

## Book Reviews

*Cercetări de Lingvistică* XIII 2 (July-Dec. 1968)

This number of the regular linguistics journal of Cluj has a particular interest for students of onomastics and deserves special note. Besides articles on dialectology (on labialized final consonants, on Czech dialects in the Banat, on certain lexical items in Moldavia), on stylistics and the language of certain authors, on etymology, on forms of the infinitive, on the problem of the prehistoric language of Dacia, on the encyclopaedic nineteenth century philologist Aron Pumnul, and on other matters – in short, on the wide range we have come to expect from our Romanian colleagues – the number carries no fewer than seven contributions to toponymic study. We take brief note of them here by way of calling attention to this rich and continuing genre of Romanian scholarship.

Two of the items are reviews: one reviewing a set of articles by the distinguished Swedish scholar Knut-Olof Falk in *Språkliga Bidrag*, vol. 5, number 22 (Lund 1966) on Polonized forms of names of Lithuanian origin in the Suwalki region; another commenting on a volume of articles (*Mikrotoponimija*, Moscow 1967) concerned with the characteristics of names of small geographic objects.

M. Homorodean (355–9) adds to the current debate on the problem of constructing a Romanian dictionary of toponyms.

Ioan and Malvina Pătruș continue in a second installment (201–9) their study of Banat place-names in *-ești*, with rich documentation from older sources. It seems that the number of such forms has diminished over the past several centuries; the older attestations therefore rescue important information for us.

Ileana Neiescu and Aurelia Stan write (211–17) on given names of the region near the Iron Gates, where a hydroelectric reservoir will soon flood the area. V. Ardeleanu makes an excellent contribution to the growing literature on family names by studying (219–26) the attestation for peasant surnames in the Banat in the sixteenth century, long before the imperial imposition of family names in Romanian territory.

But surely the most notable item in this issue is the fine article (193–9) by the late distinguished dialectologist, Slavist and onomastic scholar Emil Petrovici, who died tragically in a train collision in 1968 while still actively pursuing broad scholarship in his emeritus years. This article, surely one of his very last (dated June 1968) treats in characteristically elegant fashion Romanian toponyms in *-știța* (for which we find *-șnița* in the Banat as early as 1376)<sup>1</sup>, which he shows are derived from Slavic *-isk-ica*, at bottom an old river-name suffix. Apart from settling various matters on the history of these interesting names and their distribution (together with Slavic anthroponyms) in the Balkans together with southwest Romania, Petrovici points out in an important footnote (number 8, p. 194) that Romanian is to be added to the area (Bulgarian, Macedonian, and half of Serbo-Croatian) that shows the palatalization of the cluster *sk* to *št*, an areal phenomenon first clarified by Petar Skok, *Dacoromania* 9 (1936–38) 216. That this phonetic phenomenon is found in adjacent areas is important and striking; it is however also a natural phonetic happening, as is shown by its independent and different growth and divergent result in Lithuanian (see my discussion, *Baltistica* 3, 1967, 7–11).

When we note the memorial cartouche around Petrovici's name as Editor in Chief of *Cercetări de Lingvistică* on the cover of this issue we feel all the more his loss and the sadness of being reminded that we shall read no more of his learned, imaginative and meticulous writings. Yet when we reflect on the broad vistas of phonology and areal linguistics that he has given us through his painstaking attention to the details of names and their geographic distributions we may well feel grateful to a fine scholar and a warm and urbane gentleman.

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<sup>1</sup> Similar forms apparently occur in Serbo-Croatian territory in the thirteenth century, and in Bulgarian in the fifteenth, according to Duridanov.

GALE RESEARCH COMPANY  
REPRINTS IN ONOMASTICS: III

This survey of books reprinted from Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit Michigan 48226, is the third in the series of articles giving prominent notice to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and pertinent bibliographical material are given below.

