Book Reviews

Grace de Jesús C. Alvarez, *Topónimos en apellidos hispanos*. Estudios de Hispanófila, Adelphi University. Printed in Spain and distributed by Editorial Castalia, Madrid. Tables, map, photos. Paperback. 587 pp.

This massive work is a most valuable contribution to the literature of onomastics. Originally a doctoral dissertation, it is beautifully organized and represents a monumental investment of time, patience and systematic scholarship. Taking primarily the *Guía telefónica de Madrid*, Professor Alvarez has carefully checked out each surname against a mass of atlases, maps and works by renowned commentators in the field to determine precisely which surnames are toponyms in whole or in part. She has then arranged them alphabetically, endeavoring to capsulize all necessary information on each entry: linguistic provenience (*e.g.*, Basque, Moorish, etc.), semantic significance, geographical distribution and what have you. This glossary, which constitutes the fourth of five chapters, is some 450 pages in length. Preceding it are an introduction and three brief chapters on onomastics in Spain, the history of the surname, and the toponymical surname, respectively. Chapter Five is a brief conclusion, followed by a series of tables dear to the hearts of dissertation directors. There is, in addition, a highly useful bibliography that is obviously not intended to be exhaustive.

Some inconsistencies, errors and lacunae are unavoidable in a work of this scope, at least in its first edition. I have no quarrel with these because they are but formal and are easily corrected. My chief disappointments are substantive and are two in number:

(1) Professor Alvarez does not draw any socio-historical inferences. One might be pardoned for wishing to know what sort of concepts in toponymical surnames – *e.g.*, "mill," "tower," "hill," "valley," etc. – are associated with which linguistic or ethnic subgroups and/or parts of the Peninsula. Could we conclude anything from this regarding the nature of those who first applied the names? What about warlike vs. agricultural surnames? Or abstractions vs. observable physical phenomena?

(2) The addition of a chapter on the morphology and phonology peculiar to Spanish onomastics would increase the volume's already great value as a reference tool.

This reviewer, for one, hopes that Professor Alvarez may address herself to such questions either in a future edition or in a supplement, for the social as well as the linguistic historian could certainly benefit from her vast knowledge of these very difficult subjects.

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Gale Research Company Reprints in Onomastics: II

This survey of books reprinted from Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the second in what will probably be a series giving prominent notice to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Since some will wish to order books for themselves or for libraries, the titles and pertinent bibliographical material are given below:

Barber, Henry. *British Family Names.* 2d. ed. London: Elliot Stock, 1903. Pp. xii, 286. Reprinted, 1968. $12.75.

Brewer, E. C. *The Reader's Handbook of Famous Names in Fiction References, Proverbs, Plots, Stories, and Poems.* 2 vols. Rev. and enl. ed. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1899. Pp. viii, 1.243. Reprinted, 1966. $29.50.

Burke, W. J. *The Literature of Slang.* New York: The New York Public Library, 1939. Pp. vii, 180. Reprinted, 1965. $9.00.

Clapin, Sylva. *A New Dictionary of Americanisms.* New York: Louis Weiss and Co., 1902. Pp. xii, 581. Reprinted, 1968. $19.50.

Clodd, Edward. *Magic in Names and in Other Things.* London: Chapman and Hall, 1920. Pp. vii, 238. Reprinted, 1968. $6.75.

Cook, Albert Stanburrough. *A Concordance to Beowulf.* Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1911. Pp. iv, 436. Reprinted, 1968. $23.75.

Davis, T. Lewis O. *A Supplementary English Glossary.* London: George Bell and Sons, 1881. Pp. xvi, 736. Repub. in facs., 1968. $24.50.

Hall, Benjamin Homer. *A Collection of College Words and Customs.* Rev. and enl. ed. Cambridge: John Bartlett, 1856. Pp. v, 508. $19.50.

Hargrave, Basil. *Origins and Meanings of Popular Phrases and Names.* London: T. Werner Laurie, 1925. Reprinted, 1968. Pp. vi, 375. $11.50.

Long, Harry Alfred. *Personal and Family Names.* Glasgow: Thomas D. Morison, 1883. Pp. 362. Reprinted, 1968. $15.00.

Lower, Mark Anthony. *English Surnames.* 2 vols. London: John Russell Smith, 1875. Pp. xxvii, 547. Reprinted, 1968. $15.50.

Mackay, Charles. *A Dictionary of Lowland Scotch.* London: Whittaker & Co., 1888. Pp. xxxii, 398. Reprinted, 1968. $18.00.

Meany, Edmond S. *Origin of Washington Geographic Names.* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1923. Pp. II, 357. Reprinted, 1968. $15.00.

Morris, Edward E. *Austral English.* London: Macmillan and Co., 1898. Pp. xxiv, 525. Reprinted, 1969. $28.50.

Nares, Robert. *A Glossary of Words, Phrases, Names, and Allusions in the Work of English Authors* New. ed. London: George Routledge and Sons, 1905. Pp. ix, 981. Repub. in facs., 1966. $22.50.

