

## Book Reviews

*History through Surnames.* By W. O. Hassall. Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Sydney, Paris, Braunschweig: Pergamon Press Ltd, 1967. Pp. 224. Price \$5.

In this book W. O. Hassall, British historian, lecturer, and librarian, attempts to give life and meaning to familiar surnames, showing how each is a product and a monument of the past. While satisfying the general, intelligent reader, his appeal is to young students in their CSE project work and library research. To supplement the slim and stimulating volume, the interested student is asked to consult three great dictionaries dealing with place-names, Christian names, and surnames, prepared by E. Ekwall, E. G. Withycombe, and P. H. Reaney, respectively, and to consider a junior membership in the Society of Genealogists of London.

The author is able to give reasonable attention only to the groups of names of British origin containing Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Celtic, Gaelic, French, and ancient Teutonic elements. Of the major classifications of surnames treated by Mr. Hassall, personal names, occupational names, pet names, nicknames, and surnames from places, the last group is the largest single source. Some 6,200 names are indexed, but origins and significations for all of these names are not included. Such information is lacking especially for county names and for some elements in compound names because of the compiler's need for simplicity in the book and because of the inappropriateness of the names to the particular types of surnames under consideration. Thus, of the compound *Tollemache-Tollemache-De Orellance-Plantagenet-Tollemache-Tollemache*, only *Tollemache* (*talemache*, knapsack) is explained. *Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes* is a mere listing.

The highly informative chapters entitled "Occupational Surnames" and "Surnames from Places" comprise one-third of the book. In the latter chapter, meanings of place-names which have given rise to surnames are provided for the reader in the ordinary home, distant from the large public libraries. Twenty-nine of the 36 excellent illustrations in black and white, reproduced by permission of the Bodleian Library and others, are of the various occupations

as shown by English medieval artists, supplemented by engravings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As teaching aids, "colour supplements" to the various sections of the book and colored filmstrip for use as separate slides are available from the Bodleian Library.

Although Mr. Hassall devotes a few hundred words to modern names in one chapter and lightly scatters references to contemporary practices in naming "(Ap Hugh, son of Hugh – but a baby foundling was recently given the name Church Pugh because he was discovered by the police in a church pew)," the illustrations and the copious quotations from William Camden's *Remains* give the book an antiquarian tone. The Camden quotations are apt, of course, and usually accurate. Such alterations as the addition of the word *surnames*, without brackets, the omission of *and Gibbins*, and the transposition of *Johnson* and *Jackson* in Subsection 1.3 cannot seriously interfere with meaning. In the quotation at the beginning of Chapter 5, however, the omission of *Terentius* after *Caluus* in "*Calistus, Callisthenes, Paulus, Cincinnatus, Crispus, Caluus*, that is tender according to *Varro*," could be misleading.

This book, directed to the young students and using the study of surnames to reconstruct history and to reflect earlier social conditions, should be of value in the classroom anywhere in the English-speaking world where British surnames have been carried. Principles applied in Great Britain should have some validity for other areas. In the words of Mr. Hassall, "Rightly regarded, the surnames of any group of modern boys and girls contain echoes which have come from parent to child through generations." *History through Surnames* may not be the first of name studies with the avowed purpose of introducing school children to onomatology, but it must be one of few, hopefully of a growing number. That many a little makes a mickle is proverbial.

Helen Carlson

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*Dictionary of Names and Titles in Poe's Collected Works.* By Burton R. Pollin. New York: Da Capo Press, 1968. Pp. xl, 212. Price \$12.50.

The reviewer of this text must proceed in two directions: 1) to examine it as an exercise in computer programming, and 2) to comment on its merits as an addendum to the study of the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Ostensibly, the latter is more important; yet, the former masquerades as the primary motive for compilation of the index. Surely, Professor Pollin did not intend this, but, nevertheless a reviewer, regretfully, has to conclude such on the basis of evidence presented in the Introductions. Consequently, the matter of programming will be considered first.

Professor Pollin creates an exciting biography of the computerization of the index. He apparently did not experience the frustrations usually attendant upon using a computer and employing the necessary "technicians" for making lists, numbering pages, and simple alphabetizing. Programmers and clerks in computer centers do have crippling incompetencies. Perhaps their shortcomings will be overcome when the machines are fourth-generation improved. So long, however, as scholars take time, as Professor Pollin did, from more important work to learn a computer's operations, we can be certain of commendable output. At the present stage of academic computerizing, intelligence helps, considerably.

Once the humans have done the tedious work of reading, carding, indexing, cross-referencing, rigorous and careful proofing, weeding, programming, punching, and rechecking, the computer can perform excellent service by storing material for later rapid editing and production of print-outs, or proof listings. According to Mr. Gary Berlin, the Programmer for this book, six indices were generated "in approximately 10, 8, 4, 3, 3, and 4 minutes, respectively." The performance is spectacular.

