this annual revenue is only that of the *canals*, apart from whatever may have come from the Duke's coal or from surface rentals on his estates. Four hundred thousand dollars – near enough to half a million – at the values of 1800 was a fairly substantial sum. To Pitt's "Loyalty Loan" in 1797, the Duke

¹ Mark Twain, *Autobiography*, ed. Charles Neider (New York, 1959), pp. 28–29.

² Francis Espinasse, *Lancashire Worthies* (London, 1874), p. 285.

subscribed 100,000 pounds “*in cash.*”³ And on his death in 1803, he bequeathed to his relatives some 600,000 pounds (c. \$3,000,000) in legacies, not counting (entailed) landed property or the canals themselves. The Duke of Bridgewater became legendary as “the richest man in the world” – comparable in our times to Henry Ford the Elder or the Aga Khan. And, as a legend, his name would probably have reached as far as the remote Mississippi Valley.

The Duke on the raft, by the act of revealing his identity, automatically creates the Dauphin. The latter could top any random Duke by being royalty; but now being just any old King would not do. The British throne was too solidly occupied to be claimed; the rest of Europe was cluttered with kings and princes who could possibly have been bought in dozens by the Duke of Bridgewater. Literally the only way to outrank the Duke of Bridgewater was to be the (equally disinherited) rightful King of France.

Second, I suggest that there may have been an even more important reason for Mark Twain’s choosing this particular duchy. By 1884, when the manuscript of *Huckleberry Finn* was completed, Twain had already had an embarrassing, and mildly expensive, encounter with a person whose given name had been, quite accidentally, applied to Colonel Sellers. Charles Dudley Warner had naïvely suggested that it was such an improbable name that it was unlikely to be duplicated in real life; but a ruffled citizen with the actual name of *Eschol* Sellers had turned up in person to threaten a \$10,000 lawsuit. The issue was compromised by suppressing as much of the edition as had gone out and by changing the name in the printing plates – a settlement for less than \$10,000 indeed, but still not cheap.⁴ How much more delicate and expensive could be the consequences of using the name of an extant ducal family for a frowzy backwoods adventurer!

The dukedom of Bridgewater was historically real enough. But, considering the shadow of the living Eschol Sellers and his potential lawsuit, I venture to suggest that Mark Twain was fully aware of the following facts detailed in Espinasse’s *Lancashire Worthies* and Smiles’ *Lives of the Engineers*. In view of Twain’s known interest in boats, navigation, and machines, Smiles might be the likelier source.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 289; cf. also Samuel Smiles, *Lives of the Engineers*, I (London, 1861; New York, 1905), 279.

⁴ Twain, p. 20.

First, Francis, third Duke of Bridgewater, was born in 1736 and died in 1803. Thus the spurious Duke's timing is fairly accurate; chronologically, he could have been, as he claimed, the great-grandson of the "great Duke."

Second, the spurious Duke's alleged father was the eldest son of the great Duke of Bridgewater; and, allegedly, on the Duke's death, the second son thrust aside the rightful heir and seized the titles and estates. The cream of this particular jest – which I suggest that Mark Twain must have known, and which would have wryly delighted him – is that, as the result of a disappointment in love, the young Duke, at the age of twenty-three, "gave his last ball" and then abandoned London to "take up his abode in the Old Hall at Worsley" and devote himself to the care and improvement of his estates. From the time of his removal to Worsley, he "never more had womankind about him, in any capacity whatever, whether social or menial."⁵ In fact, he carried "his antagonism to the fair sex . . . so far that he would not allow a woman-servant to wait on him."⁶ He died in London on March 8, 1803; and Espinasse sums up: "The sixth earl, he was the *third*, the *last*, and the *only bachelor* Duke of Bridgewater."⁷ [Italics supplied.] He had, therefore, never had either an elder son or a second son. Thus the Dukedom was clearly extinct; and no living claimants, American or other, could either feel insulted by, or bring suit for damages because of, the literary misappropriation of a noble name.

