

Book Reviews

Guide to Place Names in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Compiled by E. H. Bryan, Jr. Honolulu: Pacific Scientific Information Center, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, 1971. (Paperbound; approximately 400 unnumbered pages; no price indicated.)

East of the Philippines and north of the equator in the western Pacific Ocean there is a widespread scattering of 2,203 small islands that usually are shown on maps as Micronesia. On a few recent maps practically the same area is designated "Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." The numerous atoll chains and island groups of the TTPI together total to 716 square miles of land, interspersed and surrounded by three million square miles of water. Their total population in 1970 was 102, 250, which is double their estimated population in 1945.

This *Guide* supplies an alphabetical index of the multitudinous place-names of the TTPI. The author has exhaustively investigated published sources and has also used unpublished materials in the extensive Polynesian holdings of the library of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Approximately two-thirds of the unnumbered pages are devoted to a listing of the place-names by geographical areas, according to the three principal archipelagos into which the region is divided. This is followed by an alphabetical index of some 7,200 names. It is an impressive index, obviously the product of extensive research and accurate recording.

In spite of the American occupation of these islands during and since World War II, there are relatively few English names in the Micronesian area. There are, however, two interesting exceptions to this statement. In the northwestern corner of the Marshall Islands there is an isolated circular lagoon almost completely surrounded by low, small coral islands. There are 45 place-names on the atoll chain. As one proceeds clockwise around the circle from its northern-most point, the named sites have been given girls' and boys' names, each in their alphabetical order. Girls' names come first and there are 22 of them, from Alice to Yvonne. Continuing around the circle in the same direction to its terminal point, sites are given boys' names, and with one exception these also proceed in their alphabetical order, from Alvin to Leroy. Moreover, each place has also been given a flower name, from Arbutus to Zinnia. We are not told how this happened, but one is tempted to imagine that the whole thing may have been the product of playful recreation on the part of lonesome soldiers who were far from home. In another area of the Marshall archipelago a similar procedure has also been followed. Here again it would be interesting to know the occasion and/or motive for such an unusual eponymous procedure.

A noteworthy feature of the geographic index is its 90 pages of line-drawn maps. The maps are accurately drawn and many of them contain numerous place-names. In spite of the detail of the maps, they have been clearly reproduced. They are also well placed with the textual material that describes them. They are extremely helpful in the identification and location of the numerous names.

A very large majority of the recorded names refer to physical features such as hills, peaks, plains, streams, swamps, bays, passages of water between islands, etc. What seems to be a rather small minority of names refer to such human constructs as towns, villages, roads, air fields, ports, portages, "ruins," and the like.

Unfortunately there is no indication of the known origin of any of the names. Another annoying characteristic of the book is its lack of pagination. Inasmuch as the text is reproduced from typescript, it would not have been prohibitively expensive to have numbered each page. To refer to any needed item one must go through a tedious process of first finding it in the terminal alphabetical index, then refer to its indicated section in the geographical listing, then find the place of the item in that section. In a scholarly book such as this is, it is distressing to find so elementary an amenity lacking.

The author also refers to some 20 books and articles appropriate to his subject matter. About half of them have incomplete bibliographical identification, and half of these are cited by author, and sometimes by date, but unidentified as to title or source of publication. Where and by whom, for example, are the Atoll Research Bulletins published? Specialists will know, but many readers will not. Such information is the obligation of the author, not of his readers. Apart from these defects, the *Guide* is a commendable, useful and valuable work of compilation.

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Human Words. By Robert Hendrickson. Philadelphia: Chilton Book Co., 1972. Pp. 342. Price \$9.95.

Space cruising is not an addiction of wordlovers, those characters who unaccountably study the names of graduating seniors during the medieval ceremonies that must be undergone in spring academic rituals, or perhaps those who loll away hours in strange hotel rooms while erotically eyeballing the local telephone directory, or on to other descriptions of those who encapsulate themselves in pages of dictionaries and word lists. The quality, which is not exactly an occupation, is harmless enough, probably worthless, certainly self-serving. Mr. Hendrickson is no space cruiser, but he has

captured for the moment that incandescent, flighty, even weightless, feeling akin to a missed heartbeat which shivers a wordlover when the quarry surrenders meaning and the origin of the word stands forth like a mythical unshorn god or goddess. He himself calls his compilation “an orgy of words,” but that is really a bit much.

The author has brought together some 3,500 eponyms, writing short essays on each, and estimates that he has covered only a fraction of all available ones. Among those chosen, he has considered only the most interesting — to himself, of course. In fact, although he pretends to no originality, which would be impossible in such a work as this anyway, he has chosen colorful ones like Hooker, Harlot, Mansard, Raffles, Cocktail, Sardonic, Macadam, Pumpnickel, Sideburns, and so on. To the readers of *Names*, most of the “eponyms,” or, in many instances, “commonized proper names,” will be familiar, except that the author provides a style that will keep anyone moving on from item to item. An informed humor pervades the essays, making them delightful as well as informative. He wears his learning and scholarship lightly.

