

# In Memoriam

ARTHUR R. DUNLAP

1906–1974

Arthur Dunlap became a member of the American Name Society when it was formed in 1951 and was a lifelong student of names. He served on the Society's Board of Managers, 1970–1972, and helped to promote the formation of the Commission on Place-Name Study in the United States. He was also a long-standing member of the American Dialect Society and actively supported the project which will result in the Dictionary of American Regional English. He was active for many years, too, in both the Delaware Folklore Society and the Archaeological Society of Delaware. Professor Dunlap was especially interested in the English language in America, as his many articles and reviews in *American Speech* over the years make clear, and he was dedicated to the study of Delaware place-names, as evidenced by his monographs, *Dutch and Swedish Place-Names in Delaware*<sup>1</sup> and, with C. A. Weslager, *Indian Place-Names in Delaware*.<sup>2</sup> He also co-authored with Ernest J. Moyne and C. A. Weslager other articles on Finnish, Dutch, Swedish, and Indian influences in Delaware. These may be found in *Names*, *American Speech*, and Pennsylvania and New Jersey historical journals. He collaborated with Weslager in that author's *Dutch Explorers, Traders, and Settlers in the Delaware Valley, 1609–1664*.<sup>3</sup>

A. R. Dunlap, as he liked to be known, began his teaching career in 1928 at the University of Delaware after receiving a master's degree from Harvard. He left Delaware to obtain his doctorate from Yale (1934), but returned to the University of Delaware to teach, except for a brief time at the University of Texas, until his retirement in 1971. Sometimes teaching two generations of the same Delaware families, he helped the English department grow from a faculty of half-a-dozen to one of 50. During his 39 years of service he performed countless duties, such as directing the graduate program, directing and participating in summer linguistics institutes, and, from 1958 to 1961, acting as chairman. He taught the medieval courses for many years with great delight and was always devoted to Chaucer. His favorite course, though, was History of the English Language, which he rather sadly, I think, turned over to me in 1965 when I joined the staff and began to share his office. His specialty was Old and Middle English dialects, and he and I spent many happy

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<sup>1</sup> Newark, Delaware: Univ. of Delaware Press, 1956 (pub. for The Institute of Delaware History and Culture).

<sup>2</sup> Wilmington, Delaware: The Archaeological Society of Delaware, 1950.

<sup>3</sup> Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1961.

hours together tracing etymologies and sound changes. Once after we had spent an extravagant part of a Monday morning finding the answer to a specific problem about one English word, I remarked that this kind of work was certainly time consuming. He smiled broadly and said simply, "Yes, but it's *fun*."

He had an editor's eye – as his students, graduate and undergraduate alike, knew only too well – and recently edited with great care the memorial issue of *Names* honoring Elliott V. K. Dobbie.<sup>4</sup> In the 1950's he edited many publications of the Delaware Folklore Society and the Institute of Delaware History and Culture. In his latter years he also did a considerable amount of research on the stress patterns of English words, especially in relation to syllabification. Unfortunately, much of the resulting material was not yet in publishable form when he died, but it is fairly represented in his last published article, "The Replacement of /ə/ and /i/ in the English Pronunciation of Names."<sup>5</sup> He also left behind partially finished essays on several aspects of Delaware names, including names with the word *hundred* in them, school names, and Dutch and Swedish patronymics. A scholar until the very end, he was busy at work in his last days on a manuscript called "Striking Examples of Popular Etymology in Names." Ironically, he had hoped to contribute the article to an issue of *Names* in memory of Francis Lee Utley.<sup>6</sup>

Professor Dunlap leaves behind a lifetime devoted to university teaching and scholarship. He helped train scores of high-school teachers and many graduate students. He supervised the doctoral work of several medievalists and leaves his university library far richer in medieval and linguistic acquisitions than it would otherwise have been. To the larger intellectual community he leaves his carefully researched and uniquely valuable monographs and articles on onomastics and English usage – contributions worthy indeed of a student of Karl Young, Robert Menner, Edward Sapir, and George Lyman Kittredge. And to all of us who knew him he leaves an example of high intellectual integrity and of quiet, unassuming ways still befitting the scholarly life. Most important, he leaves us the memory of the warm and generous disposition distinctly his own. A native of Nova Scotia, he now rests in his adopted Delaware in beautiful St. Anne's Cemetery in Middletown, not far from the seaside which he always loved.

W. Bruce Finnie

<sup>4</sup> *Names*, 20 : 2 (June, 1972).

<sup>5</sup> *Names*, 22 : 3 (September, 1974), pp. 85–92.

<sup>6</sup> In the manuscript he begins to discuss the following words, among others, together with the pattern upon which they are built: *Bacchus* (bake + house), *Brooks* (brook + house), *Loftis*, *Loftus* (loft + house), *Monks* (monk + house), *Porters* (porter + house), *Shorter-house*, *Shortes(s)* (shorter + house), *Watrous* (water + house), *Whites* (white + house). [The issue in memory of Professor Utley is scheduled to appear sometime in 1975. Ed. note.]