Book Reviews

Dei Gratia in Royal Titles. By Jack Autrey Dabbs. The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1971. Pp. 280. Price 52 Dutch Guilders.

If only it were possible to convey to others the joy that Jack A. Dabbs' *Dei Gratia* brought – and still brings – to me! All the words favorable to scholarship apply: thorough, scrupulous, impartial, etc. But *Dei Gratia* deserves more than words of accolade. It deserves to be read. It is a big little book, large in conception and pregnant with meaning, although small in number of pages and sparse of illustration.

In *Dei Gratia* Dabbs examines "the institution of monarchy as an onomastic problem, concentrating on the ritual or legalistic function of the title." Using as evidence not only legal documents but also coins, works of creative literature, and objects of fine art, Dabbs traces the history of kingship from Egypt to the present. In the process he brings the reader to a deeper understanding of the nature of kingship as part of the Western heritage. We learn, among many other things, how the phrase was employed in official religious and secular writings from its first recorded use in 342; and, as a result, we perceive that the Papacy removed the traditional Roman aversion to the title of King and, throughout Europe, brought about well-nigh universal approval of *gratia* as two links: (1) between the anointed kings of the Old Testament, foreshadowers of the Christus, and the Christian kings; and (2) between a monarch's subjects and the Divine Power as represented in the charisma with which a mortal is graced when he becomes king.

There is much more to *Dei Gratia* than I have indicated here. The book is full of odd but pertinent facts such as the suggestion of kinship between the ancient Hebrews and the Spartans of classical Greece on the grounds that both were warlike and fiercely independent. More important, though, are the insights and understandings which Dabbs brings to the subject of monarchy. His success demonstrates anew to scholars in all disciplines the increasing value of research in onomastics.

Any book can be faulted. Despite the excellent index and the clear footnotes (placed on the bottom of the page), which enable the reader to move easily in and around the subject, Dabbs in *Dei Gratia* could have done more with creative literature, with illustrations enabling us to judge the value of the evidence he utilizes, with selections on *dei gratia* out of the voluminous bibliography on the nature of kingship. But this is cavilling. The American Name Society is to be commended for its sponsorship of this publication. And Jack Dabbs is to be thanked for revealing so concretely how onomastics can help us better to understand our heritage.

Arthur F. Beringause

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English House Names. By Leslie Dunkling. Thames Ditton: The Names Society, 1971. Pp. 63.

"Take heed of Criticks," warned Thomas Dekker (1570?–1632); "they bite, like fish, at anything, especially at bookes." This booklet, however, the first publication of The Names Society, has nothing to fear from critics: it is both delightful and instructive. An essay on "econymics" (house names), it has both what its author calls "a touch of Tristram Shandyish light-heartedness, if that means anything to you" and a special appeal to the British, many of whom have enjoyed giving their homes interesting and inventive names and have stoutly resisted the request of the General Post Office to substitute street addresses for "The Old Vicarage," "Dunrovin," and such.

The project began with Mr. Dunkling's students collecting house names as a field project in onomastics. It grew with a feature in the *Times* and coverage on the BBC's program "Today." It led to an Econymical Society and will form the basis for a more complete *Dictionary of House Names*, now in progress. Meanwhile, we have this booklet as an introduction to the subject.

Students of literature and history will recall a number of famous house names: Thomas Hardy's "Max Gate," Scott's "Abbotsford," Alexander Woollcott's "Wit's End," the "Wisteria Lodge" in the Sherlock Holmes story, Daphne du Maurier's "Manderby" in *Rebecca*, Hawthorne's "The House of Seven Gables," Dickens' "Bleak House," Frederick the Great's "San Souci," and so on. Mr. Dunkling introduces us to the modern continuers of a long tradition, the people who put out house signs to invite you to "Com a Gyn" or "Havachat," the wits of "Costa Plenty" and "Bedside Manor," Mr. White of "Maison Blanche" and the people who opted for "Chez Soi" only to discover that their mail was arriving addressed "Chop Suey."

The study seems to have located the greatest number of joke names in Kent and among summer cottages on the South Coast. Thus a house in Crawley (Sussex) is "Creepy" and one in Looe (Cornwall) is "Hullaba" (though it might as easily have been "Water"). A couple in Hop Garden Road call their house "Boozer's Gloom." We find "Chez Nous" and "Chez When." One man called his house "Remember" simply because he had the letters for "Number Three" and this rearrangement required the addition of only one more letter. An army sergeant, retired, recalled a song from World War II and spelled it backwards to create the Welsh-sounding "Llamesselb." Place-names like "Mill End" and "Potter's End" lead to "Tether's End." A house numbered 2B suggests to some "Ornot." "Odtaa" is from the saying "One damn thing after another." Retirees refer to their former occupations in canting constructions: a baker's

"Dunbakin," a cricketer's "Dunbolyn," a yachtsman's "Duncruin," a former student's "Dunrooming," a Scottish teacher's "Dunstrappin," a vicar's "Dunravin," and almost anybody's "Dunmoven" or"Dunlukin."