The matter, needless to say, is the *Dictionary*. Its competence, while not operationally spectacular, is more than adequate. Such an index to the works of Poe is needed, since his literary stock is bullish and he has become again a center for scholarly attention, so much so that the first issue of *The Poe Newsletter* has only recently appeared. Professor Pollin, with his customary assiduousness, has provided us with several types of information: Index of Names, Index of Titles, Poe's Characters, Poe's Titles, Titles of Poe's Articles, Works Reviewed, and Statistics. The material is referenced by volume and page to James A. Harrison, ed., *The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, 17 vols. (New York, 1902). Many items not included in the

Harrison index appear in Pollin's *Dictionary*. Mistakes are corrected; omissions are listed; pagination is clarified; and questionable items in Poe's canon, including reviews, are given logical attention.

Whenever a new edition of Poe's works appears, its index will have to incorporate this dictionary. Despite the author's worshipful dedication to the efficacy of the computer, the mind and work of a serious scholar can be detected in this compilation. All Poe researchers are now indebted to Professor Pollin for intelligently bringing together this wealth of important information. The *Dictionary* is an absolute necessity for reference shelves.

Kelsie B. Harder

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*Enciclopedia de México. Tomo II.* Bucareli, Mex.: Instituto de la Enciclopedia de México, 1967. Pp. 1,231.

This is the second volume of a project in ten volumes, the first volume of which was published in 1966, letters A to B. This volume includes entries from Bravo to Chiapaneco.

As an encyclopedia of primary interest to Mexico rather than of general, universal application, this set covers all fields of endeavor, but in cases of general headings the information given pertains primarily to Mexico. For example, under *Comercio* we find a discussion of data concerning various institutions and stages of the development of commerce in Mexico, but almost none for the Far East nor for Central Europe.

Special attention is given to onomastics in this set. The many Mexican place-names that appear as entries have etymologies, especially if they are of Indian origin. Plants have not only the local name and its etymology, if from an Indian language, but also the scientific name, as well as significant data.

Short biographies of significant personalities abound, taken from all ages of Mexican history. These include a number of persons on the contemporary scene, for whom data are frequently difficult to come by — choreographers like Sergio Corona, cinematographic personalities like Miguel M. Delgado, Fernando de Fuentes (under

*Cine*), and Joaquín Cordero, musicians like Ricardo Castro, and sculptors like Frederico Canessi. Some family names, especially those of Basque origin, have etymologies (e.g., Cortázar).

Rare and original photographs bring life and clarity to many discussions, and some illustrations come from sources very difficult of access – frontispieces, original paintings and murals, portraits, and some modern scenes captured photographically specifically for this publication.

While place-names and short biographies make up the greater number of entries, the discussions of topical headings offer ready access to valuable summaries of information usually not easily collected. Examples are *Cartografía*, *Castigo*, *Catolicismo*, *Cemento*, *Censo*, and *Clases Sociales*.

Under the general directorship of Dr. Gutierre Tibón, the list of contributing editors reads like a roster of Mexico's most prominent scholars: Antonio Alatorre, J. Ignacio Dávila Garibi, Ignacio Rubio Mañé, Francisco Monterde, to name a few of the 35. Many of the longer entries are signed with the appropriate initials and have bibliographical aides for students seeking further information.

The type is clear and readable. All words, including those in capital letters have the accent marks – a great help in doubtful cases.

Mexico is to be congratulated in having its story presented in this organized manner, the director for his well-executed task of selection and presentation, and any library that holds these volumes for its choice of a valuable reference work.

Jack A. Dabbs.

C. M. Matthews, *How Surnames Began*. London: Butterworth Press, 1967. Pp. 148. Price 16s.

This is a juvenile work, a poor, watered-down version of the author's previous work, *English Surnames*, published in 1966, with most of the little inaccuracies and defects and few of the good points of the earlier book. As a child's book it might influence some to enter into a career based on onomastics, and if it does, it cannot be said to be of no value.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Collins Gem Dictionary of First Names.* By J. B. Foreman (General Editor). London & Glasgow: William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1967. Pp. 383. Price 5 shillings.

In this small (3" x 4½") but interesting volume, one finds a fascinating guide to over 2,000 names, the appellations which have played a significant role in the cultural development of modern Britain. Most of these names and their variations can also be found in the United States. Not only does one find a brief history and development of each name, but a guide to its pronunciation, the sex for which it is used, and the century or centuries in which it has been most popular. The etymologies have been kept simple. For example, Dorothea and its variant Dorothy are given as from the Greek meaning "gift of God" and Norris as from the French meaning "Northerner." Did you know that the Russian name Olga evolved from the Norse word *helga*, meaning "holy," or that Randolph was from Old English *randewulf*, meaning "shield wolf"? Many other interesting origins have been found and recorded.

The brief sketch under each main entry points out how the names have been affected by social and political events, by the influence of well-known personalities, and by literature, as can be seen in the name Flora, held by the famous Flora Macdonald, who played a prominent part in Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape after the battle of Culloden in Scotland in 1746. The popularity of the name has continued into the twentieth century because of the fame of Dame Flora Robson, the well-known actress.

