

## Book Reviews

*Dizionario toponomastico e onomastico della Calabria. Prontuario filologico-geografico della Calabria.* [A Dictionary of Place-names and Proper names (Anthroponyms) of Calabria (Italy). A philological-geographical reference book of Calabria.] By Gerhard Rohlfs. Ravenna: Longo Editore, 1974. Large 8-vo format. Pp. vii-xxv, 431.

This handsome volume is another large publication of the great German linguist, Romance and Hellenist scholar, who at his advanced age has been as active as he was when he was young. My reader will not believe that Professor Rohlfs is doing fieldwork in Italy and Greece every year, starting in the spring, by car driven by Mrs. Marianne Rohlfs. The unusual productivity of this senior scholar, also an honorary member of the American Name Society, following suit with his rigorous method and his competence within the vast field of Italian linguistics (and Romance in general) and South Italic Greek (and history of Greek and Greek dialectology in general), is indeed astounding.

The brief introduction (vii-viii) is followed by the discussion of the sources (first- and second-hand) (ix-xi), the question of the origin or etymology (xi-xiii), lists of 77 collections of material according to the three provinces of Calabria (Cosenza, Catanzaro or Calabria media, and Reggio) (xv-xxi), abbreviations (xxii), transcriptions (xxv).

The thousands of entries (I reckon ca. 20,000 names) take 410 two-column pages (pp. 409-410 containing the last additions and corrections). The content of each entry is kept brief as in a respectable reference work of Rohlfs' mastery but with inclusion of what the user expects to find in it or even more.

The *etymological register* in five sections includes: Latin (411-412), Greek (413-422), French (423), Arabic (423-424), and various languages (424).

The volume is concluded with the *onomastic index* in five sections: Latin (425-427), Greek (427-428), French (428), German (429), Spanish (429).

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Demetrius J. Georgacas

*The New Age Baby Name Book.* By Sue Browder. New York: Warner Paperback Library Edition, 1974. (First published by Workman Publishing Company, Inc.) Pp. 270. Price \$1.50.

George Ade, of the *Fables in Slang*, once warned in "The Fable of the Man who Didn't Care for Story Books" that "Only the more Rugged Mortals should attempt to Keep Up on Current Literature." The book under review, a new twist on the What-to-Call-the-Baby book that seems

to keep coming out over and over again, is a striking example of "Current Literature," of a sort, and, though I am strongly tempted to heed Ade's sage advice so concisely expressed as "Don't try to Account for Anything," I think I ought to guess at what is behind this newest contribution to the never-ending series as well as to give some hint as to what can be found in its pages.

The appeal is to those who seek "ethnic or contemporary names for their children," and this use of the word "ethnic" gives *The New Age Baby Name Book* much of its "new age" flavor. When we discover that American Indian names are indicative of "the mostly truly American culture" and that "ecological, flower, peace, and astrological names are listed as well," we can be sure that we are confronted by what Mary McCarthy might call a carrot firmly rooted in the paydirt of fads. In the approval of nicknames for given names, boys' names for girls, extraordinary or made-up names, the author is very "with it." She admits that "a few names in this book may seem comical or even weird" but includes them anyway, perhaps to show her mod distaste for rules, even for the one rule to which she boils down all the others: "The name should sound pleasant and not have strong possibilities for embarrassing, derogatory nicknames, like Piggy or Fatso." She is unaware that such nicknames are not manufactured out of given names at all.

Among the rules she herself suggests is this one: "Generally for euphony it is suggested that children with two- or three-syllable family names should receive two given names, one with one syllable and the other with two syllables. One-syllable family names, on the other hand, should probably have given names of two or three syllables each." This note on rhythm reminds us of Coleridge's advice in his *Table-Talk* (8 July 1832): "Never take an iambus as a Christian name. A trochee, or trib[r]ach, will do very well." Coleridge added, "Edith and Rotha are my favorite names for women," demonstrating with the second example that unusual names were ever a matter of interest.\*

The author's interest in ethnic names does not seem to extend to a rule that given and surnames ought to be of the same national origin.\*\*

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\* Coleridge seems to agree with Miss Browder that "the old rules that a name should clearly designate sex and not be too unusual . . . are disappearing," for (in my book, anyway) Rotha appears to be not only odd but also masculine. I think of Rottendean, near Brighton in England, which derives from "Rotha's people," Rotha having been a chief of early Scandinavian settlers there on the coast.

