Book Reviews

The Place-Names of Birsay. By Hugh Marwick. Edited and introduced by
W. F. H. Nicolaisen. Aberdeen University Press, 1970. Pp. xii, 135.
Index and one map. Price 24s.

On the northwestern portion of the Mainland isle of the Orkneys, usu-
ally labelled on the map Brough Head or The Barony, is the parish of
Birsay. Its 600 place-names have challenged the talents of two natives,
William Sabiston and Hugh Marwick. A 1595 rental survey of Birsay by
Alexander Peterkin (here reproduced and analyzed) started Sabiston on
the hunt, and Marwick, writer of several articles on the names of North
Ronaldsay, Papa Westray, and Stronsay, and two books, *The Place-
Names of Rousay* (1947) and *Orkney Farm-Names* (1952), continued his
task. The notes of these two were edited posthumously by Wilhelm Nico-
laisen, Chief of the Scottish Place-Name Survey, who has now come to
this country and is teaching at the State University of New York at
Binghamton, and who, we hope, will help with the further plans of the
American place-name survey. The book is modest, essentially rough notes
by a meticulous worker Marwick, and we can except nothing like the
model work of the English Place-Name Society volumes. Yet the work is
anything but amateur, for it aims at the four basic criteria of place-name
study: attention to geography, history, folklore and linguistics.

Presumably the two compilers have been born and bred in the Ork-
neys; in any event their names correspond to two tunships in Birsay.
Sabiston has the complex hypothetical etymology of Old Norse **saevar-
bolstáð-tún*, "loch-bister-town" or "farmstead enclosure by the pond."
Marwick is "sea-farm or village"; the bearer of the name rejects the com-
mon etymon of ON *marr* for "horse" and prefers the homonym *marr*
meaning "sea," cognate with Latin *mare*. "The bay ... would seem to be
a striking confirmation of that interpretation. Across its mouth runs a
reef of rock and huge boulders, mostly submerged at high water. Inside
is a large, roughly semi-circular, and practically land-locked sea-water
lagoon about half a mile wide at the reef and known as The Choin ... i.e.
O.N. *tjǫrn*, tarn. The Bay might thus have well been called the Tarn-
wick." Such intimate knowledge of the region is assurance that the geo-
graphical criterion will be satisfied; no arm-chair etymologists are at
work. The arrangement in the book is by geographical feature and geo-
graphical location in each feature: coastal names, hills, lochs, burns,
ponds, burns, grips, marshes, wells, mounds, braes, miscellaneous, and a
long list of closely studied farm and house names. A proper index to all
at the end, divided into Birsay names, Orkney names outside Birsay,

and names outside Orkney (mostly Norse parallels), makes finding a name easy in the geographically arranged text.

History likewise shows numerous intimate details of local knowledge, such as the alternate names for Beaquoy (ON *bae-kvi*, "farm of sheep-fold") and Housebay (ON *Húsa-baer*, "houses, farm"); for Brockan (ON *brekka*, "slope"), Learaquoy, "clay-quoy," and its shortened form Leary. Langskaill, *langi-skáli* "long-hall," is properly tied to a castle in the vicinity, and Tratlands to *praetu-land*, "quarrel-land" with disputes between townships. Very few personal names are suggested, like Mallies, Sallies, Flecketsquoy, Festigarth, Quoy Pocko and Gersteven; we have the names before the persons rather than the eponyms or persons before the names. This too is historical knowledge of an intimate nature; it is instinctive restraint from the too common American habit of referring to every Indian place-name which cannot be explained as the reflex from the name of some mythical and unidentifiable Indian chief.

The linguistic task has only been begun, and countless puzzles (250 out of the 600) remain for others to solve. Here the approach is almost wholly through Old Norse and the brilliant analogical place-name work of such Norse students as Olsen, Ekvall, Hovda, and Lindroth. Many of the names must be very old; we even have an occasional pre-Norse Celtic name like Airy, Gaelic *airigh*, early Celtic *aerge*, a shieling or shepherd's shelter. Marwick has done his homework on numerous of the entries, and with proper attention to generic names and combining forms, which emerge thriftily from the geographical arrangement. For instance, we may cite a group of names illustrating coastal features: Ramna Geo, "raven's geo" from *gja*, "cleft or ravine"; Rock of Bosker from *sker*, "rock or skerry," with tautology and a first element *boði*, "boding" or "warning rock or shoal"; Klivvith from *klif*, "track or path up a cliff"; Sandkrumma, from *gróma*, "crack" or *grumma*, "cave"; Flag of Ootsuir, Scots or Norse *flag*, "flagstone" or "flat rock" with the specific from *út-suðr*, "out south" or "southwest"; Klett of Say Geo, *klettr*, "rock," and *gjá*, "cleft," with a specific name which looks like saithe or coalfish (possibly folk etymology, Marwick warns us, since the saithe was not fished in early times – another indication of both his caution and his historical knowledge); Hole of Wheppet, second element of the specific *pyttr*, "water-hole" or "pit"; and Holmatanga, "holm taing" or "point." Such are the sound and early names to contrast with the few imported ones like Zanzibar, Jericho, Verdun, Canada West, Mount Pleasant, Meadowbank, Dead Man's Knowe, Roseview, Hell, Purgatory, and Roseview, presumably the product of tourist, summer renter, or colonial civil servant in retirement. We are spared a *Bide a Wee* or a Kosy Kamp.

