

Spanish Nicknames as Surnames

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NICKNAMES CAN, OF COURSE, spring up anywhere, anytime and in any place. They have always flourished best in rural communities where everyone knows his neighbors more intimately than is possible in urban centers. It is not at all unusual for one visiting the countryside in Europe and, for that matter, even in the United States, to find that numerous individuals or families actually have three names — a given name, a last name and a nickname. Often a person is better known by his nickname than by the other two. Aside from being an epithet, it serves as a convenient identification tag.

Nicknames are a fascinating topic which needs to be much more fully exploited in Spanish than it has been up to the present time. What primarily interests me now, however, are the nicknames that have been transformed into fixed surnames. They comprise one of the four main types the other three being (1) patronymics, (2) office, occupational and trade names and (3) place or spot names. Chronologically they have been the last to become crystallized in large numbers as surnames, the reason for this being that they have lacked the essential of hereditarity possessed by the other types.

When the first more or less concerted movement to make surnames permanent came in the thirteenth century, it was spearheaded by the nobility. The decisive role of ancestral pride is clearly evident in the use of the name of one of the family members as an eponym with an indication of descent which was, almost invariably, expressed by tacking an “-ez” or “-iz” on to it. The patronymics that were then predominant are Alonso, Álvarez, Díaz, Díez, Domínguez, Fernández, López, Martínez, Méndez, Menéndez, Núñez, Ordóñez, Ortiz, Pérez, Ramírez, Rodríguez, Ruiz, Sánchez, Sánchis, Vásquez and Velásquez. Díaz, Díez and Pérez derive from the Biblical names Diego, James, and Pero, Peter. Sánchez is the Latin word for saint. All the others take their origin from the Gothic given names borne by the early rulers of the country including López from Lope, a Latinization of the appellation for wolf.

The same given names were universally adopted by commoners and the same suffixes were used to indicate descent. The ensemble of those

just mentioned constitutes today a very big percentage of the Spanish surnames with Rodríguez heading the list. Their proliferation, the existence of identical names in the same neighborhoods or sections, made changes necessary in order to avoid confusion. The nobles added their fief names, that is, place-names to their patronymics, and many of them in the course of time discarded their patronymics in favor of a single fief name. Some, as we shall see, adopted nicknames. Avoidance of confusion has likewise played a role in the replacement of the patronymics of commoners by place-names, by office, occupational and trade names and, frequently, by nicknames. It goes without saying that while the existence of masses of identical patronymics has been a powerful factor leading to the adoption of new names it has by no means been the only one.

In speaking of fixed surnames, incidentally, it is important to insist that in most cases it took at least two and usually three generations to produce permanence. The first generation is represented by the eponym, for example, Rodrigo, Herrero, de Sevilla, Gordo. The second generation might be called Rodríguez, del Herrero, de Sevilla, del Gordo and, if these same names were repeated for the third, the probability was very strong that they might become permanent surnames. At that point Rodríguez, unless he was a namesake, might not be the son of Rodrigo, the father of an Herrero no longer a smith, the father of a de Sevilla no longer a former resident of the Andalusian city, and the father of del Gordo not necessarily fat. In other words, every one of the surnames we bear is in essence a label that serves to distinguish us or our family from other fellow beings and their families.

KINSHIP SURNAMES

The surnames that I register here have for the most part been culled from the Madrid and Barcelona telephone directories. Some here come from a partial coverage of the seven volume *Anuario telefónico*, while others have been picked up in a variety of lists. It will be logical for me to open my topic with the section on kinship surnames.

Virtually all relatives by blood or marriage are represented in the Spanish surnominal repertoire—Padre, Madre, father and mother, *Niño*,¹ child, infant, Hija, Fija, Hijaso, Hijazo, son and daughter, Frade

¹ The names of the Spanish nobility are indicated by italics. All of them can be found in A. and A. Garcia Carraffa's *Enciclopedia heráldica y geneológica hispano-americana* (Madrid, 1919-1964), 89 vols. It is also the main source of the comments I make with reference to this.

Hermano, Hermana, brother and sister, Germano, blood brother, Mellizo, *Melquizo*, Melquiso, Mielgo, Melgo, and Tojo, a Spanish designation surviving in Bolivia, twin. Mayor and Menor stand for elder and younger even though the first term has multiple meanings. In Gallego Portuguese the first born child is a *Morgado*, Abuelo and Aguelo signify grandfather, *Nieto*, Gallego Portuguese Neto, grandchild, *Primo*, cousin, Cormano, first cousin, *Tío*, uncle, *Sobrino*, nephew. The general expression for a relative, *Pariente*, *Parente*, has a small following.

Relatives by marriage appear in *Cuñado*, brother-in-law, *Yerno*, Aragonese *Nuero*, Norn and *Nuera*, son and daughter-in-law, *Consuegra*, mother-in-law, *Collazo*, foster brother.

A widow and widower are *Viuda* and *Viudo*, *Casado* as a substantive means husband, a married man, and its opposite *Soltero*, a bachelor. A *Velado* is a legitimately married man, but *Velada* which should be its feminine counterpart denotes more often than not a former resident of a town by that name.² *Machorro* means childless.

On account of their close ties with individual families, I shall also mention here *Compadre*, godfather, *Padrino*, godfather, groom's man, *Ahijado*, godson. It is obvious that most of these names started their existence within the family unit.

Some glosses on the above may not be amiss. Catalan *Mare* is more common than Castilian *Madre*. *Niño* asserted itself early owing to the fact that it was applied to Alonso González, the bastard son of Alfonso el Sabio. Apparently the monarch did not want him to be known as "infante," infant, the name used for a legitimate offspring, hence he chose a synonym to distinguish between them. It is not nearly as well represented as Catalan *Nin*, it, too, of noble origin. *Melquizo* started with the name of a wealthy Moorish landholder. Since its adoption by the grandson of one of the kings of León, *Nieto* has thriven as a surname. The descendants of *Sobrino*, also a noble name, are fairly numerous. On the other hand, the faint traces of *Tío*, still another noble family, make it look as if it is close to becoming extinct. The noble *Primo*, despite the advantage of being supported by a number of saint names, has likewise not had the capability of spreading, unlike the English Cousins, French Cousin, Cousineau, Italian Cugini, and German Vetter. *Collazo* must compete with a place-name, *Consuegra*. *Casado*, of plebeian origin, has shown unusual vitality. Evidently it has

² For information on this and other place and spot names cited or alluded to in this study see the *Diccionario geográfico de España* (Madrid, 1958-61), 17 vols.

been more familiarly employed than “marido” and “esposo,” which are to be added to the designations that have failed to materialize as surnames.

When we look at Spanish kinship names in terms of the number of each of their components it is apparent that, with the exception of Nieto, Sobrino and Casado, their representation is very thin. It is difficult to explain why this should be true of so many.

ANATOMICAL NICKNAME SURNAMES

Neophytes in onomastics are bound to be puzzled when they are first confronted with a group of names stemming from individual parts of the body. The simple forms encountered are actually compounds, each of which has an implied attributive alluding to a conspicuous feature of the physical organism such as head=large head, arm=one arm etc. In the Roman inscriptions names like Capito, Naso, Pedro, Labeo reveal a well-established convention which has continued to persist in Europe at least through the Renaissance.

In Spain proceeding “a capite ad calcem” we find *Cabello(s)*, hair, *Cabeza(s)*, *Cacha*, *Casca*, *Tiesta*, *Cogollo*, *Head(s)*, *Mollera*, crown of the head, *Ojo(s)*, eye(s), *Oreja(s)*, ear(s), *Pestaña*, eyelash, *Ceja(s)*, eyebrows, *Cara*, *Faz*, *Facha*, face. *Carillo*, cheek, *Barba*, chin or beard, *Quijada*, jaw, *Diente(s)*, tooth, teeth, *Muela(s)*, molar(s), *Cordal*, wisdom tooth, *Bezós*, *Labios*, lips, *Lengua*, tongue, *Boca*, mouth, *Cuello*, neck, *Garganta*, neck or throat, *Pecho*, chest, *Busto*, bust, *Tetas*, breasts, nipples, *Brazo*, *Bracho*, arm (an arm appears on the *Bracho* coat of arms), *Mano*, hand, *Dedo*, finger, *Pulgar*, thumb, *Dedillo* and *Meñique*, little finger, *Barriga*, stomach, *Lomo*, loin, *Lado*, flank, *Pierna(s)*, leg(s), *Garra*, leg, *Pata*, foot or leg, *Zanca*, shank, long leg, *Rodilla*, *Hinojo(s)*, knee(s), *Pie(s)*, foot, feet, *Talón*, *Calcaño*, heel, *Zancajo*, heelbone, *Uña*, nail, *Cuerpo*, body. The three hidden parts of the human frame that turn up are *Corazón*, heart, *Higado*, liver, *Riñón*, kidney.

The genealogies of three noble families, *Cabeza*, *Carrillo* and *Barba*, bring forth unique explanations on the origin of their names.

Cabeza was assumed by Fernández Altamirano who on account of his bravery during the siege of Cordoba was authorized by Fernando III to adorn his blazon with the heads of four Moors. The variant *Cabezas* has also been used in the family, which indicates that a good many of those bearing the plural form of the cognomen can also claim direct

descent from this Christian knight. The bearers of the singular form, on the other hand, must share it with those who have got theirs from the common attributes of head, from the figurative meaning of the term, leader, and particularly from any of the dozen or more place or spot names called Cabeza.

One of the legends on the genesis of Carrillo has it that two Germans who had settled in Spain during the time of Fernán González became known as Carrillo because of their extraordinary fondness for each other, leading to their adoption of Carrillo as their surname. It is conceivable that most of our contemporary Carrillos are scions of either one of these two German bosom friends.

According to another legend, an ancestor of the Sevillan Barbas once overcame a Moor in a hand to hand combat by tugging at his beard, a conventional gesture of defiance.³ In order to celebrate the event, the knight was granted the privilege of assuming Barba as a last name for himself and for his offspring. What percentage of the Barbas stem from this eponym one cannot say. In view of the wide diffusion of the nickname surname beard in all languages, it is likely to be small.

Since the noble family Cara has Carra as a variant it, too, a surname, any direct linkage it might have with "cara," face, needs to be rejected.

Muela has a strong alternative in the term for millstone which doubtless has stood for mill. Cf. the etymology of the English word. It is likewise one of several place-names. It is difficult to separate Cuello from the Castilianized respelling of Portuguese Coelho derived from the appellation for rabbit. The existence of the large town, Pulgar, would seem to give the toponym priority over the nickname surname. Cf., however, Italian Pollice and Russian Palciksov. There are a number of names in the Asturias called Busto or Bustos, supposedly derived from a word for tomb, which could easily account for some of the Busto last names.

Other place-names can likewise be set up as alternatives for Boca, Brazo, Cara, Ceja, Dedo, Cuello, Faz, Facha, Garganta, Lado, Ojos, Piernas, Pies and especially for Lengua, Lomo and Talón. We know that a Dauphiné family inherited land in the "tala de la Vega de Granada" from which it is certain that it drew its surname, Talón. The spread of Rodilla points to more than one source, possibly "rodilla," round shield. Hinojos, fennel, is so common as a spot name that one is

³ This could be illustrated by many examples but I shall cite only one from the "Romance del rey moro que perdió a Valencia":

Aquel perro de aquel Cid prenderelo por la *barba*. . .
(I shall seize that cur of a Cid by his *beard*. . .)

bound to credit it as the ultimate derivation of the bulk of the Hinojos surnames.