\*\* New York Assemblyman Antonio G. Olivieri, campaigning for the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor of New York this year and appealing for the Italian vote, is described by Judith Michaelson in the *New York Post* (26 April 1974) as "the 32-year old son of an English-Irish mother and Florentine father" and he "is telling people that Italian last names demand Italian first names and so his two children are named Allesandro and Francesca.

Presumably we are in for Eskimo-Irish combinations like “Meriwa Murphy,” and African-French “Caimile Gauthier,” not to mention “Okrika Johnson,” “Kai Kelly,” “Alameda Meade,” and so on. Already names like “Tondelayo Schwartz” and “Ghengis Cohen” are the subject of some humor, but names of my students at Brooklyn College reflect assimilation and the clash of cultures: Bruce Klein, Seymour Schwartz, Stuart Cohen, Norman Zuckerman, Murray Mintz, Montague Rifkin, etc. So why not Ahava Gardner, Malka Murray, Gada Bout, Carna Nation, Dotan Dashwood, Sivan O’Casey, Boaz Butler, etc. ? To their “American” surnames blacks may wish to add given names such as these:

*Aba* (Ghana) “born on Thursday”

*Abebi* (Yoruba) “we asked for her and she came to us”

*Adamma* (Ibo) “child of beauty”

*Adia* (Swahili) “gift” (of God)

*Ajuji* (Hausa) “The Hausa of Africa always give this name to the surviving child of a woman whose children have always died. According to the tradition, when the baby is born, the grandparents take the child out to the refuse heap and pretend to throw it away. After this gesture to the demons, the mother rushes out and reclaims her child.”

*Alile* (“used by the Yao-speaking people of Malawi”) “child born into unfortunate circumstances”

*Amadika* (Wataware, Southern Rhodesia) “to be beloved” (connoting “I was not”)

*Apangela* (Ovimbundu, Angola) “one who intends not to finish her journey”

*Asiza* (Dahomey) “The African Dahomey believe the asiza are spirits who dwell in the forests and grant magical powers to man”

to select only some girls’ names from the first letter of the alphabet. The trouble here will be that few American blacks, perhaps, know the African country of their origin, so that the problem of selecting an Ibo or Hausa or Wataware name, and so on, will have to resolve itself into simply the selection of an African name. The book seems to argue, however, that an American black need not have a specific tribal name any more than a Caucasian need stick to the names familiar among his people. In fact the author seems to be convinced that Caucasians will welcome given names confined up to now to Miwok Indians, “English Gypsies,” and Hawaiians, not to mention Hindus, Turks, and astrology buffs. “Ecological names” (such as Azura, “clear blue sky”) are also in evidence as well as names from what is loosely called “the occult.”\*

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\* The knowledge of magical names revealed in the book is minimal and is on a par with the author’s sloppy if faddish definition of “ecology,” which should mean “the science of the relationship of an organism with its environment” or relate to the balance of nature, being equivalent to “bionomics,” but which is loosely used to cover “anti-pollution” and these days turns up in discussions of everything from “organic food” to “littering.”

It is not likely that many Americans will wish to name a girl with the Ghanaian day-of-the-week name (Akosua, "born on Sunday," and Ajua, Abmaba, Ekua, Ana, Efua, and Ama) or a boy according to whether he was born by day or night (Okon is the Efik for "born at night," for instance) or any child with an "Abiku" (or "born-to-die") African name (Apara, "one who comes and goes"; Kosoko, "there is no hoe" to dig a grave; Molomo, "don't go back"; Banjoko, "stay with me"; Durosimi, "wait and you bury me"; Akisatan, "rags are not finished" with which to make a shroud). Still fewer may desire an earth (or water, or air, or fire name) to counterinfluence baleful astrological signs. Miss Browder:

An astrologer may advise . . . such an earth name [as Blair, "child of the fields"; Basham, "rich soil"; Berwin, "friend of the harvest"; Boyce, from *bois* — "son of the forest" — we're getting a little off the track of so-called "earth names", aren't we?; Clay; Dagan, "the Fast Semitic for 'earth'"; Gorman, "man of clay"; Loudon, "from the low valley" she says; Nowles, "from the grassy slope in the forest"; Terrill from *terre*; Wald, "earth name meaning 'grove' or 'rolling field'," which she seems to be confusing with *lea*; Winfield "friend of the soil" she says] if a child's horoscope contains too many metal or water influences, since earth controls metal and destroys water. The name, then, is thought to restore the balance of the basic elements in the child's horoscope so the universal order will work smoothly throughout his life.

