

## Book Reviews

*Research Possibilities in Onomastics.* By Henri Dorion and Louise Laperrière-Monaghan. Québec, Canada: Institut de Géographie, Université Laval, 1976. Pp. 81. Paper, unbound. No price listed.

Canadian researchers in onomastics have been more energetic, better motivated, better organized, and more fully subsidized than their counterparts in the United States. They tend to initiate such projects as are suggested here and then proceed to complete them. This document is a case in point. It is the product of the *Round Table* discussion on "The Status of Onomastic Research in Canada" during the Conference of the Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences held in Quebec, May 23-25, 1976.

As the editors state, "This is not a summary of past and present Canadian research, but rather a selected list of projected work." Forty-six projects are listed and described, covering the field from classical toponymy "all the way to synoptic choronymy." Also emphasized is the aim to promote interdisciplinary exchange in "areas of study whose names end in '-nymy.'" Each project is outlined with objectives, method, theoretical importance, practical importance, and references.

The categories include (1) conceptual aspects, (2) linguistic aspects, (3) geographical and relational aspects, (4) applied choronymy, (5) implements, and (6) geographical terminology. Within each category, sub-groupings occur. For instance, under "Geographical Terminology appear (1) studies of choronymic generic terms, (2) glossaries, (3) specific lexicological analysis, and (4) translinguistic problems. Projects are described under the particular sub-group in which they are listed.

Although the title seems to refer to all aspects of onomastics, the projects are actually limited to place-name concerns. Nevertheless, enough projected work is presented here to keep any number of workers in onomastics busy for years to come. If only a fraction of the aims is achieved, then the conference will have been successful, not to say fruitful, for all. Indeed, some of the projects seem to be well on their way to realization now.

Certainly, anyone interested in place-name studies and surveys should find encouragement from this Canadian document, one that in its way furnishes comprehensive and real possibilities for place-name investigations in any area or country. Furthermore, the systematic approach delineated here tends to establish onomastics as a discipline that can stand alone, much as, for example, linguistics or geography. Other disciplines can be of assistance, but the emphasis is on onomastics as a field unto itself, as it should be. Avenues are suggested here that have not, to my knowledge, been broached before in onomatology. "Marxism and Geographical Terminology" is only one example among many.

It is hoped that this document will be made available in a more permanent

form so that it can be consulted and studied by a larger readership. This is no ordinary publication of proceedings emanating from the usual conference. It is an original contribution.

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*Louisiana Places: A Collection of the Columns from the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, 1960-1974.* By Clare D'Artois Leeper, Baton Rouge: Legacy Pub. Col, 1976. Pp. 264, clothbound, maps. Price \$29.95.

This is a set of facsimile reproductions of Mrs. Leeper's weekly columns in the *Sunday Advocate*, each describing in varied length and detail a particular community in Louisiana. More than a conventional dictionary of the state's settlement names, though they are arranged in the volume in alphabetical order rather than in the order in which they had originally appeared in the newspaper, the columns feature a broad selection of current and extinct places from all sections of Louisiana and include for each its general location in the parish, the dates of settlement or the establishment of its post office, if it was or had one, and one or two significant events in its history. In many cases, pertinent information on the community's institutions, its economic base, and some of the pioneer or important families associated with it, are given along with the population of larger places. The derivations of most of the names are included along with brief accounts of the actual naming and the reasons for the name's bestowal where known. Several accounts are offered for some of these. Different names borne by many places and, when known, the reasons for the name change are also given. Informants are mentioned at the end of each entry which is often but a string of quotations from a correspondent or printed source.

One glaring weakness, shared by other popular place-name books, is the consistent lack of pronunciations. In a state with its wealth of French and Indian names, the like of *Natchitoches*, *Ouache*, *Jeanerette*, *Soulouque*, and *Tche-functe*, this is inexcusable. Perhaps Mrs. Leeper felt that her average reader was sufficiently fluent in patois and Choctaw and that pronunciations were therefore not necessary. Indeed, her columns were designed for the readers of a fairly provincial newspaper, and one could assume, in the absence of any prefatory explanations, that she had no plans to compile them into a column for a nationwide readership.

Furthermore, nowhere in the volume, in an introduction which does not exist or at the end, is there mention of an on-going *Louisiana Place Name Survey* to which, I am sure, this book, its compiler, and her many informants and other sources, could provide invaluable assistance. Perhaps, as late as 1974, Mrs. Leeper was unaware of this project, though she did pen a brief review of

Stewart's *American Place Names* that is included at the end of this volume.

