

## Book Reviews

*An Index of Proper Names in French Arthurian Verse Romances 1150–1300.* By G. D. West. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1969. Pp. xxv, 168. Price \$12.50.

The main part of this work is preceded by an Introduction which outlines the previous work on Arthurian names and in which Dr. West points out that his work is concerned with proper names in the French Arthurian verse romances only. He explains the form in which he has listed the names, and how variant forms are included. Following the Introduction is a comprehensive bibliography.

One of the aims of this Index, explains the compiler, is to provide scholars with a convenient means of ascertaining which names appear in French Arthurian verse romances and their frequency. After each item in the Index are identifying remarks such as position (e.g., knight of Arthur's), title or nickname, possessions, names of relatives, and some indication of the various roles played, together with a citation to the Arthurian verse romance where the name is found. To scholars interested in this subject this is a most valuable aid.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Indian Names for Alberta Communities.* By Hugh A. Dempsey. Calgary, Alberta: Occasional Paper no. 4, Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1969. Pp. 20. Price 75 ¢.

This booklet is a report on the names the Indians gave to Albertan communities after they had been established and named by the English. Over 150 English community names are listed, with each English name followed by its Indian equivalents. There are nine Indian tribal groups in Alberta, often giving the same English community as many different names.

In his short introduction the author recognizes different types of Indian place-names. Most of these names describe the natural physical and geographical features of the location. The author

claims that "of all the Indian names for Alberta towns, the (name based on local) geographical description was the most common." He ascribes the frequency of such names to the fact that it was a "practical method of choosing a name which was easily recognized by everyone." The fact that several communities might have the same name was no problem to the Indians, whose tribes might be as far apart from each other as the communities they named.

Another type of Indian community name was based on a description of the town itself, or some part of it. When Fort Macleod grew to be the major settlement in southern Alberta, three tribes named it "Many Houses." Coaldale, a village near the city of Lethbridge, was simply and accurately referred to as "Little Town." Several towns were called "Barrel House" by different tribes, referring to the almost ubiquitous water tower which was a conspicuous feature of pioneer towns. The proprietor of a livery stable in Lloydminster advertised his business by placing a large silhouette of a white horse on the foreroof of his establishment (photo, p. 14). The Chipewyan Indians could not resist the temptation to name this town "White Horse on Top of the Barn."

Some Indian names indicate the ethnic composition of the community, while others refer to its major industry or institution. Thus, the French-speaking village of Donnelly was called "Frenchman's Land," and the early Mormon settlement of Cardston was named "Many Wives." The village of Midnapore was called "Making Cloth" by the Sarcee, in honor of its pioneer woolen mill. The city of Lethbridge, which began as a coal-mining town, was called "Black Rock" by three tribes and it was also earlier named "Steep Banks" by the Blackfoot. By the same token Canyon Creek was known as "Fish Hatchery" to the Cree, Coleman was called "Beer Town" by the Blackfoot, Fort Chipewyan was named "Priest's House" by the Chipewyan, and Fort Saskatchewan was known as "Jail House" or "Indian Jail House" by several tribes.

A few Indian names of Albertan communities derive from historical happenings that occurred at the place. Local historical events loom large in the consciousness and memory of isolated peoples, and this is shown in some of the Indian place-names. Thus, the village of Canmore was named "Shooting at a Young Spruce Tree" by the Stony Indians, who have a tradition of young Indian boys doing so to practice and improve their marksmanship. When a large

landslide destroyed part of the village of Frank in 1903, the Blackfoot Indians changed their name for the community from "Holy Springs" to "Slide" (photo, p. 11). When a locally eminent citizen built an imposing log house three storeys high in Edmonton, (photo, p. 8), four Indian tribes named the community "Big House."

The author mentions only three English communities in Alberta for which he could discover no Indian name. He does make the interesting point, however, that young acculturated Indians do not know the Indian names for English communities as well as their elders knew them. Some native names are now "known only to older informants. . . . A few such [native] terms are already forgotten."

This interesting and informing essay has one or two limitations that might call for revision if a new edition of the booklet proves to be necessary. The author classifies each community as city, town, village, or settlement, but he does not give us the demographic basis for such classification. Also each community is referred to by a system involving three numbers (such as 20-23-4, 78-8-5, etc.). Apparently these refer to the location of the community on a map, but we are not told what map, or the cartographic basis of such locations. A map showing the location of the communities and the Indian reserves of Alberta would be helpful. Inasmuch as the "Occasional Papers" of the Institute are not distributed through the usual commercial channels, it may be well to advise readers that this booklet may be obtained from the Institute, which is located at 902 Eleventh Avenue, S. W., Calgary 3, Alberta.

