Notes

A DIGITAL CLASSIFICATION OF PLACE-NAMES

[The following is a proposed digital classification system for place-name computeriza-
tion, an outgrowth of the author's work on the street-names of El Paso, Texas. It has been
adapted from a paper read at the *ANS* meeting in New York City, December 30, 1970,
and is printed as an example of how the computer can profitably be used in onomastic
research. The author wishes to thank Mr. Robert Coltharp, who programmed the project;
and Professors Margaret Bryant, Byrd Granger, Wayland D. Hand, and T. M. Pearce, who
offered advice and encouragement. Ed. note.]

This place-name classification system permits utilization of a computer to sort, alpha-
betize, and print out research data from standard 80-column card input. Space and flex-
ibility for individual research problems are provided within the basic program. Up to 99
cards can be used for each place-name, thus providing for expansion to meet the needs of
the most complex task.

Preparation of Input Data

The basic initial input card for each place-name contains the following: numeric identi-
fication of name, four digits (up to 9,999 entries); card number, two digits; place-name,
35 digits (characters and spaces); location indicator, two digits (ZIP codes were used for
El Paso street locations); language classification, one digit (El Paso street-name study
used only three of the nine available codes: English, Spanish, and hybrid); three classi-
fication divisions of three digits each; and informant identification or data source informa-
tion, 20 digits (characters and spaces).

The three classification divisions are adequate to handle double-name and boundary-
line cases. Each of the three consists of two numeric digits (01—99) plus one alphabetic
designation. The numeric designation provides for the basic classification system; the
alphabetic designation provides subdivisions for the researcher's individual study. To
those familiar with programming, it may seem foolish to mix numbers and letters in one
program. However, experience has proven the minor difficulty of writing subroutines is
far compensated by the resulting clarity of division: the numbers belong to the basic
classification system; the letters belong to the particular researcher.

Additional cards for each place-name must contain the numeric identification and the
appropriate card number for the name. After that, data can be added, with the size of the
available computer being the only limitation on the researcher.

Place-Name Classification System

The two digits (01—99) of the three classification divisions provide the basic classifi-
cation system for handling place-name data. In the developmental stage of the system,
they have been assigned as follows:

01—09: Reserved for Individual Studies. The researcher can assign these numbers to addi-
tional classifications unique to his study. Data sorted on these classifications will be
produced in the printout.

10—19: Proper Names: People. 10 Early Settlers (the definition "early" will vary, but
a cut-off date should be defined and clearly specified for each study); *11* Given Names
and Nicknames (in the El Paso study, the alphabetic designation was used to differentiate
between sexes: *11*A Male, *11*B Female); *12* Government Officials, Local (generally town
and county); *13* Government Officials, Non-local (above county level); *14* Real Estate

Men, Land Developers, or Owners; *15* Friends or Relatives; *16* Religious Leaders, Saints, etc.; *17* Authors, Artists, and Musicians; *18* Business or Professional; *19* Non-Professional. The researcher can use the alphabetic third digit to obtain a breakdown within multiple categories or further to subdivide according to his requirements.

20–29: Proper Names: Other than People (excluding Religion, Mythology, and Literature). *20* Countries; *21* States; *22* Cities and Towns; *23* Other Geographical; *24* Ethnic Groups; *25* Holidays or Special Days; *26* Abstract Ideas (such as "Liberty"); *27* Educational Institutions; *28* Titles and Forms of Address ("King Street" would be included here, but "King James" would go under *13* Government Officials, Non-local); *29* Organizations and Businesses.

30–39: Flora and Fauna. 30 Plants and Bushes; *31* Flowers; *32* Fruits and Nuts; *33* Vegetables and Grains; *34* Trees; *35* Birds; *36* Mammals (excluding man); *37* Fish; *38* unassigned; *39* unassigned.

40–49: Inanimate Objects. How to classify inanimate objects for place-name study has been a problem: man-made vs. natural; solid, liquid, or gaseous ? The following tentative divisions were used: *40* Rocks, Minerals, and Jewels; *41* Other Terrestrial Matter; *42* Aquatic; *43* Celestial — all natural. Man-made: *44* Military (as "Artillery Road"); *45* Businesses (as "Mill Lane"); *46* Conveyances; *47* unassigned; *48* unassigned; *49* unassigned.