The only other problem with Mrs. Leeper's book, which probably was beyond her control, is its price. Who these days can afford \$29.95 for *Louisiana Place Names* even in a limited edition of 1,000 copies? Furthermore, the publisher promises annual supplements to be issued every April, at \$2.50 apiece.

So much for a prosaic review. Now let us share some of Mrs. Leeper's delightful little vignettes of Louisiana place-name lore. Each entry, a short, self contained essay, tells a little story of more than purely local interest. Louisiana certainly has its share of unusual and colorful names in several languages that are ready-made for folk etymologizing. For example, a phonetic rendering of a Choctaw name is *Whiskey Chitto*, the name of a creek which, according to William Read, the expert on the State's Indian place-names, meant "Big Cane Creek" from *uski* (*oski*) = "cane" or "canebrake" and *chitto* = "large." *Pinhook*, one of my favorite names whose presence is virtually ubiquitous in this country, has two nineteenth century Louisiana instances. One of these (Mrs. Leeper does not tell us which) may also have had a Choctaw origin ascribed by Read to their word *pinashuk* referring to the linden or basewood tree. A village of this name near the present site of Plattsburg, Miss. may suggest the existence of such a place-name in Louisiana, a state also noted for its linden trees.

Then there's *Bogalusa*: Mrs. Leeper reminds us that Read did not care much for the idea that the name was derived from some Italian laborer's exclamation about something that "broka-loosa." Rather, says Mrs. Leeper, the name derives from the Choctaw *bog-lusa* or "black creek," with which Stewart seems to agree.

Mrs. Leeper also gives Louisiana examples of many of the common folk naming patterns found throughout the country. The name for the post office of *Relief*, for example, was suggested by a neighboring postmaster since he felt it would be a relief for his new colleague not to have the problem of naming it himself. When forced to transfer its post office to a nearby railroad station, a village was renamed *Start* for the new start it would have with a new post office. *Waterproof* is a good example of a name that may have been given in jest, for in flood time this Mississippi River town was often under two or three feet of water. Or else, says Mrs. Leeper, it refers to the time when an early citizen, standing on a dry strip of land surrounded by water while awaiting the arrival of an approaching steamboat, was hailed by the captain with "Well, Abner, I see you're waterproof." Then there are the cluster of early twentieth century Catahoula Parish communities named *Duty*, *Security*, *Utility*, *Enterprise*, and *Manifest*. *Zenoria* is but the combining of the names of Zed and Noria, a local couple. A number of entries contain accounts of local events or persons associated with the place or even the name, e.g., *Panola*, *Chopin*, *Marion*, *Port Eads*, etc. And, of course, Louisiana too has its *Slabtown*, *Sunshine*, *Cut Off*, *Lickskillet*, *Dixie*, *Pleasant Hill*, and *Oil City*. They are all here in this delightful if not priceless collection.

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*Puvod zemepisnych jmen [Origin of Geographical Names]*. By Ivan Lutterer, Chief Ed., with Lubos Kropacek and Vaclav Hunacek. Prague: Mlada fronta, 1976. Pp. 301. Price Kcs 15.

Professor Lutterer is a long-standing member of the American Name Society, has often appeared at onomastic congresses in Europe, and has often helped me in my own stumblings among European languages, once out of an embarrassing situation in Bucharest. This personal note aside, I turn to the handbook that he and his co-editors have produced.

A good study of world place-names has yet to appear, although beginnings have been made by Taylor (*Names and Their History*), Stewart (*Names on the Globe*), and Room (*Place-Names of the World*). Taylor's is the best, but it is obsolescent and biased. Stewart's is a book on name theory, while Room's is limited. Professor Lutterer has not produced the book we need either, but his scope was limited to an encyclopedia for young readers. Nevertheless, it has a depth that surprises.

The text is a glossary of more than one thousand names of the continents, countries, regions, islands, oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, and major cities of the world. Being the first book of its kind published in Czechoslovakia, it can be called a pioneer work, if such can be attributed to one of Lutterer's capabilities. It is not that at all. Actually, the entries are well documented, dated, and glossed, as only a dedicated geographer would do. The shortcomings are acknowledged: a deficiency of selection of entries and the unevenness of their compilation are the major ones.

Another problem, which plagues all of us who attempt such a work, was to ascertain which of many possible interpretations to accept in face of several contradictory hypotheses. In the limited space allowed, the editors attempted to quote, not always *in extenso*, the different opinions. They note that some of the explanations may sound rather apodictic to the reader.