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*The Surnames of Ireland.* By Edward MacLysaght. New York: Barnes & Noble, Pp. 252. 1970. Price \$8.75.

Dr. MacLysaght, herald and genealogist, librarian and politician, chairman (since 1956) of the Irish Manuscripts Commission (for which he has edited the Kenmare MSS, the Orrery papers, and other documents), author of *Irish Families: Their Names, Arms and Origins* (1957) and two supplements (1960, 1964), has produced a

handsome and useful dictionary of *The Surnames of Ireland*, published in April, 1970, which deserves to take its place on the shelf with P. H. Reaney's standard texts on British surnames and Patrick Woulfe's two volumes on Irish surnames, *Sloinne Gaedheal is Gall* (1906, 1923, the latter not a revision but a large new text), among others.

Someone once assented that the Irish were the first to have names at all – he must have meant surnames – and certainly the *Cóin Anmann* many centuries ago discussed the derivations of the epithets and other names so frequent (and so fanciful) in the ancient annals of Ireland's past. It is said that there were O'Cahills and O'Donnells, O'Dohertys and O'Gallaghers, before the reign of Brian Boru ("Brian of the cow-counting," the High King of Erin 1002 to 14). Very early the Irish were arguing whether *Eodhaidh Aireamh*, for instance, had been the first man to yoke oxen to the plough (*ar-dam* = "on one ox") or the first to bury in the ground (*ar-úam* = "ploughing graves"), on the basis of his name. Today they debate whether Woulfe's derivation of Tynan (*teimhean* = "dark, grey") is correct, or seek the story behind uncommon names such as O'Nowd, or argue about the reliability of the census of 1659. Perhaps in a country with so ancient a heritage, and so bellicose a history – names such as Reilley ("warlike"), Kelly ("strife"), Kenna ("fiery"), Morrow ("sea fighter"), and so on are well-known – this is to be expected.

Today the majority of Irish surnames are of Irish origin, even in Ulster (which the Plantation of the early and the Cromwellian Settlement of the mid-seventeenth century rendered "Anglo-Irish," introducing many English and Scottish names into the nine northern counties). The listing and explanation of these are the largest part, therefore, of Dr. MacLysaght's task. In a long history in which the names Rian (perhaps connected with an ancient water deity, *cf.* Rhine) and Nial (recalling "Niall of the Nine Hostages" and the great O'Neill, whom Elizabeth I acknowledged as chieftain of Tyrone) are so old as to have their origins shrouded in the mists of antiquity, to trace Irish names is not easy. In attempting to give for more than 4,000 Gaelic, Norman, and Anglo-Irish surnames linguistic derivations, historical background, location (where applicable) of Irish and Hiberno-Norman septs and families or approximate date and place of settlement of Anglo-Irish families, Dr.

MacLysaght has something of the bravery and strength of Cuchulain's stand at the ford. His scholarship and his determination, however, to eschew "all facile guesses" in connection with the knottier problems of linguistic derivation will undoubtedly reduce his risks and ensure his success. With a modern book he joins the ranks of such writers on Irish and Gaulish names and history as Sir James Ware (1764), William Beaufort (1783), Edmund M'Clure (1879), B. W. De Courcey (1880), and Sir John Rhys (1882) and largely replaces Woulfe. His derivations are often better than those of earlier writers such as Alexander MacBain and his thorough knowledge of the old tongue enables him to unravel for Sassenach readers (and others) the difficulties of the ancient language as it has persisted down to our times or was revived in the last century at the suggestion of de-Anglicizers of great prominence such as Douglas Hyde (the name was originally de la Hyde and belonged to Elizabethan planters) and Sir Charles Gavan Duffy (name derived from *dubh* = "black", *Ó Dubhagáin*).

The curious general reader may look up his own name here to find that Kennedy means "ugly head" or Farrell "first choice," that the ancestors of the Hickeys were doctors and those of the Riordans royal bards. He will not learn of how and why some of the Traynors or the Laverys anglicized their names to Armstrong, but he will be told, for instance, that MacCrainor and Spokesman (*labhráidh*) would be better English versions. Irish names are usually well covered, although an English name common in Ireland such as Bagley may be listed simply as "an English toponymic occasionally used as a synonym of Begley" (*Ó Beaglaoich*, where *beag* = "little" and *laoch* = "hero") without mention of the fact that this is a toponymic of Yorkshire or that it derives from the Old English *bagga leah* = "badger glade." It seems only fair that Scotland should have contributed to the onomastics of Ireland after Ireland gave Scotland its name (L. *Scotus* = "Irishman"), through all those "*Macs*" are really Irishmen, not Scots, and an entry for a Scottish name might read simply:

**Kelso.** This very ancient Scottish name came to Ireland in the mid-seventeenth century and became established in Ulster.