I have mentioned the figurative meaning of Cabeza. Most of the anatomical names have the potential of being turned into metaphorical nicknames but, unfortunately, we have little evidence to go by. We can be sure, however, that the hidden organs Corazón, Hígado and Riñón must have figurative meanings all of them denoting courage. Pecho may also be quated with the same trait. If Mollera is Castilian, it stands for judgment, good sense, but cf. also “ser duro de mollera,” to be headstrong, and “no tener sal en la mollera,” to be stupid. The diminutive hero of English folklore, Tom Thumb, French “petit Poucet,” suggests that Pulgar together with Dedo, Dedillo and Meñique may be figurative designations for a midget. We also meet with two intensive forms of “pulgar,” *Pulgarin* and *Pulgarón*. Uña suggests either skill or deceit. A zancajo is an ill-formed dwarfish individual, cf. “no llegarle uno a los zancajos.”

Just as Florida, Florido, stem from the votive name denoting persons born on Easter Day, Pascua Florida, we may assume that Cuerpo is also a votive name for one born on Corpus Christi or Corpus Domini Day, the feast in honor of the Eucharist. Its existence appears to be attested to by Don Rodrigo Don Cuerpo, the name of one of the judges of Teruel (1329). However, it can also refer to shape or size. Cf. Italian Corpi, Corpacci, Corpino, Corpogrande, Corpolungo.

Frente, forehead, is completely missing and, as in English, there are no modern survivals of “nariz,” nose. It should be added that “bigote,” mustache, has not made it as a surname probably because it has not been considered stylish until recently.

Some of the anatomical parts have acquired suffixes specifically characterizing what is vaguely implied in the root words already cited. In a number of instances they have a figurative as well as a literal meaning. This includes *Cabezudo* and *Cabezón*, bighead, stubborn. The first is a noble as well as a place-name, and the second also a place-name. *Cabezuela*, little head, is figuratively applied to a rather stupid person, cf. English pinhead. *Cascudo*, which is now restricted to a large hooved animal, should as a nickname be connected with “casca” in which case it stands as a synonym of “cabezudo.” Looking at the term also as a nickname, I am disposed to accept *Cascón* as the equivalent of *Testón*,

⁴ See Max Gorosch, “Lista de jueces de Teruel.” *Archivo de filología aragonesa*, XII-XIII (1961-62), 324.

big-head. Both stem from "casco" and "tiesto," potsherd. The latter, as everyone knows, has furnished Italian "testa" and French "tête." Cogollo, which has been cited as one of the terms for head, is defined as the heart of a lettuce, cabbage or a shoot. In Columbia the phrase "persona de cogollo" denotes a superior person. The same metaphorical meaning might result from Cogollo, one of several Spanish toponyms which stand for a peak or summit, that is, an upper end or head. Since there is a current Navarrese designation for head, "cogolla," I am inclined to favor the anatomical term as a source but second to the toponymical. Cogolludo stems from "cogollo" and it, too, is a toponym standing for a peak or summit. The designation seems to have the same figurative meaning as "de cogollo." Literally it points to an equivalence with "cabezudo." Nevertheless, the chance is very strong that the surname ultimately comes from one of the toponymical Cogolludos.

A hitherto unmentioned part of the anatomy crops up in Salamancan Cervigón, Cervicón from "cerviz," cervix, descriptive of the back part of the neck when it is thick or bulging. Like "cabezudo," it stands for obstinate.

Carilla denotes a little face. Careta (now a common term for mask) is synonymous. Persons with big ears are referred to as Orejón, *Orejudo*, those with small eyes as Ojuelos, those with beetle brows as *Cejudo*, by extension a scowler, those with thin brows as *Cejuela*, the heavily bearded as *Barbudo*, *Barbón*, *Barbaza*, *Barbón*, *Barboso* and *Barbado*, also a saint name. Those with buck teeth are designated by *Dentón*. We are left to choose between *Gargantilla*, little neck and *Gargantilla*, necklace. A *Brazudo* is someone who has long arms, also brawny. A person with a large belly is a *Barrigón*, one with a small paunch a *Barriguete*. *Garra*, claw, has furnished *Garroso* standing for a knock-kneed individual. A rustic can be called a *Patón*, from "pata." From "pierna" we get *Pernudo*, big or long legged, and long shanks from *Zancudo*. I have found no dictionary recording of either "brazudo" or "pernudo." *Cabelludo* and *Peludo* cover hairiness in general.

The suffixes which take the place of qualifiers are, as we have seen, visibly linked to the designations they qualify. Much more often the qualifier is used absolutely. I have divided names of this type into five main groups (1) aesthetic or unaesthetic appearance, (2) stages of life, (3) size and shape, (4) color attributes relating to the hair, complexion and/or garb and (5) physical blemishes or defects.

To the first group belong *Bello(a)*, also a saint name, *Bellido*, *Vellido*, *Formoso*, *Hermosa*, *Hermoso*, beautiful, *Lindo*, *Lindoso*,

pretty, all of which are or have been used as given names. If they are of noble lineage the possessors of Hermosa must replace their claim to a nickname origin by the place-name. For some reason they have also used Hermoso as a variant surname. For ugliness there is Feo, rare in Spain, but apparently transplanted with some success in Spanish dominated Naples, cf (De) Feo, (Di) Feo. Actually, Hedo is more frequent in Hispania than Feo.

To be included in the second group are Viejo, the more respectful Anciano, old, the odd intensive Reviejo, very old, and its antonyms Joven, *Chico* and derivatives, *Mozo* and derivatives, young.

In the third group we can place *Alto*, *Largo*, Luengo, a limited number of Grandes, tall, and Gigante, literally, giant. A Salido, also tall, is more often an expatriate or an exile. Their opposites appear as Pequeño, Bajo, Bajuelo, Baso, *Chico* and derivatives. Probably the first Alto surname started with a member of the Fernández family, who due to his unusually large stature was called "el alto," which he added to his patronymic. The short and corpulent have been given the epithets *Gordo*, *Gordillo*, Gordón, Gordoncillo, Espeso, *Grueso*, Macizo, Rollizo, Rollín and Andalusian Rollón, terms for plump. *Redondo* is literally rotund. Ancho means broad and in Andalusia a Borondo is a squat broad-shouldered fellow. *Cuadrado* is defined as a person of average height but stout and well-formed. The bearers of this surname are numerous, the bulk of them likely descendants of the noble Cuadrado, otherwise *Quadrado* or *Quadro* or *Cuadro*, (also an existing surname). Interestingly, Tirso de Molina in the second act of *El burlador de Sevilla* has Cataliñón, the gracioso, coin the nicknames Cuadrado and Redondo in talking to the fat servant of the Marqués de la Mota. Cf.

Señor *Cuadrado*,
o Señor *Redondo*, adiós

Doblado closely approximates Cuadrado in meaning. A noble family has started the history of the *Obeso* clan by appropriating the name of the town it controlled. I doubt that it has any connection with the Latinism for corpulent. Leanness or slenderness have given rise to Seco, Magro, Enjuto, Delgado, Delgadillo, Salmantino Gamón, the intensive Reseco and Silgado, a designation which has migrated from Spain to Ecuador descriptive of one who is very lean. General terms for hairiness are *Velloso*, *Vellosillo*, often appearing as *Belloso* and *Bellosillo*. *Crespo*, *Crespillo*, *Rizo*, curled, frizzled, are connected both with

the hair and with the beard. A *Copete* is a tuft, crest. It is interesting that, like *Cogolludo*, crest, top, it, too, means a peak. *Madejón*, not registered in the vocabularies, implies a large lock of hair, a "madeja." Both *Trenado* and *Trenzado* mean braided. *Peinado*, literally, coiffure, hairdo, figuratively stands for a spruce or an effeminate individual. A *Rapado* reveals a shorn head or beard, *Cercenado*, clipped hair and the abundant *Chamorro* a clipped head. In the sense of poor the latter has been used to refer to Portuguese migrants.

The variety of color surnames combined with the huge throng of those who bear them show us how extremely color-conscious the Spaniards have been. The four names that dominate numerically are *Blanco*, *Branco*, white, light grey, flaxen, *Rubio*, blond, *Moreno*, brown, brunette and *Prieto*, Preto black. Negro and its derivatives, black, Moro and its derivatives, darkskinned, Moor, *Pardo*, dark gray, *Bermejo*, *Rojo*, dialectical *Royo*, Catalan-Valencian *Roig*, *Ros* and derivatives, red, and *Bruno*, Cat. Val. *Brun*, *Bru* and their derivatives, brown, all have good representation. *Rubio* is the only nickname surname in the group that refers to hair, while the others can refer to hair, complexion and the color of one's garb. *Pardal*, from "pardo," has been the common nickname given to peasants who used to wear conventional gray clothes.

Cano, *Canudo*, is restricted to gray hair as is perhaps *Nevado*, snowy, light gray. *Plata*, silver, is a neutral gray. The rarely used Gal. Port. *Narro* and *Tinto* denote black or very dark individuals. It has been odd to come upon *Peceño* defined as pitch color, which seems to be applicable to the hair or beard. *Chamizo* and *Tizón* are figurative synonyms for black (cf. "más negro que un tizón"). *Endrino*, another dark color, which derives from the term wild plum, may explain why the *Arcipreste de Hita* named one of the main characters in *El libro de buen amor*, Doña *Endrina*. Different shades of brown can be noted in *Bayo*, *Banzo*, *Bazo* as well as *Roano*, *Ruano*, bay, *Castaño*, *Marrón*, chestnut, an occasional *Morcillo*, brownish, *Bronceado*, bronzed, *Curtido* and *Tostado*, tanned. The reds are recognizable in *Colorado*, *Rufo*, some *Barroso*, reddish, *Cerezo(a)*, cherry red, *Encarnado*, flesh colored, *Grana*, dark red, *Rosello*, *Royal*, *Rosa*, *Rosado*, rose, rosy, pink, and *Sanguino*, sanguine, usually referring to the complexion; the yellows in *Amarillo*, *Limón*, lemon colored, *Melado*, honey colored, *Dorado* and *Oro*, gold, golden, *Gualdo*, pale, from weld, a plant yielding a yellow dye (cf. "cara de gualda"), *Naranjo*, orange, the greens in *Verde*, *Olivo(a)*, yellow green, and in *Jaldo*, dark green. "Ojos verdes," green eyes, have always been highly prized by the

Spaniards.⁵ In literature there are copious references to them from Fernando de Rojas to Valera. Azul, blue, is quite rare and Morado, purple, rather uncommon. On the other hand, Zarco, which is invariably associated with the eyes, is abundantly represented. As a color Garzo, a term for heron, can also refer to blue eyes. Individuals with pepper and salt or mixed gray and white hair are designated by Cardeñoso and Rucio. *Pinto* as well as *Pintado* can be translated as parti-colored or speckled. With reference to the hair they may have approximately the same meaning as the two designations just mentioned. We should not be surprised to find that some of the Pintos owe their names to the Gal. Port. term for a chick. Berrendo, too, can be taken as a synonym in the sense of parti-colored.