50–59: Geographic. Geographic and descriptive names often overlap; perhaps this category should be designated "Descriptive: Geographic" with *60–69* "Descriptive: Non-Geographic." The following tentative divisions are *50* Elevation; *51* Depression; *52* Flat Surfaces; *53* Water, Moving; *54* Water, Quiet; *55* Thoroughfares; *56* Compass Points; *57* unassigned; *58* unassigned; *59* unassigned.

60–69: Descriptive. 60 Size; *61* Shape; *62* Color; *63* Use; *64* Location; *65* Quality; *66* Sensory; *67* Incident or Event (a productive category in some areas); *68* Atmosphere; *69* Negative.

70–79: Religion, Mythology, and Literature. 70 Biblical (some proper names, such as "Isaiah," might be included under *16* Proper Names, Religious Leaders, as well as here); *71* Other Religious Writings; *72* Mythology (a difficult division, since what may be religion to one can be mythology to another); *73* Literature, United States; *74* Literature, England; *75* Literature, Classical; *76* Literature, Other; *77* Sub-Literature (such as comic strips); *78* unassigned; *79* unassigned.

80–89: Folklore. 80 Foreign; *81* American, Non-Local; *82* American, Local; *83* Migratory; *84* Folk Songs and Ballads; *85* Folk Tales and Legends; *86* Folk Beliefs and Customs (including magic, witchcraft, folk medicine, customary law); *87* Folk Speech (including proverbs and riddles); *88* Folklore of Material Culture; *89* Folk Dance and Folk Art.

90–99: Miscellaneous. 90 Numbers; *91* Letters; *92* Coined or Invented Names (the alphabetic designation would allow further division, such as *92A* Acronyms, *92B* Abbreviations, *92C* Blends, etc.); *93* Mistake Names; *94* unassigned; *95* unassigned; *96* unassigned; *97* unassigned; *98* unassigned; *99* Unidentifiable.

Purpose of System Development

The above place-name classification system has been developed as a beginning toward a more universal system for use in onomastic studies. The author is aware of need for improvement and welcomes comment, criticism, and additions. Those wishing a tabulated copy of the above classification system may obtain one by writing to her at the address below.

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THREE SEMESTERS OF GERMANIC PERSONAL NAME STUDY
FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Personal and place-names have long been traditional objects of study in Europe. At the University of Leuven (Louvain) in Belgium, at the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* (Names Institute), which is the home of the *International Centre of Onomastics*, medieval Dutch personal and place-names may be studied as thoroughly as graduate students delve into medieval history on this side of the Atlantic. Magnificent facilities exist there by way of professorial guidance, as well as in the form of pertinent books and peri-odicals.[1] In the United States we have had a scholarly journal for the study of names since the year 1955. It is appropriately called *Names, Journal of the American Name Society*.[2] The study of names in the United States is more broadly defined than in Europe. All names, not only those of persons and places, are seen as professional grist for the onomatologist's mill.[3] This does not mean that the European onomatologist religiously

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[1] In 1947 the *Instituut voor Vlaamsche Toponymie* [Institute for Flemish Toponymy] in Leuven ([løə]-or [lø.vən]) officially became the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* with its having grown into a center, not only for the study of place-names but for that of settlement history as well, and more particularly for the study of personal names. (See p. 9 of H. Draye, "Uit de geschiedenis van het Leuvens Instituut voor Naamkunde [mit deutscher Zusammenfassung]," *Naamkunde*, I [1969], [1]–12.) It was a belated name change that was brought about by a change in policy 12 years earlier (*ibid.*, 11).

For readers of *Names* it will be interesting to learn how the equivalent of *Names* in the Low Countries evolved. Along with the aforesaid name change of 1947 the periodical of the *instituut* at Leuven was rechristened. What had from 1925 to 1946 (*jaargangen* or volumes I through XXII) been the *Mededelingen uitgegeven door de Vlaamsche Topony-mische vereeniging te Leuven* [Communications published by the Flemish Toponymic (Place Name) Society of Leuven] became from 1947 to 1949 the *Mededelingen uitgegeven door de Vereniging voor Naamkunde te Leuven* [Communications published by the Leuven Society for the Study of Names].