The names are not all prosaic; a rich crop of metaphorical names appears from Marwick's first searchings: Sillar of Fay Geo, an indentation

like a cellar; The Kirn or churn; Tungan, a tongue of rock; Pulgreasy, with a doubtful second element but a first element from *pallr*, "bench," for a ledge in a crag-face; Staas, indentations like a cattle-stall; Kame of Corrigill, with a generic metaphor comparing the feature to a cockscomb; Calf's Head, a rock; Hungrabreck or "hungry slope"; The Hass, "neck" or "slope" (of a valley); and The Stable, folk-etymologized to reflect the local cattle population but "almost certainly O.N. *stǫpull*, a pillar or tower − a seamark."

Finally we have a rich harvest for the folklorist, from popular etymology to legend. In Summer Skerry the specific is really *sunn-maerr*, "south border"; Hoe Skerry is *há-skerr*, "high skerry," though the local explanation is that fishermen flung their hoes or dogfish there, and Orkneyans in general call Birsayans Hoes. Hunda Geo and Katta Geo owe something to a fanciful juxtaposition; the cat may be primal, since Orkneyan *Kattande liten* means "catty-small" and the cat rather than the mouse is the diminutive animal. Castra Geo, a prehistoric mound, owes its first element to ON *kǫstr*, genitive *kastar*, "heap" or "pile"; the learned popular etymology is Latin *castra* by somebody who remembered Lancaster or Chester. Sillery Geo has a story about treasure to assimilate it to Scots *sillar*, "money"; it is rather the metaphoric cellar. Hesper is described locally as the evening star, since it is a notable seamark; it is from *esja-berg*, "puttystone" or "steatite." Glims Moss, now assimilated to English *glimpse*, is rather an Old Norse personal name like Glúmr or the giant Glámr. Tammy Cowie is probably not from a personal name, though local legend speaks of a small boy drowned at that rock. Off-color jokes have been obscured in modern speech: the cave Skeetie Bowan is ON *skit búr*, bower of guano from the birds who roosted there; Condras is ON *kaldi-rass*, "cold arse," a name given to a narrow ledge on which one froze one's behind while fishing. Vinbreck, 1760 map Windbreck, is probably *vin(jar) brekka*, "pasture slope." Just how a *haugr kví* or mound enclosure for animals became Harpsquoy is unclear; it may have had something to do with the steep brae on the farm, but I lack Marwick's knowledge of the terrain. Records in 1594 and 1794 show that the modern Britain near Scorn ("terrace" and not a Pilgrim's Progress allegorical touch) is Brittabeck, *bratta-brekka*, "steep slope." The Britain appears to be a modern patriotic fallacy, alien among the descendants of Norsemen and Goedelic Celts. Norton is not *norð-tún* or North town as it should be, but appears on the 1500 Rental as Nether-town, a confusion which led Marwick to misplace it in his earlier book, *Orkney Farm-Names.*

A number of folk legends are retold in the book. Caesar o' Haan Skerry is said to be where a man named Caesar fled to escape the pressgang (there is a similar story about Fraasa Cave); another cave called King William's Hall must hide a local story now unknown. Outer and Inner

Troola must have been a place of trolls, as Walty Reid's Hole reflects an ancient hobgoblin. Manse Well, which now seems to be a well at the preacher's home, goes back to the patron of the isles, St. Magnus, whose body is said to have washed ashore there. The Knowe of Brenda, mound of the burnt forest, has a pretty tale of three old maids besieged by robbers, who burned the woods to get rid of them. The farm Quear was owned jointly by another pair of old maids molested by robbers; each fled to a separate parish (Evie and Harray) and bequeathed her portion to a different preacher; it is now owned by the Church of Scotland. The Stane of Quoybune (last element perhaps ON *bondi,* "farmer") itself travels down every New Year's Day for a drink to soothe its hangover (the tale resembles one about the standing-stone Yetnesteen or Stone of Giants in Rousay). At the farm Waskara, of puzzling etymology, a husband with a mother fixation pushed his wife over the cliff, and the mother saved him from hanging by sending him powdered glass in a bannock.