- Baring-Gould, Sabine. *Family Names and Their Story*. London: Seeley & Co., 1910. Pp. 432. Reprinted, 1969. \$8.00.
- Bent, Samuel Arthur. *Familiar Short Sayings of Great Men*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1887. Pp. 665. Reprinted, 1969. \$13.50.
- Charnock, Richard Stephen. *Ludus Patronymicus; or the Etymology of Curious Surnames*. London: Trubner & Co., 1868. Pp. 166. Reprinted, 1968. \$9.50.
- Cordasco, Francesco. *A Register of 18th Century Bibliographies and References*. Chicago: V. Giorgio, 1950. Pp. 74. Reprinted, 1968. \$7.50.
- Efvergren, Carl. *Names of Places in a Transferred Sense in English*. Lund: Hakan Ohlsson, 1909. Pp. 123. Reprinted, 1968. \$8.75.
- Espenshade, A. Howry. *Pennsylvania Place Names*. State College, Pa.: The Pennsylvania State College, 1925. Pp. 375. Reprinted, 1969. \$14.50.
- Ewen, C. L'Estrange. *A Guide to the Origin of British Surnames*. London: John Gifford Limited, 1938. Pp. 206. Reprinted, 1969. \$8.00.
- . *A History of Surnames of the British Isles*. London: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd., 1931. Pp. 508. Reprinted, 1968. \$14.50.
- Fraser, Edward, and John Gibbons, compilers. *Soldier and Sailor Words and Phrases*. London: George Routledge & Sons, 1925. Pp. 372. Reprinted, 1969. \$14.50.
- Gomme, George Laurence, editor. *Dialect, Proverbs, and Word Lore* (Vol. II of *The Gentleman's Magazine Library*). London: Elliot Stock, 1886. Pp. 352. Reprinted, 1968. \$12.50.
- . *Ethnology in Folklore*. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1892. Pp. 200. Reprinted, 1969. \$7.80.

- Hazlitt, William Carew. *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases*. London: Reeves & Turner, 1907. Pp. 580. Reprinted, 1969. \$16.50.
- Hope, Robert Charles. *A Glossary of Dialectal Place-Nomenclature*. 2d ed. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., 1883. Pp. 148. Reprinted, 1968. \$8.50.
- Jacobi, Charles Thomas. *The Printers' Vocabulary*. London: The Chiswick Press, 1888. Pp. 164. Reprinted, 1969. \$6.50.
- Kelly, Walter K. *Curiosities of Indo-European Tradition and Folk-Lore*. London: Chapman & Hall, 1863. Pp. 308. Reprinted, 1969. \$12.50.
- Knox, Alexander. *Glossary of Geographical and Topographical Terms and Words of Frequent Occurrence in the Composition of Such Terms and of Place-Names*. London: Edward Stanford, 1904. Pp. 432. Reprinted, 1968. \$11.50.
- Leland, Charles G. *The English Gipsies and Their Language*. London: Trubner & Co., 1874. Pp. 259. Reprinted, 1969. \$12.00.
- Lurie, Charles N. *Everyday Sayings: Their Meanings Explained, Their Origin Given*. New York: G. P. Putnam Sons, 1928. Pp. 360. Reprinted, 1968. \$12.50.
- Phillimore, W. P. W. *An Index to Changes of Name, 1760 to 1901*. London: Phillimore & Co., 1905. Pp. 357. Reprinted, 1969. \$10.50.
- Rogers, Walter T. *Dictionary of Abbreviations*. London: George Allen & Co., 1913. Pp. 205. Reprinted, 1969. \$9.50.
- Swan, Helena. *Girls' Christian Names: Their History, Meaning and Association*. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1900. Pp. 516. Reprinted, 1969. \$13.50.
- von Mauntz, Alfred. *Heraldik in Diensten der Shakespeare-Forschung*. Berlin: Mayer & Miller, 1903. Reprinted, 1969. \$12.50.

The Gale Research Company has continued to reprint major historical works in onomastics and related areas. The group noted here has some outstanding items, all of which are out of print and extremely difficult to obtain. As usual, some are more important than others, and some have only tangential value for the study of names. Each book, however, has its particular place in philological studies, and should be accepted as such, despite our sometimes prissy attitude toward reprints that we do not always appreciate.

Arbitrarily, I will comment rather cursorily in what I consider a descending order of importance to name study, eschewing a critique in depth, since most of the works have in one way or another been superseded.

The first group consists of books pertaining to names only. The most appropriate, as well as the most carefully researched, is Ewen's *A History of Surnames of the British Isles*, still the major work before Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames* and *Origin of English Surnames*. Published originally in 1931, it gives an account of the chronological history of the surnames of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the etymology of approximately 10,000 names. Ewen was a researcher of great acumen, one who took advantage of the developing rigorous scientific method in scholarly study, eliminating the widely romantic and intuitive elucidation that so long has plagued onomatology. The book is still a model for future scholars to follow. Ewen's *Guide*, published in 1938, repeats much of the material in *A History*, but with a more practical thesis. He suggests that names be studied in schools, since they cross disciplines and furnish a greater comprehension of history, language, geography, and sociology; in other words, the study of names is just about as relevant as relevance. The chapter on sources and literature can hardly be surpassed.