Peddie, R. A. *Place Names in Imprints.* London: Grafton and Co., 1932. Pp. vii, 62. Reprinted, 1968. $4.50.

Pettman, Charles. *Africanderisms.* London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1913. Pp. xviii, 579. Reprinted, 1968. $24.50.

Reddall, Henry. *Fact, Fancy, and Fable.* Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1889. Pp. v, 536. Reprinted, 1968. $13.50.

Smart, B. C. and Crofton, H. T. *The Dialect of the English Gypsies.* 2d ed., rev. and enl. London: Asher and Co., 1875. Pp. xxvi, 300. Reprinted, 1968. $12.50.

Taylor, Isaac. *Words and Places.* Ed. with cor. and add. by A. Palmer Smythe. London: George Routledge & Sons, 1909. Pp. xxxvii, 425. Reprinted, 1968. $13.50.

Wheeler, William A. *An Explanatory and Pronouncing Dictionary of the Noted Names of Fiction.* Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1865. Pp. xxxii, 440. Reprinted, 1966. $12.00.

– – *Familiar Allusions.* Compl. and ed. by Charles G. Wheeler. Boston: James R. Osgood and Co., 1882. Pp. v, 584. Reprinted, 1966. $16.00.

Wright, Elizabeth Mary. *Rustic Speech and Folklore.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1913. Pp. xx, 342. Reprinted, 1968. $12.50.

Reprint houses have recently been the object of criticism for quasi-legal operations involving the mini-skirting of copyright laws, especially in their abiding strictly by the U.S. rules. (See *Times Literary Supplement*, March 6, 1969, and subsequent issues.) This brouhaha is reminiscent of the scandalous and high-handed pirating in the nineteenth century of English works, creating some feudal-type publishing houses which now have become prestigious enough to be funneled into the bag by the sweeper of the supermergers. It seems, however, that Gale Research Company has kept within bounds, reprinting books that have a fairly high research value and a low friction index. At least its list of reprints contains titles that are relevant to the needs of the historically-minded philologist, or, in our case, onomast.

The value of this reprint series has been recognized in a previous notice of titles by Gale Research. The same statements hold true in regard to the texts before us now. If anything, this set accents the importance, in a most gratifying way, of the work being done to preserve and again make available, as well as procurable, material that can be found in only a few libraries, most of them located at some distance, such as across an ocean and on another continent, from the person who needs it.

The titles surveyed are of unequal value to onomatologists. Although anyone interested in names should be acquainted with or certainly know the existence of all the texts, I believe that at least three groupings should be made, in a descending order of importance. This should not be taken to indicate that the first set of titles are of greater importance as books, only that they pertain to the study of names in a way that the others do not.

The first group consists of those items that are primarily concerned with names, not always, however, with the scholarly rigor and care that we have now come to expect. Several are mere compilations, probably the result of years of collecting, with little else to recommend them, other than that they are in a historical tradition and have kept a public conscious of the importance of the study of names. One such book is Barber's *British Family Names,* a compilation of some 8,000 names, "extracted from directories, newspapers,

voting lists," etc., giving origin and meaning, "with lists of Scandinavian, Frisian, Anglo-Saxon and Norman Names." Popular and useful for genealogists, it went through two editions. Lists of all landholders, tenants, and sub-tenants appearing in the Domesday Book are certainly an important feature. Nevertheless, the text is not reliable, follows Lower, and at present must inevitably suffer in comparison with P. H. Reaney's *A Dictionary of British Surnames.* On the other hand, Barber established a method of classifying and entering, one that later scholars, including Reaney, used. He also listed many names that Reaney, who nowhere mentions Barber's work, does not treat.

Long, in *Personal and Family Names*, subtitled, "A popular monograph on the origin and history of the nomenclature of the present and former times," contributed the idea that the study of names is an important adjunct to interpretations of British history. He further pointed out, "If the literature of Britain were to perish, and only our names remained, very many of the mighty deeds which have made this country what it is might be fairly elaborated therefrom." Going beyond what is required for the genealogist, for whom the book is ostensibly intended, it treats rather succinctly several aspects of the study of names. A more important book is *English Surnames*, by Lower, a study second in the nineteenth century only to Charlotte Yonge's *History of Christian Names* in scholarly worth. Although almost all studies in names were influenced by Lower's work, it probably was utilized more as a source for anecdotes than for insight, since the same rare birds that appear in Lower's show up in book after book. This is an important work to have around for it includes material on names taken from puns, rebuses, oaths, inns, traders' signs, as well as the whimsical and unfortunate names given to foundlings and orphans. The latter anticipates the tendency of interns to give derogatory medical names to children born in hospitals for the indigent.