We can look upon the Infante D. Juan, son of Bernardo II, el Gotoso, as the eponym of Prieto, so called because of his dark skin. Moreno has likewise had an early start as a fixed surname even though the claim that the family has descended from the Roman Mucius Murena is fictitious. Equally fictitious is the claim of Roman descent on the part of the Rubios. Since Rojas, which has a considerable following, derives from a place-name, its connection with the color is at best indirect.

The popularity of color names has, of course, extended to given names, several of them being names of saints, that is, Christian names which, at the time they were given might or might not have been related to color traits of recently arrived babes. Whether or not the color surnames of the nobles started out as nicknames or as font-names the partiality that has been shown for them by the aristocrats cannot have failed to increase their vogue among commoners. Color place-names show that they, too, need to be reckoned as possible alternative sources. This holds particularly true for Rubio and for the color names that derive from plants. The noble family Castaño uses a chestnut tree on its coat of arms. One name, Naranjo, is patently an exception since we know that it represents a capricious change made by the family originally called Monte Naranco.

The face and its appendages are more visibly burdened with blemishes and defects than the trunk and limbs. A number of instances in both categories have already been cited.

⁵ See the chapter on "The Women of Spain" in Havelock Ellis' *The Soul of Spain* (London, 1920), 75-76.

Baldheads are identified by *Calvo*, *Calvet(e)*, *Calvillo*, *Calvino* and *Calvón*. All of them happen to be connected with noble families but, quite obviously, they can also be nickname surnames that have spontaneously sprung up among commoners. One branch of the Calvos claims descent from Laín Flavio Calvo, count and judge of Castile at the end of the ninth century. This is too early to have produced a surname and it is demonstrated by the fact that Laín's son was patronymically called Diego Láinez and his son Rodrigo, the famous Cid, is known as Ruy Díaz (from Diego). It is probable that the cognomen comes from a later descendant also called Calvo.

Arruga and Ruga stem from wrinkle. Sordo is deaf. Estrabón, squinted or crosseyed, has all but disappeared. Rasgado, Razgado, is a designation used for one who has large, wide open or slanting eyes. Cf. "ojos rasgados." Another meaning that it has is ragamuffin. In the Santander section a high forehead is referred to by the term Rescalvado. Mueso, if it alludes to a lamb with very small ears (cf. "cordero mueso") makes no sense as a nickname surname unless we can transfer the appellation to a human being. Cegarra signifies shortsightedness, but is faced with a strong contender in the homograph place-name. Chato and Romo denote snubnoses and perhaps so does Remacha if it derives from "remachado." Unless a word of different derivation can be cited to replace Cimorro, it should refer to a nose cold or glanders. In contrast to Mudo, dumb, which is surnominally weak, its Catalan counterpart Mut occurs frequently. In this case it is amusing to see highlighted on the family escutcheon a man with the index finger of his right hand over his lips and nose as if to impose silence. A Desdentado refers to a toothless person, a Mellado to one who is gapped-toothed, a Serrado, to one who has jagged teeth. In choosing to put a dentated embroidery on its coat of arms this noble family must have been conscious of the meaning of the term. Ronco recalls an individual with a hoarse voice. A Gago, Zazo or a Tartajo is a stammerer, a Gangoso, one with a twangy voice, a Papo a double chin individual. Hunchbacks can be recognized through Corcobado, hunchback, and Corcoba, hunch. A Gacho is a person suffering from curvature of the spine, a Torcido one who is deformed, a Manco, a one-armed fellow. If Navarrese, Curro denotes someone who has lost a hand, an arm or a finger. A Broco is someone minus a finger (also the meaning of Curto in (Aragonese). Chambo is the Palencian term for knock-kneed. A Tocón is a person with a stump leg. Rather than from the term meaning leper Gafo, Gaho, Gahete, must have moved from a nickname to a surname in the sense of a person suffering from contraction of the nerves on his

hands and feet. Those who are pockmarked are designated by *Rallo* and some of the Aragonese variants *Raya*, *Rayado*. *Rallo*, coming from a term meaning a grater, provides an odd but graphically effective designation. *Rayado*, the cognomen of a noble Navarrese family, may, incidentally, have a different origin. *Pecos* denotes freckles while *Barros*, *Barroso* as well as *Barrado* might refer to some who were once afflicted with pimples. We should be reminded, however, that the noble *Barrosos* have taken their name as have some other holders from the place-name *Barroso* and that, in addition, the word is a term for a reddish clay and by extension a dark red color.

The minor blemish, Lunar, mole, is sublimated to an aesthetic attraction especially if it happens to be on the upper lip. *Hoyuelo*, *Oyuelos*, dimple(s), has been similarly sublimated.

I am convinced that most of the many *Manchado* go back to former residents of the province of La Mancha who are now more generally known as *Manchegos*, but, even if rarely, it may denote dots or discoloration of the skin, speckled. A most surprising nickname is *Perlesía*, palsy which, understandably, is on its way to extinction.

Lefthandedness if not a blemish is at least a deviation from the norm. Designations for it are *Zoco* in the parlance of Albacete and Cuenca, *Zueco*, *Zurdo*, Gal. Port. *Caño* and *Esquerdo*. Castilian *Izquierdo* is an appellation serving as the surname of a very prolific noble family. In order to bolster its prestige it has invented a legend claiming descent from the famous Roman *Mucius* who, having been sentenced to death by fire before a sacrificial altar for having conspired to kill king *Lars Porsena*, held his right hand over the flames until it was consumed. In admiration for his courage the monarch pardoned him and, since he was able to wield his sword with his left hand, he was called *Scaevola*, that is, lefthanded. Nearer the truth is the explanation involving *Alonso Enríquez* who in the battle of *Ourique* in 1139 lost his right hand while defending the Christian banner against the Moors. He was, however, able to keep the standard aloft unfurled with his left hand until the battle was won. The king on this account conferred upon him the privilege of being called *Izquierdo*, which he passed on to his descendants.

COMPOUNDS

One of the most striking features of nickname surnames in the languages of Europe other than Spanish and Portuguese is the use of

compounds involving adjectives of color, size and form. Though Spanish is rich in these compounds as common nouns it has failed to utilize them surnominally. Nevertheless, at one time there must have been a fair number which for some reason have undergone decompounding as seems to be indicated by *Cachiprieto*, black head, which we know as subsequently shortened to Prieto.

Among the surname compounds that are current today the few which we have been able to pick up are Hijarrubia, blond girl, Barbaroja and Ojosnegros, red beard and black eyes. Bracicorto, short-armed, despite the fact that it has the makings of a good nickname surname, pretty definitely comes from a place-name. Testagorda, big head, looks like a translation of either French *Grostête* or Italian *Testagrossa*. There are a few Perogordos, fat Peter. I am baffled by the appearance of Piernavieja, old leg.

Anatomical compounds with the adjective "bello" are extremely scarce in great contrast to the frequent French Beau-surnames and the Italian Bel-Bellas. One interesting example comes from Valencia where we learn that Belvis was applied to Zeit Abu Zeit, king of the province at the time he became a Christian convert. He was called Vincente on his name-day and because he was comely he was surnamed *Bel(l)vis*.

The good compounds seem to be limited to *Buenrostro*, a good countenance, Viejobueno, good elder, *Botello*, that comes from the Portuguese Boo Tello (also hispanicized as Buentello), first applied as an expression of admiration and esteem to Martín Alonso de Meneses, a contemporary of Peter the Cruel. We also have Buenabad, good abbot, a curious contrast to another nickname surname, Malmonje, bad monk. Hombrebueno, Buenhombre, good man, may have sprung from a nickname, but since it has existed as an appellation for an alderman this should be favored as its source. One more good man, Buenvarón, is likewise an office, in this case representing a respected man who usually served as an arbiter, witness, etc.

Some of the other compounds I have gathered are Pedroviejo, old Peter and *Peropadre*, Peter the father, a very old Aragonese noble name. A Matabacas, cow-killer, is evidently a butcher, a *Matalobos*, a wolf hunter. *Matamoros*, Moor killer, has degenerated to denote a bully. Espantaleón, lion scarer, also a term for a bully, may be a sarcastic distortion of Pantaleón, a given name. Dosamantes means two lovers. The eponym of Seisdedos, six fingers, must have been born with a physical malformation. Pechoabierto is literally bare breast. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century the Mediomundos,

half-world, were a prominent family in Venezuela.⁶ Finally, in a short and hastily compiled list put together by Luis López de la Mesa, "El singular y lo singular de los apellidos," *Boletín de la academia colombiana*, XXV (1975), mention is made of a Rostro de Puerco, pig face. There is nothing against its existing as a nickname, but I find it difficult to believe that it can have developed into a surname.

METAPHORICAL NICKNAME SURNAMES

The great bulk of our anatomical attributes are purely descriptive. Quite similar are the metaphorical appositives that refer to the nicknames of participants in pageants and festivals who have played the roles of nobles in them: Rey, Reina, king and queen, Emperador, emperor; or of clerics: Cardenal, cardinal, Obispo, bishop, Monje, monk, Monja, nun. These same appellations are obviously used in other ways to indicate character traits, for example, a presumptuous individual might be dubbed Rey or Emperador, a woman of extraordinary excellence, a Reina, pious or solitary persons Monje, Monja. The nicknames Capitán, captain, or Caudillo, chief, could be bestowed on any leader, Guerrero, Guerra, Batalla, to a pugnacious fellow and so on. In fact, wherever any figurative nickname of this type is applied to human beings it is usually a character trait that predominates over a physical trait.

The same can be said for the appellations drawn from the animal and plant world. As might be expected, all the domesticated quadrupeds reappear as nickname surnames — Caballo, horse, Mula, mule, Burro, donkey, Vaca, Baca, cow, Oveja, Ovella, Carnero, sheep, Cabra, goat, Cebón, Berraco, Guarro, Marraco, Tocino, pig, Buey, ox, Toro, bull, Conejo, Liebre, rabbit and hare, Galgo, greyhound, Gato, cat. The traits they are supposed to portray are pretty much the same as they are elsewhere in Europe. Naturally, national as well as regional variations in meaning are inevitable. For example, a "cabra" can symbolize a moonstruck individual, a "conejo," a timid and easily frightened fellow. As a nickname Gato connotes cunning and especially nimbleness, which happens to account for the surname of the noble Gato family. If one can give credence to the story one day during the battle for the conquest of Madrid a Christian knight succeeded in performing

⁶ See Italo Sánchez, "Residencia del gobernador José Carlos de Agüero (Provincia de Venezuela) y sus ministros en al provincia de Arsura," *Boletín de la Academia Nacional de Historia*, LVII (1974), 311.

the daring feat of scaling the town's defending walls. In referring to it the astonished Moors said that he climbed "like a cat," leading to the knight's adoption of Gato as his family name.

