

Book Reviews

Indian Place-Names. Their origin, evolution, and meanings, collected in Kansas from the Siouan, Algonquian, Shoshonean, Caddoan, Iroquoian, and other tongues. By John Rydjord. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968. Pp. xi, 380. Price \$6.95.

Most place-name literature is doomed to remain unread by all but specialists, for which reason the publication of it is often necessarily subsidized by learned societies. Prof. Stewart proved, in *Names on the Land*, that this need not be so, and now, I think, Dr. Rydjord, former dean of the graduate school of Wichita State University, has done it again. The secret appears to be: avoid the straitjacket of purely linguistic treatment, and tell the story behind the name. There is also the question of format. Most work of this kind is organized like a dictionary, and several are called by that name. There is a certain convenience in this procedure, but a price is paid in the loss of attractiveness to the general reader.

Dr. Rydjord has departed from usual methods by grouping his names in chapters based mainly on tribes or linguistic families. Moreover, he has treated his names in their historical context, delving into the circumstances which caused them to be given to each political and topographical feature. This not only adds to readability, but helps to avoid certain errors which afflict some works based on linguistic analysis only. Anyone who tried to analyze Osawatomie, for example, would have a fine time if he tried to chop it into syllables and match them with aboriginal words. He might even come up with a plausible explanation in this way – for *osawa* is an Algonquian word for “yellow.” But history tells us, according to Rydjord, that the name was contrived by whites from the names of two unrelated tribes, Osage and Potawatomi, because the town was located at the junction of two creeks bearing those names. Another case of similar genre is Neodesha, which came, we are informed, from a white rearrangement of the Osage word *Ni-o-sho-de*. History further yields the information that the Republican River was not named for a political party, but for the Pawnee Republic.

In a pre-publication announcement, this book was titled *Indian Place-Names in Kansas*, but it came off the press as *Indian Place-*

Names. Perhaps the aim was to solicit more than local interest in the book, but the change is warranted because the Indian place-names of Kansas come from all parts of the United States, and some are from outside the country. A considerable number of Eastern tribes such as the Delaware, Kickapoo, Miami, Peoria, Potawatomi, Sauk-Fox, Shawnee, and Wyandot were relocated there during the first half of the nineteenth century, and their names became mixed with those taken from tribes native to the area. Moreover, settlers were prone to adopt place-names they knew in the older states back East, or to choose names from literature and history. All this is true in many other states as well, which is why anyone undertaking serious study of Indian names in any state should examine the relevant literature from other states.

Rydjord has done this, and more. He has dug deeply into the historical literature, both of the Indians and the region. His research in linguistic sources is comparatively minimal, however; only Riggs' *Dakota Dictionary* was used extensively. Indian vocabularies, dictionaries, and grammars can clear up a few things, even for non-specialists. If the language origin of a name can be determined, and the name has not been greatly altered in white usage, these sources can sometimes settle disagreements over the meaning. A look at Baraga's *Otchipwe Dictionary*, for example, could have spared Rydjord such unnecessary assertions as "Nokomis . . . may have a Chippewa origin, but has the appearance of a Siouan name." Elsewhere, he could have found that Pawnee (or Pani) is indeed a word for slave in some Algonquian languages, and that the name of the Sauk tribe (Ozawkie or Osawkee) means "yellow earth" and nothing else.

Further, it is not enough merely to cite the conflicting opinions of several previous writers, many of questionable excellence, and thus to leave the reader more puzzled than ever. The latest writer has a responsibility to evaluate the validity of old claims and try to come up with his own best verdict. Rydjord does this, but not often enough. He also should caution us on the unreliability of such sources as Gannett, if they must be used.

A reviewer who has immersed himself in the same subject as the author being reviewed is normally tempted to be a rigorous critic and to take issue on every point of disagreement, with the result that these contentions get more attention than the bulk of valid

conclusions reached with so much effort. To avoid such disproportion, I shall note only two obvious mistakes: 1) Miami, Florida, gets its name from local Indians, and not from the Miami tribe, and 2) the two aboriginal names of Massasoit, and their English translations, have been matched in reverse order (p. 226).

The complaints made herein should not be allowed to overshadow this reviewer's judgment that this book is one of the better ones in its field to be produced in recent years. It is painstakingly researched and abundantly supplied with footnotes. We can be grateful for its eight illustrations, seven maps, and 21-page bibliography. This book has both popular appeal and interest for specialists, and it should arouse further interest in aboriginal influence on American place-names.

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Dictionar istoric al localităților din Transilvania, Vol. I. By Coriolan Suciu. București: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1967. Pp. 431.

This is the first volume (A-N) of what promises to be a two-volume work on the Transylvanian region. The preface briefly reviews (5-7) relevant work to date, there being no systematic historical dictionary of settlements for this region in existence. This is particularly valuable for an area of complex populations and political history, with frequent name changes, involving Romanian, Hungarian, and German names.