A different kind of reprint is Meany's *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*, which I believe is the first of the state place-name books. It needs revising, or perhaps a new edition is needed. Members of the American Name Society have been bringing material together on the State of Washington; it is probable, therefore, that a new book is forthcoming. In the meantime, this one will serve, for it is a scholarly work by a historian of note, one who

obtained help from the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and who carefully researched all available maps, charts, diaries, travel books, and other material in order to make the work as authentic as possible. The entries are listed in alphabetical order, some given more space than seems essential. Pruning would have been helpful, although the information given has value for historians and folklorists, as well as onomasts. Anyone who compiles another book on Washington place-names will have to begin with Meany. Peddie's *Place Names in Imprints*, subtitled, "An index to the Latin and other forms used on title pages," is still another kind of text, being the first comprehensive list that includes Latin names, as well as other foreign forms and the modern, "vernacular" form. It is supposed to aid "the inexperienced bibliographer or librarian to identify printers' imprints, especially those 'typified by' early seventeenth-century German printers who were so profusely inventive of Latin forms for the names of small towns." There are approximately 2,050 entries. Each page is printed on one side only so that notes and other entries can be made. For the surviving Latinists, it might be a handy book to have around. Taylor's *Words and Places* was originally published in 1864, a second edition in 1865, and then revised and published again in 1909. An omnibus book, it attempts to cover too much, analyzing national names, continent names and place-names everywhere, as well as names of streets and historical sites. Exceptionally well written, the book deserves a place on any reference shelf. As a transition to the next grouping, I have placed here Clodd's *Magic in Names and in Other Things*, which is not necessarily concerned with proper names, although naming is its reason for being. The author "explores the primitive concept of *mana* and relates it to the evolution of religious beliefs and rituals." He "demonstrates the survival of different forms of magic ritual in post-pagan religious rubrics and in secular forms as well The common factor in all that [is described] is the power of the spoken word, and especially the given name, over the spiritual existence of an entity " The final chapter, "The Name and the Soul," surveys religious beliefs that make name magic an important part of ritual and dogma. This little treatise, hardly more than a monograph, crosses academic boundaries, being important for anthropologists, sociologists, folklorists, religionists, and for those interested in theory of name-giving.

The second group consists of handbook, almanac-type compilations, concordances, and special dictionaries, all of which contain onomastic material. Each book has a reference value, even when the author has arranged his own eccentricities in alphabetical order. Despite this, however, the books serve as media for insight into the Victorian and Georgian scholarly mind. There must be an academic moral hidden somewhere here, probably that the mind that searches for the curious has the necessary intellectual curiosity to move the universe, whether it incites others or merely passes knowledge along. Brewer in *The Reader's Handbook* is the epitome of the "indefatigable compiler and lister" of the named dark corners of the psyche of man. The subtitle, "Famous names in fiction, allusions, references, proverbs, plots, stories, and poems," gives some intimation of the content of the more than one thousand pages of double-columned entries, about 17,000, according to Gale's announcement. It will do for hours with drinks and a blazing-to-dying grate fire. Hargrave's *Origins and Meanings of Popular Phrases and Names* is not so encyclopedic and also has many more common words. With only about 2,400 entries, it quite frankly caters to the author's fancy: "only that which seemed of interest to *him* should be included." Included are the "principal prefixes, suffixes and roots which are component in the names of British places and rivers." Nares, the conservative founder and co-editor of *The British Critic*, compiled, among other works, the *Glossary of Words, Phrases, Names and Allusions*, said to be his most important book. It, too, is a collection of curiosities he found in his wide reading among the writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Before the *Oxford English Dictionary* was published, books like the *Glossary* served a great need. Nares' is one of the better ones, the work of a dedicated scholar.

For the browser among Americana, *Fact, Fancy, and Fable*, with its more than 12,000 entries is a necessity. Primarily a reference book, it can be read for intellectual pleasure in a sort of roulette fashion, one entry out of three or four a hit. Such items as Hot Water War, Dead Rabbit Riots, Caspar Hauser, The Legislature of a Thousand Drinks, Father of Chautauqua County, Ku-Klux-Klan (supposedly destroyed in the 1870's), Konx Ompax, and other nuggets probably cannot be found elsewhere without searching diligently. *Familiar Allusions* by Wheeler is much of the same, but oriented more toward Europe and the East than to America.

Wheeler's *Dictionary of the Noted Names of Fiction* was the first of its kind in English and is still valuable as a handy reference for pre-twentieth century items. It is good to see it in print again.

The third group moves yet in another direction, being texts that are dictionaries, primarily compiled for special purposes but containing a good deal of material of onomatological interest. Whatever one's vocation, if he is interested in names he is also drawn to philology; hence, the books in this group should be a part of the working library of the researcher in names. Burke's *The Literature of Slang*, a bibliography of titles on slang, deserves its place alongside Elsdon Smith's *Bibliography of Personal Names* (also republished by Gale), and the Sealock and Seely *Bibliography of Place Name Literature*. Burke's concept of slang was apparently quite broad, including dialect, occupational jargon, and other material that would not now be considered slang. Perhaps the reprinting of the bibliography will stimulate someone to bring it up to date. Cook's *A Concordance to Beowulf*, a remarkable work by the founder and first president of the Concordance Society, contains all the proper names, in capitals as contrasted with the common words which are not, in the epic. It is based on the text of Wyatt's second edition.