Meanwhile, in 1948 a *Commissie voor Naamkunde* [Commission for the Study of Names] had been set up in Amsterdam, and from 1950 through 1968 (volumes XXVI through XLIV) the *Mededelingen* had a new last name: they were now the *Mededelingen van de Vereniging voor Naamkunde te Leuven en de Commissie voor Naamkunde te Amsterdam.* By this time the reader will, it is hoped, be able to understand the words of the new title and deduce therefrom that the *Mededelingen* had begun to be an international Belgian-Dutch names journal. In 1969 *Mededelingen* ceased to be the first name of that journal. As a matter of fact, the old journal may be said to have been succeeded by a brand new one in so far as the latter is volume I rather than XLV of *Naamkunde*, subnamed as the *Mededelingen van het Instituut voor Naamkunde te Leuven en de Commissie voor Naamkunde en Nederzettingsgeschiedenis* [Settlement History] *te Amsterdam.* (See *ibid.*, 9–10, 12, and opposite [1].)

The *Instituut voor Naamkunde*, located at the Blijde-Inkomststraat 5 in Leuven, also publishes five series of monographs and studies, including one called *Anthroponymica* which, as the name implies, is given over to works on personal names. Under the pseudo-nym *International Centre of Onomastics* the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* has since 1950 been publishing *Onoma*, the international *Bibliographical and Information Bulletin.*

[2] Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Names* came out in March 1953.

[3] In Vol. 1, No. 2 of *Names* (June 1953), 73–78, George R. Stewart offers thoughts on "The Field of the American Name Society" and, on pp. 76–77, a ninefold "trial classifica-tion of names." His fifth category is made up of "Titles, i.e., the names of books, works

avoids all names not of human beings and of land and water features that can be mapped. In 1960, for example, the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* published, as part of one of its series, two articles on names of ships.[4] The point that I am trying to make here is that a relative but basic difference exists in the philosophy of onomastic sciences in the United States and Europe.

Can names be taught as an academic discipline? In Europe the answer is yes. In the United States the answer is still for the most part no. It was yes, however, in 1966 and 1967 when an undergraduate proseminar was offered for three semesters at a West Chicagoland liberal arts college. As the professor who led this proseminar I now offer it again, but this time as a topic for discussion.

This has nothing to do with the subject matter directly but I found that the proseminar functioned best with no more than eight proseminarians. Above eight the individual pro-seminarian began to fade out as a contributing member of the class. A very distinctive part of the proseminar was that it was conducted exclusively in German. This was required of all upper-level undergraduate courses within Germanic in a Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. It was therefore not unexpected that almost all of the students who registered for the course were German majors. One was not, but like one of the German majors taking the course, was a native speaker of German. The basic text for the course was *Die deutschen Personennamen* by Adolf Bach, a work of some 650 pages that came out in Heidelberg in 1952 and 1953 as *Deutsche Namenkunde* I, 1 and I, 2. Its publisher, the Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, is also the printer of *Names*.

As the title of Bach's book indicates this was no proseminar on the personal names of the world. But it was more than an introduction to German personal names. The author systematically treated Netherlandish and Frisian personal names along with German ones. Jewish German and Yiddish personal names as well as non-Germanic personal names of the German East (West Slavic and, in East Prussia, Lithuanian) were not neglected. Without adding to this statement — and much could be added — it may be said that a good introduction is provided by Bach to Germanic and Indo-European personal names.

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of art, etc." At the December 1969 yearly meeting of the American Name Society, held at Denver, Colorado, a speaker presenting "names" of Spanish "works of art" was vigorously challenged by a fellow American and fellow member of the American Name Society, who was not ready to accept the speaker's "names" as names. If we say that the name of a painting by Rembrandt is the *Night Watch* (Dutch *Nachtwacht*), is putting it this way a mere figure of speech?

In *Mededelingen*, XXX (1954), 18—28 two names scholars of the Low Countries, K[arel] Roelandts and M[oritz] Schönfeld, had the following to say on p. 19 of their "Naamkundige terminologie" (their Dutch I have rendered in English): "The newly founded American Name Society chooses to extend its field of investigation to all kinds of names, among which are titles of books, generic names of animals, brand names, names of historical periods and events, bacteriological and botanical nomenclature, etc. [In a footnote at this point the reader is made aware of Stewart's article, specifically to his proposed classification there.] We fear that this approach will all too readily lead to dispersion of strength [Dutch *versnippering*] and [we] continue to reserve the term onomastics [Dutch *naamkunde*] for the study of place and personal names, which together form a well-defined unit."

[4] The separate titles of the articles are summed up as a composite title on the title page: *Scheepsnamen vroeger en nu* by W. Voorbeijtel Cannenburg and J. P. Kruseman, each of whom wrote one of the two articles. The monograph was published by the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* as *Bijlage* LVIII in 1960, one of the series put out under the name *Bij-lagen*, that is, appendices.

