

Book Reviews

Donum Balticum: to Professor Christian S. Stang on the occasion of his seventieth birthday 15 March 1970. Edited by Velta Rūke-Dravina. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1970. Pp. xiv, 598.

The Baltic group (Lithuanian, Latvian, and Old Prussian) has always held a high place of honor in Indo-European studies. Yet for a long time, in point of major publications, this group was strangely neglected. In recent years there has been a sort of renaissance in Baltic studies.¹ But this recent evidence of activity may be regarded as a flowering stemming from the tireless work of a few scholars over the past half century. Among non-natives of the Baltic countries, Stang is certainly the dean of living Balticists,² and this volume, the largest and most varied collection of essays on Baltic subjects perhaps ever to appear, is a fitting tribute – a mark of the highest quality and devoted scholarship.

Of the 75 papers contributed but six are on onomastic topics, and it is appropriate to dwell here on these latter and to leave suitable review of the balance to other journals of different scope. However, the content of this volume is so rich that a few side remarks are in order simply to attract the attention of interested readers. Here we find seven articles on phonology, a further four on accentology, 15 on morphology, five on syntax, 21 on lexicon and etymology, three on text philology, three on poetics, seven on contacts with neighbors, and four on the perennial problem of the relation of Baltic to Slavic. Twenty articles are specifically on

¹ J. Otrebski, *Gramatyka języka litewskiego* (Warsaw, 1956); Alfred Senn, *Handbuch der litauischen Sprache*, 2 vols., (Heidelberg, 1957–66); Ernst Fraenkel, *Litauisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* [19 parts] (Heidelberg-Göttingen, 1955–1965); numerous important works and reprints published in Lithuania and Latvia, and esp. the international journal *Baltistica*; Pr. Skardžius, *Lietuvių kalbos kirčiavimas* [Lithuanian accentuation] (Chicago, 1968); G. B. Ford, *The Old Lithuanian Catechism of Baltramiejus Vilentas* [1579] (The Hague, 1969); *The Old Lith. Catechism of Martyna Mažvydas* [1547] (Assen, 1971); Magner and Schmalstieg edd., *Baltic Linguistics* (University Park, Pa., 1970) [papers of the first conference held outside the Baltic republics, and dedicated to Alfred Senn]; the Białystok journal *Acta Baltico-Slavica*, from 1964 on; and during this period we have seen the completion of the great Lithuanian-German dictionary of the written language [49 parts, 1926–1968] by Senn, Salys, * Niedermann, and * Brender, on which see P. Jonikas, *Erasmus* 21 (1969), 533–6. At the end of the last dictionary there is a large listing of accented proper names.

² *Die Sprache des litauischen Katechismus von Mažvydas* (Oslo, 1929); *Das slavische und baltische Verbum* (Oslo, 1942); *Slavonic accentuation* (Oslo, 1957); *Opuscula linguistica* (Oslo, 1970) [selected articles, with word index by the author, and a list of his published works]; and his magnum opus, *Vergleichende Grammatik der baltischen Sprachen* (Oslo, 1966).

Lithuanian, 16 on Latvian, and three on Old Prussian, the balance being more general. Most of the topics are restricted in scope to fit the brief pagination of a *Festschrift* article.

There is even an engaging variety in the onomastic contributions. Alfrēd Gāters (pp. 130–41) finds that the names of heroes in Latvian folk tales, when they are not names specifying each character's function, are simple Christian given names, drawn mostly from a very small set. Hermann Schall (448–64) illustrates with 15 names from the "Preussische Chronik" by Lucas David (1576–83) the riches in Old Prussian material that await us in unexploited documents. Besides interpretive and etymological comment, Schall offers full up-to-date bibliographic indications on Old Prussian. Teodolius Witkowski (562–73) argues against recent claims that Baltic names are found west of the Oder.

Tadeusz Zdancewicz (581–94) has a detailed study of place-names in *plei- found in the Suwalki district of northeast Poland. These 46 names, which cannot be explained by known Slavic elements, coincide well with Baltic settlement territory and admit ready explanation by Lithuanian nouns. Jürgen Prinz offers (372–97) a detailed and fully documented analysis of the distribution of etyma with Baltic *ž in the place-names of western Russia. These names occur with both *z* and *ž* in their Slavic form, a variation that must be attributed to the Baltic substratum. While *ž* is predominant, *z* occurs widely but with strong concentration in certain areas. The hypothesis – meticulously controlled – is advanced that Baltic *ž*-speakers were forced out of one of their former areas by Slavs and, in moving, overlaid other Baltic *z*-speakers.

Wolfgang P. Schmid (469–79) studies river names in *-uo-, which he shows to be productive in Baltic hydronymy at an early date. This is a valuable contribution to the chronology of Indo-European word formation, as well as an illuminating study of early Baltic names.

