Notes

SALERIO, SOLANIO, SALARINO AND *SALARIO*

William Green's recent discussion of Shakespeare's use of attributive names emphasizes how the dramatist added "figurative overtones" to his work by naming certain characters according to particular "personality traits or around the character's occupation."[1] Shakespeare seems to have used such attributive names, or charactonyms, in naming three minor characters in the *Merchant of Venice*—Salerio, Solanio and Salarino—all of whom show a special concern for money and wealth. Unlike the English attributive names found in other comedies, e.g. Fang, Snare, Dull, Slender, the striking similarity between the names of these characters and the Italian word *salario*, meaning wages or salary, suggests that Shakespeare's charactonyms may be puns on that word, puns which characterize the three men by exemplifying in their names the exclusive interest in wealth and material gain which they show throughout the play.

Salarino's interest appears in the play's first scene when he declares that if he were a merchant like Antonio "every object that might make me feare/Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt/ Would make me sad" (I. i. 24-26).[2] Solanio too would worry that the "roaring waters" would make his goods "now worth this,/ And now worth nothing" (I. i. 40-41). In act two, scene eight, it is Solanio who describes Shylock's notorious desire to regain his daughter and his ducats, and this is followed by Salarino's announcement that a "vessel of our country richly fraught" (1.33), possibly Antonio's, has foundered. Act three opens with Salarino spreading the rumor that Antonio's "ship of rich lading" was wrecked on the Goodwin sands, and in scene two Salerio reports that all of Antonio's ventures have failed. The purpose of these characters is thus to keep us informed about the material wealth of Antonio and about Shylock's concern for his ducats. Their names fulfill one function of the charactonym by "limning a character whose function in the script is limited."[3]

Further evidence suggests that these names constitute intentional puns. The name Salarino is itself the diminutive form of *salario*.[4] To achieve the name Salerio, Shakespeare would not have had to alter *salario* on purpose, but simply could have drawn on a probable English pronunciation in which *ar* was often replaced by *er*. Similar substitutions can be found elsewhere in his work.[5] Like Salerio, Solanio could easily have been derived from a current pronunciation variant in which *ă* was replaced by *ŏ*. As Kökeritz says: "we cannot . . . rely too much on those orthoepists who persist for about two hundred years in identifying the English sound with the French or Italian *a* . . . ."[6] The initial *a* in *salario* would thus have been replaced by an *ŏ*, with an *n* substituted for the *r* by the dramatist to eliminate some confusion between the two names. It is significant that a variant spelling of this name, Salanio, is still closer to *salario*.[7]

Such a common word almost certainly appeared in one or both of John Florio's two Italian language manuals, *Florio His firste Fruites* (1578) and *Florios Second Frutes* (1591). These manuals contained Italian and English dialogues in parallel columns. The dialogues, which were graded in dif-

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[1] "Humours Characters and Attributive Names in Shakespeare's Plays," *Names,* 20:3 (September, 1972), 157.

[2] All citations refer to *A New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare,* ed. H. H. Furness (Philadelphia, Pa., 1888), vol. 7, *The Merchant of Venice.*

[3] Green, 158.

[4] *-ino* was derived from the Latin *-inus,* a diminutive suffix since at least the thirteenth century. See Gerhard Rohlfs, *Grammatica Storica Della Lingua Italiana E Dei Suoi Dialeti,* "Sintassi E Formazione Delle Parole," vol. 3, trad. di Temistocle Franceschi e Maria Caciagli Fancelli (Torino, 1969), 412-14.

[5] Helge Kökeritz records *"hermony* H 3.2.378, *hermonious* MND 2.1.151 (Q), *pertake* R3 1.1.189 (Q), S 149.2, *perticular* H 2.1.12 (Q2);" references not to Q are to the Kittredge edition. *Shakespeare's Pronunciation* (New Haven, Conn., 1953), 250.

[6] Kökeritz, 162. "Occasionally we find *o* for an expected *a* or interchanging with it as *chops* M 1.2.22, RL 1452, *chopt* (chapped) AYL 2. 4. 48, JC 1.2.247, T 1.1.60. . . ." Kökeritz, 165.