From this little book one can gather fascinating information concerning our social and cultural background. It may be useful to parents who have the problem of naming an offspring, but it will also prove to be absorbing reading for anyone, for everyone is interested in names, our most personal possession.

Margaret M. Bryant

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*Bibliography of Place-Name Literature: United States and Canada.*  
By Richard B. Sealock and Pauline A. Seely. Second Edition.  
Chicago: American Library Association, 1967. Pp. x + 352.  
Price \$7.50.

Twenty years ago appeared the modest predecessor of this book, the indispensable first stage of every venture into the El Dorado of American place-names. The first edition was in a typescript reproduced by primitive offset techniques. There were 260 pages of bibliography and 70 of a single Name and Subject Index. The entries were not numbered; I estimate about 2000 of them. The title included "Alaska and Newfoundland," now tautological, since one has become a state and the other a province. One found many infelicities and many inconsistencies in the entries, grateful as we all were for them.

This new edition is greatly transformed, tidied, expanded. Its devoted compilers have raised the number of entries to 3599 and numbered them, and letterpress accommodates these in not many more pages by its reduced type-size. The design is vastly more pleasing, and what was then except occasionally a mere checklist has become a critical bibliography with lucid and practical notes. The user, dipping into the State he wishes to study, can now choose the items he wants with greater efficiency. Lotspeich's "Cincinnati" (entry 2425) is explained as "How Cincinnati escaped being called Losantiville": McFarland's "The Chillicothes" (2426) "identifies five different towns with this Indian name"; Overman's unpretentious *Ohio Town Names* (2434) provides "the origin of the names of more than 1200 Ohio cities, towns, and villages"; Peters' ambiguous "Place Names" (2435) becomes "a series on the place-names of Greater Cleveland." The local author, speaking to his narrow circle of readers, makes his article sound generic, whereas the Sealock and Seely specifics provide for quick comprehension for a broader scope of reader concern. Now the indexes are onomastically more professional; there are two, one for authors and one for subjects, and the subjects of course include place-names and separate the auctorial "Eclectic Society of Little Rock, Ark." from the topographical "Little Girl's Point, Mich." The professional welcomes the analytical indexes because they provide him with significant information: a new entry, material on a specific topic. The first user may have to be helped by the reference librarian, but we would like to start him on the way to being a professional. Hawaii, missing in the first edition, now has 133 entries – no surprise to one who has witnessed at first hand the intense interest which the new state's people, *haole*, newcomer and native alike, show in their fascinating history.

We may try some practical use of the *Bibliography* to assess its value. Its 1948 edition was contemporary with the first attempts on the part of scholars like Stewart, Ramsay, Burrill and the two Reads to set in motion an American survey of place-names, parallel to the Linguistic Atlas studies of the 1930's and the English Place-Name Society studies which have followed the stimulus of Mawer and Stenton's Introduction in 1924. Like so many just and humane projects conserving human knowledge, this one found little governmental or academic support, and the frustrations of that time still live on, as we of the sixties try once more to gain a hearing when guns and butter cry louder than ever before. The two decades since Sealock and Seely issued their first volume have seen the founding of the American Name Society (1951), and the publication of almost as many books and articles on place-names as there had been in all the years preceding. Yet we still have no book-length study of importance for 27 states. In their initial preface the compilers mentioned as "guides and models" seven state treatments: Missouri (Ramsay), Arizona (Barnes), Minnesota (Upham), Oregon (McArthur), South Dakota (Ehrensperger), Washington (Meany), and West Virginia (Kenny). South Dakota, then and now (entry 2655), reprehensibly hides the efficient editor's name under the rubric of "U.S. Writers' Program" and thus cuts him out of the index, despite his valiant work then and later, as president of the American Name Society and annual compiler of the American Dialect Society and *ANS* bibliographies. There were a few other state dictionaries, which for some reason were not "guides and models," Pennsylvania (Espenshade 1925), Oklahoma (Gould 1933), and Nebraska (Fitzpatrick 1925). Since then Barnes has been updated by Granger (1960), Gould by Shirk (1965), Fitzpatrick and Link by Fairclough (1960); the university presses which have published them deserve special commendation. Lewis McArthur continually updated his own work; this third edition (1952) is as much of an improvement over his first (1928) as Mencken's fourth of *The American Language* is over its scanty and opinionated beginning. Yet in all this time, with such a wealth of new article-length surveys, only three states have had book-length treatment: Gudde's California (1949 and 1960), W. R. Averett (1962) and R. W. Leigh (1964) and their shared effort for Nevada, and T. M. Pearce's *New Mexico Place-Names: A Geographical Dictionary* (University of New Mexico



Press, 1965), the last unaccountably missed by Sealock and Seely. Neuffer's *Names in South Carolina* (1954 ff.), the only state periodical devoted to the subject, should be mentioned, but its charming and anecdotal method has not yet produced a dictionary.