The noble Mulas have taken their name from a settlement near Murcia. It has also been adopted by commoners who have hailed from there. Both have supplied a goodly quota. Nevertheless, since the sobriquet "mula" has always been in use to denote mulishness in an individual, it is inevitable that it, too, must be a source of a certain number. The nickname received an added stimulus after the fifteenth century when this hybrid replaced the ox as a major means of transportation. It may seem odd that only the feminine form Mula should be in circulation. The reason for this is that the masculine "mulo," on account of its extremely offensive connotation denoting a bastard, has effectively been kept completely out of the surnominal repertoire.

Further additions to the list of omissions include several designations for pig—cerdo, cochino,⁷ marrano, puerco and perro, the designation for dog. They exist as nicknames, of course, but their vulgarity has kept them and others from turning into cognomina. See also the closing paragraph of the section on "Undesirable Surname Nicknames."

Even more impressive than the presence of the primitives of these quadrupeds is the important role that is also played by their diminutives—Cabrillo, Cabrito, Cat. Cabrol, Chivo, Chivete, Chivote, kid, *Cordero*, Becerra, *Becerro*, Borro, Borrego, Borregón, lamb, wether, Ternero, Jato, Utrera, calf, *Mulet*, young mule, Torete, Novillo, bullock, Utrero, young steer, Lebrato, Gazapo and Magallón, young rabbit, *Gatell*, kitten. There has apparently been no taboo against Garro, Garrapo, Garrapucho, young pig in Álava, nor against Lechón, suckling pig. Whelps fare well with *Cacho* and *Cachorro* and especially with Cat. Val. *Canet* and *Cadell*. All this establishes beyond any doubt that they and other diminutive nicknames which later become surnames must have started when the individuals first bearing them were teenagers.

The kid, colt and bullock nicknames imply wild, untamable or frisky youngsters, the piglets those who are untidy, gluttonous or plump, Ternera and perhaps Utrera, simpletons. Tenderness as well as timidity is implied by Lebrato. Gazapos and Magallones are artful knaves.

⁷ In France the cognate of "cochino," "cochon" survives as a surname but it has aroused so much aversion that a number of families have deliberately taken other surnames. See under "Cochon" Dauzat's *Dictionnaire des noms de famille et prénoms en France*. 3rd ed. (Paris, 1951).

Obstinacy or obtuseness is naturally linked with Mulet, slyness with Gatell and meekness and innocence with Cordero.

Occasionally the genesis of a surname does not conform to any prevailing pattern, this being the case of the noble Cordero family that claims that, during the siege of his castle, a knight of the lineage of the Nevares fattened the last two lambs that he had left as foodstock and gave them to the Moors in order to prove that he had an abundance of provisions. The Moorish commander fell into his trap and raised the siege. As a reminder of this incident the knight made Cordero his family name.

It should be stressed that most of the metaphorical nickname surnames cited here repeat toponyms scattered all over the Spanish peninsula. Others, particularly those that involve domestic animals, represent their breeders, caretakers or dealers through metonymy. Surnominally we can take it for granted that both are just as bona fide as any of the nicknames and hence must be given equal rating with them as potential sources.

The domestic biped terms that have contributed the largest number of nickname surnames are Gallina, hen, *Gallo*, rooster, Ganso, goose, *Palomo*, Pombo, dove, *Pato*, duck, Pavón, peacock. Less diffused are *Oca*, another name for goose, and Cisne, swan. Their figurative meanings roughly correspond to those in other countries, but there are some differences. For instance, a belle can be designated as a Cisne, Palomo as a dullard as well as a term of endearment, Gallo as a lady's man as well as a bully. In the case of one branch of the noble Gallos its surname has taken root in a very novel manner. According to the account in its genealogical records, one night when the Christian forces in Antequera were under siege their commander, a Melgar, was startled by the loud flapping of the wings of a rooster which had somehow gained entrance to the castle. This led him to order the garrison to sally forth and to win a victory. The event was commemorated by the change of the name of Melgar into Gallo.

As for *Oca*, because it is stated in the Martín Alonso *Enciclopedia del idioma* that the word was introduced in the seventeenth century, a bit of comment will be apropos at this point. *Oca* and an apparent derivative, *Ocón*, are borne by noble families and both hark back to place-names which may or may not be connected with the bird. *Oca* is one element in the noble place-name surname Montes de *Oca*. Two of its branches, Villafranca de Montes de *Oca* and Montes de *Oca* de Gran Canaria, utilize the goose on their coats of arms, which is an indication that the name has been current for some time. The latter family attached Gran

Canaría to its family name as the result of the prominent role of its members in the conquest of the island at the beginning of the fifteenth century. This alone makes it evident that we should retrodate the word by at least three centuries, which could give it ample time to develop as a surname with presumably the same figurative meaning as *ganso*.

Among the young of these birds we meet with *Pollo*, pullet, *Pombillo*, *Palomino*, which like “palomo” doubles as an affective term and as a designation for a dullard. *Pichón* is a squab denoting a chubby youngster. Others are *Anadón*, *Patino*, duckling and Gal. Port. *Patiño*, gosling.

Like the domesticated quadrupeds all these bipeds can have become surnames as place-names or through their use as metonymical designations.

Metonymy is, of course, not connected with the Spanish surnames from wild animals, with the possible exception of bear, *Oso*, pointing to a bear trainer. However, it is mainly through its nickname meaning that it has become a surname. In addition to it there are *Lobo*, wolf, one of the most diffused of the names in this category whose ranks have been swollen by patronymics derived from the given name *Lope*. *Lobo* is also a saint and place-name. The representatives of fox are *Raposo*, *Zorro(a)*. Incidentally, *Fenech*, from the Arabic, the name of a Maltese family ennobled in Spain, also means fox. The Cervidae are recalled by *Ciervo*, *Corzo* and *Gamo*. In *Búfalo(a)* we are reminded of the wild ox, in *Tejón* of the badger, in *Lirón* of a dormouse, in *Sarrío* and *Sarrión* of a mountain goat. Originally as a nickname *Garduño(a)*, marten, probably denoted a voracious fellow. Later due to the influence of the popular picaresque novel by Castillo Solórzano, *La garduña de Sevilla* (1641), it has become a byword for a sneak thief. It would be preferable to assume that if *Rata*, *Rato*, *Ratón*, rat and mouse, have become surnames this has been primarily due to their milder connotations as sly, stealthy creatures rather than to their strong connotation as petty thieves. However, if documents could permit us to delve deeper into the matter the result might be that they ultimately derive from place-names.

It would be tempting to include porcupine, “*espín*,” in our list, but the coat of arms of the noble *Espín* family, from which most of the *Espines* descend and which displays a thorn, invalidates such a possibility. The surname has evidently been taken from its heraldic device.

The cub nickname surnames that turn up are *Oset(e)*, *Lobato*, *Lobatón*, *Lobete*, *Lobillo*, *Zorrilla*, *Cerveto*, *Corcín*, *Gamito*, *Gamote*.

Jabalí, wild boar, is non-existent as a surname, but its cub, *Jabato*, has taken its place. Figuratively it denotes a boastful young man.

Surnames for weasel, “comadreja,” and mole, “topo” are not to be found. Squirrel, “ardilla,” missing in Spanish-speaking territory appears in the Catalan-Valencian sector as *Esquirol*. Since the animal is a rodent the word is etymologically connected with mouse, *sorex*, which explains the *Suris* of the Catalan noble family’s blazon which pictures an animal resembling a squirrel. In other words, “suris” is a synonym.

Cognomina recalling exotic animals have left a very slight imprint in Spain. *León*, lion, to be sure, looms large numerically but its nickname source is dwarfed by other alternatives, the region or town of León, a Christian name further popularized because of its having been borne by several popes. A variant form is *Lión*. Pardo with the meaning of “leopardo,” leopard, must be considered a poor competitor of the color surname. More unequivocal is the foreign importation *Azopardo*, which has originated in Malta. *Gacel* has come from France. Both of them as well as *Alifante*, elephant, are to be linked with the animals on their blazons. *Gacela* may, however, have developed independently as a symbol of fleetness or gracefulness. There are a few *Camellos*, *Gamellos* and *Camelillos*, camel, usually referring to hunchbacks or gluttons. The great rarity of *Tigre*, tiger, gives one the impression that it is a foreign importation. Cf. Ital. *Tigri*. The noble families *Grifé* and *Griffo*, have taken their names from griffin, the fabulous animal exhibited on their armorial bearings.

Of the two generic names for bird, *Pájaro*, *Pásaro* and *Ave*, the first has had a much greater surnominal currency. It denotes a shrewd, cautious and often robust individual, while *Ave* is a term for a dull, phlegmatic fellow.

Águila, *Águlla*, eagle, recalls when used someone who is highly adept in something (cf. the remark of *Lazarillo* about his blind master in the first chapter of *Lazarillo de Tormes*: “En su officio era vn águila,” “he was an eagle in his trade”).

Falconry has undoubtedly been responsible for the popularity of the nickname surnames supplied by the hawk—*Azor*, *Alcón*, *Falcón*, *Falcó*, *Halcón* and, especially, *Gavilán*. Its figurative meanings are obvious.

The Andalusians use the lark, *Calandra*, *Calandria*, in referring to someone who is indolent by nature. The cormorant designated as *Cortezón* in the province of Salamanca has the reputation of being greedy and gluttonous. When “*lechuza*,” owl, is applied to human beings it usually indicates someone who is not conducive to sociability.

It has not become a surname but perhaps the same meaning is conveyed by its synonym Corujo(a). The elongated neck and legs of the crane, Cigueña, as well as those of the stork, *Grulla*, Grúa, Port. Gal. Grou, tend to identify them with persons with long limbs. *Cotorro*, *Graja*, *Gralla*, Riojan Cayo, jay, and *Picaza*, *Urraca*, magpie, allude to chatterers. In the case of one branch of the Urracas it has been the mimicking of these birds that has produced its surname. This dates back to the time of the conquest of Valencia under Jaime I of Aragón when two brothers distinguished themselves by the constant vigilance with which they followed the movements of the Moors. Whenever an ambush seemed imminent they made an outcry similar to the magpies on being approached. This was enough for them to claim their right to the name. Since *Urraca* is a given name that was popular among the mediaeval aristocrats, it has been adopted as a metronymic by some of its bearers.

A *Cuco*, cuckoo, may originally have been a sly or crafty person; it can also mean a simpleton; cf. “más tonto que un cuco.” However, it is its homograph “cuco,” dainty, cute, which must have furnished most of the “cuco” names. *Cuervo*, raven, crow and *Merlo*, black bird, have frequently designated individuals who are either dark-skinned or are habitually dressed in black. I am not sure whether *Chova*, jackdaw, has the same figurative meaning. *Estornel*(1), starling, is popularly supposed to be a knave. A *Garza*, heron, symbolizes a beautiful woman, while as an adjective, *Garzo*, as has been mentioned, is employed to denote a blue-eyed person. Both *Garzo* and *Garza*, incidentally, have been used in the same noble family. To be called a *Gorrión*, sparrow, implies being a wastrel. It may be that the song of the thrush, *Royuela*, has converted it into a nickname surname. It is, nevertheless, surprising to note that the more familiar “tordo” has not asserted itself as a surname in Castilian in contrast to Catalan *Tord* and, particularly, *Tort*, which is widespread in Western Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands. Fairly well represented is another song bird, the nightingale, *Ruiseñor*, *Rosiñol*, *Rossignol*. The *Tórtola*, turtle dove is, as everyone knows, a common pet name.