[7] See *The Variorum Shakespeare,* vol. 7, *The Merchant of Venice,* p. 1.

ficulty, dealt with such courtly topics as fencing, wine, love and the theatre. As R.C. Simonini has demonstrated, Portia's complaint in the *Merchant of Venice* (I. ii. 65-72) that Falconbridge, her English suitor, "hath neither Latin, French, nor Italian" parallels Florio's dialogue from *Firste Fruites* which complains of the lack of interest in foreign languages by Englishmen. Her discussion with Nerissa of the nationalities of her various suitors also "begins in the accustomed Florio style" (I. ii. 35-37).[8] One of the speakers in chapter 26 of the *Firste Fruites* "is sad and melancholy as is Antonio in the *Merchant of Venice.*"[9] The word *salario* was included in Florio's *Worlde of Wordes,* an Italian-English dictionary finished in 1596, possibly well in advance of the completion of the *Merchant of Venice,* which may not have reached its final form until 1598.[10] The fact that there is no character with a name similar to *salario* in any of the sources for the play cited by Geoffrey Bullough[11] further indicates that these names are charactonyms, for "Shakespeare usually reserved the device for characters of his own creation rather than for those retained from his source works."[12] The names Salerio, Solanio and Salarino thus seem to have been intentionally chosen by the dramatist, and were derived from a word he could have found in several contemporary works on the Italian language.

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ADDENDUM TO "THE NAME IS NOT THE THING"

The general contention that a disproportionate number of superior achievers has surnames beginning with letters in the first half of the alphabet recently was examined and tested by Dietrich and Reynolds[1]. They concluded that ". . . there is no good basis for any statement to the effect that a discordant relationship exists between the initial letter of a person's surname and his or her characteristics or achievements." In conducting their extensive literature review and empirical research, they correlated the obviously-to-be-tested proportional relationship between frequency of surname first letters among members of the general population (based on figures obtained from the U.S. Department of H.E.W. Social Security file) and among high achievers (based on figures obtained from Phi Kappa Phi honorary society's membership role, the listing in *American Men of Science,* the listing in *Who's Who in America,* and the author's list in the *National Union Catalogue*).

Although their research focuses exclusively on superior achievers, Dietrich and Reynolds draw a conclusion which relates to all achievers. Before an all-embracing conclusion can be drawn in this case one must examine the relationship between the proportion of surname first letters among achievers at all points of the achievement continuum. Such research is not within the scope of this note. Nevertheless, the author was interested in learning whether the pattern found among high achievers is similar to that which exists among low achievers. To this end, he has extended the interesting research of Dietrich and Reynolds to include the low-achieving population.

[8] *Italian Scholarship in Renaissance England* (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1952), 94.

[9] *Ibid.,* 95. Shakespeare also seems "to have adopted from the language lesson manuals the method of using proverbs in colloquial speech and the witty sayings and syllogisms"; 96.

[10] Florio defines *salario* as *"a salarie, wages, hire, stipend, pension or pay given to servants. Also a salter, one that makes or sels salt or salte meates."* See his *Worlde of Wordes or Most copious, and exact Dictionarie in Italian and English, collected by Iohn Florio* (London, 1598), p. 340, Ff2 (verso). Frances Yates, in *John Florio* (Cambridge, Eng., 1934), observes that, after it was published in 1598, "it is very probable that Shakespeare had sometimes occasion to study this dictionary" (p. 268). On the date of composition of the *Merchant of Venice* see *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* ed. Alfred Harbage (Baltimore, Md., 1969), 19.

[11] *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare* (London, 1957), vol. 1, 445-514.

[12] Green, 158.

[1] R.V. Dietrich and L.T. Reynolds, "The name is *not* the thing," *Names,* 21:4 (December, 1973), 277-280.

A sample of 96 academic dropouts from Los Angeles City College (with a student population proportionally reflective of the general population) was examined.[2] Prior to his withdrawal, each student is interviewed by the college's Counseling Center staff to evaluate the reasons for his leaving school. Among the many reasons provided is that of poor grades. The above sample is that part of the total number of withdrawals who cited their reason to be poor grades (less than a 2.00 average on the 4.00 system of grading). As in the earlier research, a tally of surname initial letters was made and compared with the figures supplied by Dietrich and Reynolds. The following table shows the results.