The dictionary is divided into two parts: extant localities, and abandoned localities. Listing in Part I follows the national alphabetic index of 1956, with older Romanian, Hungarian and German equivalents cited under each entry, followed by chronological documented forms with bibliographic reference. Part II, happily included (but not in this volume) at the suggestion of Academician Constantin Daicoviciu, will be alphabetic by oldest attested form; these vanished communities are particularly numerous in the Banat and in the Arad, Zarand, and Bihor areas where Turkish occupation was strong.

The bibliographic listing alone occupies seven and one-half pages, even though the author apologizes for not being able to pretend at this time to exhaust all the documentary material.

It is a pleasure to greet this first work of its kind in the Romanian language.

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Toponymie de la région métropolitaine de Montréal. By Ludger Beauregard: Ministère des Terres et Forêts du Québec (Commission de Géographie), 1968.

This excellent dictionary by Monsieur Ludger Beauregard is a collection of 672 place-names of the metropolitan area of Montreal, an area roughly 25 miles square. Each entry denotes the historical background, usage, and meaning. In some instances it has been impossible to determine the meaning of the name in question, but these cases are few since the catalogue deals with a metropolitan area and naturally the history and meaning of most of the words is known because so many have recently been placed "on the land." In his preface, p. 11, Monsieur Beauregard makes a sage observation that everyone interested in toponymy should keep in view:

Les populations maintenant installées dans la région [métropolitaine] sont pour la plupart récentes et ignorent malheureusement les faits historiques de leur milieu. Les jeunes familles qui habitent la banlieue ne connaissent pas l'évolution de leur région; dans le vertige de la vie moderne, elles ne prennent aucun intérêt à la toponymie. Il est déjà difficile de trouver des vieux qui peuvent nous renseigner sur les noms de lieux et surtout sur leur historique.

This points up an obligation of the onomatologist: he must bring new blood into the corps of investigators, and he must see that information is gathered that otherwise would die with the present generation. And when M. Beauregard says that "Les historiens de la petite histoire se font rares," (p. 11) we must see to it that persons do become interested in their "petites patries." Perhaps it is the responsibility of universities to train students in this important

field of historical investigation. Recently there has been organized a local historical society in one of the oldest towns in the South and it is interesting to see that a high proportion of the members are relative newcomers.

M. Benoît Robitaille, Président de la Commission de Géographie, has written a preface to this excellent dictionary in which he gives the warming promise that "la Commission souhaite qu'il lui sera possible de faire paraître périodiquement des études toponymiques du genre de celle qui est présentée aujourd'hui." An excellent bibliography (pp. 200–206) indicates how active scholars have been in Quebec. There is also an index (pp. 207–224) of all place-names considered and a map, about 32" by 38" of the area treated.

Canadian scholars for some years have been actively delving into the history of fascinating and colorful place-names. Notably among the many publications are Hormidas Magnan's *Dictionnaire historique et géographique . . . de la Province de Québec* (1925), at least five monumental and basic works by Pierre-Georges Roy, appearing between 1906 and 1942, and the more recent guide to toponymic research, *Toponymie, méthode d'enquête* (1965) by Jean Poirier, Secrétaire de la Commission de Géographie. A check of the index to the first 15 years of *Names* (1967) reveals many interesting articles on toponymy by our northern neighbors. The index also shows that Canadians have been active in other areas, especially in the onomastics of central Europe.

Monsieur Beauregard, the Commission and all researchers who participated in the project are to be congratulated, and we shall be waiting for their future publications.

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Dane County Place-Names. By Frederic G. Cassidy. Madison, Milwaukee, London: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1968. Pp. xvii, 245. Paper. \$1.95.

This little paperback is an almost exact reproduction of the author's *The Place-Names of Dane County, Wisconsin*, Publications of the American Dialect Society, No. 7, April, 1947. It does have

about three pages of addenda following the dictionary, but nothing of great importance is added. It has a larger map, a new introductory note, and a few necessary corrections. But it has not been brought up to date and remains in essentially its form of 1947. In explaining his procedure in his short three-page foreword, the author says, "In these twenty years [since 1947], of course, changes have taken place; some names have fallen into disuse as small settlements disintegrated, schools were consolidated, roads were relocated. But the changes have been more in the features referred to than in the names themselves . . . In other words, the facts displayed here from the first settlement of the County – even before it was formally established – are still valid today. The reader has only to keep this terminal date of 1947 in mind when reading the entries. Virtually all place-names of present Dane County are listed and explained, as far as our historical informations goes."