I have no figurative explanation for Gal. Port. *Gamarra*, martingale, *Ganga*, grouse, *Oriol*, *Oriola*, *Oriols*, *Orriols*, oriole, *Pinzón*, chaffinch, *Rascón*, mudhen, *Sisón*, moor cock, *Tarín*, greenfinch or goldfinch, *Trullo*, teal. *Pardal*, linnet, competes with the color name and with leopard.

Nestling names are conspicuous—*Avecilla*, *Pajarín*, *Pajarejo* (pejorative), *Aguilella*, *Aguileta*, *Azorín*, *Corvillo*, *Corbillo*, *Cotrruelo*.

Perdigón, the young of a partridge, has done quite well as a nickname surname from its extensive use as a decoy. Noticeable are some designations that employ the suffix “-ón” indicative of diminutiveness. *Ratón*, mouse, is an instance that has already been cited. In the bird names it appears in *Aguilón*, *Agullón* (cf. French *aiglon*), *Cayón* and *Garzón*, a name that dates back to the eleventh century. *Picazo* defined as the young of a “*picaza*,” has produced some surnames, but we can be certain that most of them stem from the ennobled Italian family by that name that settled in Spain during the Renaissance.

All of these and other ornithological names that I have failed to turn up may well have been nicknames descriptive of some moral or physical human trait. However, the names of nobles adopted from birds and which are pictured on their coats of arms are very strong competitors—*Pajarín*, *Azorín*, *Cuervo*, *Grajo* (also *Grajal*), *Garza*, *Garzón*, *Halcón*, *Oriol*, *Oriola*, *Oriols*. If we could see the *Pinzón*, *Rascón* and *Tarín* coat of arms it is likely that we should find these birds pictured on them. With reference to a family belonging to the lineage of the *Estradas*, which originally came from Germany, we learn that it assumed the name of *Águila* from the device on its standard. Place-names designated as *Ave*, *Avecilla*, *Águila*, *Cuco*, *Gavilán*, *Halcón* and *Urraca* must also be accepted as probable sources. *Garzón*, orderly, shares with its homograph the privilege of contributing to the surnames of some of the *Garzones*.

Two birds, “*lechuzá*” and “*tordo*,” which I have found missing in the surnominal repertoire have previously been mentioned. It is equally surprising to note the absence of the bird most referred to in popular zoology, the swallow, “*golondrina*,” as well as the “*gaviota*,” seagull, immortalized in *Fernán Caballero*’s famous novel. Absent, too, are the pheasant, “*faisán*,” the quail “*codorniz*,” the robin, “*petirojo*,” the woodpecker, “*picaposte*,” the figpecker, “*becafigo*,” and the snipe, “*becardón*.” Others may have more luck than I have had in discovering surnames for some of these.

On examining the surnames that call up aquatic creatures the first thing that strikes us is the weakness of the generic designation for a fish in its Castilian form. This is more than compensated, however, by the strength of non-Castilian cognates. *Pes*, *Peijo*, *Pejo*, *Peixo*. It has almost always been employed as a stock epithet indicative of a good swimmer. Some readers will at this point recall the legend of the most famous name in natatorial annals, *Nicola Pesce*. His original name was *Pipo*. Incidentally, the term for swimmer, *Nadador*, shows up very infrequently.

Cecial, dried cod, has been applied to very lean individuals. Its existence as a nickname is corroborated by the appellation invented by Cervantes in the second part of *Don Quijote* for Tomé Cecial, the pseudo-squire of the fake Caballero de los Espejos, Sansón Carrasco. If from Navarra Langa, another codfish term, reveals a witless, ungainly fellow. Bacalao, the regular Castilian term which figuratively also refers to a simpleton has remained unattested as a surname. Anguila, eel, is a natural candidate for a nickname.

For other fish appellations I shall omit trying to give figurative meanings since I have not been able to find them in the dictionaries that I have consulted. Obviously, their size, shape and habits have been factors in their use as nicknames, but perhaps metonymy and fishermen who habitually used to catch or sell specific kinds of fish should be given preference as primary sources. Some last names are Barbo, belonging to the carp family, Cazón, dogfish, Murciano Lecha, whitefish, Mojarro, seafish, Salmón, salmon, Sobaco, defined as a "pez ballesta," Solla, pickerel, Trancho, shad, Trucha, trout, Murciano Verderol, greenfish.

Mollusks can be discerned in Cámero, Gámero, shrimp, Marisco, mussle, Ostra, oyster, Pulpa, cuttle fish and Angosta, possibly an aphetic variant of "langosta," lobster.

With the exception of Sardina, sardine, the young of a pilchard, which may be a metonym, it should be plain that the aquatic life terms containing suffixes can hardly stand for anything but nickname surnames. Derivatives of whale *Ballenilla*, Ballenado refer to fat or gluttonous persons. Significantly, their primitive "ballena," has not produced a surname. Pulpillo and Pulpón also imply plumpness. To these we can add Truchuelo.

Rana, frog, is so rare that it might be ignored but, nevertheless, its place as a nickname can be vouched for as a term which has identified certain peasants from the way they have dressed. Sapa, toad, on the other hand, is too crude and has been left to circulate only as a covert nickname.

It is surprising to note that quite a number of familiar Castilian fish names do not show up. No doubt there are synonyms in non-Castilian territory that will help some day to enrich our repertoire in this particular.

Among the surnames taken from the lowest forms of animal life are Abeja, *Abella*, bee, Abejarro, var. of abejorro, horsefly, Abejón, hornet (cf. French Frélon and Russian Sersonev), *Araña*, spider, Culebra, snake (there are no *Serpiente equating Fr. Serpent and Ital. Serpente), *Cigarra*, *Chicharra*, Chicharro, cicada, Cortón, *Grillo*,

Grillón, cricket, *Formiga*, *Hormiga*, ant, *Gorgojo*, grub, weevil, *Gusano* worm and *Lagarto*, lizard.

As a nickname *Abeja* denotes a diligent and industrious person, *Abejarro*, an annoyer, *Abejón*, someone who is tedious and lazy, *Araña*, a niggard (*Araño* and *Arañón*, in contrast, signify the fruit of a sloe). *Cigarra* and *Chicharra*, *Chicharro* are chatterers, *Culebra* a cunning and spiteful individual (Juan Valera used to call the daughter of the Duque de Rivas, "culebrosa"). *Formiga*, *Hormiga* and *Gorgojo* are midgets, *Gusano*, a poor wretch, sometimes a wiggler, and *Lagarto* a sly, rascally fellow.

When the *Abella*, *Abello*, *Abelló* families put the bee on their coats of arms they apparently must have deceived themselves into believing that their names had sprung from that insect. In reality, they are descendants of an Italian family from the town of Avella. On their part the *Chicharras* arbitrarily pictured the cicada on their blazon and then proceeded to take their surname from it. The lizard on their device also accounts for the surname of some of the *Lagartos*.

In Hispania we encounter a host of surnames that mirror those in the botanical world. However, nicknames directly attributable to plant names appear to be quite limited in number.

Floral appellations are usually given names and as such have furnished metonymics and patronymics but they can at times be nicknames as, for example, flower, *Flor*, *Flos*, *Flora*, *Floro*, a common term of endearment which can also denote moral excellence as well as beauty and charm. A derivative, *Florido(a)*, is applicable to rudiness, but more often represents the votive name of someone born on Easter Day, *Pascua Florida*. *Flores*, incidentally, is the name of one of the oldest Spanish families with ramifications in every part of the peninsula and throughout Spanish America. It did not start out as *Flores* but as *Froylaz* or *Frolaz* (eleventh century), a patronymic based on the given name *Fruela* of which it can be considered a corruption. The multiplicity of variant forms it has come to have is astounding, 40 of them in all.⁸ These variants have virtually all disappeared as surnames, leaving *Flores* and *Florez* in their stead. It may be presumed that the reason for the choice of the flower appellation has been its figurative meaning characterizing the members of the family as *Flores*, *Florez*, that is as members of a superior caste that sets them apart from the others.

⁸ A list copied from José Godoy Alcántara's *Ensayo sobre los apellidos españoles* in the García Carraffa *Enciclopedia*. . . Vol. XXXV, p. 57.

The symbolism of the rose and the lily, *Rosa*, *Lirio*, *Lili*, *Lillo*, has naturally been a factor in their adoption as names, but their color, pink, white (cf. *Rosado*, roseate, ruddy complexion), has, at times been an influence in making choices. The same can be said for Clavel, carnation, denoting pink, Jacinto, hyacinth, blue, Narciso, narcissus, vivid yellow, Viola, violet.

Flor, Lirio, Rosa, Rosal, Rosales, if connected with the nobility, are surnames taken from the floral emblems on their coats of arms. Another flower, the conventional fleur de lis, is on the blazon of the Lilet family. Here "lilium," lily, is synonymous with "lis." The fleur de lis is also the device of the Lisón family, as the result of the false association between its real source the place-name Lison (Calvados, France) and the flower. The Lisones had come to Spain from France in the thirteenth century. It does, however, make it clear that the term was pretty well known, in fact in heraldry its use began in the eleventh century and from then on was adopted on the coats of arms of numerous noble families. In 1048 García VI of Navarre instituted the Orden del Lis or Nuestra Señora del Lis. In view of this, the date of its introduction, seventeenth century, that is given in Martín Alonso is hard to excuse. One of the most attractive of sobriquets is Pimpollo, rosebud, figuratively, a comely youth. Girasol, Mirasol, sunflower, is used to indicate a flatterer. Supplementary sources for Flor, Flores and Rosa can be found in place-names.

The Navarrese apply Chaparro, evergreen oak, to a short robust fellow. A Roble (singular only) denotes robustness. A Camueso, pippin tree, is a simpleton, but here we may be dealing with a homograph. A Garrobo, carob, is a rude-mannered rustic in Salmantino. Does Tronco mean a trunk or a useless person, Palo a stake or a dullard (cf. Eng. stock), Jarón another stake or a lazybones, Trocho a short wooden stake or a thin, undersized person? As nicknames it would seem that the figurative meanings make much better sense. Membrillo, quince, also denotes a dullard as do the vegetable terms *Calabaza*, pumpkin, *Cebolla*, onion, Aragonese *Faba*, bean, *Melón*, melon. Besides dullness *Porro*, leek, connotes a coarse individual and *Porrón* one who is both slipshod and slow. It should also be pointed out that "calabaza," "cebolla" and "melón" are humorous equivalents for head and that, in addition, a "melón" is a clipped head. In Andalusian a *Comino*, cumin, refers to an undersized fellow. *Lechuga*, lettuce, which occurs more frequently than one would expect is baffling. There is a saying "sano como una lechuga" to describe a person in the bloom of health, and this may perhaps serve to explain its origin. The noble

family by that name uses a head of lettuce on its coat of arms. Equally baffling is Vinagre, vinegar, figuratively a surly, disagreeable fellow.

DESIRABLE NICKNAME SURNAMES

In dealing with the desirable types of nicknames that have become surnames it will be convenient to arrange them in groups of more or less related appellations.