Mackay's *A Dictionary of Lowland Scotch*, Morris' *Austral English*, Pettman's *Africanderisms*, Smart and Crofton's *The Dialect of the English*, and Clapin's *A New Dictionary of Americanisms* contain in varying amounts useful material on names. Each deserves closer examination, but the limited space devoted to them is no indication of the reference value, which, to be modest, is considerable. Clapin's *Americanisms*, for instance, lists nicknames of persons, states, countries, cities, and places, as well as collectives, societies, and organizations. Sayings, such as "raise one's Ebenezer," "go to Halifax," and "all quiet on the Potomac," are scattered throughout the entries. Reprints from English and American periodicals on Americanisms, English speech, and slang by such writers as Edward Eggleston, Brander Matthews, and others, appear in an appendix. Davies' *A Supplementary English Glossary* adds to the material found in Nares and in *A Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words* by James Orchard Halliwell-Phillips. Again, only by an exertion of restraint and lack of space can I avoid quoting and listing from this text. Such entries as "a Canterbury Tale," "Christed," "Christentee," "Hobson," "Saint Lawrence tears," "Lombard-

Street-to-a-China-Orange," and dozens of others, enrich the text and add to its value as a reference work. Almost all items are documented.

For the folklorist, Wright's *Rustic Speech and Folklore* is a welcome addition to books now back in print. In fact, it may serve as a corrective to the Neanderthal folklorist who believes that he is the first to discover the foibles and cantankerousness or the beauty of the folk. It is good perhaps to have umbilical cords to the past, even if occasionally the past has to be rewritten to account for a minority group that has been scanted or misrepresented. The author is one of the first to note that language follows "rules" of pronunciation and syntax, whether the language is spoken by peasants or aristocrats. She says that everyone "unconsciously learns and obeys such unwritten regulations." It abounds in names, such as references to the devil in plant names, birds, feats, and places; the names of pixies and fairies; the evil eye; the names given to pets (birds and animals); and sayings. Although a part of Gale's Slang Series, it has more to do with dialect and folklore, little if any to do with slang. Hall's *A Collection of College Words and Customs* contains many detailed descriptions of terms applying to college life in the late nineteenth century. No Ph.D. appears, but Pandowdy Band, Harry Sophs, Harvard Washington Corps, Tads, and others do. In this age of demonstrators and occupiers, it is well to note that among the prohibitions at Harvard, 1734–5, appears this: "No Freshman shall mingo against the College wall, nor go into the Fellows cus john [Cousin John, *i.e.* a privy]."

It is difficult to assess the value of the Gale Research Reprints. That they are important and necessary is obvious, moreso at a time when there is a definite need to look to the past for direction and for information that computers have not always been programmed for. As I have said before, I can only recommend these reprints enthusiastically and hope that Gale Research will continue to reprint reference books. A pattern, a sensible one, seems to be developing in the selection of books for reprinting. As long as the economics of the operation make the reproduction of out-of-print books such as these feasible, we can only give our moral support to the undertaking.

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What is in a Name? By Farhang Zabeeh. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1968. Pp. vii, 78. Guilders 10.

First, this monograph represents a serious attempt by Professor Zabeeh to define "proper name" within the context of the "semantico-grammatical theories" developed by logicians and linguists.[1] Second, the author surveys critically the theories of proper names offered by prominent philosophers from Plato to Chomsky, leaving out some important ones along the way.

The history of onomastic theory is sometimes depressing and most confused, with admixtures of logic, semantics, and assumptions by stubborn minds, replete with much philosophic litter. Zabeeh makes the point clear by noting that logicians and linguists are often ignorant of the work each has done, or even ignorant of the work being done within each discipline. There are also cases of just plain ignoring the work of others. Zabeeh himself sins in omission too, for he fails to mention the recent investigations of either Pulgram or Utley,[2] which would have facilitated his own work, since they covered much of the theoretical background, although slanted somewhat toward the linguistic area.

The author summarizes succinctly the theories of the proper name made by Mill, Frege, and Russell. Russell, who concluded that proper names are logically works like "this" or "that," has not fared well with the linguists, such as Sørensen, Ayer, Gardiner, and Noam Chomsky, the latter being referred to as "captious" for his refutation of Russell. Chomsky says, in his rejection, "There is no logical necessity for names or other 'object words' to meet any condition of spatiotemporal contiguity or to have other Gestalt qualities . . ."[3] He does, however, admit that Russell "is stating what, is no doubt, a psychological truth," but not a logically necessary one, a statement which Zabeeh does not quote in his rather off-handed and ingenuous dismissal of Chomsky, who, admittedly, is not much concerned with proper names. I would say that in general the logicians concern themselves with the truth-value propositions in which proper names, as particulars, appear and can be used as

[1] P. 7.