A house may be named for its location ("Cornercroft" or even, with a reference to the slang expression for "crazy," "Round the Bend"), its appearance ("Thatchwick," "Blue Windows," "Gwyndy" – the Welsh for "White House"), its view ("Tombstone View" in Cemetery Road, "Broadview," "Longleat," "Bellavista," or "Moovista," a house in Berkshire overlooking a cow pasture), its environs ("Brambleside," "Forest Edge," "By the Way"), some feature of the ubiquitous English garden ("The Fuchsias," "The Lilacs," "Rhododendrons") or the inevitable English weather ("Hurricane House," "Fog Cottage," "Thundry"), the combined names of the owners (whether the Don and Ann of "Donann" or the anagramatized Fred and Anne of "Ferndean"), a name recalled from reading (Mazo de la Roche's "Jalna" or even "Wuthering Heights") or travel ("Bellevue," "Aventine" from a Roman hill), or even just the homeliness (in the British sense) of the place ("Chosenholme," "Home Sweet Home," "Omagain") or the expense of the venture ("All Our Lolly," "Kostleigh," "Setubac," "Stony Broke," "Nomoni").

Sports, animals, personal names, backspellings ("Deriter"), family references ("Hersanmyne," "Uani" and "Uanme," "Weetew"), environmental influences (a Dickens Avenue in Middlesex gives rise to "Dombey Lodge," "Doughty House," "Pickwickians," "Dorrit's Nest," "Dingley Dell," and "Chuzzlewit"), the time of purchase ("Chistmas Cottage," "March House," "Ide House") – almost anything can give rise to a house name. The popularity of Galsworthy's *The Forsyte Saga* led to more use of "Joylon." Madame d'Arblay (Fanny Burney) called her house "Camilla Lacey" after the novel that financed it. Yehudi Menuhin got the name of his Swiss cottage from one of Edward Lear's nonsense poems: "Chalet Chankley Bore." (He might have called it "Villa Nessplain.") Flora Thompson's novel of 1939, Mr. Dunkling says, is responsible for the popularity of "Lark Rise." John Macadam lives at "Hangover Cottage," Temperance Steps. Charles Schulz (of "Peanuts") lives in "Coffee Grounds," Coffee Lane. You call your house "Ibindun" and your neighbor will respond with "Sovi," as "Idunno" will elicit "Nordowe."

Foreign names come from the Scots ("The Neuk" = "the Nook," "Naelumm" = "No Chimney"), the Welsh ("Afallon" = "Apple Orchard," our "Avalon"; "Pen y Bryn" = "Top of the Hill," "Hendy" = "Old House"), the Irish ("Ceud Mile Failte" = "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes), the Anglo-Indian (whence "Jalna"), the Australian aborigines ("Wahroonga" = "Our House," "Amaroo" = "Beautiful Place," "Carinya" = "Happy Home"), even Latin (usually bits of mottoes such as

the "*Per ardua ad astra*" of the RAF) and Greek ("Kedros" = "The Cedars," "Thalassa" = "The Sea"). French provides "Nid d'Amour" ("Love Nest) and even "Sam Sufy" ("*Ça m'suffit*"). Enough. From "Aarhus" (not Danish but "our house") to the imitation of the local dialect in "Zummerzett," Mr. Dunkling and his indefatigable researchers have collected a rich trove.

Betsey Trotwood complained in *David Copperfield* of a person who called his house "The Rookery" – "when there's not a rook near it." Why *do* the English give the names they do to their houses ? Mr. Dunkling has many of the answers, though he does not go into the house names of history and does not explain why the vogue of Victorian (and, later, the 'Twenties and 'Thirties) England came and went. Perhaps Americans ought to name more of their houses, not leaving the practice to Frank Lloyd Wright and a handful of others. A sportscaster might call his home "Red Grange." A Chicano might like "Pancho Villa." In New York people think "*Cave Canem*" might possibly be a house name (if not a surname), and who are we to disabuse them ?

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Oname Fūdoki [Name from Natural Features or Region]. By Ei Sakuma. Osaka and Kita Kyushu, 1971. Pp. 366.