This stuff seems copied from rather arcane sources without much care as, it seems to me, must be much of the volume. I have found numerous inaccuracies in the derivations given for names from languages I know a little of — and if anyone knows Miwok (from the Californian-Penutian Miwok-Costanoan) he will probably find that there are many errors in the many names drawn from that obscure source. Too bad she is not up on the warpath lingo of the Ciricahua Apache. That is even more "way out"! I suspect that some of her "English Gypsy" names\* will likewise be in error, but I have not troubled to do the research (which might begin with B. C. Smart and H. T. Crofton's *Dialect of the English Gypsies*, revised 1975).

Actually, this what-to-call-the-baby book is "with it" in more than its desire to replace John, Mary, James, Charles, George and William with more exotic names, names to reflect the current interest in "your hope for peace, your heritage, beliefs or ideals," names which "carry messages of idealism, astrological importance or magic force," or new names "as individual as your baby," as the statement on the back cover asserts. The days of Robert, Mark and Stephen for boys, or Linda, Sandra and Susan for girls are over. The names that John Leaver (who died in England earlier this year) annually culled from the birth announcements of the London *Times* and tabulated will be more varied next year — if books

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\* Listed "because of their close kinship with fortune-telling and the supernatural."

like this one catch on. Jodi Campbell in Australia (who for 1973 listed as the most popular names there Matthew, Jason, David, Andrew, Paul, Michael, Mark and Christopher and Michelle, Nicole, Kylie, Melissa and Catherine, with Kellie, Kerrie, Lisa and Tania also much in evidence) and research at Somerset House in London (where a Mr. Appleton found that children born to parents who bear the 30 commonest English and Welsh surnames in 1972 tended to be called Stephen, Paul, and Mark and Sarah, Lisa and Nicola)\*\* already document a change from old habits. Whether Shen (from *The Book of the Dead*) or Kwamina (or Quo Miny) or Adeben (for a twelfth-born son) or the magic name Abrasax will ever catch on, who can tell? We may end up going beyond rejection of Christian and Judaic traditions of naming children after saints and dead relatives and arrive at taking names from demons such as Azazel and Astaroth, Mara and Mephistopheles. If that is being “with it,” as they say today: *forget it!*

You might also forget this light, latest contribution to the what-to-name-the-baby literature, unless you are looking for a name for a non-conformist (Einer would do) or need to know that Tiponya is an American-Indian name meaning “great horned owl sticking her head under her body and poking an egg that is hatching” or that the 99 qualities of Allah listed in the *Koran* provide many Arabic names or that “Japanese color names” (Akako = “red” and Tetsu = “iron” – what was that again?) “stem from Oriental beliefs about magic.” It is interesting to learn that Loe is the closest the Hawaiians can get to Roy, that Jaroslav supposedly means “glory of Spring” and that the Turks (who did not even have surnames until 1930) give a boy names “upon birth (the umbilical names), circumcision, the first day of school, graduation, and marriage, as well as several nicknames.” The book, however, does not give one the impression that one could quote from it without verifying the information somewhere else. But it is not for scholars anyway.

“The non-British American’s willingness to anglicize his patronymic,” wrote H. L. Mencken in *The American Language*, “is far exceeded by his eagerness to give ‘American’ baptismal names to his children.” That was written nearly 40 years ago. Today we have books like *The New Age Baby Name Book* with its philosophy of “What’s in a Name? Anything You Want” and more than 3,000 “basic names, plus variations” with “many ethnic names you [may] like, perhaps from heritages widely different from your own,” not to mention “how to create a numerological

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\*\* “Of approximately 50,000 boys, 7,160 were given one of the top three names as a first name; 5,049 girls shared the top three girls’ names.” — *VIZ*, XXX (January 1974), p. 360. *VIZ* (journal of the Names Society in England) also notes that Mrs. Jodi Campbell will provide free results of her survey of names in the *Sun* (1,400 of them): address Unit 8, 363 New Street, Brighton, Victoria, Australia 3186.

name for your baby." If this sort of thing gains acceptance, 40 years from now what is meant by "an 'American' name" may be beyond our wildest imaginings.

I note the author is named "Sue." Of course it may be "a boy named Sue," as in the recently popular song. It is a weird world today. Would that Mencken were here to characterize it with his customary incisiveness!

