

Book Reviews

Oregon Geographic Names. By Lewis A. McArthur. 4th Edition, Revised and Enlarged by Lewis L. McArthur. (First published in 1928; subsequent editions published in 1944 and 1952). Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

This book, which first appeared in 1928, then as now deserves recognition as one of the pioneer efforts in state place-name study. The pioneer, who served for 33 years on the Oregon Geographic Board and was active in the state Historical Society, was indeed well suited to explore the names in his state, for opportunities readily existed to peruse the journals of early explorers, traders, trappers, and military men; and he lived at the right time to interview some of the early settlers and other contemporaries of many of the name givers themselves.

The latest edition, issued by the son of the pioneer compiler some 23 years after the latter's death, differs from the original only by the correction of errors and the inclusion of new information. Every effort, we are assured, was "made to maintain the original style." And it was the elder McArthur's "original style" that gives the volume its value. The chatty informal style in the eminently readable individual entries easily encourages the random selection of entries to be read for pure enjoyment while the alphabetical listing facilitates the finding of specifically sought after information. One could even read it from cover to cover and not become bored.

The style, however, does not detract from an entry's scholarly nature and usefulness, for each locates the place or feature (confined to communities, post offices, waterways, and elevations) in its county and by direction and distance from some better known place. Post office dates of establishment and discontinuance are given along with the name of the first postmaster. As expected, most of an entry is devoted to the origin of the name and, when possible, the reason for its bestowal. Very useful are the brief biographies and other background information on the names' sources. Other names for a particular feature and those for obsolete features are also given.

The most glaring deficiency in this, as in most of the pioneering state volumes, is the omission of pronunciations which does make it hard to deal, for example, with the state's many names of Indian origin. I have never really felt secure with *Sacajawea* and have long shared the educated easterner's tendency to accent the last syllable of *Willamette*. Fortunately, if still in print, one can refer to Robert Monaghan's *Pronunciation of Oregon Place Names*, a true gazetteer which also gives approximate locations of its 7,000 places. The only other weakness,

which may be excused by the nature of the volume, is the lack of sources for much of the data.

It should be noted, in conclusion, that the younger McArthur is continuing his father's work and, in the role of Director of the Oregon Place Name Survey, is to be commended for his foresight in having had the text of the fourth edition computerized. His current plans include the preparation of a state place-name gazetteer to which we are all eagerly looking forward.

Robert Rennick

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Irish Family Names, Highlights of 50 Family Histories. By Ida Grehan. London: Johnson & Bacon, Cassell & Collier Macmillan Publishers, Ltd., 1973. Pp. viii, 168.

This is a brief account of 50 of the most famous Irish families. The meanings and origin of each name are given and the various spellings of the name listed, followed by a brief comment on the history of the family. Then the author devotes a few paragraphs to the principal and most famous men of the family. Illustrations include varied portraits from the eleventh century to the present day and relevant views of Irish scenery and buildings. The coats of arms of the families is illustrated in color on pages 161 to 168.

Although, as the author admits, this "brief account of fifty families in Ireland will undoubtedly cause disappointment to at least one hundred and fifty others not included," the reader will also be disappointed because the book is not four times larger than it is, but it is a series of valuable sketches of the families included. Perhaps the author will add a supplement to cover some of the families omitted.

Elsdon C. Smith

Dicionário Etimológico de Nomes e Sobrenomes (An Etymological Dictionary of Names and Surnames). 2 edição, revista e ampliada. By Rosário Farâni Mansur Guérios. São Paulo: Editora Ave Maria Ltda. 1973. Pp. 231.

This is the second "revised and enlarged" edition of a very useful onomastic reference book about given and family names by R.F.M. Guérios, senior Professor of Linguistics and the pioneer in the field of Brazilian Onomastics at the Federal University of Paraná in Curitiba,

Brazil. Its first edition was published in 1949 and has since sold out. Having no opportunity to compare both editions, we restrict ourselves exclusively to the review of the second one *in se* and *per se*.

One should, first of all, welcome the book under review because of its appearance in Brazil and its handling primarily Brazilian anthroponymic material. There were very few works in this field before Guérios in South America, and surely enough no one ventured into the presentation of etymologies of both first and family names in one book so far. As in other countries, in Brazil toponymic research was prevailing in the field of onomatology.