One of them, made up of epithets expressing the hopes and joys of parents, relatives and friendly neighbors, falls within the affective name group. A logical opening would be Esperanza, hope. On arrival an expected child might be called Deseado, desired, or Querido, wanted, beloved, darling. Rogado, implored, reveals the granting of a parent's wish to have a child, Donado, Regalado, a child received as a gift. Membrado appears to derive from "membrar," to remember, possibly referring to someone named in honor of another. Cf. Ital. Ricordati. Otherwise it could come from the connotations generous, prudent or astute. Preciado, Precioso mean esteemed, appreciated. Angel needs no explanation. Love is implicit in Amor, *Amoroso*, Amante, Amado, Amador, Cariño, affection, Caro, dear, darling, Mimoso, fondled, caressed. Joy or gratification is exhibited in *Alegria*, Alegre, *Alegret*, Beato, Contento, Faustino, Felix, Feliz, Fortuna, Fortunado, Ledo, Deleite, Deleyte, Gloria, Solaz and Risueño, smiling, pleasant. Delight expressed in savory terms is implied in Sabrido, Sabroso, Saborido. It happens that both Amado and Amador have been adopted by the same noble family. One of the first Amados was the Goth, Don Álvaro, who was called "El amado" by García Jiménez as a token of his extreme fondness for him. He had fought on his side during the Reconquista.

Several of the appellations just cited duplicate the names of saints, themselves originally nicknames. In such cases they function as alternative explanations which will become even more evident in the benign surnames that follow, specifically those involving laudatory moral attributes whether innate or acquired. The number one place in this category must perforce be conceded to Santo, saint. Counting it, its variant Santos (the final s being a survival of the Latin nominative ending, cf. Marco, Marcos, Mateo, Mateos, Pablo, Pablos), and the patronymics Sánchez, Sánchiz, Sánches, the sum total of its members is enormous. Santos, incidentally, is also a plural used in more than a score of geographical names, anyone of which might be assumed as a surname.

Bueno, Bono, Cat. Val. *Bon(n)ell*, is good, is quantitatively conspicuous. There are a few Bondad, goodness. If Peche, for which I have found a number of entries, is the same as the obsolete Mexican-Spanish “peche” it means good. If not, it is possible to relate it to the Central American term denoting an orphan or a small child. Benigno, benignant, *Honesto*, Honrado, *Justo*, Recto, honest, upright, are affined appellations.

Other names belonging to this subdivision are Amigo, friend, Cabal and Cabido, esteemed, Cándido, candid, sincere, Caridad, charity, Casto, chaste, Clemente, Climent(e), clement, Fé, faith, Fiel, faithful, Generoso, Liberal, Andalusian Rajado, also liberal, Liso, sincere, cf. “un hombre liso,” (H)alaguero, endearing, attractive, *Manso*, Blando, *Delicado*, Sansano, Tierno, meek, tender, Modesto, modest, Noble, in the sense of excellent, worthy, dignified, Paciencia, patience. One could postulate that the large number of Manso toponyms make them the direct sources of the majority of Manso surnames.

Praiseworthy moral behavior is reflected in Continente, Penco, moderate, sober, Pensado, Santanderan Jalón, deliberate, Esmerado, painstaking, conscientious, Governado, methodical, systematic, grave, dignified.

Individuals who have reason to claim descent from the noble Leal (loyal) family may be acquainted with the legend that tells of a granger, a partisan of Peter the Cruel, who refused to give lodging to the latter's enemy, Enrique II. Enrique took revenge by having him hanged from a turret on the grange. The gibbeted victim was referred to as Leal, which became the surname of his offspring. Those who can establish links with the noble Paz family will find the eponym in the persons of the grandson of Alfonso el Sabio, so named in recognition for having brought peace to Spain through his victories over the Moors.

Travieso, Revesado, Reuelto, Revuelto embody in common the denotation of turbulence. In its obsolete sense “travieso” means lewd, debauched. These appellations have circulated as covert nicknames but as epithets employed overtly they, especially “travieso,” have always prevailingly alluded to mischievous youngsters. Their light-hearted, heedless behavior often induced by prankishness has been looked upon goodnaturedly and generally with amusement. Their survival as surnames is intimately linked to this characteristic. The same explanation clearly holds for Picarín, Pillico, little rogues, toned down versions of “pícaro” and “pillo.” I should add for Bregante, var. of “bergante,” literally bandit, ruffian, rogue, that it figuratively comes close to the Eng. scamp which originally meant highwayman, robber.

Perillán, rascally, as distinguished from these designations, appears to be restricted to adults.

Somewhat related is Vivaracho, lively, frisky, more intensively expressed by Rayo, lightning, and by Centella, lightning flash, spark, (cf. “ser or parecer una centella.” As possible competitor of the plural Centellas is a place-name.

Elegance can be expressed through attire, graceful behavior or both. Fancy dressers were bestowed the sobriquets Gala, Curro, Majo, dandies, Pompa, *Pomposo*, pomp, pompous, *Gayo*, *Gayoso*, gay, showy, as well as *Galán* and Galano, deriving from “gala” but also denoting gallant.

Members of the *Cortés* clan living today can be counted by the thousands. If the claim of the family name to Roman origin can be said to be pure legend, the attempt to interpret it as “Cor-tres,” three hearts, is utterly fantastic. Yet three hearts figure on the coat of arms of some of the Aragonese branches. There is no reason why its literal meaning, courteous, polite, should not be accepted without question. Cortejoso, also courteous, has tried to compete with it but with hardly any success. It is not in any of the vocabularies. One more equivalent is *Gentil*, a family that originally came from Italy. *Donaire* denotes grace, elegance, wit and humor, *Donoso*, gay, graceful and witty. *Cumplido* signifies polite but also gifted with talent, worthy of esteem. Gal. Port. Feito is synonymous. Cf “está um homem feito.”

The manly group embraces designations that reveal strength, vigor, boldness and bravery. *Fuerte*, strong, numerically stands far above the rest. Fuertes appears to refer to a family fief taken as a surname. However, it is more likely that most of the individuals so named owe their cognomina to “casas fuertes,” forts. Fuerte is flanked by a series of kindred appellations — Alentado, Animoso, Barragán, *Duro*, Esforzado, *Recio*, Trabado, Travado, Valido and Aragonese Zaurín. Poderoso, Potente, Pujante denote power as well as authority, *Bravo*, *Osado*, *Valiente* signify brave, *Valor*, bravery, Brío, Briosos, courage, courageous, *Arrojo*, daring, *Marcial*, warlike, *Hazaña(s)*, heroic deed or deeds, Tesón, pluck, endurance and Campeón, champion, defender. Perhaps the earliest Recio was a Sancho Pérez called “El Rezio” because of his imposing muscularity and the terror he created among the Moors of Maestrazgo. As a physical term, Entero connotes robustness, strength and, figuratively, a person who is faithful and incorruptible. Despite the common meaning of moderate and temperate for *Templado*, Temprado, it is more probable that it has come to us through the connotation of brave, valiant. Another term denoting bravery or

boldness is Azero, steel. Fierro, Hierro, iron, is synonymous in the sense of strong. Cf. “ser de hierro” but cf. also “cabeza de hierro,” referring to a headstrong individual. Alongside these nicknames we should posit alternative place-name origins for Arrojo, Valor, Fierro, Hierro. Eight saints called Marcial have substantially contributed in keeping the name alive through its use as a given name converted into a patronymic. The male, familiarly equated with strength, robustness, courage, is evident in the nickname surnames Macho and *Varón*. Macho is the more plebeian of the two. Confusion results from its variant Barón which is the common term for baron. We also meet with *Varona*, mannish woman, a surname stemming from the heroic widow of the Infante de Vela, which has produced some metronymics. Actually, most of the Varonas are indebted for their names to the place-name Barahona.

Their multi-faceted meanings indicate that appellations like Bizarro, Chapa (cf. “hombre de chapa”), Chapado, *Franco*, *Gallardo*, *Garrido*, *Lozano* and *Pulido*, *Polido* might be placed in any one of several categories with stress either on elegance, appearance, conduct, on vigor, courage, daring or on a combination of these qualities. This is neatly summed up in a reference to General Francisco Martín who resided in Mexico late in the sixteenth century. He was called Gallardo “porque era gentil, pulido, enamorado, galán y Gallardo.” Incidentally, the first Gallardos came to Spain from France. The designations frank, sincere, liberal, brave, polite apply to some of the Francos but not necessarily to the descendants of the noble Ricardo Franco, a French knight who placed himself and his 500 men in the service of the king of Aragón, Alfonso el Batallador. In return he was exempted from paying taxes, that is, he became a freeman, a “franco.” It is one of the earliest of fixed Spanish surnames. As to the genesis of the name Garrido, which has a very high numerical representation, we are told in the family records that during the reign of Alfonso IX Dios Ayuda and his seven sons fought in the battle of Salada. They returned victorious with the armor spattered with the blood of their enemies and as they filed before the king he remarked to their father: “Garridos hijos lleváis,” “Your sons are handsome looking” (and, by extension, daring). Regarding Lozano, the king’s words to his advisors with reference to the selection of a tutor for Prince Sancho in the first act of Guillén de Castro’s *Mocedades del Cid* are worth quoting:

que el conde
por muchos años *lozano*

para mostrar que lo es
viste azero y corre el campo.

Here the monarch selectively gives preference to daring. Pelayo Fernández was called Pulido-Polido because he was “galán y esforzado en las guerras.” This equation of appearance, courtliness and valor reminds us that they were considered common attributes of the “caballero,” the knight. A descent from the aristocratic to the commoner level seems to lurk in Guapo, which can be interpreted either as spruce, elegant or as stout, courageous, valiant.

The existence of a number of appellations referring to ingenious individuals, especially the clever and cunning, is an indication of the popular admiration which they have enjoyed as revealed in *Agudo*, *Argudo*, Artero, Martagón, sharp, Diestro, skillful, Colombian-Venezuelan Spanish Tinoso, skillful, prudent, Guardado, reserved, cautious (cf. Ital. Guardati), Magaña, Magano, Mañas, Mañoso, Sutil, Sotil, Trinado, cunning. Sabio, Sabido, Sagaz regularly mean wise, learned but may easily be turned into cunning, astuteness. Since the noble Agudos have taken their surname from a decompounded Monteagudo a nickname origin is not applicable to them.

On account of the many *Salgados* a word needs to be said about them. The motto on their coat of arms is “Salga por do saliere,” “Come what may,” which is obviously a pun on the name of this very old noble Galician family. Since we can learn nothing from it we must look elsewhere for its meaning. I believe it can be found in the Gal. Port. “salgado,” saltiness, figuratively witty, facetious. An equivalent surname in Castilian is Salado.

UNDESIRABLE NICKNAME SURNAMES

Probably the most plainly undesirable of all Spanish nickname surnames is *Ladrón* thief. It happens to be the cognomen of one of the most prestigious families in the history of the country, hence pride in ancestry has had the effect of erasing whatever stigma might be connected with it. The nobility of the *Bárbaro*, barbarous, and *Selvaje*, savage, families, as in the case of *Ladrón*, has had a strong influence in keeping the names alive and this has been reenforced by their currency as given names during the Middle Ages and the fact that both are saint names. *Espantoso*, frightful, terrifying and *Sañudo*, furious, are likewise time-honored nobiliary names. With reference to *Malo*, still

another aristocratic cognomen, I should hesitate to accept it literally in the sense of bad, wicked. Its source may well be a saint name, Malo.