Ostensibly directed toward "young readers," this book gives me pause. If Czechoslovakian youngsters can read and interpret this work, then they must be modestly well advanced, e.g., on par with members of the American Name Society. Anyone who wishes to work on a dictionary of world names will have to turn to this "handbook," perhaps with a translator alongside. It must not be underrated.

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*A Handbook of African Names*. By Ithechukwu Madubuike. Washington: Three Continents Press, 1976. Pages vi; 233. Price \$9.

A book about African names is like a book about European names—how can it cover all the diverse tribes that make Africa their home? As the author states in

referring to others who have attempted to instruct on the subject of African names, "several oversimplified statements and truisms which have attempted to dump all Africans into one cultural bag are very irritating to a sensitive African scholar."

Dr. Madubuike has divided his work into four parts. First, in a short essay, after detailing the importance of names and their study, together with their proper pronunciation, he points out that in Africa names given to people have a deep social significance. They have definite meanings and most of the people know the meanings. He deplores the practice of Africans who take European or Bible names on the grounds that they are better than the "uncivilized" African names. Then he follows with a discussion of the use of plural names, the kind of surnames or family names found, and the common use of nicknames, all of which gives us a brief picture of the names among Africans generally.

Part 2, the principal section of the book is a study, or rather a brief outline, of the name practices found among the various tribes in Africa: the time a newborn baby is given a name, the various naming ceremonies found, and the classes of various names all usually followed by lists of given names with their meanings. One notes that many names refer in one way or another to God, or the gods worshipped by the parents, the same as do European names. One criticism that can be made of the lists in this part is that the names are not given in any alphabetical order. And these lists total over a thousand names. No index is provided, so one cannot easily find the cultural group to which a name belongs.

Some tribes base their names on the day of the week on which the child is born. Then they may add a name corresponding with the birth position in the family, a practice which with us recalls the ancient Roman method of using numerals, e.g., Secundus, Sextus, etc. Some base their names on other circumstances of the birth or the problems the family faced on that day. Certain tribes use names based on the socio-economic status of the bearers or their parents. Twins may have ready-made names; even a child born after a set of twins may find its name already fixed. Names of girls tend to disappear after marriage in some areas. Like common European practice, many groups name children after parents, grandparents, other relatives, or friends. The important fact is that most tribes follow very definite customs concerning the names that must be chosen for babies, and concerning the identity of the person who has the privilege of selecting the baby's name.

Part 3 consists of two lists of names in alphabetical order, one for boys' names and the other for girls', with meaning and country of origin. Part 4 is a short pronunciation guide for African names as the author has spelled them. Dr. Madubuike has indicated his intention to revise this book as soon as more materials are available. A revised and enlarged edition will be most welcome.

Elsdon C. Smith

## GALE RESEARCH REPRINTS AND ORIGINALS: XVIII

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

Charles, Henry (18th Earl of Suffolk), Hedley Peek, and F. G. Aflalo, eds., *Encyclopaedia of Sport*. London: Lawrence and Bullen, 1897-98. 2 vols.; 1,087 pp. Republished by Gale Research Co., 1976. \$85, set.

Crowley, Ellen T., ed. *Reverse Acronyms, Initialisms, & Abbreviations Dictionary*. 5th ed.; vol. 3. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1976. Pp. x + 754. \$45.

Moody, Sophy. *What is Your Name? A Popular Account of the Meanings and Derivations of Christian Names*. London: Richard Bentley, 1863. Pp. x + 314. Republished by Gale Research Co., 1976. \$15.

Dictionaries can be used for sorting out as well as for looking up. *Reverse Acronyms* is the kind that sorts out. Although it has the same listing as does *Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary* (1976), the order of alphabetization is different in that the full name of a corporation or an association is "arranged alphabetically by translation rather than by acronym or initialism," with the latter also listed but not arranged in alphabetical order. Actually, this dictionary is a time saver for those who need to find both the name of the organization and its initialism. Furthermore, "mistaken identity" is avoided, since "an incorrect initialism can not only cause confusion, but may even change the meaning of a term." Crowley gives the following examples: "A Bachelor of Interior Architecture is designated as BI Arch. Abbreviating it as BIA confers on the subject a Bachelor of Industrial Arts degree."

