Book Reviews

The Naming of Persons. By Paul Tournier. Translated from the French by Edwin Hudson. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1975. Pp. [v], 118. Price $5.95.

There are not many books or articles on the psychology of names or naming, especially in respect of first or given names, and, as this is a good one, we most earnestly welcome it. For his four short chapters we are indebted to Dr. Paul Tournier, a Swiss physician, philosopher, minister, teacher; it all shows in his writings.

In the first chapter he outlines the importance of the name to the young child—the fact that it makes his identity; it makes him aware that he is a person, a unique human being. Dr. Tournier points out that the Bible attaches great importance to the choice of the personal name and alludes to the several cases where God dictates the name to be adopted. Paul in his writings mentions individuals, calling each carefully by name.

In discussing the importance of the given name selected for the child the influence of nicknames is important. Some are laudatory, others are the expression of an innocent sense of humor, while others are cruel and spiteful, and can do irreparable harm. Nicknames are not chosen but they arise spontaneously, often the quick wit of a single person. They may be concealed in the family or worn only outside, never heard in the bosom of the family.

The second chapter concerns the problem of possessiveness by parents. To name a child is to possess him. When a grandfather insists that his married children saddle the forthcoming baby with his name he has been possessive, and the parents have been deprived of their right to name the child. Many are not aware of their emotional dependence upon the grandparents. Here the author quotes the divine order laid down in the Bible, "A man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body." Much of Dr. Tournier's psychological study of names has been gleaned from the Bible and Biblical authorities.

When you name a child it should be in a spirit imbued with respect for him as a person and not in a spirit of possessiveness. A child who has a happy effective relationship with his parents likes his name and is willing to accept the parents' orders, advice, and reprimands when he feels that they are bringing him up for his own sake and not just for their own selfish satisfaction.

The third chapter includes a discussion of the reason for the adoption of a certain name: it reminds us of someone. Parents should be free to explain to their child the thoughts and feelings they had in choosing the name they did.

Dr. Tournier makes many of his points by the recital of anecdotes. After first pointing out that the law of Switzerland authorizes termination of pregnancy in exceptional cases but only after a "concurrent opinion" has been obtained, he narrates: A certain woman visited a doctor who was not disposed to give her the "concurrent opinion." She pleaded, "After all, doctor, it's not all that important! It's only a little bundle of cells!" The doctor replied with one small question, "If you were to keep your baby, what name would you give it?" There was a long silence. Then suddenly the woman rose and said, "Thank you, doctor, I'll keep it."

Names should be used. Consider the loss one feels who has been forced into a prison or concentration camp where numbers have replaced names. The name is not only the symbol of the person—it is the person himself.

The fact that the author in the fourth and last chapter loses himself and the reader in abstract philosophy detracts but little from the value of the work. The first 89 pages of the book contribute a great deal to the little that is known on the practical and theoretical psychology of personal names, and the serious student of personal names is truly indebted to Dr. Paul Tournier.

Elsdon C. Smith

German-Romance Contact: Name-giving in Walser Settlements. By Peter Nichols Richardson. Amsterdam: Rodopi N.V. (Distributed in the U.S. & Canada by International Scholarly Book Services, Inc.), 1974. Pages xxviii, 372. Typescript. Price $22.

This is a publication of a doctoral dissertation or the revision of such a dissertation although no admission of such a fact is made by the author. As such it is replete with all the numbered notes so avidly worshipped by the academic fraternity. After one has satisfied the professor under which one is working, why not incorporate most of the important notes in the published text so that the reader may understand the author's thesis better? A list of sources and a bibliography, both of which are provided by Dr. Richardson, would usually be enough to enable the reader to study further.

This study examines name-giving traditions in both German and Romance regions in order to measure the effect of the religious realignment on German and Romance communities in Graubünden (Grissons), the largest and most sparsely populated in Switzerland, also the only officially trilingual canton—German, Romansh, and Italian.

The author first outlines the historical background in Switzerland discussing the German tribes and their settlements. In Chapter II he starts to trace the rise and interaction between German names and Christian-Romance names. In the next chapter he discusses and outlines the relative popularity of various given names in different places. No index is provided but there is a comprehensive Table of Contents of four and one-half pages.