But the picture is not so bleak if we look at several partial studies. Ramsay's Missouri volumes, despite their great value as testimony to a major scholar and introduction to method, were not even approximately complete; his great collection of cards have found their way to the Geographical Names division of the U.S. Geological Survey. In this country the central problem for any state is the linguistic origin of Indian names, and there are 11 studies to ease the way of new dictionary makers: Beauchamp (1907) and Tooker (1911) for New York, William A. Read's three for Louisiana (1927), Florida (1934) and Alabama (1937), Eckstorm (1941) for Maine, Dunlap and Weslager (1950) for Delaware, Kenny (1961) for Maryland, Huden (1962) for New England, Vogel (1963) for Illinois, and Becker (1964) for New Jersey. Of these half had appeared before our twenty-year interval between the two editions. We should, in calling this roll of honor, refer to Donald Orth's massive new *Gazetteer* of Alaska, the finest of all in the noble tradition of U.S. Geological Survey gazetteers, which should be the proper prelude to the historical, linguistic, and folkloristic dictionary. We should also cite McMullen and McJimsey's studies of topographic terms in Florida (1953) and Virginia (1940), which give proper attention to the raw materials out of which names are built.

Sealock and Seely first treat the United States: General, Gazetteers, and a special section on "Its Name"; then the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two regions, New England and the Mississippi Valley; then Canada: General and Gazetteers, the 12 provinces and territories. In analyzing the first 25 items in the book one finds four distribution studies, four on Indian names and ten on other aspects of history and etymology, three on survey planning, three on nicknames with devil names and folklore, and two on humor and the aesthetics of naming. Thus the book furnishes a take-off point for many kinds of future study.

It is not, of course, the sole manual with which a serious student will approach the subject. It has perforce omitted the crucial titles on history, national, state and county, which after oral fieldwork and county archives are the primary sources of data. Nor can one

expect it to include a list of the crucial books on Indian linguistics, which every student must have at his elbow; for that we may get some help from John E. Freeman and Murphy D. Smith's *A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society* (Philadelphia, 1966), and to various publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Nor can we expect here a calendar of maps or a guide to map study, such as John Kirkland Wright's *Aids to Geographical Research: Bibliographies and Periodicals* (1923). Too much inclusiveness of the kind would have ruined this excellent book, which does its own special job well and accurately. Yet perhaps the next edition might contain a select list of "Major Aids to Place-Name Study," to put its users on the right track for independent work.

This very edition, though it has vastly improved its bibliographical description, has made some slips. Waterman's *Yurok Geography* (1950) is listed as occupying pp. 177-283 of its host serial, a description which omits its important 16 plates and 34 maps. Boas' *Geographical Names of the Kwakiutl Indians* (3247) is correctly described as containing 83 pages of text, but the magnificent 22 fold-out maps are never mentioned. The significant inset map in Kenny's *Origin and Meaning of the Indian Place-Names of Maryland* (1555) should have been noticed. There are other evidences that the checker did not exercise proper judgment: Dunlap and Weslager's book (1040) loses the xvi pages of its introduction. Perhaps it is too much to ask for proper entries for Post Office Guides, including the recent Zip Code Directories; yet we all count them as part of our working tools. At times the collator at the print shop has nodded; my copy has one set of misplaced quires (pp. 159-174 follow 175-182) and I have heard of others. I would welcome a replacement if the American Library Association thinks this review is worth it.

Of late there have been several attempts to compile lists of American college and university theses and dissertations - in Romance Literature, for instance, or anthropology, or Folklore. Since a county study makes a potentially excellent M.A. thesis, many studies and embryo dictionaries lie hidden in our libraries, and nobody expects a bibliography like the present one to catch them all. One would like to see the task attempted by a student on the model of the others I have mentioned. Sealock and Seely catch many such titles, most notably the excellent series which

Ramsay directed for Missouri, as well as (3153) Esther Price's predecessor to their own book, and (997) Olga Koehler's study of Colorado. For Ohio there is no need to mention Edson Richmond's 1943 study of Franklin County, since it is essentially comprised in his publication (item 2443). Sometimes only a director of the thesis knows, alas, and so I add Frances Seamster's study of Muskingum County (1965) and Edward Taylor's Perry County (1952).

Our major task now is to organize this effort with sophisticated information retrieval techniques, to stimulate new state surveys, and to move towards a national survey. This is the challenge of the next 20 years, a challenge more adult for America than foreign wars. Sealock and Seely give us the ground on which to work. No member of the Society can afford to be without a copy.

Francis Lee Utley

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*Les Noms des personnes dans le Monde. Anthroponymie universelle comparée.* By Eugène Vroonen. Bruxelles: Éditions de La Librairie Encyclopédique, 1967. Pp. 495.

This comparative study of the personal names of the world reads well. What is presented on legal naming and name changing is highly informative and at the same time trustworthy; excellent for Turkey. To the reviewer the writer also seems at his best when dealing with names of 1) the Middle East west of Iran, more particularly of Ancient, Coptic and Arabic Egypt, and 2) French- and Netherlandish-speaking Europe, especially of his own native Belgium and of France.