L. R. N. Ashley

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\* "There are no 'numerologically good' first names as such because the complete name must be counted." (p. 30.)

*Johnston's Gazetteer of Scotland*. Revision by R. W. Munro. Edinburgh: Johnston & Bacon. Distributed by British Book Centre, Inc., New York, 1974. Pp. x + 353. Price \$14.95.

As all students of place-names know, life is made a great deal easier for them if they can make a reliable and up-to-date gazetteer the starting-point of their toponymic enquiries. Such a gazetteer's reliability should not only apply to the proper spelling of the names listed but should also extend to the pinpointing of their location, the designation of the features to which they belong, and to any other information which might be helpful in assessing their cultural setting, linguistic ascription, historical development and, of course, their meaning. Fortunately, students of Scottish place-names have had just that kind of research tool at their elbows for almost 40 years now. Following a long and successful tradition in this respect, W. & A. K. Johnston of Edinburgh published their first *Gazetteer of Scotland* in 1937, brought out a second edition in 1958, and have just made available a thoroughly revised and improved third edition. This recent revision the publishers entrusted to the capable hands of R. W. Munro whose editorial experience and knowledge of things Scottish made him an obvious and excellent choice for the task.

Like the second edition, the new revision is completely reset. It contains not only changes in about one tenth of the approximately 12,000 entries but also includes 350 completely new items. Such revised information is obviously essential with regard to settlements which are affected by such factors as technological advances, economic developments, and other changes in the cultural landscape. It is dramatically necessary in the case of the so-called "New Towns," often started from scratch or as planned enlargements of existing villages and designed to aid the urban renewal programs of big cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh. The entries

for Cumbernauld, East Kilbride, Glenrothes, Irvine, and Livingston reflect these far-reaching changes in population distribution. Similarly, the diminishing number of railroad stations and the extensive re-afforestation undertaken by the Forestry Commission have necessitated quite a number of revisions. The population figures are from official estimates made by the Registrar-General for Scotland in 1969.

In addition to the alphabetical roster of entries, there is a list of abbreviations, a useful account of Regional and District authorities proposed by a government White Paper in February 1971, and a glossary of some common Gaelic terms in place-names; the last of these, although better than most, suffers from some of the usual blemishes and inconsistencies, insofar as it cannot satisfy those who know Gaelic and gives only limited guidance to those who do not, but perhaps an ideal glossary has yet to be devised. Unfortunately, the maps, which accompanied the two earlier editions, have completely disappeared, depriving the user of the gazetteer of any kind of visual image of the location of at least the major settlements and natural features.

While on the subject of locations, this reviewer would like to suggest that future editors of the *Gazetteer* add the national grid reference, provided by the Ordnance Survey, to each name entry. Not only does this give us a convenient and unmistakable topographic identification of each feature named; it also supplies an immediate link with Ordnance Survey maps of any scale and serves as a useful basis in the preparation of distribution maps, especially in this day and age of computerised listings. It is, of course, not meant to replace the geographical information currently given, but would serve an additional function. In the meantime, the new *Gazetteer of Scotland* will fulfill its many purposes with the same distinction as its predecessors.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen

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*Ship Names: Origins and Usages during 45 Centuries.* By Don H. Kennedy.

Published for The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia. Museum Publication No. 31. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1974. Pp. xi, 175; 14 photographs. Price \$7.95.

*Intrepid, Victory, Flying Cloud, Golden Hind, Ranger* – these are good names for ships. The United States Navy has had four vessels named *Essex* and eight named *Hornet*, both good names. The possibilities are endless as long as a name shows respect for the ship, a sense of fitness, and a feeling for tradition. A good name also should be easy to spell, easy to pronounce, and easy to remember; and it should be agreeable in meaning.

These are among basic precepts set forth in this first book devoted to ships' names. It is an original, authoritative work, one that is well indexed and fully documented. It is a book that belongs in every library, public as well as academic and specialized, and one that every onomasticist will want to own.

Instead of presenting long lists of ships names or dwelling on individual names and their origins, the author, a retired Los Angeles aerospace design engineer, has grouped into ten chapters 60 short essays on a wide variety of topics pertaining to ships' names and practices in naming ships.

He first considers why ships have names and how names were first applied to ships. He then traces the ship naming tradition through ancient and medieval times and through several European cultures to provide a background for examining modern ship names used by Great Britain and the United States.