As far as the material of Guérios dictionary is concerned, it comprises all possible categories of anthroponyms from Brazil: native (Indian), colonial (Portuguese) and immigrant ones, the latter being of European, Asiatic and African provenance. The author is well equipped methodologically to present explanations of given and family names. With very few exceptions his etymologies are valid and acceptable. Thus, e.g., his own given names are well explained: *Rosario* (on p. 190) from Latin *rosarium* with reference to German *Rosenkranz*, English *rosary*, French *roserie*; *Farani* (p. 105) from Italian (Etruscan?) *Farano*: *faro* "parol"; *Mansur* (p. 151) from Arabic *Mansur* (*Almancor*) "victorious"; *Guérios* (p. 120) from its ultimate source—Greek *geraiós* "old." In trying to find the present reviewer's name one has only 1/3 of it: neither *Jaroslav* nor *Rudnyčkyj* are available in the dictionary. Of course, the latter is (perhaps) non-existent in Brazil, yet the former (in the spelling *Yaroslav*) is well known in Paraná: anybody approaching Apucarana reads big signs advertising *Yaroslav Sysak's* lumber company. (*Sysak*—from Ukrainian *sysak* "sucker"—is missing in the dictionary as well). Turning back to the reviewer's name one finds *Bohdan* in the form *Bogdã* in the dictionary explained rightly as "presente de de [sic] Deus" (p. 69). Incidentally, Slavic *Bogdan/Bohdan* has its close correspondence in *Teodoro*, excellently explained as "presente de Deus" on p. 205 of the dictionary.

One could certainly regret the absence of many other Slavic names and surnames in the work under review. Even the surnames of the closest collaborators of Professor Guérios at the University of Parana: his door-to-door neighbour Professor *Wouk* (from Ukrainian *vovk* "wolf"), Professor *Bida* (from Ukrainian *bida* "misfortune, misery"), Professor *Boruszenko* (from *Boruch-Baruch* "Bartholom'") and several others are wanting in the dictionary. No doubt they will be included in its forthcoming third!

One is highly impressed by the introductory part of the work: it is concise, instructive, richly illustrated with proper examples, treating of Portuguese-Brazilian first and proper names. As such it is a *non plus ultra* contribution to the local as well as the general anthroponymy. The

author evidences himself a high caliber specialist in the field of onomatology and a man well versed in the contemporary stand of etymological research. In the humble opinion of the present reviewer Guérios' introduction fully deserves to be translated into English and published in North America as a valuable contribution to onomastics.

All in all, the new edition of *Dicionario etimologico . . .* by Professor Guérios is a welcome addition to Brazilian onomatology and a desirable enrichment of this discipline in general.

Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnýčkj

University of Manitoba

Street Names of Philadelphia. By Robert I. Alotta. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1975. Pp. xiii, 158. Price \$6.95.

Unlike European or Asian communities, America has not preserved ancient buildings. But the streets of cities, many bearing old names, are still here. This is true of the streets of Philadelphia even though like other cities, towns, villages, and hamlets the City of Philadelphia has kept no record as to why particular streets were given their names. (Even today there is neither an official city agency to determine which name goes where nor a statute on the books requiring a statement of cause before any street receives a name.) Sources of information such as newspapers are inaccurate. A reliable source is in the City of Philadelphia Archives, where are original street records, docketts, jury decisions, surveys, deeds, etc. But there are errors even there. And then come name changes and street openings and closings, in addition to fluctuations in spelling.

Therefore, I am sad to have to report that full documentation for Robert I. Alotta's conclusions in *Street Names of Philadelphia* has been conveyed to the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, where I can only hope it is freely and readily available to all comers.

Even so, I am grateful to Alotta for his handsome, little book. Besides the usual quota of anecdotes, sidelights, folklore, and legends, there is in *Street Names of Philadelphia* a virtual panorama of Philadelphia Personalities. But all that is lagniappe. The book itself is reliable, accurate history. I am delighted to have it on my bookshelf.

Arthur F. Beringause

Bronx Community College

What's in a Muslim Name. By M.A. Qazi. Chicago: Kazi Publications (a Non-Profit Organization), 1974. Pp. iv, 44.

