

Book Reviews

Donald C. Swanson, *The Names in Roman Verse*. A Lexicon and Reverse Index of All Proper Names in History, Mythology, and Geography Found in the Classical Roman Poets. The University of Wisconsin Press. Madison (and Milwaukee and London), 1967. Pp. XIX, 425. Price \$7.50.

Classical studies have made headway in post-war times in many lines of research, including some onomastic work. As far as Greek onomatology is concerned, the only existing old lexicon of Greek proper names, that by G. Pape and F. Benseler, *Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen* (Braunschweig, 1870; reprinted in 1911 and in Graz 1959), to which a counterpart reverse index by Bernhard Hansen appeared in 1957, has not been replaced as yet and has to be redone on the basis of the massive new material accumulated in the last one hundred years, especially from inscriptions and papyri.

The appearance of another reference work for Latin studies in December 1967 is a happy event. One might be inclined, at the outset, to question the usefulness of a work restricted to Latin classical poetry only and one which adds little to the interpretation of the names themselves when an all-inclusive project is needed to embrace all classical (and immediate post-classical) Roman nomenclature. Yet the volume of such a task should not be underestimated and is rather a future undertaking as the collective work of an institute. We are, therefore, very grateful to individual scholars who sacrifice time and energy to create wanting reference works of a limited nature, designated to facilitate and expedite research work in the field of language and onomastic studies.

In the specific case under review, the user of the book is enabled to find at once in which Latin poet or poets chronologically any given Latin (or latinized) name occurs. And Swanson's lists are both more accurate and far more complete than what has been available so far.

Reproduced in the photo-offset process and thus keeping the cost low (the paper is not of the best quality, however), this work "presents the results of a project accomplished in part by means of a digital computer," is the largest of a group of several projects

(which have been under way since 1962 and were announced in February 1965), and is the first to be finished. The original goal being a bare checklist was reshaped to the present form (cf. the preface, p. VII). The volume contains "a factual and analytic compilation of all proper names and their meanings found in classical Latin verse, a reverse index of the same names, and three appendices" (cf. p. XV).

Essential for the user's orientation are the following parts: bibliographical note (p. XI); introduction (XV–XIX); appendices: I: Dubious readings, emendations, conjectures (pp. 403–7), II: Sources of the date (408–16), and III: Index nominum compiled for this work (417–25).

Of the two main sections of the book, i.e. *The List of the Names* (pp. 3–350; including corrections, p. 350), and *The Reverse Index* (pp. 353–400), more extensive and more important is, of course, the list of names, arranged alphabetically in one column per page and in chronologically successive order according to the poetic texts in which each name occurs. An abbreviation indicates the text references, a brief identification of the name, and other useful information is added (see the section "How to use the book," pp. XVI–XIX). Each and all occurrences of a name are given in the alphabetical list. Thus, *Afer* is listed 14 times, *Afri* 5 times, *Apollo* 25 times, *Julia* 5 times, *Julius* 25 times, *Teucer* 8 times and *Teucrici* likewise 8 times, etc. A more compact treatment would certainly require each name to be one entry, under which the various forms would be listed and the abbreviations of the poets would be aligned in chronological order. However, the identification of each name with actual persons would again have required a system of numbering the actual applications of the names.

Since each page of the *List of the Names* contains 57 entries, there are ca. 19,840 entries therein (the author's estimate is 20,687 linear items, p. XVI) and only a fraction thereof represents the actual names (without the repeats) in classical Latin poetry. In the *Reverse Index*, on the other hand, not all occurrences are listed but the following instances are repeated: the singular and plural forms are given in separate entries, e.g. *Teucer* and separately *Teucrici*, *Afer* and *Afri*, *Amazon* and *Amazones*; similarly flexional allomorphs such as *Delos* and *Delus*, *Oeta* and *Oete*, etc.; gender distinctions; *Thraex* as noun and separately *Thraex* as adjective, *Argivus* "an

Argive, a Greek" and *Argivus* adj. "Argive, Greek." Since each page of the Reverse Index contains three columns of 55 name forms each, the total number of 48 pages in the index amounts to about 7,906 entries. The actual number of individual names, therefore, may perhaps be around 5,000 names, each of these including one or more forms.

