

## Book Reviews

*Geographical and Cultural Names in Virginia*. By Thomas H. Biggs. Virginia Division of Mineral Resources Circular 20. Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, 1974. Pp. 374. Price \$2.75.

Here we have a book that everyone interested in Virginia place-names will keep beside Ray O. Hummel, Junior's *A List of Places Included in 19th Century Virginia Directories* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1960) and the *Index of Surface Waters of Virginia* (Richmond: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, 1960) even though Biggs's *List* largely supersedes the latter. The new book well covers all kinds of current place-names in Virginia, while Hummel's book supplements it with numerous obsolescent and extinct names of places. From now on no one will work on Virginia place-names without using Biggs's monograph as a checklist.

In December, 1972, the project of mapping Virginia was completed with a series of 805 U.S. Geological Survey maps (7.5 minute maps with a scale of 1:24,000). The basic purpose Biggs had in creating his *List* was to provide an index to the places and features on the topographic maps and to facilitate locating them. The names are arranged alphabetically in four categories and an appendix. Each name is given a single line with only the name of the county or city in which it appears and a key to the map(s) on which it is shown. This means that the index provides no closer location of a place or feature than the quadrangle map showing it; and, thus, obscure names will require considerable searching on the maps. The system devised for decoding the numbers and letters assigned to the maps is a cumbersome one that entails using a large and poorly reproduced map of the state, which folds into a pocket inside the back cover, and then referring to the topographical maps themselves.

A total of more than 30,000 names taken from the maps appears in four sections of the book. The first section deals with place-names and comprises about one-fourth of the index. Here are listed such man-made features as cities, towns, villages, real estate developments, and military bases. The second, water features, is the largest of the four sections and comprises about 30 percent of the index. It lists such waters as rivers, creeks, swamps, lakes, and channels. The third section is headed "Land Forms" and lists such features as mountains, hills, ridges, valleys, hollows, natural tunnels and bridges, and caves. The fourth and smallest section lists such religious institutions as churches, chapels, temples, and tabernacles. Synagogues are not included.

An appendix lists the names of state forests, parks and game management areas along with the names of national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges.

The entries in each section are in a single alphabetical listing for the entire state. However, the material has been compiled on a computer and is stored on magnetic tape. Thus, it is possible to obtain any of a great variety of particular listings: e.g., all the places in one county, in a block of counties, or by counties for the entire state. The book itself is a photo-offprint of the computer printout.

The contents of Biggs's *List* appear to be accurate except for an occasional slip. For instance, *Annandale* is misspelled, *Flowerdew Hundred* is entered as a land form instead of as a place, and *Guinea Marshes* in Gloucester County are not listed even though they are on the map. While the limits of *Hampton Roads* are not set by hard and fast lines, it is difficult to imagine *Isle of Wight County* touching the Roads; and it is impossible for *Newport News Channel* to touch the city of Chesapeake. A pond in Newport News is called *Young's Mill Pond*, but it is designated *Sluice Mill Pond* on the map and so appears in the *List*. No part of the Staunton River is in Madison County, even though its name is such a puzzle that few people know where the name Staunton leaves off and the name Roanoke picks up.

These are the kinds of details that are sometimes mistreated, but reference to the topographic maps usually straightens out questionable entries.

Biggs's *List of Geographical and Cultural Names in Virginia* has all the strengths and weaknesses of the maps from which its names are taken. The maps never pretended to show every local name, no matter how widely used; consequently, many names in local use are not in the *List*. The spellings and designations on the maps reappear in the index, even though some are not the most generally used ones. Nevertheless, just as the topographical maps are indispensable for a great variety of uses, so is the *List*.

P. Burwell Rogers

Newport News, Va.

*Place-Names of the World*. By Adrian Room. Totowa, N.J.: Rowman and Littlefield, 1974. Pp. 216. Price \$10.

This is a book that whets the appetite for the main course, which certainly will be George Stewart's soon-to-be-published dictionary of names on the globe. Until then, however, the book by Mr. Room, who has been a guest editor of *VIZ*, journal of the Names Society, will have to take its place alongside the more extensive work of Isaac Taylor, *Names and Their Histories* (London: Rivington's, 1898, and republished by Gale Research Co., 1969).

The two invite comparison, although certainly the authors had dif-

ferent purposes in mind. Taylor listed approximately 3,700 place-names in his glossary, and added fairly detailed information in an appendix on Indian (Asia), Turkish, Magyar, Slavonic, and German place-names. In many ways only an introduction to the study of world names, it, nevertheless, was a scholarly undertaking of rather enormous scope. As Mr. Room says, "Canon Taylor must be regarded as a serious pioneer in the field of modern toponymy."