Third, the *title* of Bridgewater did survive briefly in the Earldom, which had also been vested in the third Duke. By the complexities of British inheritance, although the Dukedom perished, the Earldom passed to his cousin, General Edward Egerton, and then "from him to the eighth Earl . . . who died . . . at Paris in 1829," and with him, the Earldom also became extinct.⁸

Thus, the ducal title and implied colossal wealth with which Mark Twain invests his spurious Duke in the wilds of Arkansas, and adjacent parts, was not only *never* inherited by anyone at all, but the very name had died out with the eighth Earl, some fifty-five years before the writing of *Huckleberry Finn*. And thus Mark Twain could feel – as I am here suggesting that he did – quite safe about using both the name and the title without reproach (or law-

⁵ Espinasse, p. 276.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 289.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 290.

⁸ *Ibid.*

suits). As he later remarked about the name of Colonel (now) *Mulberry* Sellers in *The American Claimant*, he could feel "reasonably safe . . . under the shelter of the statute of limitations."⁹

W. G. Gaffney

⁹ Explanatory note, dated 1891, to *The American Claimant* (New York, 1923), p. xv.

Spanglish Store Names Again

My article "Spanglish Store Names in San Juan, Puerto Rico,"¹ of necessity left some gaps in a reasonably complicated picture, and since its appearance changes have taken place: BIRD LAND'S TABERN has changed into THE CHICK'N BAR.B.Q., and SAN'S SOUCI'S (a bar in Santurce) has come and gone; but there are new names in the same pattern.

It was an oversight not to report, as an example of the attempt to split the difference between English and Spanish, the almost universal use of REST., which may be taken as either *Restorante* or *Restaurant*, designed for a fictitious customer who will not be aware of the former if English- or of the latter if Spanish-speaking. No one is willing to deprive himself of status so far as to use the spelled-out Spanish form; the nearest approximation is BAR RESTAURANTE in Loiza Aldea. TORRES BAR REST. might be in either English or Spanish by local standards; a locally famous case in which ex-governor Muñoz-Marin complained that AGAPITO'S BAR contained unnecessary Anglicism in the possessive form illustrates the prevalent belief that *bar* is Spanish.

Among the hotels, there is a rather interesting resemblance to the use of foreign names for glamour in Miami Beach, as described by William R. Linneman and Harriet Fether.² To paraphrase those

¹ *Names*, 12, 98-102 (1964). In this note, the device of using capitals for names is adopted because it more nearly approximates the conditions of the signs themselves and because lower case letters raise problems of accent marks in Spanish names, a matter of intentional ambiguity in "Spanglish." A Puerto Rican may write *Cafetería X* or *Zapatería X* if he is writing to another Puerto Rican; *Cafeteria X* or *Zapateria X* if he is writing to an American. CAFETERIA X is non-committal, although it means a coffee shop and not a self-service restaurant.

² "Miami Beach Hotel Names," *American Speech* XXXIX (1964), 196-200.

authors, there seems to be a special concern to make the tourist believe that he is in Miami Beach looking at hotels and shops with foreign names. To accomplish this dual purpose, the Puerto Rican tourist industry must first try to project the tourist into a purely English atmosphere before re-transferring him into a kind of Miami Beach Spain. It is as if the natural image of the Spanish language were erased and then recreated in the colored plastic strips which are a favorite material of the Condado tourist area. One result of the erasing operation is that a hotel is referred to as *X Hotel* (*La Concha Hotel*, *Caribe Hilton Hotel*) rather than as *Hotel X*. Thus, Puerto Rican enterprises regularly lose one degree of tourist-directed pretension in order to gain one degree of Puerto Rican-oriented pretension.

Elsewhere, it is amazing how neatly naming patterns fit into Puerto Rican culture patterns. The name BONY'S QUICK LUNCH will automatically suggest to the Puerto Rican a proprietor named Bonifacio. Puerto Ricans fail to understand the gringo's amusement at the name, which suggests to him someone who needs a quick lunch. A Mexican or South American would undoubtedly be thrown off by the *-y*; but there is at least one other such usage current in Puerto Rico, where the "ugly" name *Dominguin* is converted into the "pretty" (*i.e.*, anglicized) name *Dommy* (*Dommy Acevedo y Su Trio*), without regard for possible Spanglish homophony with *Dummy*.