Not too infrequently the comparative method loses force when a table will show a given form of a name in one language, yet a well-known counterpart thereof is mysteriously missing in another. The truly tragic is approached, however, by this ambitious study being shot through with more blunders than an author dare make and still hope to keep his work professionally sound (there are no [foot]notes to help lessen the writer's responsibility for mistakes nor to help the reader check on a rare item like *von Arnim* being derived from Arnim, the supposedly Hungarian form of Herman (p. 22).

Some quick examples must suffice to bring home to the reader something of the full gravity of the last statement: 1) *Augenbraun* (G "Augenbrauen" ("eyebrows," not "brown eyes" (p. 413); 2) *Cloqueman*, *-man* = "man," Netherlandish, not Picard (pp. 378, 399); 3) *Van Emmerik*, from name of place now on German side of Netherlands' border, not from a patronymic (p. 193); 4) *Lategahn*, "let go" can be unmixed Low German, need not be ("Holland") Dutch-(("High") German hybrid (p. 190), for Proto-Gmc. \*t becomes sibilant only in High German; 5) *Murdoch* is Celtic, not "Biblical" (p. 291); 6) Breton *Saox* (like Cymric *Sais*, Irish *Sasanač*) "Saxon," means "Englishman," not "German" (p. 336); and 7) E *Stan-* (*Stanwick*) is to be equated with "stone," not *Stan(islas)* (p. 369). There is more, much more!

Confused about Scandinavian (pp. 141, 479 but 154) and often "floundering helplessly in Slavic" (pp. 333, 345, 383, 444), it is obvious that Vroonen had his work published prematurely. More [foot]notes are sorely needed in a book of such wide scope. The bibliography is neither balanced/systematic in a world-wide sense, nor is it adequately up-to-date and complete even for Dutch personal names in Belgium. I hope to review this book again in a revised edition that will not be unready for publication.

Geart B. Droege

*Lytse Schotanus Atlas*. Edited by H. Oldenhof, K. de Vries and M. Wiegiersma. Publication No. 313 of the Frisian Academy of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Friesland, The Netherlands ("...printe[d] by Schotanus & Jens Utrecht n.v. . ."), 1967. Pp. 144, including 41½ of reproduced maps. Price f30, or about \$8.30.

This atlas affords many the rare opportunity of examining in great abundance some truly classic cartographic masterpieces, though unlike the originals they do not appear in color. They have, moreover, been reduced in scale. But, as is said on p. 9, a magnifying glass must at times be used. My own was not powerful enough fully to read the map occupying p. 108. Following, on p. 110, are two larger scaled fourth-of-a-page reproductions of crucial sections of it.

After a word on Christianus and Bernardus Schotanus (father and son) by K. de Vries, and another on cartography by H. K. Schippers, six experts (K. Brouwer, W. Dykstra, H. Oldenhof, F. van der Ploeg, A. de Vries and M. Wiegersma) individually provide a text accompaniment to a map of each of 30 Frisian "gritenijen" or rural administrative districts. The same is done by a seventh expert (C. de Graaff) for the maps of the traditional Eleven Cities of Friesland. The "gritenij" maps are taken from the *Uitbeeldinginge der Heerlykheit Friesland* of 1718, a second emended edition (by François Halma) of Bernardus Schotanus' *Friesche Atlas* of 1698. The maps of the towns have as their source the *Beschryvinge van de Heerlyckheydt van Frieslandt tusschen 't Flie en de Lauwers* by "Christiaen" Schotanus, 1664, which, with corrections made and omissions filled in, were borrowed from the famous 1649 work of Joan Blaeu.

This atlas of Friesland between the Flie and the Lauwers challenges the student of place names by confronting him with "live" toponymic landscapes that might suddenly be thoroughly transformed by the diking-in of land, or flooding or draining, or a local economy built on peat removal. A new genesis in miniature takes place, conjured up by map and text, and behold, the new is born and named by man. And names for land and waterway features are kept in their natural setting, in functional relationship with facts of geomorphology, settlement geography and history, political geography ("gritenij" boundary changes), monasticism, transportation (by horse or by boat), and so on. Place and water names are excitingly involved in the total life of man, from the typically Frisian medieval veneration of Mary to the sale of the famous Frisian eel in London's Billingsgate Market.

In depth for the specialist, what is appealing is much hard-to-come-by place-name knowledge. Take, e.g., *him*, plural *himmen*. I here learned that it refers to an inland polder (or its local maintenance organization), one of many with dikes strung in chainlike fashion along the northern edge of the whole of the Lake Country of Mid- and Southwestern Friesland, thus forming a collective inland dike, the *Himdyk*. One such polder is the *Skerhim* (in the "gritenij" of Wymbritseradiel) – with its *Skerhim-dyk* –, which together with the *Ysbrechterhim* encompasses the territories of *Skearnegoutum* and *Ysbrechtum*, and parts of others. "Himmen"

were already in existence in the twelfth century. One "gritenij" has had *-him* affixed to its name since at least 1250: Raerder*him*. The variant Rauwerd*hem*, on the map on p. 56, is actually an older Frisian form petrified in Dutch. (See pp. 79, 55; 75, 80.) OFris. \**hem(m)* or \**hemme m.* is entered with the meaning "space enclosed for dueling"; cp. OE *hemm m.* "*hem*, border."