This is a small pamphlet helpful to the Muslim community to assist them, as Mr. Qazi states, in their search for a beautiful Muslim name. After some brief words on the combination of names the author lists the 99 names of Allah, first in Arabic, then translated into Latin characters with the meanings. Then are listed the 55 names of Prophet Muhammad in the same manner and the names of the Caliphs of Islam and the Imaams of Islam.

The rest of the book consists chiefly of 396 common Muslim male names in Arabic with pronunciations and meanings in English, followed by the list of 220 common Muslim female names in the same manner. The work ends with the names of the wives and daughters of Prophet Muhammad.

Elsdon C. Smith

Black Names in America: Origins and Usage. By Newbell Niles Puckett (Murray Heller, ed.). Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1975. Price \$29.50.

The publication of *Black Names in America* provides scholars at long last with a carefully analyzed compilation of some 340,000 black names in America in use between 1619 and the mid-1940's. Their classification as well as the majority of the names are the work of Newbell Niles Puckett, whose voluminous collection editor Murray Heller handled with complete understanding of the materials.

Sectioned into five chapters, the thousands of names are listed chronologically and are separated according to male and female, with frequency of occurrence noted for each. Names from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are compressed into the initial chapter. The second section carries through the years of the Civil War and the third encompasses the remainder of Professor Puckett's research, which terminated in the mid-1930's. Two additional chapters, the work of the editor, are of special interest: names of college students and, in the closing chapter, black and white names of African origin, with their meanings. Puckett's original list of 703 black slave names has also been expanded to 1,713. There is also an index of unusual names. As might be expected, Professor Puckett's collection reflects his southern studies.

It is frustrating to attempt an evaluation of *Black Names in America*, for it is not a book designed to be read cover to cover. As its author-editor states, it contains information which may well offer the basis for a number of scholarly studies. Mr. Heller approaches the entire work with

a general essay on the lore of personal names and naming, a chapter of interest to those seeking background information, but not containing anything startlingly new. Very helpful are the explanatory remarks and careful analysis preceding and interlading subdivisions within chapters. Not so helpful is the categorizing of the names, but, as the editor explains, the classifications follow Puckett's lead: "usual," "unusual," or "old-fashioned." Names are separated under such headings as "Biblical and Puritanical," "Classical and Literary," "Descriptive, Episodic, Occupational" (e.g., Green, Friday, Blunt, Fodder), and "Geographic" (Hill, Antrim). Sampling uncovers additional categories, such as "Titular" (Prince, Esquire, Page), "Famous" (Middleton, Napoleon), and "African" (Jube, Binga, Mingo). All examples cited are from lists of masculine names, and of course feminine name lists are included.

Chapter 5, "Dictionary of African Origins," strikes this reviewer as being especially significant. Covering more than a third of the pages in this large volume, Mr. Heller has happily classified the hundreds of names with race and sex following the name and the language origin and definition immediately following. A typical entry is this:

Mingo	B, M	Bobangi	(minga) vt. to refuse to honour or obey, infringe, transgress (mingo) pron. they
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Black Names in America is an important book, one which serious interest in personal names or in black studies would dictate adding to one's own library and recommending for acquisition to college, university, and public libraries. Mr. Heller is to be congratulated for producing a reference work unique in onomastic studies.

Byrd Howell Granger

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Your Irish Ancestors. By J. Anderson Black. New York: Paddington Press, Ltd., 1974. Pp. 253. Price \$14.95.

This handsome book, in large format, with lavish illustrations and attractive layout, falls into three unequal chapters titled "Ireland and Its People" (135 pp.), "Great Irish Families" (89 pp.), and "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors" (18 pp.). A short bibliography, of mainly twentieth century titles, concludes the book. Their titles sufficiently describe the first and third chapters for our purposes. In alphabetical order, the

second chapter presents short articles on 96 of the most common and best known Irish surnames. The articles vary from a half page to about two pages. Each offers the Gaelic or Norman form of the name, some of the common variations of the spelling, sometimes the rank of the frequency of the name, a small map of Ireland showing in green the counties or districts where the family is found, thumbnail sketches of a few famous members of the sept, and occasionally a good photograph of one. Many Americans are included. Rough estimates are given of the number of persons at present bearing the more popular names.