When BONY'S QUICK LUNCH became BONY'S COCKTAIL LOUNGE toward the end of 1964, there was no more physical change than the replacement of a few metal letters in the sign and a whitewashing of the front of the establishment. The name change was not necessarily in the direction of pretension; QUICK LUNCH is a prestige designation in Puerto Rico. The Río Piedras bar named EL TIPICO failed and was replaced by CAFETERIA ESPAÑA QUICK LUNCH. From *Lunch* to *Lounge* is not so great a change in Spanglish as in English. Not too far from BONY'S COCKTAIL LOUNGE is CHANDY'S COCKTAIL LOUNGE, where an additional sign reads COCKTAIL LOUNCH; and not two blocks farther away is MARZA'S CAFE BAR REST., which also announces itself as a COKTAIL LUNCH.

Since all foreignness is approached through English, names like LA STRADA ITALIAN RESTAURANT and LA GONDOLA

ITALIAN REST. are as American as MAMA'S LITTLE ITALY. The already-mentioned SAN'S SOUCI'S, with its peculiarly Spanglish use of the apostrophe, may be roughly comparable in its use of "French" to the small bar in Arlington, Texas, which announces MARDI GRAS EVERY WEDNESDAY. Part of the Miami Beach atmosphere of the Condado is the prevalence of Frenchy names like

SAINT AMOUR
THE FRENCH BOUTIQUE

and

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE.

In some places, the prestige factor is not American English but New York (synonymous with the United States for the uneducated Puerto Rican). A tiny store in Loiza aldea is named 110 Y QUINTA AVE. In that village, fame may also be transferred from San Juan; my article mentioned the treeless UNDER THE TREES. There is also

EL PALLADIUM
STOP 23

which is not at any bus stop. (In Santurce and Río Piedras, directions are regularly given by the numbers of the bus stops; the signs read *Parada X*, but the spoken form is usually *Stop X*.) This year's Fiesta de Santiago Apostol produced, as always, temporary business structures, one of which was UNDER THE MANGO – which is under no mango. There is no discoverable almond tree near the more permanent store named EL ALMENDRO.

The grammatical patterns of Spanglish continue to be productive in name formation. Despite the considerable care to avoid the conversationally frequent misuse of the English article, THE CHAGO'S PLACE does occur in Cayey. A Río Piedras shop advertises SHOES REPAIR, and a group of dancers is called LAS GOOD'S GIRL'S. A recent wave of Nationalist protest actions brought burnings of U.S.-owned stores, including two belonging to the Bargain Town chain. One wonders whether a practical use of applied onomastics might not have produced the (locally) better name BARGAINS TOWN and have saved the store.

J. L. Dillard

Churchill's Escorts

In February of 1965, the newspapers and magazines that carried reports of the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill listed the names of the distinguished men who were his honorary pall bearers. The character of their surnames and titles provoked speculation on my part as to the background of associations and their relevance to the role played by each of the bearers. Sir Winston himself led off in these thoughts. His name seems to combine Anglo-Saxon *wine*, "friend, lord," with *stan*, "stone, rock," whereas *Churchill* is just what it says, "a church on a hill." We have here "a friend with the firmness of stone," whose course was guided by "a church on a hill." Every syllable of the man's name carried the strength of England and of Christendom.

I contrasted the name with that of Adolph Hitler, his chief opponent in the crusade to save Western civilization as it had evolved through centuries of opposition to paganism. It is known that Adolph Hitler's father was the illegitimate son of Maria Anna Schicklgruber, and he took his mother's name after she married Johan Hiedler, who is believed to have been her seducer. Adolph Hitler was born Adolph Schicklgruber. That surname engenders several etymologies, one of which is "money grabber"; but whether Schickl or Shekel, the term "grabber" has a certain appropriateness to Hitler. "Adolph," however, means "noble wolf," and perhaps if this particular individual had shown less rapacity, the noble aspects of his totem name would have been more quickly recognized.