For such a book as this, an honest man's rough notes, severely critical remarks are unsuitable, and the reviewer is aware of his lack of the special knowledge of the compilers. Yet one would like to identify the small rock Gubber Geo with the Swedish *gubbe,* "old man," (see Bellman's famous ballad *Gubber Noak*); Marwick instead offers *góða-berg,* "good rock" for the first element with his customary caution: "so named for some forgotten reason." On p. 18 under Bow of Fraasa, "Bow is probably the O.N. (a shoal . . .)" the etymon *boði* has dropped out. The many names given to sections of the burn of Durkadale remind us of the originally multiple-named rivers of the United States and elsewhere. Burn of Ess, which Marwick conjecturally attaches to Norse *veis* "stream" or *veisa* "sea-beach" may not need his cautionary qualifications, since false-division after the preposition *af* is surely a common enough phenomenon. Meery= Mawry has a first term from Norse *mýra,* "soft mossy ground or bog." Though Marwick finds the second element obscure, may it not be mere humorous duplication? Spurdagro's "fish-tail track," for which the author produces a cautious set of etyma but questions the combination of elements, may be a metaphorical name. And Rimmon farm (p. 44) is probably the Biblical Rimmon (Judges xx: 45), "And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon." No doubt many of Marwick's queries were those we always put in a first assay upon an etymology; some of them would no doubt have been more convincing to their author if he had put his book in its final shape. As can be seen, even the rough notes are fascinating.

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Place-names and Places of Nova Scotia. By Charles Bruce Fergusson.
Halifax: The Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1967. Pp. v, 761. Price
$10.00 Can.

In a period of about one year, three studies of geographical names have
appeared in Canada. The Nova Scotia study, although bearing the date
1967 and published in honor of Canada's centenary, became available only
in the spring of 1969. The British Columbia book was published in the fall
of that year, and the Manitoba book came out in the spring of 1970.

The Nova Scotia book appears as the most impressive on first exami-
nation by virtue of its size and handsome cover. But, for several reasons,
it is the most disappointing of the three. It would appear to be only a
compilation of data available in Halifax without recourse to field work or
to the voluminous records of the Canadian Permanent Committee on
Geographical Names. This has resulted in the retention of a large number
of errors regarding the origins of geographical names. Too much space is
devoted to non-information, particularly the listing of names that are
cross-referenced to other names, and to details giving location only, which
can be obtained more easily from a gazetteer. The quality of printing is
poor on many pages. Although the origins of over 2,300 names are claimed,
several prominent names such as Missaguash River (misspelled Missa-
quash in another reference), Bay of Fundy and Creignish are omitted.
Finally, sources of information are not given, although many phrases and
sentences are enclosed in quotation marks. The book has much valuable
material on historical events and on local facilities such as schools and
post offices, and thus will be a useful reference for historians.

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GALE RESEARCH COMPANY REPRINTS AND ORIGINALS: IV

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

Arthur, William. *An Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian
Names.* New York: Sheldon, Blakeman & Co., 1857. Pp. 300. Republi-
shed, 1969. $9.50.

Baring-Gould, Sabine, ed. *A. Book of Nursery Songs and Rhymes.* London: Methuen & Co., 1895. Pp. xvi, 160. Republished, 1969. $6.75.

Beidelman, William. *The Story of the Pennsylvania Germans.* Easton, Penna.: Express Book Print, 1898. Pp. viii, 254. Republished, 1969. $10.00.

Bohn, Henry G., ed. *The Hand-Book of Games.* London: Henry G. Bohn, 1850. Pp. xiv, 617. Republished, 1969. $15.00.

Bolton, Henry Carrington. *The Counting-Out Rhymes of Children.* New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1888. Pp. xvi, 123. Republished, 1969. $6.75.

Bombaugh, Charles Carroll. *Gleanings for the Curious from the Harvest-Fields of Literature.* Hartford, Conn.: A. D. Worthington, 1875. Pp. 864. Republished, 1970. $19.50.

Bowman, William Dodgson. *The Story of Surnames.* London: George Routledge & Sons, 1932. Pp. 280. Republished, 1968. $8.50.