Geart B. Droege

#### GALE RESEARCH COMPANY REPRINTS IN ONOMASTICS

The items noted in this survey can be obtained from Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Since they are reprints, they will not be reviewed separately, although many have been long out of print. Future reprints in this series will also be given prominent notice in *Names*.<sup>1</sup> For the convenience of those who wish to order for themselves or for libraries, the titles are listed below:

Barrere, Albert M. and Leland, Charles G., *A Dictionary of Slang, Jargon, & Cant, Embracing English, American, and Anglo-Indian Pidgin English, Thinker's Jargon, and Other Irregular Phraseology*. London: The Ballantyne Press, 2 vols., 1889-90. Reprinted, 1967. Pp. 950. Introduction by Eric Partridge. \$36.00.

Edwards, Eliezer, *Words, Facts, and Phrases. A Dictionary of Curious, Quaint, and Out-of-the-Way Matters*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co., 1881. Pp. viii, 631. Reprinted, 1968. \$14.75.

Frey, Albert R., *Sobriquets and Nicknames*. Boston: Tickner & Co., 1887. Reprinted, 1966, Pp. 482. \$14.00.

Lathan, Edward, *A Dictionary of Names, Nicknames, and Surnames of Persons, Places, and Things*. London: George Routledge & Sons, Ltd. 1904. Pp. 334. Reprinted, 1966. \$9.50.

*Sixth Report of the United States Geographic Board, 1890-1932*. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1933. Pp. 834. Reprinted 1967. \$19.00.

<sup>1</sup> One pioneer item was noted earlier: *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. See *Names*, 14 (1966), 127.

Wagner, Leopold, *Names and their Meaning: A Book For the Curious*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1892. Pp. 330. Reprinted, 1968. \$9.50.

— *More About Names*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1893. Pp. 287. Reprinted, 1968. \$12.75.

Yonge, Charlotte M., *History of Christian Names*. London: Macmillan and Co., New Ed., 1884. Pp. cxliii, 476. Reprinted, 1966. \$13.50.

The Gale Research Company is performing an excellent service for the scholarly community in reprinting these early editions that pertain to philology and onomastics. Of course, some of the editions are of uneven quality compared with standards now being used to study names and their implications, but this should not detract from their worth. There are those who look upon onomastic scholarship as a gentlemanly, humanistic avocation, not unlike something akin to aesthetic enjoyment and hedonistic pleasure. Others take a more scientific view, eliminating all irrelevant commentary, using rigorous discrimination in choice of material, and sticking to the geographical or etymological fact and leaving the implications to others. The latter are more in step with the times, although they have difficulty deciding whether they are humanists or scientists. Eschewing the humanistic approach, they also distrust the scientific, while claiming to be both humanists and scientists. Perhaps the two are not totally incompatible.

It is, therefore, difficult to survey these texts without pointing up the deficiencies and taking a superior pedantic attitude so prevalent in academic reviewing. The temptation is seductive, but aging endows or should endow even an onomast with some responsibility and consciousness of historic achievement. In this we might take a page from the linguist's chapbook. A burgeoning theory merging into fact can just as suddenly be reversed, negating the former one and making it the special concern of the history of linguistic thought. I suspect that language study has been the better for it. Seeing and feeling this change is not particularly a license to perpetuate the perfunctory clichés about language.

The history of the study of onomastics has not been written. Probably the time is not right, but a sketch would no doubt be illuminating. One difficulty, especially in English and American