In brief statement, the official escorts of Churchill's body to and from Westminster Abbey, along with the significance of their names, were as follows:

Earl Alexander, a Greek name, "defender of men." Category: Quality name.

Earl Attlee, Anglo-Saxon, "dweller by the wood." Locality name.

Earl of Avon, Sir Anthony Eden, Anglo-Saxon, "valley through which a river flows." Locality.

Lord Ismay, perhaps Old High German, "mighty." Quality.

Lord Mountbatten, Old Germanic (?), "dweller by mountain." Locality.

Lord Normanbrook, Middle English, "northman's brook."
Locality.

Viscount Portal, Old French from Latin, "dweller by gate."
Locality.

Marshall Viscount Slim, Old English, "slender" or "sly."
Quality.

Field Marshall Sir Robert Templar, French-Latin, "protector
of the Holy Sepulcher." Commemorative.

Sir Robert Menzies, French-Scottish, "manners, way of
acting." Quality.

Former Prime Minister MacMillan, Gaelic, "son of tonsured
one." Occupation.

Some conclusions can be drawn from this list. If we place the name of Churchill with the others, six of the names are locality designations which might lead to the deduction that English leaders are attached to the places they live in, lovers of forests, valleys, hills, streams, and the parish church, even the town gate. Four of the other six names describe qualities of courage or character; another is commemorative; and a final name is occupation. All of them illustrate that the giving of names and the wearing of them may be related to proven choices and achievements.

T. M. Pearce

University of New Mexico

Matassumitohook

William Strachey recorded the Powhatan Algonquian bird Matassumitohook with this description: "A small bird of divers colours." Since he did not give it the name of any similar English bird, it seems that this is the native name of the Ruby-Throated Humming Bird, *Archilocus colubis*.¹

He is a patient, or lucky, bird-watcher, whoever witnesses the nuptial flights of these bright, multicolored, tiny, gleaming helicopter-like avians, who hover then dart away. But the Indians apparently were keen enough of eye to know the most personal activities of hummingbirds.

¹ William Strachey, *The Historie of Travell Into Virginia Britannia* (London, 1953), p. 192, for name; p. 85, for erotic songs, etc.

Though Powhatans were only a little more, if any more promiscuous than their contemporary English, all ages of both sexes, old enough to understand, seem to have taken a natural, unashamed interest in relations between the sexes. No matter who was present, young, old, single, and married joked, joshed and laughed with spirit about such subjects.²

This name confirms such interests. It seems to be a variation of *mat-äsi-m-itä-hä-aki*, lit., “they join flying swiftly joyously their beaks,” freely, “they bill, coo and mate joyously while flying swiftly.”³

What a delightfully saucy rebuff a Powhatan maid might give a pawing *wolfe*: “I don’t care to play like a *mat-äsi-m-itä-hä-wa* with you!”

Charles Edgar Gilliam

Petersburg, Virginia

² Robert Beverley, *The History and Present State of Virginia* (London, 1705), 1947 reprint, Chapel Hill, N.C., Louis B. Wright, ed., pp. 170–72.

³ *BAE* 40, 870, *mat(a)*- “join,” “junction”; p. 798, *-isä*- “fly swiftly,” by hapology *-äsä*-; p. 752, *-m-* intervocalic; p. 795, *-itä*-, “feeling” – particular feeling from context; p. 807, *-hä*-, instrumentality. Animate plural ending *-aki*; animate singular ending *Fox-wa*.