A long chapter entitled "Modern Ships – Name Sources" is composed of 25 essays touching such sources as pagan, Christian, political, abstract, naval, and family names. Another chapter deals in part with the definite article in ships' names; the adjective, the verb, and the noun as ships' names, and the numbers in ships' names.

A chapter called simply "Miscellany" treats such subjects as superstitions surrounding ships' names, changing ships' names, naming ships composed of joining parts of two or more vessels, naming ships that are the result of "jumboizing" (*i. e.*, lengthening a ship by cutting it in half and inserting a new midsection between the two parts), names of yachts, and the word *maru* in names of Japanese ships.

The chapter entitled "Namers" tells about not only people who selected names for ships but also about ships that gave their names to places on the land and authors who gave names to ships in their novels.

The breadth and inclusiveness of this relatively short book is remarkable, for it is not a superficial work. One of the author's problems was to limit the number of names he could cite as representative since he drew on the thousands of names in *Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 1970–71* and *Merchant Vessels of the United States, 1968*, as well as on library resources. In general he cites less well-known names rather than better known ones.

The University Press of Virginia has made an attractive book that pleases the eye, is easy to handle, and lies open flat. Fourteen photographs taken by the author of names on various locations on ships add to the enjoyment of the reader. Mr. Kennedy has admirably achieved his purpose, and his agreeable style makes for pleasant reading.

P. Burwell Rogers

Newport News, Va.



*Married Women v. Husbands' Names.* By Una Stannard. San Francisco: Germainbooks, 1973. Pp. [vii], 55. Price: \$ 4.95 (cloth); \$ 2.00 (paperback).

This small book carefully sets out the law in the United States concerning the use by married women of their maiden surnames. In the first half of this century in America only a few wives, members of the Lucy Stone league, refused to alter their names upon marriage, but now women from all over the country are deciding to continue to use their own names after marriage. Dr. Stannard points out that Hawaii is the only state with a statute compelling wives to use their husband's names.

Although not urging women to keep their names, the author sets out the disadvantages of change upon marriage, and then discusses the social and legal history of the use of the husband's name in England and America. She cites and discusses the principal court cases on the subject. After advising women how to check the law in their own states she sets out the more important statutes and abstracts of legal decisions, concluding with a brief bibliography on the subject.

Elsdon C. Smith

*The Surnames of Ireland.* By Edward MacLysaght. Dublin: Irish University Press, 1973. Pp. xxiii, 377. Price: £ 1.00 (paperback).

Dr. Edward MacLysaght, Chairman of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, has, through his publications including the four volumes of the *Irish Families* series, established himself as the outstanding living authority on Irish names and family history. Here in the work being reviewed we have the Irish surnames in alphabetical order, with meanings, where possible, together with other information which is known, such as the county where these names are mostly found, the sept or clan connection, and the historical background. Many English names which are translations or synonyms of Gaelic names are identified and explained.

Preceding the alphabetical list is a 12-page introduction which is a short, very accurate exposition of Irish surnames. Here he discusses the Mac and O prefixes, the influence of English and Norman names and their use in Ireland, variations in spelling, and the general history of Irish surnames.

At the end is attached a bibliography of Irish family history and appendices on English and Scottish surnames and notes on the simplification of the Gaelic forms of Irish surnames. The work concludes with a four page map of Ireland showing the most important surnames in each county.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Change of Name and Law of Names.* By Edward J. Bander. Dobbs Ferry: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1973. Pp. 116. Price \$4.

This is a revised and improved edition of "How to Change Your Name, and The Law of Names" originally written by Lawrence W. Greene. It covers the legal aspects of name changing such as changes in the records, conducting business under an assumed name, and the married woman and her name. The author includes a summary of state laws relating to the subject and provides examples of forms and petitions as well as an index.

One principal point made is that in most cases your name legally is what you call yourself rather than what some court has decided you should be named. Many interesting cases are digested concerning the names of married women, children and even one involving a homosexual. Corporate names, as well as personal names are covered.

The author is a law professor at New York University School of Law and the book is written for laymen although case citations will be valuable for lawyers as will the bibliography.

The book might be best described as competent rather than as inspired or enthralling.

Robert T. Drake

Chicago, Illinois

*Find Happiness in Your Name.* By Alva Knight. New York: Vantage Press, 1973. Pp. 239. Price: \$5.95.

This is a book on numerology, the "science" of numbers as applied to letters of the alphabet and thus to given names. The subject is set out in a sufficiently simple manner such as can be easily understood by most of those who believe in such nonsense.

Elsdon C. Smith