This work is for a popular rather than a scholarly audience, and the former should find it entertaining. The first paragraph of each article, telling of the medieval or other origins of the family, is the most important part technically. The potted biographies which follow, of well-known and not-so-well-known members of the family, seem to be chosen more or less at random (Joyce Cary, the novelist, is overlooked, for example, while minor Careys are discussed), and the often admittedly interesting details offered of their careers really have little to do with the history of the family. There are numerous but unimportant misprints and slips of fact. Irishmen should find this a pleasant book to have around the house, and even those who are not so lucky as to be Irish will find it agreeable reading, for who does not have a hundred Irish friends and acquaintances?

Eugene B. Vest

Place Names of San Mateo County. By Alan K. Brown. San Mateo: San Mateo County Historical Assoc., 1975. Pp. iv, 118. Map. Price \$5.

San Mateo County (California) consists of roughly what is known in its own region as "the peninsula," that is, the land between San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean, with the exception of the few miles at the tip, which form the City and County of San Francisco.

Dr. Brown's treatise displays some complications of text. It is based primarily upon a manuscript completed in 1960, from which a version appeared in *Names* (vol. xii). Subsequently Dr. Brown continued his work, and arrived at the present publication of 1975. The Foreword states that the text "stands very much as originally written," but warns that "References to 'years ago' in the text must be counted back from 1960."

The study must be rated highly. The author's special interest is in local history, and over the years he has ferreted out—much of it by direct

questioning of old-timers—the name-history of even minor features, such as secondary roads and small hills.

Since Professor Gudde was able to use Dr. Brown's original manuscript, its data are largely included in Gudde's monumental work on California names. Although this previous publication of most of the work makes it of small novelty, to the general scholar it should be of great interest and value locally.

As a final touch, and one which delights me greatly, I note that, included among the place-names of San Mateo County is The Pacific Ocean.

George R. Stewart

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Naughty Names. Fred Tarpley, ed. South Central Names Institute Publication 4. Commerce, Texas: Names Institute Press, 1975. Pp. v + 66. Price \$1.50.

The cover is almost worth the price. Again, Fred Tarpley has directed an excellent institute and has published the proceedings in an attractive format. Perhaps the previous publications should be mentioned again, for they are still available for ordering from Professor Tarpley: this volume joins Publication 1, *Of Edsels and Marauders*; Publication 2, *Love and Wrestling, Butch and O.K.*; and Publication 3, *They Had to Call It Something* as a printed record of the proceedings at the annual names institute.

The volume is divided into sections on place-names, literary names, and miscellany, the last covering almost anything. The title paper is by Lester F. Dingman, Executive Secretary, Domestic Geographic Names, United States Board on Geographic Names. Yes, it is concerned with naughty place-names, although the ones he lists are rather tame. Some of those from the now late Alfred Percy's *Old Place Names* (1950) would have enlivened the article, although I cannot list some of Mr. Percy's lovelies here in a family magazine. Nor really does Mr. Dingman, although he lists some colorful and revealing whitewashings and changes, such as The Nipple, which wonderfully was changed to College Peak. Whorehouse Meadow was changed to Naughty Girl Meadow; a kind of nymphet change, this is dirtier than the one before—perhaps. Mr. Dingman does note, however, that the Board on Geographic Names reflects the "changing social patterns," and that sometimes names "may transcend the bounds of good taste." He had his tongue in cheek!

The other papers were not quite as salacious. Donald A. Gill

presented an important article on the names of rivers in Louisiana. Since Louisiana does not have a place-name book devoted to it, Professor Gill should take care of the matter. René Coulet du Gard describes his problems in the study and research of his book, *Origins of French Place Names in the United States of America*. What he points out in example after example is that French names, as well as English ones, have a heavy load of folk etymology in them.

In the literary section, the article on Benjamin Franklin's sensitivity to naming is critically important to an understanding of the way Franklin, sometimes deviously, used names to advantage—for himself. A fuller study by Professor Jack Wages may be forthcoming as the Franklin papers are published. The other literary name papers considered Saul Bellow's *Seize the Day*, names in the legend and ballad of "Tom Dooley," and "Charactonyms in Miguel Angel Asturias' *Mulata de Tal*. Asturias was the Nobel Prize Winner from Guatemala in 1967.