On the other hand, Mr. Room has chosen "more than a thousand" names, including those of most of the countries and their capitals, all American states and their capitals, and other mainly well-known place-names. The information relative to each name is sketchy but adequate, considering that the book is to serve as a ready reference for anyone who needs to know the origin of a name and not necessarily its historical or linguistic background. For detailed information, the Taylor book is necessary, at least for place-names existing before 1900. For names that have come about after 1900, detailed material must generally be found by the person seeking the etymology, explanation, or other information, about a particular place.

To cite only one instance as an illustration of the differences between the glosses in Taylor and Room, I have chosen *Brazil* as apt, although not perhaps the best. Taylor has 45 closely-packed lines of information, which give the historical background, including discovery, events, etymology, and the added comment that the version of the name should correctly have been "Brazilia, Brazil Land." Room glosses *Brazil* in four lines, giving two pieces of information, the etymology and the discovery. Since Brazil was given a new capital in 1960, Room glosses it as, correctly, *Brasilia*, without more ado than "Named after country, Spanish for which is Brasil, + suffix -ia. Before 1960 capital was *Rio de Janeiro*." The information is sufficient, although it does not really give the etymology, nor does it point out that the new city was planned by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), the great French architect, who also designed the modernistic city of Chandigarh in the Punjab. *Chandigarh*, by the way, is not glossed.

The economy of detail in Room's entries cannot be blamed on the author, for printing costs and spatial problems have come to haunt all of us. He sifted out material that was not absolutely necessary and encapsulated the essence of the name; that is, the etymology and bare historical information are presented in what I would consider the most meaningful way in view of limitations. Further, he has entered names that have come into being in very recent years. So far as I know, this is the only gathering of such names. The hints can lead the specialist to other sources of information. Indeed, the text is a valuable addition to place-name studies.

Kelsie B. Harder

The State University College at Potsdam, New York

*Van voornaam tot achternaam: Een bundel radiopraatjes over doopnamen en de familienamen die eruit groeiden.* By Frans Debrabandere. Brugge: Bond van de Westvlaamse Folkloristen, 1971. Pp. 236. Price BF 190.

This book takes us from forename to last name in a series of radio talks on baptismal names and the family names that grew out of them. The forenames here discussed are borrowings, as seen from the vantage point of Dutch and its West Flemish dialects. Almost all of the names will be familiar to the English-language reader. They are or would be loan names in any Germanic Language. One or two would be rare or out of place where Germanic is spoken: there are, for example, no *Archangels* (p. 52) in either Flanders or England.

Debrabandere's work here is admittedly popular onomastics (p. 5). It was intended originally for dialect speakers of West Flemish whose standard language is Dutch. The concise bibliography is made up of two sources in English, three in German, five in French, and 17 in Dutch. The author is the soul of good humor, as witnessed by his fondness for etymological plays on words and names: The Hilarity of Hilary, Clemency for Clement, The Horned Cornelius, etc. As headings for subsections these make excellent teaching devices.

After a preliminary word, the main sections of the book are: On Family Names, Our Most Popular Saints, The Evangelists, The Names of the Apostles, The Archangels, Greek Names, More Christian Names, A Round of Christian Holidays, Biblical Names, and Girls' Names. An index follows.

Now for some quick comments. Unlike Dutch *Sint-Amandsberg* (p. 75), German *Sankt Moritz* remains unhyphenated (p. 102). Again unlike Dutch, *St.* is in German not normally prefixed to the name of a saint in a church name (p. 72). English *Pie(te)rkins* could be added on p. 72: *Perkins* and *Parkinson*! An unusual spelling of the Dutch family name *Denijs* (p. 63), claimed by one of my students (parents from Indonesia), is *de Nijs*. In my English "Augustan Confession" (p. 81) is *Augsburg Confession*. A *Donat* (p. 86) of note is the late British actor *Robert*. One could add English *Babs* for *Barbara* (p. 185) and *Lars* as a Scandinavian *Lawrence* (p. 96). *Benito Mussolini* (p. 109) was named after *Benito Jaurez*. Why *Benesj* (p. 110) instead of *Beneš*, could the printer not improvise a *haček*? *Carsten* is also (Northwest) German for *Christian* (pp. 111—112). It is *Natalie*, not *Nathalie Wood* (p. 113). She is Russian Orthodox, which may explain *Natalie*. An old student of mine is an *Easterday* whose forebear answered to *Ostertag* (p. 114). It is not the *Persian Capitivity* (p. 120) but the Babylonian (p. 148). In English *David* is pronounced "deejvid," not "deejvit" (p. 155). On p. 171 I miss *Callebout*, *Callebaut* alongside *Callaert* (MDu. *Calle* "Kate" +

masculine name stems) as a family name. On p. 112 mention could be made of the Swedish yuletide Feast of St. Lucia and the crown of lit candles adorning the head of a "bride of Lucia." A famous Irish *Perneel* is nineteenth-century *Charles Stewart Parnell* (p. 189).