The material of this corpus was taken from the indices of standard editions, specifically, of 37 different texts numbering ca. 6,500 pages of Teubner editions, and covers about three and a half centuries of Roman verse from Livius Andronicus (late third century B.C.) to Juvenal (early second century A.D.). Thus, e.g., 300 names from Ovid, Statius, and Silius Italicus, 100 from each, missing in Harpers' *Latin Dictionary* (1879, reprinted in 1966), are listed in the present onomastic lexicon, and most of the over 1,400 items missing in Harpers will be found in one text only. Swanson lists also phrasal names such as *Antistius*, *Rusticus*, *Bona dea*, *Heauton timorumenos*, *Lucius Cotta*, etc. Onomastic adjectives bearing exactly the same form as the equivalent names are specially marked, i.e. each such item is post-asterisked.

The separate essay by the author, describing the linguistic nature of the proper names in Roman verse and constituting his conclusion (see p. XIX), is anticipated with great expectations as the welcome supplement to the lexicon here under consideration.

Since the present collection of proper names is confined to classical Latin poetry, a similar but much larger project will necessarily be started one day for Roman prose, inscriptions, and papyri. As a matter of fact, the proper names in Roman prose and in the *Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum* have given the author some thoughts with regard to difficulties that will be attendant to their similar handling. When, e.g., he estimates at 5,470 the number of names occurring in Cicero alone and at ca. 4,500 those in Livy, the volume of the names will run into multiples of those in poetry. I for one take the liberty of doubting that such lists of all names are needed, the numbers of which will swell steadily as new material is continually published, at least for some time to come. More useful, I submit, are specialized lists of names, i.e. *anthroponyms* such as Iiro Kajanto has ably handled in his several studies,¹ *place names*, *mythological names*, etc.

¹ To be reviewed by D. J. Georgacas, in a forthcoming issue. [Editor's note.]

In conclusion, our warm thanks go to both the very able author – who previously has successfully employed his talents in various projects – for placing in our hands a fine reference tool and the publisher for the willingness to produce this sort of book addressed to Latinist and classicist scholars as well as to onomatologists in general.

Demetrius J. Georgacas

The University of North Dakota

D. Ellis Evans, *Gaulish Personal Names, A Study of Some Continental Celtic Formations*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1967. Pp. xxiii, 492. Price \$23.55.

This study, first prepared as a doctoral dissertation, has been recast and rewritten by an expert in Insular Celtic, and is now presented to elucidate some of the problems observed in the Celtic personal names which are found in the Celtic inscriptions of Gaul, in the *Commentaries on the Gallic War*, and in the graffiti of La Graufesenque. This is the first major study of Continental Celtic sources since the pioneer studies of Sir John Rhŷs, published 1905–1914.

The work starts with an introduction containing a comprehensive survey of previous research on Gaulish anthroponymy and the nature of the sources, and then lists a complete bibliography of works in several European languages in addition to many of the items included in the "List of Abbreviations." The range of authorities cited and discussed attests most eloquently to the careful research of Dr. Evans.

In the second section the author lists in alphabetical order all the compounded Celtic personal names he could glean from his sources, and discusses them with etymological suggestions which he admits are often tentative and of questionable value. In fact he says that, "A certain amount of tentative guesswork is absolutely inevitable." Would that more authors writing about present day name forms were as frank. In a long section of 166 pages he lists and attempts to interpret the various elements attested to in the compounded names previously mentioned, and then classifies them with respect to meaning. Uncompounded names then are explained in 94 pages.

Phonology and morphology gleaned from the names is set out in the third section. Doubtful names are studied in an appendix of 50 pages.

The author closes his study with several useful indexes. No serious student of the Celtic inscriptions of Ancient Gaul can afford to be unfamiliar with this scholarly work.

Elsdon C. Smith

The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames. By Basil Cottle. Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England: Penguin Books Ltd., 1967. Pp. 334. Price 6 s. Also Baltimore, 1967. \$1.45.

Dr. Basil Cottle, a philologist of the University of Bristol, has prepared a dictionary of over 8,000 different surnames. The book should prove very useful to the specialist and informative and entertaining to the general reader. A 32-page introduction, followed by an explanation of the entries and abbreviations, precedes the lexicon. A bibliography of 30 items lists the Kurath and Kuhn *Middle English Dictionary*. The *Dictionary of American Biography* is cited occasionally.