The miscellany section deserves as much attention as the others, for each is not only interesting to read but also informative, but a listing will have to suffice: "The Haven of Health: Or, Medical Terminology"; "Future Shout: Name-Calling in the Future"; and "Come Ride With Me, Lucille, in My Merry Terwilliger."

These papers are really good, and I can only suggest strongly that you order the volume to see for yourselves.

Kelsie B. Harder

The State University College at Potsdam, New York

World Guide to Abbreviations of Organizations. 5th ed. By F.A. Buttress. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1974. Pp. vi + 473. Price \$24.

The author begins his introduction with this statement: "We live in an era of abbreviations, or acronyms—a literary disease for which the only cure is extirpation." Well, perhaps. Abbreviations are a product of the "age of efficiency," although some economic philosophers would call this the "age of waste," ironically building their theory on our wasteful efficiency. Oxymorons aside, this compilation of abbreviations has been and still is a standard reference work.

The new edition contains more than 18,000 entries, or 50 percent more than the preceding edition. This increase in itself reflects the almost world-wide proliferation of the use of abbreviations. Still, Mr. Buttress has severely limited the number available to him. Since the United States is well covered by the editions of *Acronyms and Initials Dictionary*, also published by Gale Research, which now lists about

125,000, only items with a more international flavor are covered, leaving the reference worker the need to consult the *Dictionary* for United States entries. Eastern European abbreviations are not included, since excellent dictionaries are available. These are listed in the introduction.

In general, the entries come from Western Europe, including about 5,000 Common Market abbreviations, "exclusive of British and international bodies." Abbreviations from the countries of North and South America, Africa, and areas of the "United Kingdom" are entered. The country of origin is given if it is not apparent in context or from the language of the entry. Yes, ANS appears twice: American Name Society and American Nuclear Society, a coupling that may give us some thought.

Kelsie B. Harder

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Das Vornamenbuch. By Karl Paul. Leipzig: VEB Bibliographisches Institut, 1974. Pages: 172. Price DM6.

This is the Seventh Edition of the East German equivalent of "What to Name the Baby." Two hundred names have been added to the 3,000 in previous editions. References to etymology and origin are brief, usually one- or two-line, and the pronunciation of foreign names is given. The names of Polish and Russian origin, it must be noted, are not as prevalent as those of English, French, and Italian origin. The Introduction is full of good advice, which seems quite conventional (be careful about exotic or foreign names, avoid excessively original names, use a short first name if the family name is long, etc.). There is one sentence which sounds like obligatory obeisance to ideology: "In the cult of saints the Catholic Church had a quite effective means of strengthening its influence among the masses, especially when it encouraged the choice of saints' names as baptismal names and set up a calendar of saints."

There are two pages on "Legal matters," a valuable summary of the laws of the German Democratic Republic concerning names. Among other things, one can learn that since 1966 one of the given names has had to show the sex of the child.

Comparison with *Hans und Grete*, a book published in Bonn for a similar purpose, shows a more detailed etymology and a more meticulous classification of names in the latter. The lists are also somewhat different. In the East German book, the first *weibliche Vornamen* are Ada, Adalberta, Adalgis, Adela, Adelaide, Adelgunde, and

Adelheid. The West Germans have Abelke, Abigail, Ada, Adriane, Adelberga, A(de)lberta, Adelgunde, and Adelheid.

Ralph S. Walker

What's in a Name? By Favius Friedman. New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1975. Pp. 152 (paperback).

This little book can be read standing up, holding to a subway strap, or lolling in an armchair. It is written in an entertaining fashion with anecdotes of various kinds dealing with names thrown in. It contains four short chapters plus an alphabetical listing of more than 600 of the best known names in English-speaking countries. The author shows that the names are derived from numerous sources and languages. He bases much of his information on the work of well-known authorities in the field, such as Elsdon C. Smith, and pays tribute to the American Name Society and to the editors of its quarterly.

If you want to spend an hour or so with nicknames, surnames, and other oddities, want to find out about unisex names or what to do if you have a "hypocoristic" name or want to learn about your name or your friends' names, you may wish to look at *What's in a Name?*

Margaret M. Bryant

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What's in a Name? In the Gunnison Country. By Charles A. Page. Gunnison, Colorado: Page Books, 1974. Pp. 76. Price \$2.