Bumpus, John Skelton. *A. Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Terms.* London: T. Werener Laurie, 1910. Pp. 324. Republished, 1969. $8.50.

Chambers, Robert. *Popular Rhymes of Scotland.* New Ed. London: W. & R. Chambers, 1870. Pp. 402. Republished, 1969. $12.50.

X Holt, Alfred Hubbard. *American Place Names.* New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1938. Pp. 222. Republished, 1969. $7.50.

Hulme, Frederick Edward. *Proverb Lore.* London: Elliot Stock, 1902. Pp. viii, 269. Republished, 1968. $8.50.

Jones, Charles C., Jr. *Negro Myths from the Georgia Coast.* Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1888. Pp. x, 171. Republished, 1969. $8.50.

Thomas, Ralph. *Handbook of Fictitious Names.* London: John Russell Smith, 1868. Pp. xvi, 235. Republished, 1969. $8.50.

Wall, C. Edward. *Periodical Title Abbreviations.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1969. Pp. 210. Original. $15.00.

Walsh, William S. *A. Handy Book of Curious Information.* Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1913. Pp. iv, 942. Republished, 1970. $24.50.

Weidenhan, Joseph L. *Baptismal Names.* 4th Ed. Baltimore: Kenmore Productions, 1931. Pp. 347. Republished, 1968. $13.75.

With one exception, the book by C. Edward Wall, all texts listed above are republications. Wall's *Periodical Title Abbreviations* is a handy volume to have on the shelves of a private library; for that matter, it has a place on the reference shelf of a library of any kind. The book identifies about 10,000 periodical titles, mostly in the fields of language, literature and linguistics, arranged alphabetically. Although we have never abbreviated *Names*, it can be found as NA. *PADS* is noted as the abbreviation for Publications of the American Dialect Society, when actually it should be Publication of the American Dialect Society. This, of course, is

quibbling on my part. A valuable original publication from Gale, the text no doubt will be expanded greatly in future editions.

The books on names are, naturally, the most important and most interesting to readers of *Names*. The best of the lot is Bowman's *The Story of Surnames*, a popular account of about 2,500 names, their origins, and forms. Although little new appears here, it has style and will certainly stimulate the novice to search further in onomastics. Furthermore, the index seems to be accurate. Taking advantage of the previous research of Bardsley, Harrison, Mencken, and Weekley, Bowman brought together a book that is still eminently readable.

William Arthur, author of *An Etymological Dictionary*, has an importance beyond his being an early entrant in the study of personal names: he was the father of Chester A. Arthur, twenty-first president of the United States. Following Lower's *Essays on English Surnames*, which he credits in his introduction, Arthur works through the etymologies and meanings of some 3,200 names. This is no place to quarrel with an early attempt at classification of names, for research into names during the first half of the nineteenth century was practically non-existent, except for the work of M. A. Lower. Arthur's study is quite thorough and has much historical value in onomastics.

Baptismal Names, by Rev. Weidenhan, bears the *imprimatur* of the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore. Nothing harmful can be found here. So far as I know, it is the only dictionary with such an extensive listing of male and female Christian names, meaning those sanctioned by the Catholic Church. A reference work, it also indicates the feast days of the principal saints and the number of saints or holy persons who bore each name. Occasionally, derivations and meanings are supplied.

The first edition, 1868, of *Handbook of Fictitious Names* was published under the pseudonym of Olphar Mamst (Ralph Thomas). The real Thomas is listed as the author in the Gale reprint. Although now somewhat out of date, the handbook still has value for the researcher in the pseudonymous works of the nineteenth century, when it seems that just about every other publication was written under an assumed name, an initialism, or an asterism. As a sort of footnote, a copy of the first edition costs much more than the handsome reprint does.

Holt's *American Place Names* is haphazardly thrown together, or so it seems. The author has tried to enliven his esoteric examples and his rather strange pronunciations by being cute. The rhyme given to indicate pronunciation of, for instance, Kiamichi, Okla. is roughly like "try a fishy," and Opelousas, La. is roughly like "Papa Whozis." It is a fun book, rather ingenuously done as far as the rhymes are concerned. Certainly a curiosity, it belongs and perhaps has value. No doubt, pronunciations of local names vary widely, even in the community.