The list that follows should of course, be supplemented by the surname nicknames that appear in other sections and which either in their literal or in their figurative meanings might pass as undesirable appellations. I shall start by employing a group arrangement.

Bores are indicated by Cansado, fatiguing, Pesado, from "pesar," to weigh, Machacón, from "machacar," to pound, Majarón, Majarín from "majar," also to pound as well as by Mazo, sledgehammer. In contrast to Mazo since the *Mazón* and *Mazorra* families have chosen sledgehammers for their coats of arms it may be that they are intended as symbols of force and power, hence they would be desirable rather than undesirable names.

Surnames from nicknames denoting coarseness or rudeness are Basto, Brusco, Rudo, Tosca, Zafio. Aragonese Macarrón adds slovenliness to coarseness.

Those who have once been inconsistent or wavering can be recognized through Pendolero, from "péndola," and Veleta, weathercock. Confirmation of "veleta" as a nickname should there be any doubt about it can be found in the sobriquet of a member of the Claver family, "Miguel, alias Veleta."

Though Gulo recalls a glutton it is considerably less diffused than Manjón which like Catalan Manjó comes from "manjar," to eat. Cf. Ital. Mangione. Another designation for a glutton is Gorrón. Related is Mantecón, sweet tooth. Knowledge that *Tragón*, *Tragó* derives from a place-name makes tenuous the descent of its members from a one-time glutton.

A Mesuro in Salmantino is a melancholy fellow, a meaning shared by a Moganto who at the same time is pale and emaciated.

A Pañoso is a person dressed in patches, and a Raboso, from rabo, tail, end, a tatterdemalion. Those who have once been proud and arrogant have been designated by the epithets Arrogante, Ufano, Erguido, from "erguir," to lift the head, Estirado, from "estirar," to stretch, Hinchado, bloated, Ventoso, flatulent. Sobejano implies forwardness, insolence. Penacho, plume, is a symbol of vanity. I cannot see how Soberano, sovereign, could have become a surname unless we accept it in its archaic sense of haughty.

Restless, easily excitable or blustering persons are or have been dubbed Borrasca, Tempestad, storm (cf. Eng. Tempest, German Sturm), Torbellino, whirlwind, Trueno, thunder. The existence of toponyms for *Fragoso* meaning craggy seriously undermines it in the

sense of noisy, but does not completely eliminate it as a nickname surname. These terms have frequently been connected with bullies as are Baladrón, Balandrón, Balandrín, from “baladro,” roar, and perhaps *Rugido*, bellow. The common name for a bully, Jaque, has a fair following. Though a Calavera, skull, has nowadays been virtually restricted to a madcap, it can also denote a bully and, at least until early in the nineteenth century, was the usual designation for a dude or dandy.⁹ Four more nickname surnames that stem from vocal utterances are Chillarón, shrieker, Aragonese Morejón, grumbler, Parlón, chattering, Soplón, from “soplar,” to blow, and by extension a tattler.

The shiftless are represented by (H)aragán, Baldero and Valdero, Callejero, from “calle,” street, Cantonero, from “cantón,” corner, Asturian Manguán, Perdido, Aragonese Pingo, Roncero, from “roncear,” to kill time. An article of clothing, Balandrán has curiously been used to refer to another type of loafer. With regard to Sorna I am inclined to accept it not as a nickname denoting indolence, sneer, trickery, but as a place-name and to explain its derivative Sornoso as a former resident of that particular settlement. *Ocio* signifying laziness should be eliminated. Being a learned word it would be unusual if it developed into a nickname. The real source of the name is the family fief, Ocio.

In Berrugo and Escaso we can detect misers and in Golondrón, from “golondro” (cf. “campar de golondro”) and Mogollón, spongers.

Before registering Bodoque we have asked ourselves whether literally as a lump of clay, pellet, it meets any of the requirements that might have led to its adoption as a nickname. It does not. Consequently, the only reason for its presence must come through figurativeness in the sense of dunce. Other slow-wits are Bedoya, a term current in Colombia, (it is also a place-name), Aragonese Morcate, Modrego and Navarrese Senso. Heaviness, which is frequently associated with dullness, is evident in Lerdo and Salmantino Pando.

Penado expresses suffering, Desgracia, misfortune, Duelo, sorrow and Ardura, indigence. It is curious to note that a man with a head wound, *Descalabrado*, is the cognomen of a noble family.

Some ungrouped objectionable surnames are Brujo, sorcerer, always looked upon as a sullen crafty fellow, Cencerrado, from “concerro,” cowbell, standing for a widower or elderly man who during his wedding celebration was given a tinpan serenade by his neighbors, the mildly undesirable Descalzo, meaning barefoot, Gandul, a person

⁹ See the essay on “Calavera” in Larra’s *Artículos de costumbre*.

belonging to the lower class who affects elegance, Gorjón, backbiter, Mohino, moody, discontented, Mujeriego, a lady's man, Penco, if Aragonese, a lifeless person, Pertinaz, pertinacious, Soso, insipid, silly, Zalema, flattery, adulation. One might argue that holders of the last name Lodoso have acquired it from the toponym and he may be right, yet there is some support for it as a nickname. Cf. Fr. Crotté and Ital. Infangati. Tafur, gambler, was already a nickname surname early in the fifteenth century as revealed by the name of the world traveller and writer Pedro Tafur (1410?-1484).

A number of undesirable surnames have been previously cited that have meanings with diverging connotations. Among those belonging to this group are Bobo, Bobito, Bobillo, the primary sense of which is dunce (cf. Eng. booby), but it has always been attractive as wily, humorous, owing especially to the stereotype comic character of the Golden Age comedia. Some Bobos may, indeed, have been given their names from their roles in these plays.

The claim that Acedo denotes an ill-tempered person is pretty effectively neutralized by the place-names in Navarre and León.

Cazurro, Cazorro now signifying malicious, rascally, taciturn, at one time referred to a wandering singer belonging to the lowest class. It is without question the primary source of the surname.

In the case of Ligero, which can be a name-day appellation for St. Léger, we are left to choose between light, swift and flippant, in the case of Liviano between, light, fickle and unchaste, in that of Vicioso between vigorous, overgrown (applied especially to youngsters) and vicious, wicked. There is reason to believe, as we shall soon see, that surnames from these nicknames have come from their milder rather than from their cruder meanings.

Mirón can denote a bystander, spectator, as well as a prier. If it comes from Catalanian Miró it derives from a place-name. It would be more natural for Rastrero to derive from the occupational term meaning an inspector of a slaughter house rather than from "rastrero" meaning humble, cringing. Risito can denote either a snicker or a chuckle. *Sobrado* may have stemmed from brazen in some instances but we must remember that we are dealing with the name of a commoner family which rose to nobility, which points to "sobrado" as wealthy. *Tirado* can mean firm, daring, as well as haughty and *Venturero* fortunate, happy as well as an idler. The only source for the surname Villano that should be accepted is the occupational one, peasant. As a nickname signifying villain it is too disparaging to have produced surnames.

At this point it will be revealing to consider my layout of undesirable names from another angle, that of omissions. Some of them are “baboso,” driveller, “borracho,” drunkard, “celoso,” jealous, “cobarde,” coward, “embaulado,” deceiver, “hechizado,” bewitched, “hediondo,” foulsmelling, “loco,” crazy, “mordido,” bitten, “desollado,” flayed, “tirano,” tyrant. They correspond respectively to existing Italian surnames—Bavoso, Ubbriachi, Briachi, Gelosi, Codardo, Traditi, Fascinati, Puzzoso, Pazzi, Morso, Muzzicato, Scorticati, Tiranni. There is no question but that all of the Spanish designations just mentioned have circulated as covert nicknames, that is to say, they have almost always been used behind the referent’s back and when he or she died the name also disappeared. The fact that they have not emerged as surnames proves that the Spaniards as compared with the Italians have exercised a much more rigid decorum in excluding them. I have already taken cognizance of this unwritten code. The implication is that if certain undesirable nicknames have been able to surface as surnames they have been able to do so because they have circulated overtly indicating that the persons upon whom they have originally been imposed and, obviously, their descendants, have accepted them without deeming them unduly offensive. By exception, Ladrón, Bárbaro, Espantoso and Selvaje came into being very early during the formative period of Spanish surnames, that is before the time when decorum had become a fixed practice. Family pride was strong enough to continue to preserve them.

Somewhat related is the tendency to eschew certain familiar or colloquial designations and to replace them by synonyms that are less socially distasteful. I have in mind, for example, “avariento,” miser, “descardo,” impudent, “flaco,” feeble, weak, “flojo,” insipid, lazy, “fullero,” cardsharp, “grosero,” coarse, rude, “haraposo,” ragged, “matón,” bully, “mojigato,” prudish, “perezoso,” lazy, “pícaro” and “pillo,” rogues, “simplón,” simpleton, “sucio,” filthy, “triste,” sad. In the section on anatomy we have noticed the avoidance of “panza,” paunch, and “pescuezo,” neck. No direct mention is made here of “nariz,” nose and “ciego,” blind. In the metaphors taken from the animal world less derogatory synonyms have been substituted for several pig appellations and for “perro,” dog. Reservations have been expressed as to other designations. Nevertheless, traces of undesirability have remained in some of them inducing some of their bearers to change them. This seems to be implied by the great scarcity of representation in the directories of, for example, Calavera, Cencerado, Cercenado, Desdentado, Estrabón, Gangoso, Gusano, Haragán,

Hinchado, Parlón, Perlesía, Soplón.”

MISCELLANEOUS NICKNAME SURNAMES

There are naturally many surnames that do not fit into the classifications already made. One of them consists of a cluster of monetary names some of which represent the equivalent of cash or money, cf. the English obsolescent term shekel. In some instances as, for example, Jewish Heller it can stand metonymically for a money-changer. In Spain some of the names may date back to the Middle Ages and early Renaissance when services were prevailingly paid for in the form of goods rather than in money-wages. At that time since it was unusual for persons to possess coins of any kind those who held them must have caused enough of a stir in their neighborhoods to earn coin-name sobriquets. At any rate, we encounter *Ardid*, *Ardite*, *Blanca*, *Cornado*, *Corona*, *Coronilla*, *Cruzado Dobra(s)*, *Duro*, *Florín*, *Aragonese Miaja*, *Ochavo*, *Peso*, *Real*, *Navarrese Sos*. The claims of several are weakened by homographs. Those for *Ardid*, *Ardite*, *Cornado*, *Dobra(s)*, *Miaja* remain, I think, incontestable, the case for *Ardid* being concretely confirmed by the family coat of arms on which as if to indicate its opulence, there is a boastful display of golden arditos. It is dubious, therefore, that the name has any connection with “ardid,” artifice, cunning. Evidently the same coin called by a variant, “ardite,” became so debased in Castile and Navarre that it gave rise to the phrase “no vale un ardite,” close to Eng. “it is not worth a farthing,” hence we may infer that “ardite” has acquired some sort of figurative connotation.¹⁰ It may come as a surprise to discover that a few Spanish surnames have their origin in exclamations.