[2] Ernst Pulgram, *Theory of Names* (Berkeley: American Name Society, 1954); Francis L. Utley, "The Linguistic Component of Onomastics," *Names*, XI (1963), 145–176.

[3] *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* (Cambridge: The M. I. T. Press, 1965), p. 201.

variables. It is a harsh judgment, but these theorists seem not to have progressed beyond the naive and muddled statements found in Plato's *Cratylus*, the genesis of most linguistic misconceptions held by both practicing and academic philosophers, among whom can be classed a goodly number of logicians.

Wittgenstein, Ziff, Strawson, Quine, Kneale, Searle, and others have contributed to the theory of proper names. In particular, Paul Ziff[4] tried to find semantic regularity in proper names and concluded that there may be some, as can be recognized in the connotation of conventional masculine or feminine names, among others. On the other hand, he also says, "There is nothing in a proper name. It has an information content but even so, it is all sound and if sound is changed the name is changed."[5]

The linguists and grammarians whom Zabeeh summarizes and discusses are Sir Alan H. Gardiner, H. S. Sørensen and Otto Jespersen. Gardiner a follower of F. de Saussure, has been effectively provocative among onomastic theorists. Pulgram and Utley devote a substantial amount of space to him, as does Zabeeh. Gardiner does not please any of them, mostly because, somewhat like Ziff later, he defines a proper name as a word, or group or words, that achieves identification by means of "distinctive sound alone."[6] He further states, "Proper names are identificatory marks recognizable not by the intellect, but by the sense."[7]

In a chapter entitled "A Constructive Move," Zabeeh, after calling attention to the "too-simple" theories advanced by logicians, linguists, and grammarians, supports a multiple, and I believe sensible, classificatory method of defining proper names, using categories, or classes, of proper names, place-names, time names, institution names, and artifact names, with appropriate subcategories in each class. He provides the list, with excellent examples, to "show that even a simple list of PNs is enough to vitiate the simple-minded definitions which we find in dictionaries, grammars, logical treatises and even the works of linguists."[8]

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[4] *Semantic Analysis* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1960), pp. 21, 85–89, 93–105, 173–176.

[5] Ziff, p. 175.

[6] *The Theory of Proper Names: A Controversial Essay* (London: Oxford University Press, 1954), p. 37.

[7] *Ibid.*, p. 75. For commentary on Gardiner, see Zabeeh, 38–43; Pulgram, 46–7; Utley, 151–2.

[8] Zabeeh, p. 54

His next move is a positive one, a look at pragmatics, "an inquiry into the relations between expressions and the users of expressions"[9] which, he feels, should precede the semantic and syntactic dimensions. In this not altogether psychological approach, he makes relevant the user of the expression – here, a proper name –, not the object of the expression, the person or thing labelled. Also, we can distinguish between the proper name and definite descriptions, since, following Wittgenstein, "naming is not describing but only a preparation for description."[10] The proper name, of course, may be used as a description, but it may also become a common name if this is done in a more universal way: *Quisling* becomes *quisling*; *Coca Cola* becomes *Coke* (the capital in American English is legally but illogically protected); *Xerox* becomes *Xerox*, "any paper reproduced by the special process created by the Xerox Corporation," or "to reproduce by using the process" (its capital letter in English is also legally protected); etc. The fact that there is a legal injunction cannot circumvent transformation from a proper name to a common one. It can only command, under enforcement of penalty, retention of the graphic magic of an upper case letter.

Professor Zabeeh does not conclude with a formal pronouncement of "what a proper name is," but he gives in a sense an analytical definition, in which he follows the traditional structure of the definiendum and the definiens by stating equivalencies, applicable cases, essential characteristics, nature of the definiendum, avoidance of word-substitution, and accentuation of the positive. His summary is excellent, pointing out that one must always distinguish the meaning, or salient features; the bearer of the name, "which can exist on various ontological domains"; the uniqueness of the bearer; the connotations; and even the protean functions of the name.

One maddening task of a reviewer who has learned much from a text is to point out its shortcomings. One has been referred to above: the author failed to consider some major contemporary investigations in the theory and definition of proper names. Another is the rather condescending manner in which he dismisses the theories of others. And last, the printing and editing are the most atrocious and exacerbating I have ever seen in a serious study.

[9] *Idem.* [10] *Ibid.*, p. 58.

Misprints, the gremlins that haunt all editors, infuriate the purists, but in this instance it would seem that only careful premeditation on the part of both author and printer could have left in a text so many graphic clinkers. A non-English speaking printer can mutilate an English manuscript. Here we find changes in various combinations, occasionally several switches on a page, such as *Chomsky* to *Chomskey*, *Jespersen* to *Jesperson*, *sondry* to *syndry*, *answer* to *andwer*, and many, many more, with probably an average of at least one per page. Misprints aside, there can hardly be an excuse for the author to misquote repeatedly. A rather close check of selected quotations revealed, sad to say, that most of them were garbled, with important words, phrases, even sentences omitted. I can conclude only that the author had no opportunity to proofread and check the galleys before the book was printed. The rancid butter atop the already burnt toast is the lack of a bibliography and the inaccurate and inept index.