The next set of texts has only cursory interest for the onomast. Nevertheless, Chamber's *Popular Rhymes of Scotland* has three chapters on rhymes on places, characteristics of places and their inhabitants, and rhymes upon families of distinction. Other material on names can be found throughout. Names in rhymes could be the subject of a profitable and needed study. Walsh's *A. Handy Book* has many entries that treat names, such as Congreve Rocket, Croatan, Dickens' Dutchman, Lot's Wife, and many others. This book was apparently intended by Walsh to be a supplement to his other books on curiosities. Hulme's *Proverb Lore* is of more interest to the folklorist, but names do appear in proverbs and are, therefore, subject to onomastic research. Some onomastic material also appears in Bolton's *Counting-Out Rhymes*, although it is scanty. The importance of this text lies elsewhere, comparing as it does the formulas children use in their countingout games throughout the world. *A Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Terms* has much to offer the philologist and something for the onomast. It connects many names with church terms and gives a full account of several hundred items relating to architecture, ecclesiology, liturgiology, music, ritual, cathedral, and constitution.

The last set considered here has little, if anything, to contribute to onomastics, despite its inherent worth in other disciplines. For instance, Bohn's *Hand-Book of Games* consists of detailed essays by experts who give the history of each game discussed, the rules by which it is played, and methods for winning. Baring-Gould's *Book of Nursery Songs* is unique in illustration and in format. A classic collection, it has about 170 rhymes and jingles that are familiar to most of us. Beidelman's *Pennsylvania Germans* provides a history of the Germans who fled to America between 1682 and 1700. Of especial interest is the section of brief biographies of English, German, and Palatine rulers during this period and of important families who fled to Pennsylvania and other colonies. Jones' *Negro Myths* invites comparison with the collection of stories by Joel Chandler Harris. Bombaugh's *Gleanings* furnishes a miscellanea of esoteric and curious information, not the least being the large collection of palindromes. A section lists names for God.

These texts are typical of the excellent bookmaking that Gale Research performs. Although the books have widely differing values, each one seems to have a particular importance in a discipline. The series has certainly been successful, as a glance at the reference shelves in any library will prove.

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Undersea Features. United States Board on Geographic Names, Gazetteer
No. 111. Washington, D.C.: 1969. Pp. iv, 142. No. price listed.

Prepared in the Geographic Names Division of the U.S. Topographic
Command, the "gazetteer contains 1,775 official standard names for
undersea features of the world, approved as of April 1, 1969." In addition
to the standard ones listed, another 1,790 unapproved variants are cross-
referenced to the main and approved entries.

Generic designations, properly defined in the foreword, identify the
features to which the names refer, although occasionally the generic term
of a particular name may not be "properly descriptive" according to
U.S. Board definitions The latitude and longitude as listed serve only to
identify features named in the text, since the frontispiece map is a 30°
block designator and not detailed for exact coordinates.

The gazetteer has two sections, one alphabetical and one block, all
pages having two columns. The first obviously lists alphabetically all
features that have both approved and unapproved names; the second
gives the names within coordinate blocks so that the general location can
be found by inspecting the block map. Origins of the names and other
essential information are lacking, matters not called for in a practical
guide of this kind. Furthermore, names are being added so rapidly that
the gazetteer is radically out of date. As noted, "new features are being
identified and named faster than charts can be revised to show them."
Nevertheless, gazetteers such as this are valuable as records and also as
starting points for those who wish to study the names as historical arti-
facts.

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*Deutsches Namenlexikon. Familien- und Vornamen nach Ursprung und
Sinn erklärt.* By Hans Bahlow. München: Keysersche Verlagsbuchhand-
lung, [1967]. Pp. 588. Price: DM 29.80, or about $8.21.

The name of Hans Bahlow stands for good workmanship in German
onomastic studies. This "names lexicon" of his draws upon sources (see
p. 588) that are among the best for German personal names of both the
past and the present. A readable introduction which is delightfully in-
structive precedes the lexicon proper on pp. 7 to 19.

Readers of *Names* may use a book of this kind to look up German
(forms of) given names and (what is guaranteed to insure an interesting

time and activity) German family names of kith and kin. Since there are countless German family names that can be identified in time and place, many more and with greater precision of information than this work could possibly hold, some readers will find themselves in given instances in possession of detailed anthroponymic knowledge that the book lacks. It is understandable, however, that the author would draw his examples pretty much from available standard German anthroponymic literature.