Since the new edition adds practically nothing and since copies of the 1947 edition are still available, what was the purpose of reprinting? The Dialect Society edition, which also contains the report of the secretary for 1947, is a drab-appearing volume found only on library shelves and in the private collections of scholars. Yet this material and the way it is treated could be of great interest not only to citizens of Dane County but to place-name enthusiasts everywhere. How many citizens of this county have ever heard of the Dialect Society, let alone of publication No. 7? Because of the local interest which the University of Wisconsin Press sensed, this valuable material is now available, even on newsstands, in this attractive and convenient form. On the upper half of the brown cover there is a map of the county, not large enough to be of practical use, but eye-catching. Cassidy's foreword, which replaces the longer and more scholarly foreword of the old edition, is cleverly written to arouse interest, asking the question why the county was named Dane. After giving what many people might wrongly think to be the answer, Cassidy playfully refers readers to the entry in the dictionary. This little volume is likely to enjoy a wide popularity of a kind which place-name research sorely needs. This is not to deprecate in any way the publications of the Dialect Society, but rather to stress the fact that much of the material in these publications should be receiving much more attention than has been the case.

Cassidy's new edition is just as scholarly as it ever was. In the dictionary he treats in depth almost every conceivable place-name in the county. All the names are listed in alphabetical order, and since some places have had several names, there are many cross-references. Under each main entry will be found pronunciations (when needed) in the international phonetic alphabet, exact locations using conventional surveyor's abbreviations, all known information about the naming except fanciful stories with no real foundation, and finally the source or sources for the information.

In the 1947 edition the careful analysis of the material in the dictionary appears in 58 pages of introduction. Every bit of this material is found in the new edition, but only six pages of it appear as an introduction, these pages giving information which a reader might need in using the dictionary. In the new edition the rest of this material is given in two appendices at the end of the dictionary. The ordinary reader might be repelled by the voluminous introduction of the old edition. If he wishes, he may pay no attention to the appendices in the new edition. For the place-name scholar, however, the appendices are a very important part of the book. There is one very minor slip in the re-editing. On page xvi Cassidy says that the "peripatetic nature of early PO's is discussed below." The discussion is not found "below," however, as in the old edition, but rather in Appendix I.

Cassidy's work follows the pattern set by R. L. Ramsay and Allen Walker Read in their *Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place-Names, The University of Missouri Studies*, IX (Jan. 1, 1934), 1-124. Both this work and Cassidy's have been almost inaccessible. With the appearance of Cassidy's attractive new edition, publication of similar county studies should be stimulated all over the country. In South Dakota, for example, some 12 studies of South Dakota counties closely following these two models have long been gathering dust on the shelves of the University library. There are probably similar situations in other states. It is to be hoped this little volume will encourage the publication of many more county studies, not only in Wisconsin but in every state of the Union.

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An Index of Hereditary English, Scottish, and Irish Titles of Honour.
Compiled by Edward Solly. London: Index Society Publications,
Vol. V, 1880. Reprinted, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.,
1968. Pp. 205. \$10.00.

References to English Surnames in 1601 and 1602. By F. K. &
S. Hitching. London: Walton-on-Thames, 1910, 1911. Reprinted,
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. Pp. xcv. \$7.50.

The two books noted here are indices which have value somewhat beyond the mere providing of information to those concerned with genealogical matters only. The first book is an index "of the Peerages and Baronetages of the United Kingdom, showing the date when each separate title was conferred, the changes they underwent," including name changes and spelling changes. Questionable titles are noted, along with singularities and variations. The history of each title appears, as well as its contemporary (1880) status.

The second volume combines two indices, the first giving about 19,650 references to surnames listed in printed registers of 778 English parishes in 1601, the second giving about 20,500 references from 964 parishes in 1602. Although the work is frankly directed toward genealogists, it should prove beneficial to anyone who does research in English surnames.

Both volumes are of sufficient importance to warrant placing on any reserve shelf devoted to the study of names. The Index of Titles has historical merit also.

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Index of Spanish Citizens Entering New Orleans, 1840-1865. By Charles R. Maduell, Jr. New Orleans, La.: Privately printed, 1966; second printing, 1968. Pp. vii + 75 + xiv, appendix. No price listed.

Spanish Citizens Entering New Orleans from 1820-1840. By Charles R. Maduell, Jr. New Orleans, La.: Privately printed, 1968. Pp. vii + 88 + xii, appendix. No price listed.

Mr. Maduell has performed an excellent service to genealogists and historians who need to reconstruct the migration of Spanish citizens into New Orleans from 1820 to 1865. Furthermore, those who are interested in the study of Spanish surnames in Louisiana will find the books almost indispensable. The names listed in the two books were compiled from "passenger lists supplied by the ship officer and furnished to the Bureau of Customs of the United States." Sources for all the names are listed: the microfilms of original passenger lists in the New Orleans Public Library; materials in the Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University; and contemporary directories.

Unfortunately, only limited quantities of the books are available, meaning that they may have to be reproduced so that efficient use can be made of them, although permission will have to be obtained from Mr. Maduell. There are also several typing errors in the introductions. Nevertheless, these strictures should not detract from the useful research and compilation the author has performed.

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