Nevertheless, the monograph deserves close consideration. The printing problems should not detract from this new and stimulating approach to the definition of proper names. Anyone who now comes to grips with the theory of proper names must contend with the insights, and sometimes brilliant deductions, of Professor Zabeeh's study.

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Virginia Place Names: Derivations, Historical Uses. By Raus McDill Hanson. Verona, Va.: McClure Press, [c. 1969]. Pp. ix, 253. Price $5.95.

Prepared by an emeritus professor of geography of Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, this book is the first devoted to place-names in Virginia; and, therefore, it deserves a close examination even though it appears intended for the general rather than the specialized reader.

It is a large handsome volume designed and organized for easy, comfortable use. It measures approximately 7″ by 11″ and is bound

in red simulated leather with gold lettering. It begins with a brief preface stating the author's purpose, and this is followed by a section entitled "Explanations" in which the author describes his methods for gathering information. The body of the book begins with a section headed "Larger Areas," which deals with names of streams, mountains, parks, and the like that extend beyond the bounds of a single county. Then come the counties in alphabetical order with entries for each county also arranged alphabetically. Following is a series of sections devoted to the names in Virginia's eight largest independent cities; and finally there is an indispensable index of the main entries, but it is too bad that the names mentioned within entries are not also included.

In order to limit his materials, Professor Hanson devised a set of standards and procedures based upon a certain logic. The National Zip Code Directory of 1965 lists nearly 1,350 post offices and substations in Virginia, and their names form the substance of the book. To these are added the names of the 96 counties, the names of about 75 mountains 4,000 feet or higher, and about 500 more names of streams and land features and "other significant names" to make a total of about 2,000 in all.

After consulting what appears to be a minimum of printed materials, Hanson followed a complicated and time-consuming scheme for corresponding with selected people throughout the state. He wrote to superintendents of schools, university extension agents, secretaries of Chambers of Commerce, librarians, and postmasters. Furthermore, he asked for names of other local residents who might be able to supply place-name information that they could not; and from all these correspondents he obtained almost all the material in his book that pertains to place-names.

Thus he put together the book that he says in his preface "should be a reference for information as well as entertainment" (p. iv) and of which the jacket description says, "Libraries – elementary, secondary as well as individual home – will all find this an excellent addition to their reference section." But, unfortunately, the book does not come up to these recommendations.

At the outset it must be recognized that Professor Hanson is working outside his specialty when he works with place-names. He seems to be familiar with neither the techniques of onomastics nor the work accomplished in that field. The greatest disappointment,

however, comes from the book's being simply a job not done fully enough and in specific enough detail to make it as useful and reliable as it should be.

Without criticism or question, Hanson evidently accepted whatever his correspondents gave him. He does not seem to have realized that his informants are amateurs in onomastics whose word cannot be taken without examination; and he sets forth their reports all in the same straight-forward, serious style as if every statement were of equal importance and reliability with every other statement. In a similar way, he relied uncritically upon a miscellaneous set of printed materials. The list headed "Titles of Reference used for Derivations" (pp. 232–235) is an incomplete and unsatisfactory substitute for a bibliography.

As a result, this book reports without qualification such notes as that Rugby is "Named for rugged mountain scenery" (p. 97) and that Zuni is a name "from [a] Scott novel" (p. 112). There also are too many facetious accounts reported seriously and without comment. We read, for example, that "Mangohick" comes from this source: "A drunken man had hiccoughs. Indian said, 'Man-go-hick'" (p. 118); and Dam Neck got its name because people said that the beach horses of the nearby life-saving station would break their "dam necks" in the soft sand (p. 230).

According to Hanson's informants, Ottoman is from Corotoman, which the Post Office Department cut to Ottoman (p. 121); and Big Glades was so called "because of *gladly* (Archaic word for attractive) open view as a person looked up Glady Creek [sic]" (p. 215). Dogue Creek, we are told, is named for the Indian tribe of Dogues. The explanation continues, "Tribe had an evil reputation; name survives as 'dawg' in 'mean as a dawg'" (p. 77). And this is said in spite of the prevailing pronunciation of the name of the creek today being [dog].

Hanson sometimes makes statements difficult to comprehend. For instance, he says of Glen Wilton, "Named by out-of-state iron workers where a furnace was established" (p. 47). Of Charlotte Court House he writes that in 1836 it was called Maryville "in honor of Colonel Clement Read" (p. 61). With no further comment, he gives as one explanation of the naming of Dixie, "A Miss Wood driving from Chatham to Bremo stopped at Dixie and learned of her uncle's death." (p. 84).

Virginia Place Names should have been much more carefully proofread so that we would see Poropotank instead of "Propotank" (pp. 14 and 249), Carmel Church instead of "Caramel" (p. 57), Wyllie and Wylliesburg instead of "Wylie" and "Wyliesburg" (pp. 62 and 253), and Cocke instead of "Cooke" (p. 84).