Phonology, grammar and etymology are the subjects of the first part of the work, all in connection with personal names. In the second part Bach substitutes history, geography, sociology and psychology for phonology, grammar and etymology as new categories against the background of which the study of personal names may be pursued. The man who was then head of the campus sociology department, a man with an abiding interest in German, joined the proseminar at the time personal names were discussed in relation to his discipline. Unlike the proseminarians, however, he was not up to carrying on a discussion in any language but English.

During the third semester two supplementary textbooks were required, J. van der Schaar's Utrecht/Antwerp-published dictionary of fore- or given names, *Woordenboek van voornamen*, of 1964 in Dutch, and in Frisian; the late Professor P. Sipma's Drachten (Netherlands' Friesland)-published *Foar- en Skaeinammen* [Given and Family Names], of 1952. Thanks to having used it with my proseminarians, I think I was able to write a better book review[5] than would otherwise have been the case, of Dr. van der Schaar's unusual little work which combines so much material on given-name forms of the Western World, including those of Hungary, with a truly outstanding compilation from the Dutch and Frisian Netherlands and from Afrikaans South Africa. Reading material in Dutch worked no undue hardship on the proseminarians. What they did not know in Dutch they looked up in a Dutch-German dictionary, and if there was anything after so doing that they did not know in German, they looked it up in a German-English dictionary.[6] A Dutch-English dictionary was not used because German was the language of instruction and all material read in Dutch or Frisian was discussed in German.

The multiple dictionary system failed miserably when a Frisian-Dutch dictionary was added for reading in Sipma's aforesaid *Foar- en Skaeinammen,* the first or personal name volume of his *Fryske Nammekunde* or "Frisian Onomastics." Dutch acted as a barrier rather than a bridge to Frisian. A little 95-page trilingual Frisian-North Frisian-German dictionary published in 1951[7] would not have been adequate to the task of reading Sipma in Frisian. I therefore hastened to prepare a Frisian-German glossary and, as if by magic, Frisian was transformed into a language that is easy to read. If the third semester had not come to an end, the proseminarians would have started reading material on personal names in Scandinavian. (If there had been a fourth semester we should have started in on place-names.) The students had already been provided with a xerox copy of personal-name terminology as found on pp. 23—28 of Karel Roelandts' and the late Moritz Schönfeld's article on "Naamkundige terminologie" [onomastic terminology] on pp. 18—28 of the thirtieth or 1954 volume of the *Mededelingen von de Vereniging voor Naamkunde te Leuven en de Commissie voor Naamkunde te Amsterdam*. The unique and wonderful thing about the "Naamkundige terminologie" of Roelandts and Schönfeld is that it gives comparable anthroponymic or personal-name terms in most if not all Germanic languages, beginning with Dutch and then moving on to Frisian, English, German and the Scandinavian group Swedish-Danish-(Bokmål)Norwegian.

If my proseminar on personal names can be said to have had an official laboratory section, then it was at the times the students deciphered Middle Dutch personal names from xerox copies of original late fourteenth century documents. This material was drawn

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[5] See *Names*, 16 (March, 1968), 58—59.

[6] Each student had a copy of the second or Dutch-German volume of Van Goor's *Duits Handwoordenboek* [German Desk Dictionary] by H. W. J. Kroes, 4th rev. ed. (Den Haag, n.d.).

[7] *Wurdboek Midfrysk-Noardfrysk*, ed. G. Meersburg (Ljouwert, 1951). The Frisian-Dutch volume of the *Frysk Wurdboek*, ed. H. S. Buwalda, G. Meerburg and Y. Poortinga (Bolswert, 1956.)

from the book in which burghership or town-citizenship is recorded for the ancient Flemish city of *Berghen*.[8] Bergen today lies within France near Dunkirk. The French call it *Bergues* and in Dutch it is usually known as *Sint-Winoksbergen,* thus honoring the memory of the town's Breton patron saint, who in the seventh and eighth centuries did so much to bring the Gospel to the inhabitants of Coastal Flanders.[9] Reading the names of the Flemings of some 600 years ago never failed to call forth the greatest enthusiasm on the part of the proseminarians. Through their knowledge of English as well as German they took special delight in producing name translations and name etymologies that were far more often right than wrong. For example, in occupational names that were approaching permanence as true family names, *de pottere* was quickly recognized as English "potter," as was *de handscoewarkere* as someone who was a worker of *Handschuhe,* literally "handshoes," the German word for "gloves."[10] All the students learned from their first encounter with the Middle Dutch material that by the late fourteenth century a man in Flanders for whom an occupational family name had been entered could bear a semi-hereditary occupational family name that had nothing whatever to do with his occupation.[11]

