

## Book Reviews

*New Mexico Place Names*. Edited by T. M. Pearce. Assisted by Ina Sizer Cassidy and Helen S. Pearce. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1966. Pp. xvi/187. \$6.00.

*New Mexico Place Names* is a significant contribution to the history of names in this country and is a great step forward in onomastic studies for the Southwest. We already have Professor Erwin Gudde's *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names*, a second revised edition of which appeared in 1960, and Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names*, revised and enlarged by Dr. Byrd H. Granger, also in 1960. This volume of 5,000 individual items investigating the history, folklore, and frontier humor of New Mexico is a worthy addition to the other two.

The material is arranged alphabetically in dictionary form with many cross references so that it is easy to use. One finds under each entry the location of the place named, the highways and railroads leading to it, and the historical information relevant to the naming of the place. Folk material that is pertinent is also included to add to the interest. For example, the editor tells three folk myths associated with the naming of Shiprock: "one [is] that the Navajos crossed a narrow sea beyond the setting sun and landed among an unfriendly people which caused the Great Spirit to send a stone ship to carry them to this spot; another is that they were brought by a great bird which was turned into stone when the mission was finished; the third is that the Navajos were cast up from the earth at this spot and the ship is a symbol of their voyage." The name itself describes a large rock formation which resembles a ship, called by the Navajos *tse bida' hi*, "rock with wings."

The Indian and Spanish names have been translated into English. Dealing with the languages in New Mexico was indeed a formidable task, for it involved working with four aboriginal Indian tongues, going back to the fifth century A.D., as well as with Spanish and English. The four groups of Indian languages are the Tanoan with sub-groups, the Keresan, the Zuñi, and the Athapascan, including the Apache and the Navaho. The intermingling of these various languages through the centuries as the region developed presented many linguistic problems to be solved. The name of "New Mexico"

itself evolved from Aztec Indian *Mexitli* to American Spanish *Nuevo Mejico* to American English "New Mexico." The names in this state extend from the prehistoric period to the present. Names existed in this section when the first Europeans arrived in 1539. Some went back to the arrival of the groups of the Southwest Indians in the early Christian era. The Spanish period dates from 1539 to 1821, when Mexico separated from Spain. Anglo-Americans have given English names to the places that they designated, such as Mockingbird Gap, Deer Creek, and Four Corners, the only place in the country where four citizens, each standing in his own state, can shake hands (the states are Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico). Among the names in New Mexico, Spanish and English place names predominate and are about equal in number. A small minority of Indian names remain, such as Tocito, Tohatchi, Totavi, and Zia.

Frontier humor may be seen in such names as Belly-Ache Mesa, Five Dollar Canyon, Humbug Creek, and Pep. The ingenuity of the early settler is evident in the name Pie Town, so called because a gentleman specializing in pie-making advertised his profession by means of a big sign at this point on the highway. The harsher and fiercer aspects of life are apparent in such names as Soldier Creek, Starvation Peak, Slaughter Creek, Dead Man's Arroyo, and Dead Negro Draw.

The religious background of the people is manifest in such names as Taaiyalone Mountain, associated in a Zuñi myth with the House of the Gods and the making of rain, lightning, and thunder; Devil's Creek; Satan Pass; Spirit Lake; Holy Ghost Creek; Hell's Half Acre; numerous places honoring saints; Shalam, named by a sect known as Faithists; Ramah, settled by Mormons and named for a figure in the Book of Mormon; and Lamy, honoring Archbishop John B. Lamy, immortalized by Willa Cather in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

One may find various place naming patterns in New Mexico. The Indian names are primarily descriptive, as Puye, a Tewa Indian name, meaning "cottonwood rabbit place." Spanish place names, on the other hand, are not only descriptive and incident names, but also commemorate places or persons significant in Spanish history, as is evidenced in Albuquerque, honoring a Viceroy of Mexico; Lobato, commemorating Bartolome Lobato, who arrived in 1695

and settled in Santa Cruz; and Lopez, referring to a Nicholas Lopez who was killed at Santo Domingo in the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680. The Spanish also used names that they knew in Spain, such as Cordova, Madrid, and Valencia.

The English employed these same patterns. Descriptive names are Cottonwood, Oak Canyon, and City of Rocks, a strange rock formation resembling buildings standing in rows as if in a street.