Sir Winston Churchill Improves Some Names

Sir Winston Churchill had a love of the right word. In the matter of names, his devotion to finding the right one and his scorn at seeing a wrong one were parts of this interest. In the three paragraphs below we see Sir Winston changing three ill-fitting names to fitting ones. The paragraphs come from *The Memoirs of General Lord Ismay*.¹ The episodes happened during World War II:

On one of his earlier visits Churchill espied a party of middle-aged men in civilian clothes wearing armlets marked, “LDV” (Local Defence Volunteers). He had already proposed that this uninspiring title should be changed to “Home Guard,” and the sight of those armlets decided him to press the point again. Within a few weeks the “LDV” badges were called in, and “HG” badges issued in their place. What a difference that change made to the *esprit de corps* of that gallant company of veterans.

¹ New York, The Viking Press, 1960, p. 189; quoted by permission of the Viking Press.

Churchill was always insistent that there was much more in a name than many people seemed to think. On learning that Communal Feeding Centres were about to be established, he addressed a protest to the Minister of Food. "It is an odious expression, suggestive of Communism and the workhouse. I suggest you call them 'British Restaurants.' Everbody associates the word 'restaurant' with a good meal, and they may as well have the name if they cannot get anything else."

His interest in terminology even extended to the selection of code names for operations. Facetious names met with vehement disapproval. How would a mother feel if she were to hear her son had been killed in an enterprise called BUNNY HUG? Much better use the names of "heroes of antiquity, or figures from Greek and Roman mythology." The titles of the six volumes of his *Second World War* show his flair for finding appropriate phrases. *The Gathering Storm, Their Finest Hour, The Grand Alliance, The Hinge of Fate, Closing the Ring, Triumph and Tragedy*. There, in nineteen words, is a panorama of the origin, the course and the aftermath of the war.

Atcheson L. Hench

University of Virginia

Designating Benedictine Names in Documents of Appointment

A perusal of the documents of appointment of Benedictine Cardinals and Bishops contained in the *Annales Ordinis S. Benedicti* (Romae, Sublaci, 1893–1938) reveals that the Holy See has a fairly uniform practice with regard to designating these appointees by name.

Thus, if the appointee's field of labor remains within the Order (abbot nullius, etc.), he is designated by his religious and family names with a reference to his baptismal name, e.g., *N. N., in saeculo N.* Thereafter, he is always identified by his religious and family names alone.

If the appointee's field of labor is outside the ranks of the religious institute, he is designated by his baptismal and family names with a reference to his religious name, e.g., *N. N., in religione N.* Subsequently, he is usually identified by a combination of these three names – baptismal, religious, family – e.g., John Bernard Kevenhoerster. In this case prominence is given to his baptismal name.

Sometimes one or the other is designated by only his religious and family names due to varying circumstances, such as personal preference or renown for literary or other work. Prelates, in their own general usage, follow the official form of designation used in the document of their appointment.

The Rev. Benedict Pfaller

Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota

AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SUMMER COURSE IN ONOMASTICS

A course in methodology of onomastic research was included in the programme of the Summer School at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, West Germany in July 1965. The course covered lectures on theory and practice of onomastic studies and, in particular, the problem of functions of proper names in literary works. It was conducted by Dr. J. B. Rudnyćkyj from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, who was a visiting professor at the Summer School at the U. F. U. It was attended by 20 people interested in onomastics.

In addition to lectures, an onomatological seminar was held with the following papers presented by participating students:

- B. Bilash (Canada) – “Canadian Topo- and Anthroponymy in Works of Canadian Ukrainian Writers.”
- I. I. Tarnawecky (Canada) – “Function of Names in poetry of Shevchenko.”
- A. Boycun (U.S.A.) – “Samchuk’s Topo- and Anthroponymy.”
- B. Kuź (England) – “Motives of Christian Name-giving”.
- P. Stan (U.S.A.) – “Changes of Ukrainian Family Names.”
- M. Krywyj (Brazil) – “Diminutive Names.”
- A. Andrijewskyj (Germany) – “Cartography in Ukraine.”

I. I. Tarnawecky

Editor’s Note:

Prof. R. Sindou, secrétaire général of the *Revue Internationale d’Onomastic*, has informed us that the annual subscription to the *Revue* is now 30 francs instead of the price quoted in the March issue of *Names*.