It might have been added that Kelso is a place in Roxburghshire whose name was originally *Calchvynydd* (which some authorities

call "lime hill," others "chalk height"), then Calchow, anglicized to Kelso. The name's arrival in northern Ireland is part of the history of the Ulster Plantation or the Settlement (c. 1650). As when Dr. MacLysaght fails to translate *Ó hAileacháin* (Hallahan, Halligan) or *Ó hAigheanáin* (Hallinan), the reader will probably wish to have more information than is given. An *erratum* slip is inserted to identify Delmege as a Palatine (not a Huguenot) name, but one wishes for an *addendum* that would say *how* Durkan got to be Zorkin or even, more obvious, how the name Harrigan (famous because of one of George M. Cohan's songs) became a substitute for Horgan (*Ó hArgáin*) or *vice versa*. The hereditary bards to the O'Byrnes were the (Mac) Keoghs (*Mac Eochaidh*) or the Kehoes, but how many of this name now in Ireland are really of Norman origin, to be traced back to Cahu (a town near Boulogne, now gone), like the English Kehoes, Keyhoses, and Kews? *Why* did *admall* (from which Pete Hamill and his relatives derive their name) come to be *ádhmall* ("active"), a word of exactly opposite meaning, and from which do we really get the Hamills (and some Hamiltons)? What about the Stamps (the best-known today probably being the very Irish-sounding actor, Terence Stamp)? The English ones predate the postal system and go back to Old Norse *stampe* ("vat"), Old High German *stampf* ("tub"), Old Low German *stampe* ("bowl"), or the word in the dialect of the Isle of Ely for a weir or a deep hole in a bog. Did the bogs of Ireland produce Stamps in another way? As Vauville became Wawell and Æðelric became Etheredge, so in Ireland the two sept of Mac Eneaney (also seen in 38 variants Dr. Mac Lysaght listed in his *Supplement to Irish Surnames*, as well as on the tombstones of a single family as McEneaney, McAneaney, McAneny, McEnaney, McEneaney, and Bird — a pseudo-translation of *éan*, "bird") spelled their surname (from "fair hound" or "son of the dean"?) many ways, while the Mullins family became (for snobbery) Moleyns, the Huguenots brought in names such as the surname of the writer Sheridan Lefanu, the Palatine yielded the Switzers, the Welsh the Walshes, and some Devlins descended to Dolan while others aspired to D'Evelyn. The Norsemen gave rise to the Trants of Kerry and left such names as Raven (*Hrafn*) and Colling (*Kollungr*). Gaelic names were increasingly prefixed with "O," as Dr. MacLysaght shows with O'Sullivan, the third most common name in Ireland (and, perhaps

significantly, one whose derivation is still in dispute: the experts agree that *súil*, "eye," is in it all right, but attempts to trace it back to the one-eyed Cyclops are not universally accepted by any means).

Surely one of the most frequent uses to which this book on *The Surnames of Ireland* will be put is that of "looking up" the family names of those who stray into the reference collections of libraries for this purpose. The author, in his informative introduction, argues for greater reliability in his work than in those which librarians now consult: Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames* ("misleading in regard to Irish names . . . otherwise very valuable"), Bardsley's *Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames* ("much more comprehensive but less scholarly"), Weekley's *Surnames* ("of no special Irish interest"), Ewen's *A History of Surnames of the British Isles* ("he knows little about Irish surnames"), etc. These, I admit, have told me very little about the one Irish name among my own (Nelligan), but Dr. MacLysaght gives me merely this:

(O) Nelligan. *Ó Niaallagáin*. This sept originated in the south-east of the country, and ballynelligan is near Lismore, but for centuries the name has been mainly in Cos. Cork and Kerry. MIF 191.

"MIF 191" refers me to a page in the author's *More Irish Families* (1960), where I might learn of any connection (one supposes) with Niall and the O'Neills but am not likely to hear of Émil Nelligan, whom Edmund Wilson (*O Canada: An American's Notes on Canadian Culture*) hailed as "to me the only first-rate Canadian poet . . . [his] mother was French, but his father had come over from Ireland."