Baring-Gould was a precursor of Ewen and no doubt influenced him by furnishing a historical framework in which to interpret names and to show their sociological germaneness. Furthermore, the author attempted to evaluate the work of earlier onomasts, such as Lower, Taylor, Bardsley, and Barker, and, as so often happens when we try to show up others, exhibits his own prejudices. Still, it was one of the more ingenious and readable of all books on names, both personal and place. His scholarship is not easily refuted; and if it is, the gadfly had better be careful of the cracking of the tail. This is a solid work.

*Ludus Patronymicus* is a curiosity among books on names, this time a foray into curious (pun intended) names, a field that attracts many, and repels some. Charnock dedicates the book to Mark Antony Lower, one of the great students in the field. It is doubtful that Lower would have appreciated this text, however, for its reason of being is to compile a list of oddities for those of us addicted to "funny" names. *Harder* is not listed, but *Hankpenny* is close by.

Names that would now be obscene are missing, not unsurprisingly. Approximately 4,000 strange names are indexed.

Helena Swan made no pretense to original research in *Girls' Christian Names*, which Gale has reissued in a much more attractive format than was the small pocketbook, red-covered original. Now in a standard-sized library form, it seems to acquire an aura not necessarily belonging to it. Approximately 1,000 names ordinarily given to Christian girls are noted with rather full informational background included, much of it anecdotal and legendary. For parents concerned about names, this text is useful, but it goes far beyond the ordinary what-to-name-the-baby-female syndrome.

Among the books under notice here, *An Index to Changes of Name* is a sleeper. Probably unattractive to the buyers in the commercial trade, it is a researcher's gold mine, paying nothing except satisfaction, a dividend in the understanding of why persons are unhappy with the name their parents, or the dictates of society, gave them. The *Index* covers all changes under "authority of Act of Parliament or Royal License and including Irregular Changes from 1 George III to 64 Victoria, 1760 to 1901," including some of the laws of changes of names. A close study of this book will cause some of us to revise our massloristic (or folkloristic) assumptions about why changes are desired. This one deserves a more extensive commentary than space warrants here.

The next category, no less important, includes those texts primarily concerned with place-names. For those involved in the place-name survey of the United States, *Pennsylvania Place Names* holds the most interest. It is a scholarly text, one of the first state name commentaries, although not a gazetteer as we now desire. The running treatise is an outline of Pennsylvania names, indicating the principal sources, pretty much the same as most good state place-name studies note, such as Indian place-names (here "aboriginal"), names borrowed from the old world, commemoratives, and invented names. A worthwhile study, it surely will be used in the survey.

Efvergren wrote the first full-length study of names transferred from "proper" names to "common" nouns. Many names have become everyday words, sometimes furnishing material for lexicographical vocabulary. Much of this has been more or less ignored, relegated to the uncollected cistern of metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche, where it resides as the leftovers of literary criticism.

Some would probably damn this book to the semantic area of nonsense, but a second or a sensible examination might stimulate someone to bring it up to date, or make a new study altogether, surely a deserving one.

Hope's *Dialectal Place-Nomenclature* is a valuable little addendum to the jolly instructor who has at his command the spelling of a name, say, *Ravenhill*, and its local pronunciation, *Raffel*. It is a game played with superiority and a knowingness not always appreciated or apropos. All are listed here for the jack-of-all-pronunciations. *Cholmondeley* has been the one most often cited: *Chomley*. But have you ever pulled *Niagara* on an unsuspecting Englishman? Anyway, the compilation here needs to be examined and reported on by a good phonetician.

The *Glossary of Geographical and Topographical Terms* has value beyond purely place-name work. It brings together many extra-European terms on toponymics. In some ways it is a corrective to the insular attitude of western geographers who have superimposed their Roman alphabet on other writing systems. Geography is the same, however, wherever it is used. Other books have superseded this one, notably Stamp's *A Glossary of Geographical Terms*.

The next category does not have as much material pertaining to names as do the volumes noted above. Nevertheless, sections contribute to onomastics, and, as always with such texts, material of importance is scattered throughout. The fact that these volumes are not devoted *per se* to names does not preclude their importance as reprints for other disciplines. The one of most interest to us is Gomme's edition of *Dialect, Proverbs, and Word-Lore*, from *The Gentleman's Magazine Library*. About half of this book is devoted to names, including what Gomme calls corrupted names, such as the patronymics *Price* from *ap Rice*, *Pritchard* from *ap Richard*, *Seimple* and *Sampol* (both from *St. Paul*), and others of like ilk, all easily explained by linguistic changes. Gomme has edited a hundred or so such names out of the *Magazine*. Excerpted are such sections as "Observations on Surnames," appearing from 1792 to 1823; "Christian Names," "Ancient Surnames," "Surnames terminating in -cook," "New Names to Old Streets," "Resemblance of the Names of British Rivers," "Remarks on Signs of Inns," "Ancient House Signs," and "Old Signs in Norwich." A rich, compact work, it has a place in the history of onomatology.