My proseminarians knew their *p*'s and *q*'s in names, as it were, and not only when it came to a Welsh name like *P*richard over against a Gaelic name like *Mac*Pháil.[12] They spoke glowingly of a new world of names that opened up for them in everyday life. How could they ever not have been aware that certain Italian family names are of Germanic patronymic origin?[13] They felt that they had learned something useful that would serve them well for the rest of their lives. One of my proseminarians, who for financial reasons had to transfer his place of study to Champaign-Urbana (The University of Illinois) was

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[8] And, I may add, well taken care of there by the city archivist Miss Thérèse Vergriete.

[9] Alexandre Pruvost, *Chronique et cartulaire de l'abbaye de Bergues-Saint-Winoe de Saint-Benoît* (Bruges, 1875), p. 5.

[10] The modern Dutch form is *(hand)schoen,* with its terminal *-n* by analogy with the Middle Dutch plural; see *Schönfeld's Historische Grammatica van het Nederlands,* ed. A. van Loey, 6th edn. (Zutphen, 1959), p. 123.

Late fourteenth century "Potters" recorded in the *Poorterboek* (book of burghers) of Bergen/Bergues are *Jan de pottere* (folio 2 recto, 1390) and *jehan de pott[er]e* (folio 5 recto, 1392), which latter was made a burgher ("portere jemaect") *vp den seconden dach jn aprel* "upon the second day of April."

In the late fourteenth century the name of the same individual is recorded twice (folio 1 recto, 1389), once as one of the *sceipenen* or aldermen-judiciaries, and the other time as a town burgher. The first time we find *gillis de handscoew[ar]kere.* In both cases the *s* of the last name was written by the scribe like the small *f*-like *s* of the Fraktur-Schwabacher once learned by all students of German. The same kind of *s* is found in the name of another burgher of 1390 (folio 3 recto): *roeland handscoe* "Roland Glove."

[11] This is amply shown by a wealth of examples from medieval *Berghen* near Dunkirk. In 1389 (folio 2 recto) a burgher, *jan de koc,* was, in spite of his name, a "tanner" (*tanre*) rather than a "cook." In the same year another *tanre* bore the name *Jan de Brieuere* (folio 3 verso), Middle Dutch *briever[e]* meaning "writer, (private) secretary" (J. Verdam, *Middelnederlandsch Handwoordenboek,* ed. C. H. Ebbinge Wubben ['s-Gravenhage. 1956], p. 117).

[12] Adolf Bach, *Die deutschen Personennamen,* I, 2, 2. edn. (Heidelberg, 1953), p. 66 for "Mac"; P. H. Reaney, A Dictionary of British Surnames (London, 1961), pp. xlv, xlviii, 209 (*Macfail*), 260.

[13] Bach, *op. cit.,* p. 8; Joseph G. Fucilla, *Our Italian Surnames* (Evanston, Illinois, 1949), pp. 20–22.

planning to come back to major under me again, and he was bringing another defector from the University of Illinois with him as one of my new majors bent on studying names. From that point of view it is unfortunate that I did not stay at my old academic address.

As a practical idealist I should welcome an attempt at experimentation with a names program in higher education. I do not even take flight at the thought of a general names course on the high-school level. On the college level it is not hopelessly utopian to envisage an interdepartmental major in Names that cuts across such disciplines as geography, languages, psychology, sociology and the natural sciences. Similar but more advanced Names Studies programs could go on from there in graduate schools. A summer school for students of onomastic sciences would enable us to learn from and teach each other at length and intensively in a manner that is not now possible simply by hearing and discussing the talks of our yearly American Name Society meetings. Teaching and learning guests from beyond Canada and the United States could provide a maximum of meaningful cross-fertilization.

The active members of the American Name Society are a select group of highly motivated individuals and scholars. Through their efforts the study of names could be established as a general academic discipline in the United States and Canada. Then three semesters of Germanic personal name study for undergraduates would become too commonplace to warrant comment in a professional note of this kind.

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