Still, despite the bubbling style and the shining fascination of the work, it still is not what the serious artisan in lexicography would like to condone or even to write. The work lacks factual documentation. It is selective to the point of vagueness and skirts the journalistic where much is written with small meaning. The author admits that the work is limited and that almost “all unfamiliar scientific eponyms” had to be omitted, as well as those from the names of authors, florists, and extending on to other occupations and special interests.

That out of the way, I must in all seriousness recommend the book to those who wish to be entertained by reading about “eponymous personalities,” those who have been honored or dishonored by having their names fixed in a language. Further, perhaps a work such as this will stimulate some young scholar, who must perforce also be a wordlover, to spend a lexicographical lifetime at producing a thorough study of eponyms. The only problem, however, is that those who study words are also too often addicted to martini sandwiches. The author quotes H. L. Mencken to the effect that this double-eponymic habit “is favored by many American linguists,” that of sandwiching a martini between two glasses of beer. After assaulting the brain and body with about three of these, the linguists’ or lexicographers’ tongues are “so numbed that not much resembling any known language comes out.”

Kelsie B. Harder

"Bibliographia Onomastica 1969-1970," *Onoma*, Vol. 16, No. 3, Pp. 307-841, 1971. Edited by W. Van Langendonck, International Centre of Onomastics, Louvain, Belgium.

This exhaustive work is modeled on its predecessor, which covered the years 1966-1968, except that just two years are covered in the present compilation. In the preface the editor expresses the hope that in the future the financial situation of the Centre and, in particular, the printing costs of *Onoma* may permit the publication each year of a bibliography dealing as far as possible with the foregoing year. As collaborators or contributors the editor had some 50 scholars scattered all over the world, who supplied him with a vast amount of information which no one person could possibly have brought together. Among the collaborators, making substantial contributions, were two well-known American Name Society members, Elsdon C. Smith and J. B. Rudnyćkyj.

The work is divided into two main parts. The first, much the shorter and only 32 pages, is entitled "General Onomastics." The second, with nine principal divisions and many subdivisions, constitutes most of the book and is entitled "Linguistic Areas." Here are listed works dealing with onomastics in practically all parts of the world.

Titles written in languages other than English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian are translated into English, French, or German. In order to obtain a measure of uniformity in alphabetization, indication of linguistic areas, abbreviations, and references, the editor has used English as the basic language. Following the table of contents, the list of abbreviations of titles of journals, congresses, and miscellanies covers 20 closely printed pages and includes over 800 items. At the end the index of authors, not including authors of reviews, covers nearly 26 pages of fine print, three columns to the page.

The extent and breadth of material in this admirable work is amazing. Certainly not much of importance in the field of onomastics which appeared during these two years escaped the notice of the meticulous editor and his numerous collaborators.

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Toponimia Wysp Elafickich na Adiatyku. (Toponyms of the Elafitski Islands on the Adriatic Sea). By M. Karas'. Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków: *Prace Onomastyczne PAN*, No. 10, 1968. Pp. 144 + 8 maps.

This book is the result of a prolonged vacation trip to the lovely Yugoslavian sea resort around Dubrovnik, made by the brilliant and industrious

Polish onomast, and secretary of the impressive Polish journal, *Onomastica*, published yearly since 1955 in Wroclaw. Mieczyslaw Karas' is also President of the 609 year-old Jagellonian University. He explored this terrain in 1965, collecting 900 names from 12 islands, of which only three are now populated: *Shipan*, *Lopud*, and *Koloceph*. The author divides his material (toponyms) into sea, shore, and land names, gives short but accurate descriptions of every object (helpful toward a better understanding of the names), separating *nomen appellativum* from *nomen proprium*. When needed, Karas' makes reference to historical facts from the book, *Slavenstvo i romanstvo na Jadranskim otocima*, (Zagreb, 1950), by P. Skok. He also analyzes them from a semantic and structural point of view. The end result is a quite clear linguistic and ethnic picture of the past Greek-Roman-Slavic colonization of this area. Some of the toponyms are connected with the Catholic religion and local patron saints: *Antun*, *Ana*, *Barbora*, *Gospa*, *Petrova Dolina* (Peter's Valley), *Basijevo*, etc., but the majority are simple Slavic names, such as *Babica Strana* "woman's side," *Brdo* "hill," *Plocha* "plateau," *Vrt* "orchard," etc.

Karas' book is a valuable contribution to the onomastics of the Adriatic area and is done in the good tradition of Polish linguists, who, already before World War II, paid great attention to the Serbo-Croat, Slovene, and Macedonian languages and dialects (J. Baudouin de Courtenay, M. Malecki, St. Rospond, and others).

John P. Pauls

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Discovering Christian Names. By S. M. Jarvis, Aylesbury, Bucks. England: Shire Publications, Ltd., 1973. Pp. 64. Price 30 p.

Here is publication No. 156 in the "Discovering" series, popular booklets found in stores all over England. Professor Maurice A. Mook reviewed *Discovering Surnames* (*Names* 18: 2 (June, 1970) 118). This book on Christian names, by a librarian and museum curator, is not of the quality of the surname work. The book here noticed consists of a list of some 1,200 names in alphabetical order with some meanings and derivations, together with various references to famous persons bearing the names from the Bible, mythology, literature, and history.

Elsdon C. Smith