Alfred von Mauntz contributed extensively to Shakespearean scholarship with his close research on Shakespeare's family name, variant spellings (all listed that he could find), and other arcane material concerning genealogy and heraldry. A strange book, this, but valuable in the context of Shakespearean studies.

Available as a part of Gale's slang series, *Soldier and Sailor Words and Phrases* contains nicknames of British military units during and before World War I, as well as numerous names that have become a part of expressions used during the times. For instance, *Asiatic Annie* represented "a Turkish heavy gun at the Dardanelles," *Wilkie cards* for "a pack of cards," and *Rat Catcher Churchill* as a German term of abuse for Winston Churchill. There are hundreds of these.

In the same category should be placed *Everyday Sayings*, which has many onomastic items, beginning with *Aaron's Rod*, the first entry, *Abigail*, *Abraham's Bosom*, *Tommy Atkins*, etc. The entries are not especially original, but serve as a handy reference. facetiously, I hope, the news announcement accompanying the book says that it will be recognized by "the kind of people who like to try *Saturday Review* quizzes and work the *Sunday Times* crossword" puzzles. We all have our addictions! *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases* also has many references to names, but the researcher will have to grapple, despite the excellent index. Fortunately, when a proper name does occur, the entry usually has a gloss as to origin or meaning, or both. *Familiar Short Sayings of Great Men* offers little, although it is chuck full of interesting reading for those who like to dip into the spontaneous outbursts of famous men.

The remainder of the books are of limited worth to the specialist in names. Both *Dictionary of Abbreviations* and *The Printers' Vocabulary*, somewhat out of date, have historical and applied value. Cordasco's *A Register of 18th Century Bibliographies and References* remains a good preliminary introduction to eighteenth-century studies, primarily between the years 1926-1949.

Leland's *The English Gypsies* is, I believe, the original study of the gypsies' language and way of life. It is still germinal and seemingly authoritative, certainly an excellent addition to the reprint series. Both *Ethnology in Folklore* and *Curiosities of Indo-European Tradition and Folk-Lore* belong completely in other areas, yet have ample importance in anthropological and folkloristic studies.



In sum, these reprints again represent the attractive and sturdy texts being published by Gale Research, the prices, however, being library ones, as befits reference books. Of particular value to members of the American Name Society are those texts that bear directly on names and the history of onomastic scholarship. Whoever recommends reprinting those we have seen so far has been selective and wise. May he continue to be.

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*The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names.* By Robert E. Gard and L. G. Sorden. New York: October House, Inc., 1968. Pp. xiii, 144. Price \$10.00.

This is a popular volume, not a scholarly one. It must therefore be judged in these terms. The title itself is a warning. The compilers (they are in no serious sense authors) enlisted the labors of hundreds of people from all over the state who sent in "thousands of rough drafts and cards" about local names. These were then put into "literary" form to produce the book. It lists alphabetically a number of names for features of all sorts with commentary and some information. The choice of names, however, and what is presented about them, follows no discoverable principle. The volume cannot be thought of as a reference work; presumably it is to be read for entertainment or distraction. However, there are popularizations and popularizations. A good one, though non-technical, will reflect sound underlying research and give accurate information. A bad one, lacking order or reliability, implies little respect for the general reader's intelligence. So many of the entries in the present volume are off-hand, casual, or vague that they force the reader into superficiality. Take the matter of dates, an essential anchor to any place-name: dates are given in less than 40 per cent of the entries. This is not always because they were not known or could not be found. The names of the counties, for example, were long ago fully documented by Louise P. Kellogg (*Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc.* 57, 1910). The compilers have either not consulted such sources, or have omitted dates purposely. Similarly, they give no

pronunciations even though, with many names, spelling is no guide. About location, other than county, they are just as uninforming. Precision in general seems to be avoided. Perhaps this is intended to produce the haze of "romance."

A great many entries, from one to three lines long, answer fewer questions than they leave unanswered. For example:

LEPSIC *Dodge County* Settled by a number of German families in 1800 from the town in Germany.