For various periods starting with Roman names down through medieval times to the end of the seventeenth century Dr. Richardson has carefully counted thousands of names of men and women for different settlements in Graubünden, and sets out tables showing the number of persons bearing each name and the percentage for the particular area. From the point of view of one interested in onomastics this work provides much information on the given names used in Graubünden, particularly during the period from medieval times, tracing the rise of Biblical Christian names, chiefly those from the New Testament, and their use by both Catholic and Protestant communities.

Some attention is given to the influence of the church on name-giving. A church dedicated to a certain saint tends to make that name a common one among the people in the vicinity. Protestant parents did not associate the names of their children with Catholic saints, but selected names that enjoyed popularity in the neighborhood. Only a few Christian names were in use so that one name often identified several people in the community. This gave rise to the adoption of what we now call "middle" names, and later to the use of surnames.

Women's names were found to be more innovative than men's names. When Christian names, that is Biblical names, threatened to supplant German names in the high Middle Ages it was the women's names which first displayed the new name pattern. The reason for the more unstable naming tradition among women as compared to men was that there was simply no sufficient cause for names to be perpetuated among generations of women. Men who inherited social position as well as property were normally identified by a "dynastic" name which by itself expressed their relationship to their forebears. This was as true of peasant families as of the nobility.

Dr. Richardson concludes his book with the following paragraph:

"This investigation has thus borne out the hypothesis proposed in the introduction: that because individuals are the ultimate locus of language contact—and because individuals are also the immediate sources of name-giving—the extent to which two cultures have inter-penetrated can successfully be estimated by the willingness of individual members of each cultural group to use freely the onomasticon of the other."

Elsdon C. Smith

Имя И Общество   By V.A. Nikonov. ("Name and Society"). Moscow: "Science" Publishing House, 1974. Pp. 278. Price 1 ruble, 8 kopecks.

The vast complex of peoples and languages in the U.S.S.R. and their differing pre-Soviet cultural histories would seem to make any comprehensive study of etymological, sociological and political aspects of their personal names quite difficult. This book does not attempt that, but it does appear to attempt an introduction. It is a compilation of statistical and interpretive essays by the author (identified as an honorary member of UNESCO's International Committee on Onomastic Science) on such diverse topics as "Female Names in Eighteenth Century Russia"; "Names of Children in International Families ("International" meaning Russian marriages with Azerbaijanis, Tatars, and Uzbeks)"; "The Semantics of Russian Family Names," which treats of historical changes, and "The Names of Literary Characters."

The personal names of the Turkic peoples, their distribution and origin, rate a special chapter, as do those of the Mordvinians, a Finno-Ugric grouping; the linguistic origins of names are usually treated rather casually when a point needs to be made about something else. As Russian books go, this one has a high price, considering its paper and format. But that it is intended for general, rather than specialized, reading, is indicated by two things:

1. The first 42 pages consist of a general introduction to anthroponymy;

2. A total of 20,000 copies were printed.

The chapter in the Introduction on "Mystique of Names" begins with this thought: "Having learned the value of a name as a social symbol, almost all religions take advantage of that fact, appropriating to themselves the monopolistic right to give the name, attaching to this act a religious character and turning the personal name into a symbol that the bearer of the name belongs to that particular religion."

There is a 12-page bibliography at the end.

Ralph S. Walker

Early East-Anglian Nicknames. By Bo Seltén. Lund: CWK Gleerup, 1975. Pp. 69.

In his former work on Early East-Anglian Nicknames, Dr. Seltén discussed "Shakespeare" names. In this work he presents a study of bahuvrihi compounds of the period 1100-1400, many of which developed

into modern surnames. Bahuvrihis are compound nouns or adjectives consisting of two constituents, the first of which is adjectival and describes the person denoted by the second which is nominal. *Quitloc* (white hair) is a bahuvrihi; *Drinkwater* is a "Shakespeare" type name. But classification is not always as easy as these examples would indicate, especially when many occupational names are included.

In the list of 180 different bahuvrihi names the principal meaning together with other possible meanings are given and the medieval sources are listed. The author found few bahuvrihi names to be down-right derogatory, but he discovered it extremely difficult, from our modern point of view, to judge the names in this respect. Compounds with a sexual connotation may not have seemed altogether offensive in the Middle English period. And some names seemingly complimentary may have had a derisory meaning.

The author finds that the average number of occurrences per name is very small. He notes *Barfot* to represent more than 20 persons; *Quitloc* had 18 bearers, *Godale* 15, *Quitheued* 13, and *Hardheued* 11. Since a parent's nickname would often fit a child equally well, the question of inheritance was difficult.