This, the most recent book on Japanese personal names by Dr. Sakuma, is written in a pleasant, but authoritative, manner. Five other books on personal names are from the pen of this author. A student of names for more than 29 years, the author is also a physician, dentist and teacher. He is in charge of "Name Consultation" in Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo, and referred to by many as "Professor Name."

The first part of the book takes up the distinctive surnames found in each prefecture. Outside the cosmopolitan centers such as Tokyo and Osaka Japanese names will usually indicate the bearer's origin. For example, *Kaga* ("old congratulation") clearly is from Saga or Fukuoka prefectures; *Nishikori* ("brocade weave") comes from Shimane prefecture. Travel in Japan increases the interest in names. Many family names, as elsewhere in the world, are derived from place-names. Such facts are great aids in genealogical research. As *Ta* ("rice field"), sometimes becoming *da*, is so much a part of Japan, it is naturally a common element in names, as *Tanaka* ("rice field, middle"), *Yamada* ("mountain, rice field"), *Yokata* ("side, rice field"), *Mikata* ("shrine, rice field"), and *Tamura* ("rice field, village").

Then in some detail Dr. Sakuma discusses stage and pen names. Yasuo Watanabe, meaning "peace supremacy, cross side," adopted as his stage name, Kei Tani, meaning "revelation, valley." Hana Sekiguchi ("flower, barrier mouth"), the actress, became Nijiko Kiyokawa ("feminine rainbow, clean river"). Yashio Takama ("fragrant supremacy, high between") took as a pen name, June Takami ("turn, high look").

Under the sub-heading "Oh Funny Name," the author amuses us with the many family names with odd or coquettish meanings. To name some that might even raise our eyebrows, there are *Shigatsu Tsuitachi* ("April first"), *Hana* ("nose"), *Doro* ("mud"), *Uwaki* ("monkey business"), *Iede* ("run away from home"), *Nanashi* ("no name"), *Takanashi* ("small bird play"), *Niyuki* ("cooked snow"), *Ai* ("love"), *Kainaka* ("fall in love"), and *Uchiake* ("propose"). Some names are from numbers, as *Ichi* or *Hajime* ("one"), *Hifuta* or *Hefu* ("twelve"), *Yorozu* ("million"), and *Oku* ("billion"). Combinations can make up surnames. We find *Zengo* ("front, back"), *Sayu* ("left, right"), and *Jōge* ("above, under"). As in America the first name and the surname can combine to provide amusement. There is *Makoto Uki* ("cautious monkey business"), *Tsutomu Harako* ("power atom"), and *Chitose Tsuru* ("thousand years crane").

Some names derive from historical or mythological characters. Murakami ("village above") was one of the courageous Samurai. Genji ("the source, lineage") and Heike ("flat lineage") were distinguished Samurai families. Urashima ("bay island") is from the folk tale.

In the second part Dr. Sakuma discusses the rules and practices governing the change of surnames and first names, and the laws affecting personal names. Sometimes both husband and wife take the wife's maiden surname, although the usual practice is the same as in America. Then after estimating the number of different family names in Japan to be about 100,000, he lists the 500 most common in order of frequency. With the first 30 of these he identifies the prefectures where they were most commonly found. The five most common surnames are taken up by the author in some detail. They are *Suzuki* ("bell, tree"), *Sato* ("help, wisteria"), *Tanaka* ("rice field, middle"), *Yamamoto* ("mountain, origin"), and *Watanabe* ("cross, side"). The five most common for each prefecture are also listed. And, of course, many of these are not found in the list of the five most common for all Japan. (Japanese names are written in Kanji characters and one character may be pronounced in many ways. This is especially true in such places as Okinawa where the Old Japanese language continues in popular use.)

Naturally, Dr. Sakuma is frequently consulted about given names. He says that if one has a complicated surname, the given name should be simple. As a guide for choosing a baby's name he lists the following nine important rules:

1. It should be distinctive from other names.
2. It should be easy to read.
3. It should be easy to write.
4. It should be easy to pronounce.
5. It should be easy to distinguish on hearing.
6. It should be easy to remember.
7. It should be pleasant and agreeable.
8. It should create a good image.
9. It should harmonize with the surname.

Atsuko Murayama Levy

GALE RESEARCH REPRINTS: IX

This survey of reprints by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the ninth in the series of notices giving prominence to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information appear below.

Harbottle, Thomas Benfield. *Dictionary of Battles: From the Earliest Date to the Present Time*. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1905. Pp. 298. Republished, 1966, $8.00.

– –. *Dictionary of HistoricalAllusions*. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1904. Pp. 306. Reprinted, 1968. $7.50.