In alphabetical order this paperback presents 175 short entries or articles on the names of counties, towns, deserted mining camps, buildings, parks, mountains, mountain passes, lakes, rivers, and creeks. The number discussed is considerably higher than 175 since within many articles different features bearing the same name are referred to. Some names have been omitted, says the introduction. A few place-names from as far away as 50 or 75 miles from Gunnison are included. There are numerous pictures, both by the author and from historical sources. The lack of a map is excused with the explanation that only a large and detailed one would be useful, but a simple sketch map locating Gunnison would have helped readers who do not live in Gunnison. This re-

viewer must look it up, though he has long known the name. A bibliography of over two pages appears. The origin of some of the names must be a pure guess, as the author admits, but others are backed up by fact. The style of many sentences could have been clearer. The title—borrowed from Juliet's immortal question of Romeo—continues to be irresistible to authors, though there must be scores of books and literally thousands of magazine and newspaper articles bearing it. I know; I have been watching its use for years!

Eugene B. Vest

University of Illinois, Chicago Circle

GALE RESEARCH REPRINTS: XIV

This survey of reprints by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the fourteenth in the series of notices giving prominence to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information appear below.

Abbott, Katharine M. *Old Paths and Legends of New England*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1903. Pp. xviii + 484. Republished, Singing Tree Press, Gale Research Co., 1969. \$13.50.

----- *Old Paths and Legends of the New England Border*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907. Pp. xvi + 484. Republished, Singing Tree Press, Gale Research Co., 1969. \$13.50.

Emerson, Oliver Farrar. *The History of the English Language*. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1909. Pp. xiv + 415. Republished, Plutarch Press, Gale Research Co., 1971. \$17.50.

Farmer, John S. *Americanisms—Old & New*. London: Thomas Poulter & Sons, 1889. Pp. xx + 564. Republished, Gryphon Books, Gale Research Co., 1971. \$24.50.

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. *Catalogue of the Genealogical and Historical Library of the Colonial Dames of the State of New York*. New York, 1912. Pp. 518. Republished, Gryphon Books, Gale Research Co., 1971. \$28.50.

Of marginal interest to onomatologists, the catalogue of books, articles, and manuscripts collected in the library of the Colonial Dames of the State of New York should prove to be a boon for those involved in genealogical research, toward whom this compilation is directed. It brings together all materials available to around 1910. Designed primarily as a reference work, the text contains not only the names of histories of families but also those of towns and cities, providing information for many disciplines, the study of names included. The cost of

the book, however, is high enough to keep it off the bookshelves of all except the most serious New York buffs.

The two books by Abbott are explorations of historic places, including roads, buildings, and towns in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Both texts contain much material of great interest to the folklorist and also the historian. Anecdotes concerning events appear throughout the books, which are illustrated profusely and tastefully. Although it is doubtful that the books can contribute any substantial amount of primary information for anyone studying the names of the area, there is, on the other hand, a wealth of background information and incidental dropping of names, in turn providing material that can be used in connection with the derivation of a name. The books are well-written, well-illustrated, and printed in an attractive format.

The republication of Emerson's *History* can be considered an event of importance to those who would like to own a copy of this long out-of-print study of the English language. One of the earliest and more important histories of the English language, it deserves a place in any library collection of books on linguistics and philology. The text is well-known among those familiar with the study of the English language, but a recapitulation of the contents may be valuable to those persons in other disciplines. Divided into five sections, the work covers the relationship of English to other languages, the standard language and the dialects, the English vocabulary, the principles of English etymology, and the history of English inflections. Commentary on personal and place-names as a means of identifying origins of English vocabulary items can be found scattered throughout the text. This is still a major work, despite its being somewhat dated.