Slipped into a pocket at the end of this rather expensive but nicely-printed book is a charming map, drawn and lettered by Nora O'Shea ("one time heraldic artist to the Office of Arms, Dublin Castle"), which shows the location of the Gaelic septs (in black) and (in red) to principal Hiberno-Norman families in the period after the Anglo-Norman invasion and before the upheavals of the seventeenth century. This one might wish to frame, or to file with a copy of the more detailed map by the News Syndicate staff artist Edwin L. Sundberg of "Erin's First Families" which appears annually around St. Patrick's Day (when everyone is Irish, at least temporarily) in rotogravure sections. (I last saw it in the *New York Sunday News*, 15 March 1970, p. 25.) *The Surnames of Ireland* itself will go

on the reference shelf, for consultation or browsing, and is likely to be frequently asked for and much appreciated. Though one critic has pointed out in writing of *The Irish* that the number left who natively and exclusively speak the ancient Irish language is less than one could crowd into a football stadium, the number of people in the modern world who bear, or are interested in, the names derived from The Ould Sod is legion. They will be well served by this handy 252-page book by the leading authority on Irish names and genealogy.

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*Place Names of Northeast Texas.* By Fred Tarpley. Commerce, Texas: East Texas State University Press, 1969. Pp. xxi, 245. Paperback. Price \$ 2.50.

Addressing himself to everyone fascinated by stories behind local names, Professor Tarpley sets out to determine the sources of and foreign influence upon map names of 26 counties of Northeast Texas. Within specified limitations, the author has derived or commented upon the sources of approximately 90 per cent of the 2,693 names listed, a commendable accomplishment requiring extensive field work. Each county, as well as Lake Tawakoni, has its own alphabetical listing; and the Index to Names is a general alphabetical listing of all the entries, which affords the reader an easy means for locating names quickly.

Like all place-names, those of Northeast Texas reflect the historical, physical, and cultural nature of the area. *Massey, Branch, Merrill Lake, Kelley School, Nesbitt, and Garland* are namesakes of early personages. *Berry Hill, Elberta, Holly Tree Lake, Boxwood, Rabbit Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, and Wolfpen* derive from flora and fauna of the area. *Frognot, Dump, Jot-Em-Down, Hog-Eye, Bug Tussle, and Squabble* evidence something of frontier humor. And names like *Mt. Tabor, Mormon Grove, Palestine, Mt. Zion, Camp Ground, Bible, and Burning Bush* assure Northeast Texas a spot in the "Bible Belt."



Admittedly, it is the author's prerogative to limit the scope of his topic, but it is the reader's prerogative to expect the research within that scope to be fairly complete. Why limit map names to those appearing on General Highway Maps of the Texas Highway Department? From that source Tarpley lists 104 names for all of populous Dallas County, an area of 859 square miles. Yet, Geological Survey Maps, 1951 and 1957, show 74 names not included by Tarpley for the White Rock and White Rock Lake area alone, an area of approximately 70 square miles in Dallas County. On this basis, how many other omissions can the reader expect for Dallas County, or for the remaining 25 counties?

Why limit information about county seats and post offices to the *Texas Almanac*? Twenty-one county seats are identified, but not those of Camp, Marion, Morris, Rockwall, and Titus counties. Forty-eight post offices are indicated for names A through D, though the *1968 National Zip Code Directory* lists 68.

How can one find additional information from Tarpley's sources? He cannot. Not one address is given among some 700 local informants listed at the ends of the various sections. Written sources are limited to 13 newspapers, only two of which are dated; fewer than 50 published books and unpublished local histories and theses; and general references to Dallas Public Library, Franklin County Library, Gregg County Historical Society, and Indian publications of the Smithsonian Institution. Furthermore, not a single dictionary item is specifically documented; rather, all references are alphabetized by section, with a 12-item general bibliography, p. xxi.

The section on Lake Tawakoni names and variants throughout the book are especially interesting and informative. Lake Tawakoni names are unique: officials of the Sabine River Authority selected and assigned them on the completion of the artificial lake in the 1950's; and the names follow a consistent Caddo Indian motif, their derivations revealing much about the Caddoes themselves and about their culture and lore. In the treatment of variant names, Tarpley carefully chronicles each variant, with the date of and the reason for its assignment. For example, Como, Hopkins County, bore three earlier names: *Bacchus*, when the settlement was established February 7, 1870; *Carrolls Prairie*, to honor early settler Ferdinand Carroll, May 16, 1876; *Carrollton*, when the narrow gauge railroad reached town in 1879; and *Como*, for Como, Mississippi,

October 24, 1894, because another railroad town near Dallas was already named *Carrollton*. It is to be regretted that only five per cent of the entries include such information.

Professor Tarpley has completed extensive field work and discovered the sources of many place-names. Hopefully, he will preserve all his files and all that appears in *Place Names of Northeast Texas* as a basis for a complete place-name survey at a later date.