This is a really splendid volume of which the above catches only a glimpse. It is a pity that such a heterogeneous and widely useful work contains no word index.

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Traité d'anthroponymie houtzoule (A Treatise on Huculian Anthroponymy). By André de Vincenz. Forum Slavicum, Herausgegeben von D. Tschizewskij, Vol. 18 (1970). Wilhelm Fink Verlag. München. Pp. 613. Price: DM 98,-.

The Hucul-Land, the south-west part of the Ukrainian ethno-lingual territory, appears, after the publication of this impressive volume, one of the most advanced areas in onomatological respects. Indeed, after the

publication of Stefan Hrabec's *Nazwy geograficzne Huculszczyzny* (Geographical Names of the Hucul-Land, PAN, Cracow, 1952) only the anthroponymic research was outstanding. The book of de Vincenz supplements this need and closes the gap. Today both the topo- and anthroponymy of the Hucul-Land are accessible to scholars not only as to the collection of the respective material, but also in methodology.

De Vincenz's study is exemplary. It offers a wealth of material concerning both the Christian and the family names of Huculs. It reveals the author's love and endurance in collecting them either from his own fieldwork or from the questionnaires sent to descendants or patriots of "Huculia" abroad. In that manner about 4,000 names were collected and investigated as far as their form and semantics are concerned. A very important feature of the study is the historical documentation for each name: in this respect the author is to be highly commended since the Huculian anthroponymy acquires now a new dimension – the diachronic perspective. Indeed, the documentation of previous forms of each item in many cases helps to present a proper analysis and etymology of names under consideration.

One can point to various details which were perhaps treated insufficiently [e.g. the surname *Bojko* as "a man from the plains" pp. 329–330, when it must be connected with the ethnonym *Bojko* "one who uses *boje* (in his everyday speech)"; a rather sketchy treatment of the suffix *-ysko* in surnames, p. 552; too many "obscure" names on pp. 577–582, some of which were already explained elsewhere; finally, one can regret insufficiently perused literature, e.g. UVAN *Onomastica* 30, etc.]; yet, the scientific value of this book is beyond question. There are no other areas in the Ukraine having such an elaborated system of anthroponymy as the Hucul-Land on one side, and, moreover, there are only very few other Slavic areas of anthroponymy so precisely and exhaustively treated as is the case in De Vincenz's monograph.

Miss Teresa Michalik is to be commended for an excellent index on pp. 585–607.

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Early East-Anglian Nicknames, 'Shakespeare Names'. By Bo Seltén. Lund, CWK Gleerup, 1969. Pp. 27. Price Kr. 8.

This is a brief study of the Shakespeare-type nicknames, that is, those composed of a verb and a noun. The author attempts to explain them, but explanations of names of this kind are often just educated guesses. Besides Shakespeare, the best known at the present time is

Drinkwater. Most of the others have disappeared. However, studies of this kind are most valuable in the whole context of the study of names.

After a brief discussion the author classifies them as Nicknames Proper, Occupational Nicknames, and Local Nicknames.

Elsdon C. Smith

The Story Key to Geographic Names. By O. D. von Engeln and Jane McKelway Urquhart. Port Washington, N. Y.: Kennikat Press, 1970. Reprint. Pp. xviii, 279. Price \$ 11.00.

This is a reprint of a book first published in 1924, a work, according to the preface, originally conceived and designed to promote effective teaching of elementary geography, but found to be an important geographic reader linking geography and history, history and language, language and people, for the benefit of young pupils. Four chapters are devoted to the names in parts of the United States and 20 to the names found in the rest of the world. The meanings and pronunciations of the important place-names are given in an easy readable style, calculated to arouse the interest of the students. This is a most valuable aid to the child learning about the world.

Elsdon C. Smith

Note

ONOMASTIC HUMOR IN SAKI'S

FILBOID STUDGE, THE STORY OF THE MOUSE THAT HELPED

The short stories of H. H. Munro, written under the pseudonym "Saki," are characterized by wit, satire, and surprise endings reminiscent of O. Henry. In *Filboid Studge* . . . , the surprise ending is enhanced by Saki's skillful handling of onomastic devices which highlight his satirical treatment of the theme of ingratitude.

Mark Spayley, a young artist of limited means, informs Duncan Dullamy of his desire to marry Leonore, the latter's daughter. Dullamy, a tycoon, has spent staggering sums of money to promote a breakfast cereal called "Pipenta" and presently finds himself on the brink of a financial crisis, because the cereal is not selling. This circumstance prompts Dullamy to consent to the marriage on the premise that a financial tragedy could prejudice his daughter's chances of marrying any wealthy man. Spayley expresses his gratitude and eagerness to help his future father in law, although he candidly admits that this would be comparable to a *mouse* helping a *lion*. Nevertheless, Spayley will make a fervent attempt to get the public to buy more Pipenta.