After some discussion of meaning, the work ends with lists according to first and second elements. Most second elements designate a part of the body or some physical attribute. Although the book is a short one it is an extremely valuable contribution to the science of onomastics.

Elsdon C. Smith

Names Over New Orleans Public Schools. By Robert Meyer, Jr. New Orleans, La.: Namesake Press, Box 4235, 70178, 1975. Pp. v + 269. Price $6.60 (abridged ed., $2).

Occasionally, a book on names arrives that is provocative enough to motivate others to accomplish the same thing for their own communities. Such a book is this one. Mr. Meyer has compiled one of the more meticulous and well-written texts I have seen on a subject with limited scope. Not only is it valuable for social history, but it is also a model of how the past can be recaptured in the names that citizens give their schools. He has compiled information, including references, on the existing 139 schools in New Orleans, as well as providing material on 49 that no longer exist.

As expected, the names are commemorative, with many that could have been anticipated: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, [Marquis de]

Lafayette, Robert E. Lee, and Thomas Edison. Not so expected are Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, and Paul L. Dunbar, noted black leaders. The wave of popularity for both Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy resulted in the bestowal of their names, also.

The majority, however, are named for those who work in the trenches of education, and this, to me, is the more appropriate. Patriotism aside, for the great names will be given their due in public monuments, those who actually educate deserve their place, and so they have here. Outside the city, it is doubtful that such names as Agnes L. Bauduit, Martin Behrman, Andrew Johnson Bell, and on to nearly 100 others, are known. Nevertheless, devotion to education secured them a place in their communities. Each contributed greatly to tedious classroom duties and to the necessary chore of implanting knowledge in recalcitrant students. Such naming may be common in communities throughout the United States, but this is the first time it has been fully documented. I should note that William Coyle published some years ago a monograph on Ohio public school names, although it certainly does not compare with this study. Professor Coyle, nevertheless, did an introductory study of this community phenomenon that pointed to the possibilities inherent in such investigation.

In a private correspondence with Professor W.F.H. Nicolaisen, with copies sent to Professor Byrd Granger and me, Mr. Meyer makes the following suggestion:

"I would like to suggest that the American Name Society sponsor a plan which would lead through research about names over public schools in the United States to precise information about the founding of public school systems in the nation's 3,079 counties. I am convinced we could accomplish this since most of the 500 [individual] members of the Society are educators. If they just gathered date comparable to the amount in my abridged edition they could create a series of booklets which would become valuable reference works.

The bicentennial year 1976 would be an ideal year in which to launch the project."

The suggestion is sensible, and I pass it along. Perhaps all of us will attempt to bring together such information. Emulating Mr. Meyer, however, will be most difficult.

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Georgia Place-Names. By Kenneth K. Krakow. Macon: Winship Press,
   1975. Price $12.50 (hardcover); $8 (paper).

This volume, to the best of my knowledge, is the first dictionary of
Georgia place-names to become readily available to the general reader.
For this, scholars and general readers alike, in and out of Georgia, are
thankful, for it has been a long wait. However, as with other popular
studies of a state's place-names, whose preparation and publication pre-
ceded the provision of precise guidelines by the U.S. Place Name Survey
Commission, this one really cannot be usefully compared with others
and must be evaluated on its own merits. Within these limits, there is
much to recommend it. Its principal deficiencies, which I shall mention
below, will hopefully be remedied by the ambitious Georgia Place Name
Survey currently in preparation.

The book consists of generally concise and useful alphabetical entries
of over 5,000 names of all the counties, populated places and post offices
(historic and current), major geographic features, and a number of the
more significant man-made features like airports, ferries, bridges,
schools, mills, and canals (not churches or cemeteries, for some reason),
some of the better known ghost towns, and even some old Indian
villages.

As often as possible, we are assured by the author, an attempt was
made to include the dates of the discovery or establishment of the feature
or place and other names, if any, borne by it. Data on the persons or
families for whom the place was named, including dates of birth and
death, and connection with the place, are often given as are the
derivations of most of the names, including many of Indian origin, and,
where known, the reasons for the choice of the particular name. Other
relevant descriptive information on the places identified by the names
is often included.