DISTRIBUTION OF SURNAMES BY INITIAL LETTER (by percent of total)

	Social Security 1964 File (165,986,723)*	Superior Achievers (Weighted Average) (302,891)	Low Achievers (96)
A	3.1	3.1	3.1
B	9.3	8.6	8.3
C	7.3	6.6	9.4
D	4.8	4.3	3.1
E	1.9	2.1	1.0
F	3.6	3.9	3.1
G	5.1	5.1	6.2
H	7.4	7.9	6.2
I	.4	.5	.0
J	2.9	2.3	7.3
K	3.9	4.7	5.2
L	4.7	5.1	4.2
M	9.4	9.1	9.4
Sub-total	63.8	63.3	66.5
N	1.8	1.9	2.1
O	1.4	1.4	1.0
P	4.9	4.5	8.3
Q	.2	.3	1.0
R	5.3	5.1	2.1
S	10.2	10.8	4.2
T	3.5	3.3	8.3
U	.2	.3	.0
V	1.3	1.3	1.0
W	6.2	6.7	5.2
X	< .05	< .05	.0
Y	.6	.6	.0
Z	.6	.6	.0
Sub-total	36.2	36.8	33.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.1	99.7

*Numbers in parentheses indicate number of names included.

[2] B.K. Gold, "Some characteristics of students who withdrew from Los Angeles City College, Spring, 1972 " (Unpublished manuscript, Office of Research, Los Angeles City College, 1973).

The comparison of frequencies (low achievers and general population) shows that only three of the surname first letters differ by more than 4 percent—J, 4.4 percent greater incidence among low achievers, S, 6.0 percent lower incidence among low achievers, and T, 4.8 percent greater incidence among low achievers. The results suggest, therefore, that as Dietrich and Reynolds found among high achievers, there is no discordant relationship between surname first letter and low achievement.

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LONDON, BERLIN AND OTHER JEWISH SURNAMES

Among Jewish surnames—especially Germanic Jewish surnames—it is not unusual to find some that are practically equal, in shape and sound, to surnames found among non-Jews. Although usually these names have the same meaning in both groups (Schwartz for the black-haired, Schuster for the cobbler, Unger for the Hungarian, etc.) in rarer occasions there is a different origin or a different explanation for the Jewish family name.

Geographic or Pseudo Geographic Names.

The word *lamdān* originated in mediaeval Hebrew to designate a "learned man," stemming from the verbal root L-M-D, "to study, learn." It was an appellative imposed by Jews on their scholars. When the long German ā became o in Yiddish, the long Hebrew ā followed suit and the noun in question—as well as the surname that it became for some—changed into Lamdon. It sounded so much like the English capital that, through attraction, it eventually became *London.* There were also some continental Jews who, having spent some time in the English capital or having originated there, rightfully received *London* as their family name.

Berlin, as a family name among Jews, is not unusual, and, as a rule, it is to be found among families not connected directly or indirectly with the Prussian capital. They generally have their name originating in the Yiddish first-name *Ber,* frequently used in association with its Hebraic and synagogal counterparts: *Dov* (with the same meaning, "bear") and/or *Issachar.* This last Biblical figure is designated as "a large-boned ass" in the Blessing of Jacob (Genesis 49:14), but Jews in the Middle Ages wisely avoided calling their Issachars with such an epithet and converted the "large-boned ass" into a bear. The -*l* ending is a diminutive in Yiddish and the further -*in* ending is a Russian patronymic. Incidentally, the etymology of the German city has no relation to *bear* whatsoever, for it is a Slavic word designating a river rake, a beam scaffold built to sustain the logs carried by the currents of the river Spree, where the Slavic city of Berlin was founded. The Wendic name was Barlin. German folk etymology wrongly perceived in the town's name a small bear, a figure that has been incorporated in the city's coat of arms.

We have also the surname *Rom* or *Romm,* which in Anglo-Saxon countries has inevitably become *Rome.* It was the family name of the Vilna printers and publishers of Jewish books; it is actually an acrostic from the words *Reish Mesivos* ("Chief of the Yeshiva," the Jewish institution of higher learning). Likewise, the Jewish family name *Pariser* bears no relation to Paris. It is an improved version of Paritsher, from Paritsh, a town in Byelorrusia.

Gordon, a family name, is more frequent among Jews than any of the ones mentioned till now. The Scottish surname Gordon stands probably for "great hill" in Scots Gaelic and designated several places in Scotland. The Jewish Gordon has a somewhat obscurer origin: it could be a distortion of Jordan, a name applied to persons that originiated or made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, or it could represent a shift of letters in Grodno, the name of a Byelorrusian city which, in the days when the surname originated, had an important Jewish population.