One noteworthy example is *Aguado* whose eponym is a knight called Fortún Saez who lived during the reign of the Rey Santo. He once challenged a Moor who had insulted him to battle which took place on marshy ground. After he had killed him he cut off his head and presented it to the king. The latter on seeing him soaked with blood, water and mud exclaimed, “Fortún, cómo venís!” “Fortún, in what a state you’ve come!” Whereupon the knight exclaimed in turn “Bien vengo y vencedor, pero muy aguado,” “I come in good shape and as a victor but well-soaked.” His hearers were so impressed that they

¹⁰ For Italian and English examples of coin surnames, see J. G. Fucilla, *Our Italian Surnames* (Evanston, Ill., 1949), 227-28, and E. Weekley, *Surnames* (London, 1917), 178.

referred to him as “el aguado” thereafter. However, Aguado can just as likely have become a surname via a nickname signifying a teetotaler. This is supported by English, Fr and Ital Drinkwater Boileau, Bevilacqua.

Another noteworthy example is *Buendía*, good (auspicious) day. According to the legend preserved by one of the branches of the family King Don Juan on noticing the towering presence of a German mercenary fighting for him during the Valencian campaign cried out, “Con este soldado buen día se me espera,” “I expect a good day (success, victory) with a soldier like this one.” Otherwise the designation is an augurative name, often a given name, alluding to an auspicious event like the arrival of an heir. Cf. French Bonjour, Italian Buongiorno, Bondí, English Gooday, German Guttag. It is also a place-name.

A third example deserving of mention is *Rendón*. During the reign of Alfonso XI Garcí Pérez de Burgos won a victory over the Moors by encouraging his men with the battle cry, “A ellos, a ellos, de rendón.” “At them, at them, impetuously,” thus making Rendón an established surname. Rondón with the same meaning may be a variant. Garrido, also stemming from an exclamation, has been cited elsewhere.

Some names have come from interjections consisting of ejaculations so habitually uttered that they have ended up as the nicknames of the utterers and subsequently as surnames. Sure cases are Albricias, good news and Quizá, perhaps. Anda!, fairly widespread in Mexico City and translatable as “hurry up, move along, move on,” Buenviaje, bon voyage, Ojo! (from eye), be careful! are likely as are Vaya! Indeed, Bastante, Harto, enough. It is conceivable that some Hombre!, man alive!, Mañana, tomorrow, Temprano, early, have taken root in this manner. Several theophorous names, that is, names that contain a divine element, look like exclamations, but, in reality, are given names employed as patronymics—*Dios Ayuda*, God helps, Catalan Deulofeu, Deulovol, God made him, God wishes it, and *Diosdado*, given by God, which is commonly expressed as (de) Dios and as Catalan (De) Deu.

A batch of assorted surnames follows. Antruejo refers to the three days of Carnival. In the province of Salamanca it is synonymous with jolly movement, an epithet given to an individual who once took part in the festivities. A Ballarín is a good dancer. Bozal designates a negro lately brought from Africa, recalling the slave period in Spain. It may have produced some nickname surnames in the sense of naive. Carmenado is not recorded in the dictionaries but it is safe to assume that it is a past participle of “carmenar,” to pull out the hair of the head, a reminder of the oldtime hairpulling contests, one of which has been

dramatized by Encina in his *Auto del repelón*. Degollado, beheaded, offers two alternatives, the small spot name where someone must have been decapitated or the descendants of the person who was a victim of the act. A Guarnido appears to refer to a man who used to habitually hilted. An *Holgado* is a person who is well off or in easy circumstances. A Mazarrón in Aragonese is a fellow who has not paid his toll. A Provado is either an experienced individual or one who has suffered. Rebellón usually applies to a balky horse but when transferred to a human being it can mean rebellious, indocile, as it does in fact in Salmantino. Rejojo, literally a piece of bread left on the table after a meal, has oddly been turned into a metaphor to denote an undersized youngster. We know that Pedro *Repiso*, a member of noble Cordovan family, changed his name from Repiso to *Arrepiso*, repentent, thus settling any doubts as to its meaning. In Andalusia the term denotes shy, reserved. This recalls *Converso, convert, of which there is no surnominal trace but which does reappear indirectly as Revertido. San Juan de la Cruz in his *Cántico espiritual* (*Clásicos castellanos*, 55, 1924, 337) speaks of his soul “toda revertida en gracia,” that is, transformed into God, hence unless Revertido has another connotation it may be accepted as some sort of religious conversion. *Rico* meaning rich has produced a contingent of surnames. Most Ricos, however, either come from “ricohombre,” grandee, or represent an abbreviated form of Amalrico, Teodorico or other names in “-rico.”

Several examples of the unorthodox ways in which names have come into being have been previously cited. For information on a few more I shall draw on information provided by the García Carraffa *Enciclopedia*. . . .

The explanation given on the genesis of *Abarca* is that a knight of the lineage of the Guevaras found the corpses of the King of Navarre, D. García Iñiquez and his wife Urraca who had been murdered by the Moors. Before dying Urraca had given birth to a son, Sancho, and as he, when found, was wearing sandals he was called Sancho Abarca. He reigned as king from 905 to 925. If his descendants regularly carried on his name from then on, and that is open to question, it would represent one of the very earliest of Spanish nickname surnames.

Ordinarily, *Callejón* should attract no attention. It means a narrow pass. It becomes interesting when we learn that it displaced the already established surname of one of the Cayones on account of his successful defense of a strategically important defile against enemy assaults.

Camisón, literally a big shirt, is actually as its blazon makes clear a coat of mail, a symbol of bellicosity.

Campana meaning a bell can also refer to a belfry or, metonymically to a bell caster. However, this does not explain the origin of the noble name of Campana. According to its records a certain Álvaro challenged a Moorish chief to a duel. He killed him carrying off his head to his castle as a trophy. There he hung it from a bell whose peculiar clang advertised his deed to his vassals. Thereafter he and his offspring have been known as Campana.

Startling because of its novelty is (de la) Cerda. It is registered that the Infante D. Fernando, oldest son of Alfonso el Sabio, was born with a bristly growth of hair on his chest. This abnormality caused his contemporaries to call him the Infante or Príncipe de la Cerda which remained as the family name.

The eponym of the most illustrious of all Spanish families, the Hurtado de Mendozas, was the son of the Infanta Urraca, daughter of Alfonso VI. She kept the knowledge of his birth secret for some time. After it became known the designation Hurtado, hidden, was added to Mendoza. There is nothing, incidentally, on the origin of the more archaic *Furtado* first applied to Fernán Pérez, a member of the Lara family. His son, Pedro Fernández Furtado, founded the famous Order of Santiago in the twelfth century. Both of these eponyms were bastards, a byname that was not considered dishonorable if one was noble. Bar sinister coats of arms, as is well known, occur frequently. As for Bastardo it is not certain when it became a surname. Martín Alonso puts the introduction of the word in the seventeenth century but it was current at least a century earlier. Cf. the ballad lines in Timoneda's *Rosa española* (1473):

Al Cid metiera el postrero
que era menor y *bastardo*.

The data on the origin of *Represa* has in it the ingredients of a charming romantic legend that might have inspired a Zorrilla or a Bécquer had they known about it. We are not informed when it started. At any rate, it deals with a beautiful young woman who was unjustly imprisoned behind bars in a tower. She was a "presa," a prisoner. Not long afterwards an admiring knight broke into it and freed her. Now having been freed once she was imprisoned again, "represa," in the meshes of love. From then on the sobriquet "represa" was applied to her and later converted into a surname. The family blazon pictures a beautiful damsel behind bars in a tower prison and an armed knight who forces his way into it after killing a lion that had been guarding the

tower. In the chapel of the church of San Nicolás in the small town of Madrigal de las Altas Torres near Ávila, where Isabella the Catholic was baptized, every year during the last days of December a double celebration takes place in commemoration both of the baptism and the legend.

CONCLUSIONS

In general Spanish surname nicknames do not differ essentially from those used in other European countries, and this shows that they are the products of a common tradition. There are, however, as we have seen, as many surnames of this type that are uniquely Spanish. For some I have been fortunate enough to trace their genesis in the genealogical data printed in the García Carraffa *Enciclopedia*. . . .

In one area, the anatomical, the main difference between the Spanish and the European nickname surnames is one of stress. Spanish color names, for instance, are more varied and abundant; those denoting body defects and blemishes loom more conspicuously.

I have already drawn attention to a tacit code of decorum which has kept the most offensive nicknames from becoming surnames and have also noted that nicknames drawn from a number of colloquial and familiar terms evidently deemed to be socially distasteful have either been omitted or have been replaced by synonyms.

The unusually large number of toponyms that present themselves as alternative sources for many surnames, especially those referring to the anatomy and to animal and plant life, make it difficult for the outsider to decide which to accept. I have indicated preferences, some of which can be justified while others, I must admit, will appear to be rather arbitrary. Knowledge that those who bear them or their ancestors have come from or have once lived in or near one of these locations would supply a partial solution. When in the case of domestic animals and plant names we can add metonymical alternatives the matter becomes more complicated. Further complications result from other alternatives that are mentioned in scattered parts of this study, saint names, given names and inevitable homographs. The discovery that their surnames point to two, three or more different provenances is bound to be understandably besetting to their holders, who would naturally like to pin down their names to a single source. From the standpoint of the onomastic historian, however, co-existence is actually of secondary importance. For him the fact that most of the Spanish nickname

surnames are duplicated in almost every European country is more than ample proof of their authenticity.

In a number of instances I have found that Spanish dictionaries have not supplied me with the meanings which I assumed they should have. Some I explain on the basis of already registered nouns and verbs, for example, Baladrón from "baladro," Golondrón from "golondro," Carmenado from "carmenar," Machacón, Majarín, Majarón and Manjón from "machacar, majar" and "manjar." As for nickname surnames used metaphorically with references to human beings they are only partially registered in the lexicons printed in Spain. For connotations that are omitted I have been guided by those current in other languages or from shape, size, habits, etc. The Spanish American vocabularies should be more thoroughly combed than they have been until now for still neglected peninsular terms. Many of the terms in them are, of course, neologisms, but when we encounter appellations like Ecuadorian "silgado," Bolivian, "tojo," Colombian-Venezuelan "tinoso," Mexican and Central American "peche," which correspond to nickname surnames present in the mother country we must assume that they are not neologisms but expressions which the early settlers brought with them to the New World.

The question of the dating of words has also an indirect bearing on this study. Martín Alonso dates them as of the century when they have been noted in printed matter currently available. Its dating is obviously provisional and does not necessarily represent the actual time when the words began to circulate. My assumption with reference to Spanish surnames, which I think is correct, is that all but a handful have been in existence since before the eighteenth century and that the changes that have occurred involve almost always the replacement of one surname by another already in the old repertoire. Using this as a criterion it is possible by means of some of the surnames mentioned to retrodate a number of words or their connotations given as current in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. These include terms like "magaña, modrego, reseco," and "reviejo," and connotative extensions of "abejón, bodoque, martagón, raboso" and "zancajo." Access to old nickname and surname lists and other documents can help to make retrodating more specific. I have cited three pre-eighteenth century instances, "bastardo, lis" and "oca."