Ohio State University TV star *Frau* Ilsedore Edse asked me to obtain information on "Familiennamen" of her family: seven that were connected with Mennonites from the Netherlands in the Hamburg and Danzig/Gdańsk areas and six that had been rooted in the soil of East Prussia. Turning to Bahlow, there is information on nine (five Mennonite) out of 13 of these names. A tenth, "East Prussian" *Schlottau*, is suffixed by *-er* in Bahlow. One of the nine names, "Mennonite" *Klaasen*, is found as *Klasen/Cla(a)sen*, and "East Prussian" *Schwark* as *Schwarck* "L[ow] G[erman] ... Swerk, dark clouds, sorrow." Concise accurate facts are furnished, e.g.: "Mennonite" "*Bartsch* (E[ast] G[erman]-Silesian) ... *Bartusch* (Slav. Bartosch), *Bartisch*: around 1300/1400 favorite pet name for Bartholomew ... Bartusch = Bartilmeus Wolf 1370 Brsl. [= Breslau/Wrocław] ..."; "Mennonite" "*Wiens* (Hbg. [Hamburg]): LG-Fris. Pet name (patr[onymic]) for Wienand,Wieneke!. ..." Under *Wien(e)ke* on the same page (561) Bahlow tells us that the full form Wijnand is today still a given name in the Netherlands. Dr. J. van der Schaar confirms this in his *Woordenbock van voornamen* (Utrecht[&]Antwerpen, [1964]): "*Winand* (Fris.), *Wienand* (Gron.), *Wijnand*; m."

My little excursion into the world of family names of one friend and colleague could be repeated countless times with the same results were I to enter, with my readers, worlds of family names of other friends and colleagues. This is a systematically informative reference work that is well worth buying for anyone interested, generally or as a specialist, in names. If you are wondering whether either *Ilsedore* or *Edse* (Frau Edse's maiden name too) is in the *Namenlexikon* the answer is no, but *Ilse* alone is discussed. A friend and names colleague of mine in Bremerhaven is, however, fully named by the author: "*Eide*, Eiden (Fris.) = Ede, Eden! Cp. Benno Eide Siebs." See "*Siebs* = (fries.)" (this time I did not translate) and "*Sieb(e), Sieben(s), Siebs*: Fris. pet name [and], resp., patr." (and this time I did translate as elsewhere above). Incidentally, the first name of Dr. Siebs, *Benno* (see in the names lexicon under *Benn*, patronymic and pet form of Bernhard), is not in his case Frisian in origin. Here a Weser Frisian was named after a Rhenishman from North Rhine-Westphalia.

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Die Personennamen der Germanen. By Benno Eide Siebs. [Niederwalluf/
Wiesbaden:] Dr. Martin Sändig a HG., 1970. Pp. 177. Price: DM 39.–,
or about $10.74.

Benno Eide Siebs, like our ANS's own Elsdon Smith, has a mind
trained in and for law (*Oberregierungsrat a.D.* Siebs was awarded his "Dr.
jur." at Heidelberg), and has for a lifetime now been actively interested
in names. Being a Wursatian Frisian (old Frisian Wursatia or *Land
Wursten* lies north of Bremerhaven) to boot, enveloped in an intriguing
world of Frisian personal names both from archives and contemporary
life, and ideal background was at hand for the development of Dr. Siebs
the names worker. When in 1965 he and I discussed his book, then still
forthcoming, he calmly promised a linguistically unorthodox "place-
name etymology" for the given name stem *Fris-/Fre²s-*.

As he sees it (p. 23), onomastics has been too much the exclusive
property of linguists. This has long been and remains all too true in
Europe, whether Germanic names are subnamed Dutch, East Germanic,
English, Frisian, German, Scandinavian, etc. Dr. Siebs feels that lin-
guists wrongly seek to explain Germanic given names in terms of the
conceptual world in which we live rather than posed against the back-
drop of an earlier prosaic nature-bound magico-religious and economic
world (p. 23ff.) that can be known from myths, fairy tales, sagas, epic
poems and folklore (p. 24). (Dr. Siebs is a skilled folklorist for his more
immediate Northwest German *Heimat* or regional homeland.) We are
told (p. 20) that the orthodox way of the [historical] linguist by itself
cannot bring us to a satisfactory semantic understanding of any but very
few Germanic two-stemmed given name combinations. What is needed
(pp. 22, 35) is an awareness that words have original meanings beyond
what has been recorded for them and that such hidden meanings are
waiting to be read from Germanic names of natural features.