The scope of *Acronyms* has been broadened by the publication of *Reverse*, despite the first appearance of needless duplication of materials. A comparison of the two dictionaries soon reveals the need for both volumes by those who use such references. The maze occurring from the proliferation of symbols, initialisms, and acronyms cannot be run successfully without recourse to both volumes, costly as they are. Unique to both dictionaries is the use of symbols which seemingly have little connection with what they represent. For instance, the meteorological symbol for "hail" is A; Q for "Coefficient of Association"; or CA for "heavy cruiser."

The editors at Gale Research have been of inestimable aid in republishing material that has historical value, although the books themselves may be of little worth. The Moody reprint is one of these. It also had the misfortune to appear the same year as did Charlotte M. Yonge's *History of Christian Names* (republished by Gale Research, 1966), a book infinitely superior to Moody's. Still, excellent commentary can be found in the narrative, which contains perceptive chapters on national name characteristics, lucky and unlucky names, superstitions, nomenclators, and names of royal and noble families.

Most appealing in this text, however, are the insets, or stories interspersed,

such as the story of the dumb slave, story of St. Eustace, Queen Dagmar of Denmark, Sebastian Cabot, Pollio Vedius, Semiramis the Dove, Moses' rod, and several others, all written with a romantic verve that is a credit to Victorian prose, which had its own merits. For these stories alone, the book is worth the price.

The monumental *Encyclopaedia of Sport* is an absolute necessity in any reference library and for the shelves of all interested in game and sports for whatever reason—conservation, curiosity, research, or, yes, “sportsmanship.” Its importance in onomastics should be obvious: thousands of standard names and regional or local ones are included. The importance of the encyclopaedia lies elsewhere, to be sure.

To do justice to this massive work would require more space than will be given to it here. The articles, listed alphabetically, with subdivisions, are thorough studies, written by experts and signed. Who can remember the game of pall mall, which gave the name to the famous street of clubs and to many other lesser streets throughout the then-kingdom? The name as a proper one still exists in many places. But pall mall is listed as an obsolete sport, along with badger-baiting, bear- and bull-baiting, cock-fighting, football in the streets, and tournaments (vividly described by Viscount Dillon). The obsolete sports are still so noted, though they may exist illegally, except for tournaments, unless we allow “chicken-on-the-road” to be a decadent descendant of the former nerve tests of royalty, perhaps more romantic but not really as dangerous.

The three entries noted here are typical of the variety of publications by Gale Research. The most useful is naturally *Reverse Acronyms*; the only one really concerned with onomastics is *What is Your Name?*; and the most important and interesting is the *Encyclopaedia*. As usual, each text is well bound, attractively packaged, and in the case of the *Encyclopaedia*, profusely illustrated.

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*Connecticut Place Names*. By Arthur H. Hughes and Morse S. Allen, Hartford, Conn. 06105: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth St., 1976. Pp. xx + 907. Price \$27.75.

Faced with the task of reviewing a work of this magnitude and scholarly endeavor, which has spanned almost forty years, I can only marvel at the miraculousness of the human mind and its flexibility, at the way it can coalesce both the general and the particular to make a coherence otherwise not discernible. This volume stands, first, as a major contribution to place-name research, and, second, as an achievement that is strikingly personal for two great scholars whose vocations differed radically from their avocation—that of students of onomastics. Perhaps we have here the kind of “quest-romance” that

infects all who become entangled in the wonder of naming, a kind of persistent nagging that keeps company like a toothache or a megrim. Dean Hughes, in a letter to me recently, pointed out that "the collection and investigation of names can be done by fits and starts, a little bit here and a little bit there." Such puppeteering interferes with a person's "chief professional interests," as he rightly suggests. Still, it is certain that *Connecticut Place Names* will outlast the latter, much as H. L. Mencken's *The American Language* has superseded and capped his outdated journalistic career. Sideline avocations often become mainline careers in retrospect.

Approximately 25,000 names are included in the text, arranged according to township, alphabetically. This format makes it somewhat difficult to find a specific name within a particular area without referring to the index where all names are listed alphabetically. The reason for such an arrangement is that "most of the interest in names is apt to be local, and neighboring names are found together." The method will take some getting used to before the glossary can be consulted with dictionary ease. The awkwardness disappears after one becomes accustomed to the index and cross references.

The editors have attempted to exhaust all names of importance, but do not pretend to be complete. Obviously, in a work of this scope, mistakes are certain to appear. Just as obvious are omissions that are attendant upon any comparable work in which field investigations are not made, and even then accuracy depends almost totally on the local informant, who may differ from the next door neighbor in regard to the name of a "place." Reliance on printed sources, even when debatable, underlies most of the information that appears in the glossary.