Elsewhere things are awkwardly moved around in time and space. John A. Esser is said to have established a coke company in Wise County in 1623 (p. 214), which is close to a hundred years before the first explorers entered that region. Breamore is said to be in Wiltshire (p. 84) instead of Hampshire, England; and Denbigh is identified as a non-existent town in Warwickshire, England (p. 223), instead of as a county and its chief town in Wales. Neabsco Creek (written "Nebasco" on pp. 79, 167, and 247) is incorrectly placed in Fairfax County on p. 79, but correctly placed in Prince William County on p. 167. Riven Rocks is northeast of Monterey, not northwest (p. 110).

Other kinds of errors also show up here and there. Lincoln, which was named for General Benjamin Lincoln (1733–1810) of the Revolutionary War, is said to have been named from Abraham Lincoln in April, 1861 (p. 125), which is the very month during which Fort Sumter was fired upon and the Virginia General Assembly completed its action calling for secession. It is also unlikely that Grant in Grayson County was named for General Ulysses S. Grant (p. 97). Langley Air Force Base is called the "Home of NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics)" (p. 222). Actually, NACA was succeeded by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) on October 1, 1958; and in 1961 spaceflight activities were moved to the Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas, leaving NASA's research activities at Langley.

Aside from such errors as those pointed out above, Hanson's book is disappointing in its failure to give sufficient information about many place-names. The style of reporting is so stark and telegraphic that only one already in the know can catch the significance of some statements about derivations. No consistent effort has been made to date the naming of places, and pronunciation is indicated in perhaps only a dozen instances. Too many places are dismissed with such tags as "named for a local family," "named for an early settler," and "named by the P. O. Dept."; while no attempt is made to say anything at all about a large number of the

names of places. Altogether too much information better suited for a gazetteer is included.

As examples of insufficient explanation we need look at only three: Grundy, we are told, is said to have been named for a "senator from Texas at the time Buchanan County was formed" (p. 51); but we are left wondering why a senator from Texas should be so honored in Southwest Virginia. Of Averett College we read that it was so named "in 1917 in affectionate recognition of two men" (p. 158), but we are not told their names or why they should have been so affectionately recognized. "Old Dominion" is presented as the name of the college (now of university status) in Norfolk and carries only the statement that it is "a name dating to colonial years in Virginia" (p. 225). No mention is made that it is also the nickname of the state and that it is said to come from Charles II, who in his exile was touched by Virginia's loyalty and "acknowledged a gift of a silk purse from 'our auntient Colonie of Virginia'." Elsewhere in seventeenth-century British records Virginia is frequently referred to as a dominion.[1]

These, then, are examples of the kinds of shortcomings in this book, which is the beginning of an undertaking that would be invaluable had the work on it been carried to its logical conclusion.

In spite of what has been said above, however, *Virginia Place Names* contains much that the discriminating reader will recognize as accurate, complete, and useful. It is good to see the name Chippoak (commonly written today as Chippokes) associated with the Indian of that name (p. 200) and not with an oak tree. Even though it is not yet certainly known that Newport News was named for Captain Christopher Newport and Sir William Newce (p. 223), at least the tale of the name's arising from good news brought to the starving colonists is not dragged in. Above all, it is with the greatest gratitude to Hanson's correspondents that we find so many details of local lore preserved here, details that might otherwise soon become totally lost.

We read about many places named for people whose names are given and whose particular distinctions are pointed out. We are glad to know that Foxwells was named for Miss Susie E. Foxwell when she became postmistress, February 4, 1919 (p. 120), and that Reva was named for the daughter of Walter Burgess, who was

[1] *A Hornbook of Virginia History* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1965), p. 1.

"instrumental in getting post office established" (p. 68). We are equally pleased to learn that Coeburn was named for the chief engineer of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, W. W. Coe, and Judge W. E. Burns of Lebanon, Va. (p. 214). Singers Glen, we are told, takes its name from Joseph Funk, "father of song in Northern Virginia." There he taught singing in the early part of the nineteenth century, thereby giving the name to the place that formerly had been called simply Mountain Valley (p. 184). Above all, it is good to find such a homely bit as that Gore was named for the Gore family, but "probably more in honor of Mrs. S. S. Gore, active churchwoman and unusual neighbor" (p. 88).

We delight in certain kinds of trivia. We want to know that Oilville is the site of a late nineteenth-century sassafrass-oil press (p. 96); that Goldbond was named for a line of products manufactured there by the National Gypsum Company (p. 90); that Ben Hur was a named for Lew Wallace's novel by a friend of the author (p. 122); and that a Mrs. Dickey brought the name of her former home, Cohassett, Massachusetts, to Fluvanna County when she came there to live (p. 84). We are amused to find that a storekeeper in King and Queen County was so hard pressed for a name for the post office he was to operate that he suggested Cologne when he spied bottles of Hoyt's cologne on his shelves (p. 115). Index, we are told, got its name when its first postmaster looked through a book for a name and saw the word *index* at the top of a page (p. 117). And there are many, many more pieces equally entertaining and informative that help to make *Virginia Place Names* an interesting and valuable book in spite of its imperfections.