From p. [11] to 38 the business of Germanic given-name etymology or
semantics is taken up. Following on pp. [41]–43 is an introduction to two
alphabetical listings of Germanic given name stems. The first of these
(pp. [45]–66) is made up of stems occurring second in two-stemmed
names; no examples in dithematic (two-stemmed) combinations are
given. The other listing (pp. [67]–177) comprises stems that take initial
position in two-stemmed names. Here examples in dithematic combi-
nations are freely given without, however, being differentiated in time,
and in provenance only by "A" (Anglo-Saxon), "N" (Old West Norse;
"d" = Old Danish, including-undifferentiated-borrowings from Old
Frisian and Old Saxon, see p. 43; "s" = Old Swedish), and "S" (Old East
and minus Old English, Old West Germanic).

There is more chaff among the grain in Siebs' work than a Germanic philologist would normally have. Yet, a Germanic philologist (here a historical Germanic linguist is meant) would do well to follow Dr. Siebs' lead by likewise adding a new "philosophical" dimension to traditional methodology in his own anthroponymic work. Let us take a sampling of Dr. Siebs' etymologies in order now to see theory applied to real name stems. How this is done is what we are after here, not whether individual etymologies obtain this reviewer's endorsement or not.

1.) f. *ON-veig*
    Go. vigan, OHG wegan = to move, to set in motion
    cp. OHG Weiger = bold, i.e., pressing forward in addition
    ON veig = strength, power

2.) m. *– nand, On – nadhr*
    Go. nanthjan, OHG nendan, OS nathjan = to be eager to attack something
    ON nana = to set out to do something, to take pains with and concern oneself about something, to carry out (do) vigorously

3.) *Nand-, Nandel –*
    OHG nand = courage, i.e., zeal, drive, painstaking effort
    cp. Go. nanths = bold, daring and MHG genende = eager and -nand

4.) *Fris-, Fres-* – MDu. frise = (that which is in the) fore, tip, LG rim, border in addition place names Vries, before 1500 Vrese, Vres, Vrees (in Drente, etc.).

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Manitoba Mosaic of Place Names. By J. B. Rudnyćkyj. Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences. Winnipeg: 1970. Pp. 221. Paperbound $3.00. Clothbound $4.50.

When one observes the astounding amount of scholarly work bearing J. B. Rudnyćkyj as the name of the author one is inclined to suppose that he must be a corporation or a group of writers. But members of the American Name Society where Jaroslav Bogdan Rudnyćkyj has served in various offices, including that of president, know that he does not waste any time but works steadily in the various projects in which he is interested. Yet he is always ready to help his students and fellow onomatologists. How does he do it all?

Here is an important work in dictionary form on the place-names of Manitoba, Canada, preceded by an introduction by Professor Watson Kirkconnell briefly outlining the history of Manitoba with regard to its place-names and the men and ethnic groups through which the various names originated. Following the Introduction is a brief bibliography.

From about 6,000 geographical names in Manitoba Professor Rudnyćkyj has selected about 1,400 for inclusion. These are mostly those of populated places or of lakes, rivers, and mountains that have a bearing on Manitoban villages, towns, and cities. The author is especially careful to give citations of the works or individuals from which he obtained his material. One cannot fail to note that Professor Rudnyćkyj, in all his scholarly work, is most careful to give proper credit to other scholars, a mark of the truly great researcher.

With respect to some names the legends attempting to explain their origins are given. Especially interesting are the two stories of the origin of the Qu'Appelle (who calls ?) River, so named because at a certain bend in the river there is an unusually powerful echo. One legend tells of the beautiful young maiden [all maidens in legends are beautiful] who disappeared when she started out to meet her lover. Thereafter, when anyone shouts, her spirit cries "Qu'appelle ?" The other legend tells of the young French trader, hurriedly rowing his boat to see and wed his betrothed, when, lost in thought, he heard someone calling him. Seeing no one he called back, "Qu'appelle ? Qu'appelle ?" But there was no answer and upon arrival at the girl's home he met her funeral procession. The only explanation was that he had heard his loved one calling him in her last feverish moments.

Facing the title page is a small map of Manitoba, and at the end is a larger map showing the more important populated places and the many lakes and rivers, this latter having been prepared by the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Ottawa, Canada. All who are interested in place-names on the North American continent will be glad to have this valuable treatise, and it is hoped that all who are interested in the centennial of Manitoba (1870–1970) will have an opportunity to peruse it.

Elsdon C. Smith

Skify- Mova i Etnos. By V. P. Petrov. [In Ukrainian: "Scythians–Language and Ethnos."] The O. O. Potebnja Linguistic Institute. Acad. of Sci. Ukrainian SSR. Naukova Dumka. Kiev: 1968. Pp. 150.

In this interesting study Victor Petrov concisely and substantiatively presents the problem of the linguistic and ethnic relationships of Scythian.