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*Naming Your Baby*, 2nd ed., rev. and enl. By Elsdon C. Smith. Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1970. Pp. 94. \$3.25.

Since the first edition of *Naming Your Baby* was published in 1943, fashion changes have occurred in naming, different interpretations have appeared, and the study of names has become a scholarly industry in the United States. These developments are reflected in the changes that Mr. Smith made for the new edition.

The introduction remains essentially the same, although stylistic changes have been made, some of them quite subtle ones, others syntactical or substantive. For instance, the lists of five most common names for either sex differ somewhat. In 1943, the most common boys' names were John, William, James, Charles and George. In 1970, they are the same but the order has changed: John, William, Charles, James, and George. For girls in 1943, the five leaders are Mary, Ann, Margaret, Elizabeth and Catherine. In 1970, they are Mary, Elizabeth, Barbara, Dorothy, and Helen.

The format of the two editions remains the same. The entries in the 1970 edition have been enlarged and the punctuation conforms more to traditional lexicographical style. Additions and deletions occur in the listings, changes that seem to respect parental preferences. Still, there are some that I suspect are not ordinarily a part of the onomastic equipment of parents, Blodwen, Celosia, Engelberta, Farcia, and Halimeda to name a few. Now, however, they may be, to those parents who consult Mr. Smith's excellently selected list of 2,500 names and their meanings.

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*Nicknames and Sobriquets of U. S. Cities and States*, 2nd ed. By Joseph Nathan Kane and Gerard L. Alexander. Metuchen, N. J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1970. Pp. vi + 456. \$10.00.

When Virgil J. Vogel reviewed the first edition of this book (*Names* 14:1, 61-64), he noted the deficiencies of the purely directory-type compilation of unedited and undocumented material. Those of us addicted to collecting trivia, however, can empathize with the authors, despite the shortcomings of the text.

The new addition has 115 pages more than the first. No change has been made in the format. Large numbers of nicknames have been added to the listings, along with the names of more cities. Glancing cursorily through, I see that New York City's new euphemistic nickname, Fun City, is missing although it has been around since Mayor Lindsay's incumbency. Mule Capital of the World, Columbia, Tennessee, is not listed. This game, of course, can go on indefinitely.

A book of this kind has scant value, except perhaps, as Dr. Vogel said, "to journalists looking for new and snappy variations for headlines and lead paragraphs." Nevertheless, the American Library Association selected it "as one of the outstanding reference books."

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Ju. K. Red'ko. *Dovidnyk Ukrajin's'kyx Prizvyšč*. Kyjiv. 1969. Radjans'ka Škola. 256 p.

Julian Red'ko is the author of a most thorough and complete study of Ukrainian surnames (*Sucasni Ukrajin's'ki Prizvysca*, Kyjiv, 1966, 216 p.). Recently his reference dictionary relating to Ukrainian surnames was published in Kiev. It is intended to fulfill a normative function, and aims mostly at the communication media and government workers at various levels.

In his introduction to this book I. Varčenko stresses the author's linguo-geographical approach to the study of contemporary Ukrainian family names. He explains the occurrence in similar sur-

names of many instances of variations: they developed mostly from different derivatives or from different dialects, and resulted in different spelling or accent placing. Poorly educated or non-Ukrainian secretaries also registered many surnames by misspelling them in order to make them sound more in a Russian or a Polish manner (e. g., Hlynka misspelled as Hlinka, Pidhirnyijas Pidhornyj).

To acquaint the reader with the development of Ukrainian surnames, Red'ko presents a short history (from the days of the Kievan princes) and different classifications of the most common types of Ukrainian family names. He also gives practical instruction on classification of surnames for the purpose of inflection. To make his intention understood, Red'ko points out the most common mistakes which occur in name declension (e. g., Švec' – Švecja, for Ševcja). He further explains specific cases for using the letter *ji*, the apostrophe, the softening sign (') and the stress.

The author also includes a list of over 400 of the most commonly misspelled or mispronounced surnames. He provides the genitive, dative and instrumental endings for the singular, and the nominative and genitive for the plural, as well as the stresses for both the masculine and feminine forms. He omits the vocative case in this study, claiming that it is still under discussion.

This reference book, which the author intended for use by all schools and office employees, was published in 41,000 copies. Thus four copies can be available for each city, town or village, or only one copy for every two schools in Ukraine.

Red'ko's work, his undertaking and his aim are most admirable. As a result of various political situations for the last three centuries many Ukrainian surnames were Polonized, Germanized or Russified in their spelling. Many people never bothered to correct them. It remains to be seen how soon any practical results of this valuable reference dictionary will be evident.

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