The writer is a veritable encyclopedia of knowledge on the history and the folk-, name-, and saintlore of his own home district, the Leiegouw, and the city of Kortrijk that dominates it. He is a master teacher at identifying and elucidating (West) Flemish name-form relationships. (We are taught on pp. 22—23 that *Jack* as a nickname for *John* was brought as *Jakke* (< *Janneke*) by Flemish woolen weavers to England.) A specialist interested in the Middle Dutch and subsequent anthroponymy of the West Flemish variety will find this book uncommonly rewarding.

Geart B. Droege

Capital University

*Perspectief der doopboeken. Proeve van een historische voornamen-geografie van Groningen en aangrenzende gebieden.* By K. Heeroma and H.T.J. Miedema. Assen: Van Gorcum & Comp. N.V.—Dr. H.J. Prakke & H.M.G. Prakke, 1972. Price f.22.

*Perspectief der doopboeken* (Perspective on baptismal books) constitutes pp. 69—86. It was written by the late Klaas Heeroma who says (p. 72) the thought behind this book is his but that it has nevertheless become Miedema's book. Henk Miedema contributes pp. 1—66, in his *Proeve van een historische voornamengeografie van Groningen en aangrenzende gebieden* (Sample of a historical forename geography of Groningen and bordering areas).

This is a historical forename geography of 1700—1925 but with two deviations for reasons given on p. 4. Miedema chose the eighteenth century over the seventeenth to be assured of adequate baptismal name data from the Dutch Province of Drente, and chose the earlier part of the century over the later for the sake of a minimally mobile population (p. 3). Then too, in this century namegiving was still very much a matter of handing down traditional forms (p. 70). Country folk in the Dutch Province of Groningen were not prone to marry or go in marriage far from where they grew up (p. 3). In larger towns like Groningen and Emden population and, with it, local naming were less stable and consequently excluded (p. 4). Appingedam, a fairly large town that was not excluded, shows an inverted distribution, within *Ange*-territory, for *Anje* in relation to *Antje* and *Annechien* (see p. 79 and end of this review).

Miedema's studies center about the Province of Groningen, which,

except for roughly the city of Groningen and what lies to the southeast of it to the German border, is substratally Frisian. The first of three folded maps, attached to open at the end of the book, shows the places covered throughout Groningen Province, the northern two-thirds of Drente, the far east of Friesland, and—in West Germany—the far west of East Friesland and the Emsland strip south of it.

The second folded map shows the distribution, in the area defined, of the Frisian masculine forenames *Tjaard*, *Tjark* and their variants *Tjeerd*, *Tjerk*. See pp. 9—13, 72—77 for discussion, pp. 14—19 for alphabetical listings of places with forms found and their frequency. Similar citings could be given for the other two sample studies made. The third folded map plots the distribution of five diminutive forms of feminine *Anne*, the equivalent English diminutive of which is *Annie*. There is no folded map for the third sample study, which involves forms of *Johanna*.

Miedema conducted the research for these studies while heading, between 1962 and 1966, the section on Names at Heeroma's Low Saxon Institute in Groningen (pp. 69,71). Heeroma came with ambitious research plans hatched in a great mind for theory and ideas. It is to Miedema's credit that he, as a born administrator, was able to cut those plans down to workable size (pp. 71—72).

Both authors have faithfully provided the reader with a full sufficiency of background and interpretive information. Gaps in our knowledge have been filled, in detail, by these studies. A case in point: *Tjaard* and *Tjark*, concentrated in westernmost East Friesland and in Eastern and Northern Groningen, meet *Tjeerd* and *Tjerk*, concentrated in Western Groningen and sharing late medieval vowel changes with living Frisian to the west (evidence of longer retention of Frisian, p. 74): an east-west contrast (p. 60)! An equally impressive north-south contrast is *Anje* (Northern Groningen) versus *Annechien* (Drente) (pp. 23—24, 60).

Geart B. Droege

Capital University