The contents include the names within the 169 townships (725 pages), and eight appendices: names without town location (not Indian); rivers and streams; names of Indian origin, including tribes and trails; origins of some town names and towns named for persons; Connecticut town names in Vermont; Connecticut place-names in Ohio; town names rare in the United States; and Connecticut place-names used in geology. The bibliography includes titles of books, maps of Connecticut, and of local maps, over 1,300 items. The index, so important for the use of the text, covers 102 pages. Front matter includes abbreviations and "key to symbols of town names," both a necessity for interpretation and location. My spotchecking indicates, with the exception of Connecticut, noted below, that the cross- and document-referencing is absolutely accurate, no mean feat when so much material has to mesh.

Glossed are the names of all communities (cities, towns, townships, villages, and school districts)—when not numerically or directionally named, cemeteries, reservoirs, bridges, airports, and natural features. Omitted are most roads, dwellings, institutions, schoolhouses, and real estate developments. Important roads within a township, however, are noted, such as Town Street in East Hampton, Needles Eye Road and Pomfret Street in Pomfret, Caray Hill Road and Clark Hill Road in Sharon, or Squantuck Road, Still Road, and George's Hill Road in Oxford.

*Connecticut* is not listed separately, although a cross reference points to a p.



A1, which does not exist. The state, of course, takes its name from that of a river, which has its source in Connecticut Lakes in New Hampshire near the Canadian border, as noted in Appendix B, p. 729. Families from Plymouth began to colonize along the Connecticut River in 1633 and had formed permanent settlements after the defeat of the Pequot Indians in 1637. The editors, following J. Hammond Trumbull, *Indian Names of Places* (Hartford, 1881), derive the name from *quinni-tukq-ut*, "land on the long tidal river." Variant spellings in print are Connitic, Guonitogou, Kwinitegah, and Quinnetukqut. The river was also known as Broad River, according to Works Progress Administration, *Connecticut* (Boston, 1938). The Dutch name for the river was *Vresche*, "Fresh."

No attempt is made to classify the names or to generalize about them. The pattern is much that of all the Eastern Seaboard names, with the usual mingling of the names that appear to be of Indian origin, the possessives, the commemorative, incidents, transfers from England, descriptives, Biblical, directionals, etc. In the "Introduction" are noted four Apple names, nearly 200 Pines, "and (happy memories) 70 Chestnuts, including 52 Chestnut Hills, Mountains, and Ridges, evidencing the tree's favorite upland habitat."

Only two of the townships have derivatives of Indian names. Naugatuck, supposedly means "one large tree," for the tree that stood on the site of the present copper works in Seymour. Apparently the place was named before the river. This name has become somewhat of a novelty because it is used for a character in a popular situation comedy on television. Norwalk, which "was spelled in a dozen different ways during the first years after the settlement in 1649," seems to be taken from an Indian word, such as *Nayaug* or *Nayack*, meaning uncertain. One conjecture is that it has some relation to marine life, and name has been somewhat Anglicized, probably influenced by *welk*. The tradition that it is named for a "day's 'north walk'" is disproved, despite its local currency.

The township names create problems for the researcher. Generally, they are of uncertain origin or came into being for no definitely known reason. Early records sometimes obscure rather than clarify. A few examples will serve to show some of the difficulties. Andover, 1747, is named either for Andover, Massachusetts, or directly from Andover, Hampshire, England. Ashford, from 1710, may be either for Ashford, Kent, or for the abundance of ash trees. Beacon Falls was transferred from nearby Beacon Hill, but the origin of the latter has not been recorded. The origin of Bloomfield is marked "uncertain," possibly from the orchards there, or from a settler, Blumfield or Bloomfield. Bolton was so named for "no known reason." The reason for Bozrah, of Biblical origin, is uncertain, but four suggestions have been offered. Burlington, incorporated in 1806, was named either for Richard Boyle, the third Earl of Burlington, or from the English pronunciation of Bridlington, Yorks. The Biblical names of Goshen, Sharon, Canaan was for promotional purposes rather than religious feeling. Like other Cantons in the United States, Canton, Conn., has been explained as taken either from the Chinese city or from something else, such as *canton*, "land division." Even Clinton does not escape, though it is believed to have been named for Governor Dewitt Clinton of New York. Another claim is for Clinton

Abbey in England, a part of the Warwick Castle complex in England, "home of Lord Brooke who gave his name to Saybrook." Many of the names of the townships are so noted with such caution. In sum, however, many of the names clearly derive from English places or persons, whatever the reasons.