Another text that has been superseded but still of great interest as a germinal and historic study is Farmer's *Americanisms*. It is good to see this dictionary of "New World English" in print again, for it is the precursor of such great works, built on a more scientific basis, as Craigie's *Dictionary of American English* and M.M. Mathews' *Dictionary of Americanisms*. Farmer, in his own right, treats several thousand quaint expressions and euphemistic terms and offers illuminating examples of their usages. He also defined rather strictly the term *Americanism* to mean "a word or phrase, old or new, employed by general and respectable usage in America in a way not sanctioned by the best standards of the English language." He recognized, however, that the term had a wider meaning, to include words and phrases (syntactic items?) legitimately adapted to new needs and usages. On the other hand, he could not avoid the typical patronizing attitude of one "born to the language true," and managing to suggest that this "new" language is pungent, racy, even crude. He did, nevertheless, recognize the importance of "slang" as "a possible element of the grammar of the future." The fact that the element had been there all along did not occur

to him and need not have. Farmer has provided much material of interest to the student of names. Some entries that provide information and moments of thoughtful hesitation include "Abbreviations," "Hawkin's Whetstone," "Free Stone State," and "Loco-Focos," among many others.

Kelsie B. Harder

The State University College at Potsdam, New York

Namenforschung heute; ihre Aufgaben und Ergebnisse in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik. By multiple authors; eds. [Reinhard E. Fischer] and [Hans Walther]. Berlin: Akademie - Verlag, 1971. Pp. 132.

Thirteen writers, forming an *Autorenkollektiv*, contribute to *Namenforschung heute* (Onomastics today) and tell of its achievements and tasks that it sets for itself in the GDR (German Democratic Republic). The state of onomastics there is impressive and a compendium of this kind, by experts, most welcome.

A Marxist leaven pervades thought and theory a good deal of the time. On the positive side this is seen in an approach to names and naming which makes of onomastics a social science (pp. 42—50), thereby freeing it from a simplistic linguistic determinism. And it is, paradoxically, just because name study is considered a branch of linguistics that it becomes *ipso facto* a social science. As such it serves and is served by other disciplines (pp. 50—51). In the guise of *Sozioonomastik* names science serves and is served by social history (p. 58). In a sense, too, onomastics serves and is served by Marxist doctrine. This is perfectly all right, so long as an onomatologist knows where to draw the line—not always an easy task—between which is serving which.

East Germany (the GDR) is a land where Slavic onomastics has a right to at least as much attention as Germanic. Some 50 to 60 percent of all settlement names there are of Slavic origin (p. 90). Family names are commonplace that end in *-in*, *-itz*, and *-ow*, suffixes derived from (etymologically) Slavic place-names (p. 14). And the GDR is the host nation for the speakers of Upper and Lower Sorbian (an independent branch of West Slavic) in Upper and Lower Lusatia respectively. It goes without saying that the onomastic character of the GDR calls for teamwork between Germanists and Slavicists (including Sorabists), as well as among them and historians (p. 42). That teamwork has become a reality on a grand scale in the GDR. Older German conditions, with insufficient Slavicists and an anti-Slavic bias, have been completely

overcome (pp. 41, 68). Leipzig and East Berlin are centers of systematic Slavo-Germanic name research (pp. 107—110), and Leipzig shares joint publication of *Onomastica Slavogermanica* with Wrocław (Silesia) in Poland (pp. 109, 118).

East German colleagues are adding substance to our knowledge of the setting and settling involved in the German medieval *Drang nach Osten*. Slavic dialect boundaries, before obliterated by Germanic replacing Slavic, have been reconstructed from place-name evidence (pp. 51—52). Members of Slavic language cultures—the names they left behind at-test—were in no wise inferior in clearing and working land (p. 68). On the High Fläming (Brandenburg) the presence of many place-names of Slavic origin, without other indications of Slavic settlement, is read (on p. 56) as indicating that Slavs first entered the area in the twelfth century as fellow settlers of the “Flemings” who, as colonial Netherlanders, put their stamp on the field names and dialect geography of the Fläming. The large number of place-names in the Greifswald area (Hither Pomerania) is said (on p. 91) to mean that, after wars, peaceful co-existence on the whole obtained between Danes and Germans, on the one hand, and Slavs, on the other.

Local place-names of Slavic background are used in connection with teaching young East Germans Russian (p. 62). But in spite of children learning Russian and English in school, parents are advised against giving them names like *William* and *Pjotr* (unlike *Henry* and *Juri*) since such are at variance with the phonemic system of German (pp. 95—96).

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