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U. S. Bureau of the Census List of Spanish Surnames, rev. as of Oct. 20, 1967. By William E. Morton, M.D. Portland: University of Oregon Medical School, 1968. Pp. iii, 96. Mimeographed. No price listed.

Dr. Morton has revised previous census lists of Spanish surnames to bring together a total of some 18,980 names. In making the

compilation, he has relied on the Maduell lists previously reported in *Names*, as well as on several other references besides the census rolls. He notes that a "significant number of surnames are common to two or more languages," especially Portuguese.

In his introduction, Dr. Morton points out that Hispanos constitute a minority ethnic group "of considerable size and importance in the southwestern United States" and that the list is intended to be used in the "documentation of social disparities, so the public may know they exist." The list, of course, is a mine of information for those interested in the study and dissemination of Spanish surnames. Dr. Morton deserves our thanks for making the material available.

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The North Carolina Gazetteer. By William S. Powell. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968. Price $12.50.

So great is the need for volumes on American place-names that one is inclined to approach a new work with smiles of welcome. This was certainly my feeling upon opening the handsome blue-and-gold covers of *The North Carolina Gazetteer*, but, as is the case with any new acquaintance, the work must speak for itself.

Its author, William S. Powell, states in his preface that as "a member of the Archives staff [of the State Department of History] and later at the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill," various inquiries about places and people gradually led him to realize that he had a work on place-names developing in his files. Out of it grew the present work, an alphabetical compilation of topographical and cultural features of North Carolina containing some 20,000 entries. So far, so good, but much of the introduction reads like an apology: the reasons become apparent as one checks through the volume.

Before one examines *The North Carolina Gazetteer* with a critical eye, he needs to remind himself that, among workers in onomastics, many questions remain to be settled: What information about a place-name should be given? Should linguistic analysis be included?

How far should historical analysis of persons associated with places be delved into? What kind of information relative to place-name locatives should be included? Above all, for whom is the work designed? Mr. Powell covers himself nicely on some of these points, but too frequently not quite well enough to be acceptable in entirety.

The author explains in the preface that he has not attempted to follow a definite format in presenting information. This is his prerogative, but for a geographer it may prove confusing, for in some cases altitudes occur near or at the beginning of an entry, and in others at the end, and in still others, not at all. Altitudes are, of course, available at the present day. This is a minor matter, perhaps. Linguistic analysis is a different question. Granted that this work is designed for use normally by citizens of North Carolina, surely many others will turn to it for information. If they look for linguistics, they will look in vain, despite the presence of many Indian names (of persons as well as of places). How did Cuckolds Creek become Cucklers Creek, one wonders. Further, pronunciations are absent, a fact which will frustrate one who must use a North Carolina place-name which a native would recognize as being pronounced in an entirely different fashion. (Radio and TV stations are often criticized for such errors.)

As for historical analysis, here the slip cover prepares the out-of-state reader. Who is expected to find the work useful? – students-historians, geographers, journalists, genealogists. The last category does not quite prepare us for an entry in the index referring to "Allen, Nathaniel, 493." On p. 493 some searching uncovers the fact that under the entry *Thurman* is a notation that the place was settled by Allen G. Thurman. A genealogist will perk up at the further information that his mother "was the daughter of Nathaniel Allen, nephew and adopted son of Joseph Hewes of Edenton" – none of whom had anything whatever to do with the place under which the information is given.

Some description might have helped the reader to a quick comprehension of a name such as Dillon Ridge. It "extends ne" (i.e., northeast, apparently, which is appropriate), but it "supports a school and a few houses in the middle of swamplands" – quite a feat for a ridge of land. A little more careful writing might have helped here.

As for the matter of locatives, citing the county name helps, but it is not really enough. For instance, Mason Knob has the following information and nothing more: "n Cherokee County." How would *you* like to set out to find that one? Once more the information is generally available on maps, though difficult to abstract. Cognates in terms of latitude and longitude are specific and would be useful to native and stranger alike.

Historians may find themselves frustrated by Mr. Powell's refusal to include post offices if they existed "merely for the purpose of delivering mail," such as in a private home which served a district, on the grounds that when the postal clerk died or resigned, the post office ceased to exist. This is perhaps true, but during the life of the post office it is probable that the place served not only as a post office but as a general meeting place where disputes arose, were settled, referred elsewhere, or led to fightin' and feudin'. In short, living history can often be found in areas where such small postal offices led their short lives. It does not do to say "list of post offices will be found in postal directories." Digging them out is frequently a time-consuming and sometimes an impossible task.

Mr. Powell notes that he has referred most frequently to a total of 12 maps and to a handful of books. There is no bibliography, no annotations to let the reader know where the information on individual entries was garnered. On the other hand, one can say this: *The North Carolina Gazetteer* does assemble names of places into a single work. Perhaps some scholar will take it from there.

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