There is no "Lepsic" in Germany; *Leipsic* was an earlier spelling of present *Leipzig* – but is "Lepsic" a typographical error (these are sprinkled throughout the volume) or was it a misspelling or intentional alteration on the part of the settlers? The reader is teased but not enlightened.

Another example:

FOX RIVER *Kenosha County* Named after the river which had an Indian name that was translated as Fox River or Fire River.

What kind of feature is this? We are not told. It seems to be a river named after a river, but that is absurd; so perhaps it is a town or something else named after a river. An Indian name – what was it? What kind of Indian? (At least three distinct language families have contributed to Wisconsin names: Iroquoian, Algonkian, Siouan.) Does it make no difference whether the ungiven Indian name was translated in two ways? Are both equally plausible? A reader has a right to have such questions answered.

In addition to this kind of non-information there is a considerable amount of misinformation in this volume. For example:

ASKEATON *Brown County* The village may have been named after some Indian of the locality who had a painful mouth since the Indian meaning of the name is "raw mouth."

This is an etiolated borrowing from Chrysostom Verwyst, (*Wis. Hist. Soc. Coll.* 12, 1892) who at least gave the supposed Indian source as Ojibwa *ashkiodon*. But in this case Verwyst was wrong: the village actually got its name from the Post Office (established Oct. 19, 1868), and that was so named by the postmaster, Maurice Summers, for his native place in County Limerick, Ireland.

Another example:

WAUBESA *Dane County* This is the Indian word for "swan," and there was a story that a large swan had been killed on the lake. The settlement took the name of the lake.

Since there neither is nor was a settlement named Waubesa, this is either a fiction or a blunder. The volume furnishes no cross references, but under a separate entry we find:

LAKE WAUBESA *Dane County* The name is an adaptation of the Indian name for the lake. In the Potawatomi language it was *Wapishka* meaning "white foam." In Chippewa it was *Wabisi*, meaning "swan lake."

These two accounts can hardly have been written by the same person or seen by the same editor, or they would correspond better. Which is the reader to accept as authoritative?

Anyone interested in the facts about this name may find them in "The Naming of the Four Lakes" (*Wis. Mag. Hist.* 29.1, 1945). The only Indians who lived on this lake when the whites came were the Winnebago, and their name for it, *Sa-hoo-cha-te-la*, meant "rushes kale" (Charles E. Brown MSS, Wis. Hist. Soc., Box 10). This could not possibly have been "adapted" as *Waubesa* or anything like it. The Potawatomi were never in the region of this lake, nor could *Wapishka* well have been distorted into *Waubesa*. The fact is that the name was chosen by Lyman W. Draper, first director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, in 1854 in preparation for Horace Greeley's map of that year, on which it first appeared. Draper knew the local story that an unusually large swan had been shot on the lake (then called *Second Lake*). So he looked up the word for "swan" in an Ojibwa dictionary, found *Wabisi*, and anglicized it as *Waubesa*. Since the Ojibwa (Chippewa) never lived in this area the name is not local. Thus the only part of the story which these entries get right is the part about the swan. But how is a reader to know this? He is left in almost total though unnecessary confusion. Is this also part of the "romance"?

The basic fault of this book, however, is its refusal or incapacity to be judicious. The uncritical treatment of Indian sources is only the most obvious manifestation of this. Indian is Indian. Apparently

a word can come equally well from two or more unrelated tongues, or can be translated equally well in two or more ways. For example:

PESHTIGO *Marinette County* An Indian word meaning either "snapping turtle" or "wild goose."

Presumably the simple Red Man could not make up his mind. Or perhaps he did not know the difference. In the treatment of WISCONSIN, a difficult name about which much has been written, one might expect some attempt to discriminate among possible explanations. Instead, first-mention prominence is given to the least defensible explanation of all (that connecting it with Tadeusz Wiscont) while the dates which would show clearly that it is wrong are not given. Thus error is deliberately countenanced and kept alive in what looks like "a play for the Polish vote." The entire treatment of this basic name is a typical rag-bag offering in which whole cloth is indistinguishable from the rags.

Can anything be said in defence of this volume? I can see little to say. While it contains many valuable bits and pieces of information diligently collected by sincere volunteers who obviously had little direction, these are so thoroughly mingled with misinformation and non-information that the rational reader is frustrated on every page. The book does not even fulfill any serious definition of romance. For its 144 rather pulpy pages the publishers are asking \$10.00, and at least one more volume is threatened. But perhaps overpricing will spare us this succession. I consider this volume an anti-model for place-name studies. The extremely interesting names of the state of Wisconsin deserve better than this.

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