Holweck, Frederick George. *A Biographical Dictionary of the Saints*. St Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1924. Pp. xxx + 1,053. Republished, 1969. $34.00.

Little, Charles E. *Cyclopedia of Classified Dates*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1900. Pp. 1,454. Reprinted, 1967. $43.00.

Powell, William H. *List of Officers of the Army of the United States from 1779 to 1900*. New York: L. R. Hamersly & Co., 1900. Pp. 863. Reprinted, 1967. $37.00.

Strait, Newton Allen. *Alphabetical List of Battles, 1754–1900*. Pp. 252. Reprinted, 1968. $6.75.

The six texts noticed here, with the exception of the *Biographical Dictionary*, center on historical dates and events. Harbottle's *Dictionary of Battles* and *Historical Allusions* are handy volumes to have around unless one already owns one of those 50-volume sets of some popular encyclopedia. These two have the virtue of being small and of taking up little space. The battles are listed alphabetically and indexed. Each entry includes the name of the campaign, dates, combatants, number of troops, leaders, result, and casualties. Some 1,800 battles are sketched. *Allusions*

is also arranged alphabetically, much in the same manner as *Battles*. It definitely has value for the onomatologist, since it is filled with names, nicknames, and references to historical figures and events, some of which are obscure and will be difficult to find in standard references. A sampling of entries includes X Y Z Mission, Oakboys, Fair Quakeress, Nag's Head Controversy, Mountain, and Hintchak. Approximately 2,500 entries appear. Detailed information and documentation, however, will have to be found elsewhere, since these sketches identify only in a concise manner, as befits a reference of this kind.

Strait's *List of Battles* could be used to supplement Harbottle's dictionaries. The text includes an alphabetical list of the battles of the Civil War, here called the War of the Rebellion. The battles are listed by place of occurrence, the state, and date. Special sections include a list of the 66 battles and skirmishes of the Gettysburg Campaign, the totals of casualties on both sides from 1861 to 1865 (desertions were high), number of men furnished from each state, and other notes. A chronological record of the Civil War, from May 1860 to September 1865, is given. The latter part of the book lists battles and chronological events of the Spanish-American War and of "Battles of the Old Wars, 1754–1848."

Little's *Cyclopedia* is a monumental book, typical of some of the compendia of the early twentieth century, this one printed by a reputable dictionary company. The compiler has recorded events of significance that have occurred from the beginning of recorded history to the end of the nineteenth century. Not universal, the text covers events in most of the Western countries, but is sketchy for Eastern ones, although they do appear. The index of 300 pages is uncommonly detailed, with full cross references.

The *List of Officers* is of special value to genealogists, unless one enjoys, as some of us do, reading lists of names. The register begins with a list of the officers of the army, 1779–1780, followed by army lists of 1813, 1814, 1815–1900, officers of volunteers, general officers of the Continental army of the revolution, general officers of the line and staff of the regular establishment, appointments made by the President in the volunteer services (1861–1865), and dates of "certain wars, campaigns, expeditions, events, etc." Essential information about each officer is included, such as service record, ranks held, regiments, decorations, citations, promotions, battles, dates of service, and retirement or death, if in service when occurred.

A Biographical Dictionary of the Saints is a fortunate choice for reprinting by Gale. It is probably the fullest listing of saints available, at least until 1924. Labeled a "manual of hagiography," the text is an attempt by the compiler "to record *all* the saints who have been venerated in the Church of Christ and whose names can be found in available

sources." He admits to his list all the saints "for whom a cult exists or existed," although these sometimes have not been sanctioned by the Sacred Congregation of Rites. The text is indexed, has a list of sources and a critical foreword.

The value of these texts is varied, with *Saints* being the most important and the most scholarly. It is indeed a worthy addition to the reprint series. The *Cyclopedia* may be a convenient reference, despite its almost prohibitive cost, which will limit its use to the library. Again, the texts are handsomely bound and printed.

Kelsie B. Harder

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Spanish Personal Names: Principles governing their Formation and Use which may be presented as a Help for Cataloguers and Bibliographers. By Charles F. Gosnell. New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1938. Pp. 112. With Foreword by Federico de Onís.

A possibly apocryphal anecdote has it that a recent Duke of Alba learned during a sojourn in this country that he could affix his entire name to a telegram without extra charge; and that he proceeded to compose over 400 words – only ten of which contained his actual message. (The reasons for this kind of patronymic tangle reside in the many occupations, military and otherwise, that have been visited upon the Iberian peninsula – Roman, Visigothic, Arabic among others – occupations that have endured for as long as seven centuries. They reside also in the legendary Spanish pride, which has contributed to the facility of the Spaniard for recording his entire genealogy in his signature.) Mr. Gosnell's extremely valuable short volume contains all pertinent information necessary for disentangling this enormous complexity, a complexity which has befuddled even the most experienced cataloguers.