onomastics, is the placing of the loner, the scholar who worked within the confines of his own imagination and dreamed his etymologies without considering the work of others, much as the literati have always done, a sort of parboiling before the recipe has been decided. It is possible that there has been a surfeit of preachers in the wilderness. Maybe the infusion of too much philosophy, or theory, detracts from insights that even the most intractable name-lexicographer manages somehow to make. And, of course, in the United States scholars tend to believe that the study of names is not respectable, quite different from the positive approach taken by Europeans and their many societies and magazines which treat onomastics rather seriously. There is no lack of researchers: the place-name surveyers, the compilers of lists of surnames, the universalists, the chasers of acronyms and initialisms, the theorists, the vocabularyists, the psychonymists, and other specialists. The author of a history of onomastics will have plenty of material.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Besides the surveyed texts, the following, among others, are also important in the history of onomastics in English: The bibliographies found in almost any modern text treating names are helpful as well as the bibliographies by Elsdon C. Smith, Richard B. Sealock and Pauline A. Seely both in *Names* and as separates; M. Arousseau, *The Rendering of Geographical Names*, London: Hutchinson University Library, 1957, has an excellent bibliography for the specialist, pp. 113–28, with listings back to 1829; Bannister, John. *Glossary of Cornish Names*. London: Elliot Stock, 1903; Baring-Gould, S. *Family Names and Their Story*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1910; Bowditch, N. I. *Suffolk Surnames*. London: Trubner & Co., 1861; B. Homer Dixon. *Surnames*. Boston: John Wilson & Sons, 1857; Dudgeon, Patrick. *A Short Introduction to the Origin of Surnames*. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1890; Düringer, Hermann. *Die Analyse in Formenbau des englischen Namens*. Giessen, *Giessener Beiträge zur Erforschung der Sprache und Kultur Englands und Nordamerikas*, 1923; Edmunds Flavell. *Traces of History in the Names of Places*. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1869; Ewen, C. l'Estrange. *A History of Surnames of the British Isles*. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1931; Ferguson, Robert. *Surnames as a Science*. London: George Routledge and Sons; 1884; Finlayson, James. *Surnames & Sirenames*. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1850; Gentry, Thomas G. *Family Names from the Irish, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo Norman and Scotch*. Philadelphia: Burk & McFetridge, 1892; Harrison, Henry. *The Place-Names of the Liverpool District*. London: Elliot Stock, 1898; Innes, Cosmo. *Concerning Some Scotch Surnames*. Edinburgh: Edmonston & Douglas, 1860; Mordaue, L. H. *History of the Names of Men, Nations, and Places*, 2. vols. London: John Russell Smith, 1862; Taylor, Isaac. *Names and Their Histories: A Handbook of Historical Geography and Topographical Nomenclature*. London: Rivingtons, 1898; Lower, Mark Antony. *English Surnames*, 2 vols. London: John Russell Smith, 1849. Obviously, the texts are not the only ones, nor does the list consider the many remarks



The first item, Barrere and Leland's *A Dictionary of Slang, Jargon & Cant*, is, aside from J. S. Farmer and W. E. Henley's *Dictionary of Slang and its Analogues*, the late nineteenth century's main contribution to the study of heterodox British and American usage. Its relationship to onomastics is, to an extent, nebulous, but many items have historical interest in the study of names: *Aaron*, "chief or captain of a gang or school of thieves"; *Al*, "comfortable"; *Aberdeen cutlets*, "cured or dried haddocks"; *Abigail*, a generic for a waiting maid; *About East*, "the eastern and purely Yankee States"; *Abraham*, "a cheap and trashy slop shop"; *Abraham's balsam*, *Abraham cove*, *Abraham grains*, *Abraham-man*, *on the Abraham suit*, *Abraham work*, and *Abraham's willing*. These are only a few from the first nine pages of Barrere and Leland's work. A sampling of the two volumes is an introduction to the large amount of "slang" that is derivative from proper names and should be an area for research. Material of this sort also appears in modern slang: *Jack Ruby Ribbon*, "pistol markmanship"; *Lee Harvey Oswald Ribbon*, "rifle markmanship"; *Mickey Mouse*, "chicken"; *Podunk*, "worthless, lost, isolated"; *Pittsburg Plate Glass West*, "The United States Air Force Academy."<sup>3</sup> The last entry in the volumes is *Zoyara*, the name of a nineteenth-century circus rider who was a transvestite. For some time after, there was a *Zoyara* in every circus.

Much the same sort of material can be found in *Words, Facts, and Phrases* by Eliezer Edwards. It is a quaint book with little scholarly merit. Consisting mainly of out-of-the-way curiosities, it has approximately 3,000 entries, and has fireside or bathroom reading fascination. Philatelists can learn, as if they did not know, that "the machine for perforating postage stamps was invented and patented by Mr. Henry Archer in 1847." Onomastic entries occur throughout, such as *Aberdeen*, *Abernethy Biscuits*, *Aberystwith*, *Abigail*, *Absolom*,

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that appear in earlier literature. The serious interest in the study of names seems to parallel the maturation in the study of language and the compilation of nearly definitive grammars and dictionaries in the nineteenth century. Many of the authors mention the work on the *New English Dictionary*, now the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The list could be extended to the work of the twentieth century onomasts and lexicographers, but it is assumed that the readers of *Names* will be acquainted with them.

<sup>3</sup> *Current Slang*, II (No. 3), pp. 1-6, *passim*. Any list of college slang items will have many items of this sort; for instance, Potsdam, New York, the home of two colleges, is known by both faculty and students as *Madstop*.

etc. It is doubtful that any of the material is original, but the author gives a list of some of the authorities consulted. The entries are written in a chatty style attractive to the generalist and provocative to the specialist.

Frey's *Sobriquets and Nicknames* is, in the gentlemanly tradition, a witty product of the leisurely *fin-de-siècle* writer who dealt in curious matters related to but not a part of the literary milieu. It brings together approximately 4,000 entries of reverent, scurrilous, affectionate, and bitter names that Frey collected. Some of the entries have references to sources. The first part is devoted to an alphabetical listing of characters in literature and nicknames of literary and historical figures. For instance, *Abdael*, "stands for General George Monk, Duke of Albermarle" in Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel*; *The Nightingale of Twickenham*, "... so Alexander Pope is called in the *Noctes Ambrosianae* (lxvii)." The second part is an index of historical persons by names and dates with a list of nicknames and sobriquets following. Sources are not given in this section. Shakespeare has 31, including, besides the usual ones, *Poor Poet Ape*, *Post-haste*, *Johannes Factotum*, and *The Lord of the British Pandemonium*. The text attempts to be comprehensive and scholarly; its shortcomings, within its limitations, are not serious ones. To the author's credit he is the first to amass so much information on nicknames of the great and near-great.