The names are designated F, L, O, N, closely representing the four traditional classifications of surnames: first-name (also font-name) of the ancestor; locality or place where ancestor originated; occupation or "status" of the ancestor; and nicknames, descriptive of the ancestor. Although numerous headwords have only one classification, such names as *Bell*, *Kay*, and *Swan* show several origins. Meanings, immediately following the classification(s), or provided by cross-reference, are brief and clear and probably reliable. Dr. Cottle acknowledges his great debt to P. H. Reaney and is in agreement with George Fraser Black in his *The Surnames of Scotland*, with the notable exception of *Steward*, *Stewart*, classified occupational: "steward, keeper of a household (only very doubtfully is the first element *sty* as in *pigsty*), seneschal." Derivation, location by county, and frequency of the common names in a national table complete the information in the entry. The length of the item ranges from a half-line, as for *Littleboy*, *Sweetapple*, *Teacher*, to 15 lines, as for *John* and *William*.

Supporting evidence is lacking, by design of the author, because being the province of the scholar, such information would add nothing to the meaning, while doubling the size of the book. Inter-

estingly, the "waifs of inflection" are explained, and one is alerted to the Old English dative, feminine, singular of the definite article represented in *Atterbury*, the locative in *March*, the dative plural after a lost preposition in *Acklam*, and either the plural or the genitive singular in a host of names. Pronunciations are not provided except for such items as the familiar *Cholmondeley* (Chumley); *St John*, *St Leger*, *St Maur* ("fancy slurrings" -*singe-on*, Salinger, Seymour); *Lloyd*, with directions for pronouncing the Welsh *Ll*; and *Massinger* "(the -n- is a slovenly adenoidal English insertion, as in *passenger*)." Dr. Cottle points out the mispronunciations *Hooflay* for *Hogsflesh* and *siddibottARM* and *siddibottOME* for *Sidebotham*, *Sidebottom*, which mispronunciations "shouldn't deceive anybody."

Penetrating the attempted disguise of meaning through mispronunciation amuses the author (and this reader) only slightly less than his comments on the "swankification" of *Jenkins* to *Jenkyns*, *Smith* to *Smythe*, and *White* to *Whyte* and the "telephonigerous" tally for *Washington* and *Taylor*. The latter is described as "a good example of how the possession of a French surname does not make one necessarily superior or exclusive." Dr. Cottle's sensibilities are aroused for those who bear the names *Whalebelly* (in Norfolk) and *Raper* (in *Sabine Road*, London).

Of particular interest to readers on this side of the Atlantic is the information following the headword *Meyrick*, a first-name, Welsh form (Meuric) of *Maurice*, from the Latin meaning "Moorish, swarthy." According to Dr. Cottle, who was born at Cardiff, this name preceded by *Ap* "son of" is the probable origin of the name *America*, commemorating Richard Ameryk (Ap Meryke) who was probably the heaviest investor in John Cabot's expedition of 1498. "His title to be the eponym of the continent is surely stronger than the frivolous claim of the Italian Amerigo Vespucci."

The handsome cover of this Penguin Reference Book, designed by Mel Calman and Graham Bishop, is based on the entry for *Smith* "the primate and patriarch of our surnames." Over a white line-drawing of a smith at his anvil ("a smith *smites*, and his honoured name rings down the ages like an anvil") is superimposed the swankified *Smythe*, cursively written in crimson and violet.

Helen Carlson

The Origin of English Surnames. By P. H. Reaney. New York: Barnes and Noble, Inc., 1967. Pp. xix, 415. \$8.75.

When Elsdon Smith reviewed P. H. Reaney's *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (1958) some years ago [*Names*, 6:4 (1958), 247-251], he praised the work as "a major contribution to English onomatology . . . an impressive, comprehensive dictionary of British family names prepared by a competent scholar." Mr. Smith further wrote that the dictionary "is undoubtedly as accurate as can be prepared by any one man with the material now available." The temptation to reprint Mr. Smith's review in its entirety is appealingly strong, for what he says about *A Dictionary* can be stated without reservation about *The Origin of English Surnames*, a narrative rendering of the former text. Editors, probably secure in their self-righteous rage, view darkly such shenanigans.

Since 1960, almost every day, except when I am outside the United States, I turn the leaves of two reference books in the sometimes tedious, occasionally infuriating, seldom really dull, attempts to answer inquiries to the American Name Society by persons who ask, "What is the origin of my name?" These texts are Reaney's *A Dictionary of British Surnames* and Eilert Ekwall's *The Concise Dictionary of English Place-Names*. The ones I cannot answer are not tossed down the memory hole; I send them to Mr. Smith. This confessional digression serves my purpose only to point up the significance of these basic texts. Further, it is doubtful that Reaney's work could have had that rare vintage of accuracy without the prior scholarly apparatus machined by Ekwall. One naturally complements the other.