Mr. Gosnell, in a series of logical and eminently practical steps, leads the neophyte in Spanish patronymics from a simple *Mario Sáenz* (or Sáenz, Mario) through to an understanding of toponymic-anthroponymic hybrids such as *Francisco Fernández del Castillo* to such incredible but nevertheless actual combinations as Diego Rivera's full name: *Diego Mariá Concepción Juan Nepomuceno de la Rivera y Barrientos de Acosta y Rodríguez.* He explains lucidly why the final name(s) in a full Spanish sequence is (are) not recorded bibliographically, why the particle is sometimes used and sometimes not, why the conjunction *y* is optional, and why place-names often occur as personal names, and vice versa.

Mr. Gosnell's purpose is thoroughly practical, not investigative, though his book is of value to the onomastic investigator as well. It is of equal value to the student of Spanish literature, to the genealogist, to the peninsular historian and to the beginning graduate-student Hispanicist. (I wish I had possessed a copy of it when I first studied the poetry of, for example, Iñigo López de Mendoza, Marqués de Santillana.) It is of especial importance to the peninsular medievalist and incunabulist, for it contains much useful information on the composition of personal and family names before they became standardized.

Primarily, though, the volume is intended as a reference tool for librarians. There is much material on existing catalogue rules, on glaring inconsistencies in library practices, on trade and national bibliographies, on titles of nobility, on name practices among married and unmarried women, etc. There is even a brief section on laws governing the choice of names in Spain and Spanish America. The volume furthermore contains a series of appendices on catalogue codes, Portuguese names, alphabetizing of Spanish names, among others. Many useful illustrations of variants are provided, as in the case of Garcilaso de la Vega, whose name can be (and is) catalogued in nine different ways. There is also a helpful bibliography on Spanish names, and a Foreword which contains the imprimatur of no less a scholar, critic and essayist than Federico de Onís himself.

Every library with even a single book by a Spanish author ought to have this indispensable volume on its shelves.

Douglas P. Hinkle

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The Place-Names of Cheshire, Part Four: The Place-Names of Broxton Hundred and Wirral Hundred. English Place-Name Society Volume XLVII. By J. McN. Dodgson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972. Pp. xvi, 340. Price $18.50.

As could have been predicted with absolute certainty, Part Four of the great series of volumes on the place-names of Cheshire has been published exactly one year after Part Three, under the authorship of J. McN. Dodgson. Perhaps we can also be assured that Part Five, the final volume will appear in 1973. What has been said of Part Three [Names, 20:68–70] can also be said about Part Four. There is no need for further praise.

This, the penultimate volume, has listed addenda and corrigenda for the four parts so far published. The process of finishing the text of a part precludes insertions of corrections for that part; consequently, such

material is included in front matter for each volume. Confusing as it may be to those accustomed to finding the addenda and corrigenda printed at the end of a volume or even as a separate, the method has its efficacy in that references move from front to back. The format of Part Four is the same as the other volumes: addenda and corrigenda; place-names of Broxton Hundred; place-names of Wirral Hundred; index of cross-references to Part Five, yet to be published; index of parish- and township-names in Part Four.

Beyond the usual detailed, even minute, analysis of each name, the volume has value for students of other disciplines. Cheshire, of course, occupies an area of great importance, "crucial," says J. McN. Dodgson, in the "ethnic and political history of England." In this county can be found names that include the Welsh, Scandinavians, Anglo-Saxons, and some Irish. Norman French is represented by Malpas. The battle of Brunanburh (A.D. 979), now the town of Bromborough, took place here. The area was a meeting place, to use a soft euphemism, for the rather ambitious, active invaders, as well as the defenders, who in turn had conquered the land from previous inhabitants, now lost to history.

As we await Part Five, I should like to intrude with a personal and humane note: Mr. McDodgson apologizes for having butchered Professor John Kousgård Sørensen's name several times in references (ironically, *Dodgson* also appeared as *Dodson* in a recent review). Such typist's errors as this are looked upon as human failings. May they all be as minor!

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Members in academic establishments are requested to notify the editor of dissertations and theses currently under way or near completion in onomatology and its related fields and, when of exceptional merit, to encourage their students and colleagues to submit abstracts or parts of them for possible publication in *Names*.

News of all regional meetings and institutes is also welcome and will be published, as space permits, provided that it is received three months prior to the issue in which it is to appear.