Latham's concisely written *Dictionary* is something of a supplement to Frey's. It is another *fin-de-siècle* handbook that picks over some 4,000 arbitrarily chosen odds and ends of literary and historical bric-a-brac. Not so scrupulous as is Frey with references, Latham does list the sources from which he took his materials. They are the standard fact books and encyclopaedias available at the time, some of which are still being used.

*The Sixth Report of the United States Geographic Board, 1890-1932*, is a most welcome addition to the place-name reprints. Since the readers of *Names* are all familiar with this document, it need receive no more than token notice here, the space devoted being in no manner an indication of its value for place-name study. The *Sixth Report* contains, "with the exception of a comparatively small number, all the decisions rendered by the board from its organization in 1890 through June, 1932, and supersedes all previous reports." It also contains the wording of the Executive orders that created

and continued the United States Board on Geographic Names and the prescription of its functions. The elucidatory and informatively written introduction discusses the characteristics of geographic names, both domestic and foreign, the problems involved in naming geographic features, criteria and standards for rendering decisions, and other material pertinent to the Board. The body of the text is an alphabetizing of the place-names on which decisions were made. No place-name library is complete without a copy of the *Report*.

Wagner's *Names and their Meaning* and *More About Names* complement each other. The texts differ from others in that the author made use of a running commentary and set up classifications. He also occupied himself exclusively with the origin and significance of names, correcting folk etymologies and pointing out the nonsense of fanciful legends, interesting as they may be. He divided personal names into surnames, sobriquets, pseudonyms, nicknames, class names, and professional designations; names of places included the countries of the world, principal seas, islands, gulfs, straits, and public places in England, including names of inns, taverns, streets, churches, and squares. Tables of contents and indices are particularly full and analytical. Although still directed to the curious and the browsers, the books have point and historical value beyond the usual subjectively compiled volumes that make us more aware of the idiosyncracies of the author than of the significance of the names under consideration.

If a Victorian scholar had read such bestsellers of High Anglicanism as *The Heir of Radclyffe* (1853) and *The Daisy Chain* (1856), he still would hardly be prepared for the unexpected scholarly facility of *History of Christian Names* by the same author, Charlotte M. Yonge.

Novelists, however, have been known to perform quite well as onomasts. Miss Yonge's book was published in 1863 and revised for the 1884 edition. It is simply the best book on names in the nineteenth century and has stood firm as an accurate, definitive text to the present. A blue-stocking Sam Johnson, she also had strong prejudices and a tight-lipped Christian outlook. Her attention was directed to Christian names only, not to surnames in general. This narrowness of vision led her into an exaggeration of the Christian influence and colored much of her discussion of the origin of many names. With these caveats out of the way, the book can be examined in its historical context.

Miss Yonge brought to bear on her study knowledge that is not too often found in those who work in onomastics. Her wide-ranging mind encompassed a wealth of information gleaned from many European languages. Her knowledge of Latin and Greek was acute; she had equal control over European mythology, history, ethnology, hagiology (her strong field), and philology. Although she sometimes placed a particular language in the wrong category of the Indo-European system, she was well aware of language change, the power of a first language, and the fossilization of names. Within the restricted environment of Christian names, she must be called a comparatist: The forms of a name are traced through several languages, with the differences noted and discussed in depth. Questionable names, such as *Laura* and *Ignatius*, are analyzed from every possible point of view at her command; and, again under the aegis of the Christian bias, she gives a source. The text has the glossary (what we now call the "index") first, keyed to page numbers in the discussion which follows. This study is another that belongs among any onomastics collection.

Something must be said now of the format in which the books are printed. The type is of excellent quality, and a comparison with some of the original texts indicates clearly that the reprints are superior in readability, as they should be. The bindings are sturdy and seem to be of sufficient strength to withstand reference book handling. The colors are conservative, not splashy or unduly startling. The quality of the paper is also excellent, and, according to brochures from the company, is a "special acid-free paper of the permanent durable type, commonly called '300-year paper' because aging tests indicate a useful life of 300 years." That will be sufficient for library use.

Finally, one really wishes that more careful, even reasonable, criteria had been used for selecting titles to reprint. No doubt the company has its own reasons for the choices made. Nevertheless, it is good to have these books available again in the reprint series. Although the prices are probably beyond the economic capability of individuals who would like to have the whole series, they are not particularly high for a volume that needs to be used extensively. On the other hand, the reprints are directed more toward library reference use and are recommended enthusiastically for such. When it is considered that librarians spend a great deal of time, effort, and

money trying to find out-of-print books, which usually are not in good condition anyway, the cost of the series is competitive and certainly not prohibitive. Again, Gale Research Company deserves its share of accolades for reprinting these texts.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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