The entries are sparse, seldom including purely folk material. Picturesque "guidebook material" has also been omitted. Anyone who needs to investigate folk stories involved in a name will have to go to a source listed in the bibliography. Some material pertaining to incident names, usually with folk connotations, can be found. Pork Hollow, now obsolete, obtained its name, because "Pork belonging to the American army was dumped or buried here for safety during Tryon's Raid." Cider Brook was so named when "a barrel or two" of cider rolled off into the stream from an oxcart. Secret Lake is said to hold the secret to what happened to a man who showed "a great quantity of gold" at an inn. Contentment Island was the name "given by the artist Vincent Colyer" who "built the first house on the island." It was also known before as Ox Pound Island and Contention Island, with ample reason in both cases. Goodwives River was changed from Pine Brook by the Indians "because the nearby housewives" were "so good and kind to the Indians." The name Devil occurs in 22 indexed places and Satans (possessive) in four, all the latter in New Haven. Eight Hells are noted, but not one Heaven. The entries hint at stories behind many of the names. Some that probably deserve further investigation are Gallows Hill, Wigwam Brook, Baseball Park, Hill of Science, Bashful Lady Cave, Witch Meadow, Lightnings Playground, just to get started.

One of the pure folk etymologies is Mystic, which is derived from Mohegan *missi-tuk*, "great tidal river." The Algonquian *missi*, "great," can be found in many Indian derivative names, such as Massachusetts, Mississippi, and probably many others. The editors note that Mystic, Iowa, was named for Mystic, Conn., and that Mystic, Colo., was named for the Iowa Place.

Inevitably, proofreading errors must creep into a work of this sort. Although I did not make a special search for any, I did find a few that should be mentioned. Bungtown is indexed as Bung-Town; Haven Pond is glossed as Havens Pond, and Haven Ledge Brook as Havens Ledge Brook, causing an ambiguity as to whether the names are possessive or commendatory. Hang-Dog Hill is indexed as Hangdog (Hill); one can only wonder at what was going through the proofreader's mind when Cuckold Hill was indexed for Cockold Hill (from Cockle Hill), Salem.

*Connecticut Place Names* compares favorably with the two especially outstanding state books that have appeared so far. These I would say are Donald J. Orth, *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* and Erwin G. Gudde, *California Place Names*. It also can take its place alongside Granger (*Arizona*), Carson (*Nevada*), Ehrensperger (*South Dakota*), Kenny (*West Virginia*), McArthur (*Oregon*), Pearce (*New Mexico*), Pukui and Elbert (*Hawaii*), Rydjord (*Kansas*), Romig (*Michigan*), Upham (*Minnesota*), and Krakow (*Georgia*). These texts are built on principles that make them definitive, although all differ in approach and method. Granger's *Arizona* has incorporated into it the most exhaustive information, complete with pronunciation and location. It, however, is glossed

by county, much as *Connecticut* is glossed by township. For thoroughness, only Orth's *Alaska* surpasses the work by Hughes and Allen. This evaluation places *Connecticut* in an enviable position, one that it deserves.

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*A Handbook of Igbo Christian Names.* By Stephen N. Ezeanya. Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 1967. Pp. 48. No price listed.

This small pamphlet compiled by Dr. Ezeanya of the Department of Religion, University of Nigeria, with nihil obstat by Monsignor Peter Meze of the Catholic Mission at Nsukka and the imprimatur by John Cross Anyogu, Bishop of Enugu, carefully points out that the Christian religion does not require the adoption of a saint's name in European form when an Igboman becomes a Christian, although many have followed European Catholic custom through a basic misunderstanding of Christianity.

After a brief discussion of Igbo names, Dr. Ezeanya lists them in four columns: (1) Igbo names, (2) English meaning, (3) Biblical or Christian version where such is known, and (4) the feast day of the Saints. Here it may be noted that many Igbo names refer in one way or another to God or the good spirits. There is Chukwauzoputa "God is salvation," Ekenechukwu "thanks be to God," and Ngozidilichukwu "Blessed be God," to name only a few.

For the Igbo people a name is not just a personal label for the sake of identity, and they consider a naming ceremony important, to be observed with feasting and great joy, 28 days after the birth of the child. There are few books on African names in English and we need a better understanding of them.

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