He reviews major studies of this subject and then discusses two prevailing hypotheses: the Iranian and the Ossetic theories. Some scholars claimed that Scythian was older than Old Persian, or that it was closer to the newer Iranian languages, while others believed that Scythian was the progenitor of the Ossetic language.

V. Petrov rejects both these theories and introduces a third: that Scythian together with Iranian belonged to the eastern branch of the Indo-European languages. He therefore suggests a comparative study of Iranian, Baltic and Thracian language families for the proper placement of Scythian (demonstrating this method with a detailed comparative analysis of four words).

The author stresses the importance, in such study and approach, of the Scythian genealogical legend (in both its versions – the Borystenite and the Pontic) by Herodotus, who suggested a close relationship of Scythian and Sarmatian. V. Petrov reminds us that this legend existed in the Tripole era too (suggested by archeological findings). He therefore further analyzes the etymology of names from this Scythian mythology: Tabiti, Papaj, Api (H)Ojtosir, Arhimpasa, Tahimasad – and demonstrates that they were indeed local words of the Scythians (who occupied mainly the area of present-day Ukraine), and thus were definitely not invented by Herodotus.

From these legends names of Scythian tribes are analyzed and compared here in detail (*avxaty, katiary, traspiji, paralaty, skoloty* – from the Borysthenite version; and from the Pontic – *ahatirsy, helony* and *skyty-skify*). Another chapter deals with Scythian hydronyms. Victor Petrov argues that often too much reliance was placed on the geographical or physical name derivation of hydronyms; this was especially employed in order to support hastily the Iranian theory. In order further to demonstrate his own theory and method, the author presents more than 2,000 examples of Scythian anthroponymy, which he discusses in a comparison with Thracian, Iranian, Baltic and other languages.

This valuable book was printed in 900 copies only.

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What's In a Name ? By C. Stella Davies and John Levitt. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1970. Pp. 108. Price £ 1.

Despite its title, this book is of more than passing importance as an introduction to place-name study. Intended for the layman, it does not dwell on the purely technical aspects of the lingustic formation of names

but more on the history surrounding the name; nevertheless, the development of the form is not disregarded, as the excellent chapter on folk-etymology, back-formation, and sound changes attests.

Relying heavily on the pioneer work of Eilert Ekwall, *English Place-Names* (Oxford, 1960) and the volumes of The English Place-Name Society, the authors have succinctly summarized the historical implications arising from those studies, which, for the most part, had stressed aspects other than the historical. Included are chapters on the earliest known place-names, the spread of settlement, religion and superstition, the coming of the Vikings, the Normans and after, curiosities, and the English language and place-names.

Although the place-name scholar will find nothing new here, he will find an expertly written text, which in itself may constitute something new in place-name studies. Approximately 650 names are indexed, with a list of books recommended for further research and study. Finally, if there is a better introductory text, I have not seen it.

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SHORT NOTICES

Foreign Versions, Variations and Diminutives of English Names; Foreign Equivalents of United States Military and Civilian Titles. United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, M-131, Rev. 1969, Washington D.C.: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969. Pp. 52. Price $1.00.

A revision and expansion of a pamphlet noted previously in *Names*, this one has little to offer the student in personal names, (12. 64), except perhaps to make him wonder why so much effort was spent on what seems to be a needless task, unless it is for interoffice purposes.

The first part is a compilation of foreign equivalents of commonly used English given names, while a second part notes the United States military and civilian titles and their equivalents in some 45 different countries, though not necessarily different languages. The countries listed reflect to an extent the concerns of the United States in foreign affairs.

An Atlas of Indiana. By Robert C. Kingsbury. Bloomington, Ind.: Department of Geography, Indiana University, Occasional Publication No. 5, 1970. Pp. 94. Price $2.00.

This atlas is a contribution by the Department of Geography of Indiana University to the University's Sesquicentennial celebration. A newspaper announcement stated that it contained the origin of all county names in Indiana, but this is not the case. The dates of establishment are given for each county, but other onomastic information is limited, consisting only of the dates of grants, purchases, and territories. For some reason, the dates of inauguration and abandonment of electric interurban railroads are prominently mentioned, with the intriguing reminder that the Chicago, South Shore & South Bend Railroad is the "last remaining passenger-carrying electric interurban railroad in the United States."

The use computer-generated cartography is an innovative feature of the atlas, the maps being compiled by computer and then hand drafted, although most are presented as the computer outlined them. Otherwise, the atlas is of interest primarily to Hoosiers and of hardly any use to those seeking information on names.

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