This new book, however, augments the bare, sparse, economical entries of *A Dictionary*, and here too can be observed both the strength (which may be merely entertainment) and the weakness (which may be merely expansion) of the narrative method in contrast to the lexical. First, the contrast is abrupt and to the lay onomast delightfully laxative. A cursory comparison of the "Index of Surnames" with the dictionary entries indicates that Dr. Reaney has made thrifty use of research materials remaindered. This is to the good, for all can be fairly certain that the accuracy still shines gem-like in the expanded narrative, which is not always the case when the lexicographer descends to compete with the popularizer.

The dictionary framework is especially efficacious for a narrative exposition when the author has lucid control of his style. Less concise – less certain? – than *A Dictionary*, *The Origin* still plays its public.

Second, the contents promise a tour of meta-onomastics, the author roistering about in the arcane corners of the social area of naming, a veritable medieval carnival of identification, such as it was. There are 17 chapters, 158 topics, four maps, plus a preface, a set of abbreviations, and a bibliography, amending and supplementing the one in *A Dictionary*. To quote the topic headings would give away the plot, for organization somehow encircles the subject while ostensibly categorizing it. Each chapter is an example, but Chapter XII can serve as a medium: Nicknames from Physical and External Characteristics. In a sort of ringed pattern, reminiscent of the old (maybe still with us) rites of exorcism, the following topics appear: Height and build, Above the neck, Colour-names, Descriptive nicknames compounded with a personal name, From neck to foot, Names from physical defects, Some complimentary nicknames, Nicknames from costume, accoutrements, weapons, etc., Metonymic occupational names from costume, animals, etc., Surnames from equipment, weapons and armour, and Nicknames from coins and numbers. This extended list seems like a metaphor for the body-politic and reminds the tortured psyche that naming, albeit nicknaming, consists of innation, conception, image, symbolism, object, abstraction, verbalization, and, finally, graphic form (if placed in print, as now eventually each “name” has to appear in the sociological context). Seventeen chapters of this intensity orchestrates an hypnotic experience in onomastic possibilities that is closely akin to something psychedelic. Such is the perversion of the lexical when transformed into the narrative, and I do not intend to denigrate the latter. The mod mod world is one that demands constant entertainment.

Third, the method of arrangement reveals attitudes that are not so obvious in *A Dictionary*. Dr. Reaney classifies all surnames into Local Surnames, Surnames of Relationship, Surnames of Occupation or Office, and Nicknames. The book follows this scheme rather closely, with some unavoidable and necessary overlapping; for instance, office surnames like *Abbot*, *Bishop* and *King* often appear in records as nicknames. “Patronymic” is not used as a class,

the author preferring "Surnames of Relationship." Not all surnames of this type are derived from the father. Some like *Muriel*, *Murrell*, *Gillian*, *Jellings* (from *Juliana*), are taken from the mother's name. Other relationship names appear: *Johanna Jonwyf*, *Matilda Tomelyndoghter*, *Alice Prestsyster*, *John Le Personesneve*, *Gilbert Fathevedsteppeson* ("Fathead's step-son"), to cite only a few examples. Few names of this type have survived. If one is initially tempted to quibble with the arbitrary classification, he soon accepts it after the author gives his reasons and furnishes tangible evidence.

The chapter on spelling and pronunciation shows good sense as well as a sympathetic sensitivity to all those cursed with names that have spelling forms at variance with current pronunciations. Using his own name as an example, Dr. Reaney says that it is pronounced *Rainey* but that he is usually addressed as *Reeney*. In general, he follows standard linguistic procedure in this section. If only all who are paranoid about the spelling and pronunciation of their names would read that chapter, much worry might be dissipated. Still, this chapter deserves expansion, for, as in the case of just about all studies in names, the linguistic section gets short shrift. Yet, it is extremely important in both the diachronic and synchronic aspects. Studies by English onomatologists have not often, if ever, reflected much concern with or knowledge of the historical facts of the native language. It is a malaise that surely will be cured eventually.

Finally, this book can be read for its social, psychological, and perhaps philosophical, value also. The act of naming is religious in all senses, or so it seems, and here the overall view is both an affirmation and a confirmation of that act from the English people's perspective. Dr. Reaney's book is probably the best narrative treatment of English names that has been written and it may well be the best one for a long time to come.

Kelsie B. Harder

The State University College at Potsdam, New York

[Editor's Note: Dr. P. H. Reaney died on January 17, 1968. He had been a member of the American Name Society for many years. He was well-known as the author of *A Dictionary of British Surnames*, *The Origin of English Place-Names*, plus several histories and local place-name books.]