Sources are only occasionally given in the entries themselves though an
extensive bibliography is provided at the end of the volume. Much
valuable information was derived from the pioneering efforts of the late
John Goff of Emory University. We are assured that every possible
source of data was examined—maps (useful as sources of names as well
as for the verification of the location and current status of the places),
county histories which have been published for two-thirds of Georgia's
counties in this century alone, official state records, historical markers,
and anniversary issues of local newspapers. Written inquiries and per-
sonal interviews produced additional information. The distinction
between hearsay and factual accounts was made, with the former—qua
local legends—identified as unauthenticated.

The author acknowledges the problem of rendering and interpreting

Indian names. Since the Indian utterances were variously interpreted and recorded as they sounded to white contemporaries and few such names were literally translatable into one word English equivalents, there is little assurance of the accuracy of the renditions and meanings of most Georgia place-names of Indian origin. We are told that over 77 different spellings have been given for "Okefenokee" alone.

A principal weakness of this volume is a too sketchy preface which fails to provide a suitable framework for the analysis of the entries that follow. It does contain, however, a brief though useful review of earlier publications on Georgia place-names. More serious deficiencies are the lack of any consistent pattern for locating places within the county (only some places are located by distance and direction from the county seat) and few pronunciations, with those given not tied to any pronunciation key. An implied assumption that pronunciations are obvious to the reader is certainly unwarranted since the publishers hope to reach an out-of-state market. One might well wonder if *Philomath*, for instance, is accented on the first or second syllable and if the first vowel is long or short. And what of the old *Seay* Post Office—is this See, Say, Shay, or what?

While admittedly not bringing to this study the assets or proficiency of a scholarly back-ground in linguistics or the social sciences, the author's circumspect approach to his available data assures the reader that his has been an honest attempt to compile as accurate an account of Georgia's place-names as possible. He laments as loudly and genuinely as his readers undoubtedly will the inadequacy or lack of proper documentation. When uncertain about which of several possible derivations of a name is the most authentic, all are objectively presented and it is left to future research to decide among them. Like most place-name compilers, Krakow admits his is not the final word on Georgia place-names but hopes that his readers will "verify or challenge" questionable statements and offer additional data on places mentioned or omitted. In the final analysis, while the volume does not promise much and apologizes for what it does contain, it is the best that has become available on the subject for the general reader.

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Herrn D. Martin Luthers Seel. Vielfaeltig verlangtes Namen-Buchlein . . . Jetzo der Edlen Deutschen Haupt-Sprache aufrichtigen Liebhabern. By Martin Luther. Leipzig: M. Gottfried Wegener, 1674.

Reprinted in facsmile by the Zentralantiquariat, Leipzig, 1974. Pages: ca. 350. Price: Approximately $22.

Good facsimile reprints usually are not cheap, but the Zentral-antiquariat reprints are especially noted for high quality and high prices. Those who have seen the slender onomastic treatise usually attributed to Martin Luther might be surprised at the number of pages of this edition. The 1674 translator and editor, however, included an introduction, notes, and a comprehensive index.

The Latin original is called *Aliquot nomina propria Germanorum ad priscam etymologiam restituta.* It first appeared in 1537, and was attributed first to Luther in a 1554 edition. The attribution was helped by the later discovery of a 1532 letter to Julius Pflug from Erasmus in which he spoke of "a little work" by Luther to be called *De nominibus proprius Germanorum.* But the authorship is still not quite certain.

A comparison of Luther's etymologies with those given in modern lexicons of Germanic personal names shows both correspondence and divergence. The entries in the *Namenbuch* are discursive and occasionally rambling, in the style of the time, and rely a great deal on similarity of forms. The entry on *Dietrich*, one of the longest, runs to nearly 500 German words, and discussion ranges from Theodorich to Totila (Detzel) and Attila (Etzel). In the 80 or so principal entries, about 900 names are discussed or mentioned.

A comparison of Luther's etymology for Oswalt with the generally accepted meaning for Oswald—"divine ruler" or "divine power"—is illustrative. Luther states that *-walt* means "power," and that Oswalt is correctly Huswalt, and means "the ruler or master of the house (i.e. steward)." In the absence of indications to the contrary, one can assume that the identification of *Os-* with *Hus-* was based on their similarity. But, in considering the soundness of Luther's methodology, it is perhaps to some degree relevant that Douzat, in explaining the name Oswald in Alsace-Lorraine, states that it is the equivalent of Ostwald, a name of origin meaning "eastern forest."

Ralph S. Walker