Names identifying a place with a person, a group, or wild life that inhabits a place are Billy the Kid Spring; Chisum, named for John Chisum who was said to have had in the 1870's the largest holdings of cattle in the world; Crow Creek; Beaver Creek; Deer Trail Creek; and Coyote Valley.

Names are also associated with particular incidents or with specific dates, such as Dead Man's Peak; Kit Carson's Cave; Lilly Mountain; Fourth of July Canyon; and Truth or Consequences.

Some names honor a person, another place, or an abstract idea, as can be observed in Lincoln, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Harding County, Afton, Carthage, Fairacres, Defiance, and Hope. Others are more idealistic or sentimental, looking to a brighter future, as Beauty, Brilliant, Good Hope, Happy Valley, and Pleasant Hill.

One likewise finds manufactured words, made from initial letters or syllables or blended, such as Maljamar, named for three children: MALcolm, JANet, and MARGaret; the acronymic Jal, the initials of John A. Lynch; Colmor, formed by blending Colfax and Mora, the names of the two counties, whose borders the town touches; and Texico, a blend of Texas and Mexico, the name of a farming and ranching community in New Mexico which borders on Texas.

Names are likewise transferred from one geographical spot to another, as is easily observed in Carlsbad, Salem, Des Moines, and Hollywood.

To either the specialist on names, to the ordinary reader about names, or to one interested in the history, folklore, and frontier humor of New Mexico, this excellent volume of T. M. Pearce will prove to be a most useful and authoritative source.

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*An Historical Account of the Heathen Gods and Heroes.* By William King. Carbondale, Illinois, Southern Illinois University Press, 1965. Pp. 278. Price \$12.00.

This is a reprint of a work compiled in 1710 by Dr. William King, a poor, controversial scholar-writer not always able to stay out of the English debtor's prison. The book was designed to aid in an understanding of the classics, since, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, particularly, a knowledge of the classics was necessary to an appreciation of English literature. A comprehensive index enables one to locate quickly the sketch concerning any particular god or hero.

Onomastic scholars will be interested in Dr. King's habit of alluding to the various names by which many of the gods were known or called, often mentioning the origin of the names in the various sketches. For example, Bacchus was a son of Jupiter by Semele, a mortal daughter of Cadmus. Semele died eight months after the infant was conceived. So that the child might complete his full time he was taken up and sewed in the thigh of Jupiter, "and therefore he was called Bimater, as if he had two Mothers for his Production."

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*The Term and Name "Brody."* By W. Jaszczun. *Onomastica*, No. 29. Winnipeg-Pittsburgh: Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, 1965. Pp. 28. Price \$1.00.

In this study W. Jaszczun is concerned with the origin and the meaning of the term and name Brody and also with its derivatives. He uses historical documents to derive first the meaning of the term "Brody" and finally the name itself. In his brief discussion he makes persuasive generalizations and forthright judgments. He concludes that the term "Brody" which grammatically is in the nominative plural has two historical meanings: (a) shallow place or places of water which could be crossed on foot or by horse; (b) place or places which had less water and swamp as compared to the adjacent terrain and were used for crossing and for relatively suitable cultivation. In the author's opinion the meaning as given in the second explanation was used to name the place "Brody."

Historically the name of the town "Brody" appears for the first time during the reign of Volodymyr Monomax at the end of the first quarter of the twelfth century. Volodymyr mentioned Brody in his *Poučen'je* (The Precepts): "And in that spring (I went) to Brody to meet Jaropolk." Of great interest is the discussion of prepositions with different names of places mentioned in various historical documents. Probably this is the most significant part of his paper. The quotations applicable to Brody are thoroughly examined; the author subjects them to diagrammatic analysis for the meaning of each part of the sentence with special stress on the meaning of the preposition.

The part of the study devoted to derivatives from the appellative "brid," the verb *brodyty*, and its derivatives is quite interesting but is not coherently linked with the rest and looks rather as an addition to a compact study. The author uses "the Kiev Rus' document" instead of "Kievan Rus' document" which is more common in English. Also he uses the Latin phrase "mutata mutandis" which should be "mutatis mutandis" (necessary changes having been made).

The study is provided with seventy footnotes and a good bibliography. In some places the philology is too dominant and the toponomastic study looks secondary. W. Jaszczun is aware of this and tries to make use of toponomastics to develop the thesis and to stimulate interest. Without doubt, everyone concerned with place names will recognize that this study is an intelligent and comprehensive discussion and on the whole a scholarly addition to Ukrainian toponomastics.

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