The unusual European Jewish surname *Atlas* bears no relation to the mythological figure or the mountainous chain in Morocco. It is an acronym of the first words of Psalm 73:1. A k̲ Ṭōv L'iśrā'el̲ plus *Selāh:* "Surely (God) is good to Israel, forever" a phrase appended at times to a personal name as a nostrum or as a measure of protection against evil forces; occasionally it was adopted by a cantor, for the inscription appeared often in front of the Cantor's place in the synagogue.

Other Non-Geographic Names.

The Jewish *Pfeffer* was not necessarily a pepper dealer nor was *Grossmann* a particularly tall fellow, nor *Friedman* always a peaceful man. These and other Germanic surnames were the result of some naming policies prevalent in German-speaking lands which prescribed that family names had to be German in language. An individual known among his fellow Jews as Saul ben Shlomo (Saul, son of Solomon) could choose then a capricious or elegant-sounding name like Goldberg or Rubinstein, or he could translate partially his or his father's name. Solomon—or rather Shlomo—is a Hebrew name constructed from the root Š-L-M which has "peace" as one of its acceptions, and can easily be translated into German as *Fried*. The German ending *man* or *mann* is very frequent in German names and surnames. Gedaliah is a Biblical name that stands for "the Lord is big"; for the owner of such a name only one of its elements is used: *Gross* ("big") with the familiar *-mann* appended to it. It could be that at times Grossmann, or Lang, are equivalents for Saul, for the Bible says of King Saul (I Sam 9:2) that "from his shoulders and upwards he was higher that any of the people." As a matter of fact, King Saul's name appears in the Koran as Talut, from tul, "tallness." Isaac ("he shall laugh") is a name that can be adequately translated as *Lachmann,* a frequent Jewish surname.

Guttmann could have been a partial translation of Toviah ("God is good"). Leiter ("ladder") recalls the figure of patriarch Jacob who dreamt of a ladder with angels coming up and down. Rabe ("raven") could very well be a name used by somebody named Elijah, who wanted a German word that could be associated with his name. *Treistman,* related to Trost, "consolation," is a partial translation of Nehemiah ("God consoles") or Nahum ("consolled") or some other name formed with the Hebrew root N-Ḥ-M, "to console, comfort."

Just as some names were "translated" into German, so was, more rarely, a Jewish occupation. The Melamed or scriptural teacher busied himself with the *pilpul* or Talmudic debate and argumentation; but pilpul stands also for pepper, even when the etymology of both words is different (one stems from the verb palpēl, "to argue, reason," and the other from its homonym meaning "to be round"). Many a melamed chose to translate "pilpul" for *Pfeffer,* adopting the word as his family name.

Words that seem to portray the character of an individual are actually a translation of the Hebrew name of some forebearer. *Freud* was originally not always the surname of somebody with a joyful character (although such a character might have been of some help in having him branded with that particular name) but is the translation of some name like *Śimḥa,* "glad, mirthful." *Seligman* was used frequently as a translation of Baruch, "blessed."

There is something more than mere translation in substituting a German word for a Hebrew one; some of the qualities possessed by the original Biblical figures were used in German in lieu of the Hebrew designation. In Moses' life, water was prominent on three occasions: he was rescued from the Nile by the Pharaoh's daughter, he divided the Sea of Reeds for the crossing by the Israelites and he drew water from a stone when water was needed. The common Jewish surname Wassermann was used to replace or accompany the name of Moses. Other names containing the element Wasser (Wasserstein, Wasserberg) are just covers for the name Moses. There is an autobiographical explanation by one rabbi who justifies the name he chose for himself, Wasserzug, "pulled out of the water," claiming that it originated in his being saved from drowning at the age of five; but his first name, Moses, of course, is probably the real explanation.

Several names in Jewish onomastics are accompanied by a German cognomen: Alexander Süsskind, Eliezer Lieberman, Eliakim Gottschalk. The reason for some of these particular associations are difficult to explain or can only be assumed; for example, the ending *-man* stood at times for "servant" and Lieberman—a name frequently associated with Eliezer—was "the beloved servant," the perfect designation for Abraham's major domo.

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