

## Book Reviews

*The Macmillan Book of Canadian Place Names.* By William B. Hamilton. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada (70 Bond Street, Toronto M5B 1X3), 1978. Pp. 340. Price \$20.

This rather sparse text is a reworking and, to some extent, an updating of *The Origin and Meaning of Place Names in Canada*, compiled by George Armstrong. Mr. Hamilton in compiling this edition used three broad categories "as a measure to determine entry": size, history, and human interest. These certainly will suffice for a general interest book which is about all this one purports to be, for the compiler simply wanted to make a listing with meaning(s) or reason for naming of each entry.

Mr. Hamilton is aware of the vast amount of work being done on place-name study in Canada. He particularly wanted to place emphasis on a more rigorous approach to toponymic investigation by members (especially secretaries) of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, whose present secretary is Alan Rayburn. His studies and research have produced many articles, plus two definitive books, *Geographical Names of Prince Edward Island* and *Geographical Names of New Brunswick*. These are properly praised by Hamilton, who also acknowledges the personal help that Rayburn gave him by answering detailed questions concerning specific names. The bibliography is revealing in that it seems that Hamilton, a historian, has gone to the right books.

Although basic information about origins appears, and from what I can ascertain is accurate, the problem with trying to cover the names of a country as large as Canada, with its overlays of Indian, French, and English names, in a short time and with any depth is impossible. What is obtained is a bare entry that hardly gives even minimal onomastic information. This is not completely the compiler's fault, for, as I have learned the hard way, commercial publishers set deadlines and have editors whose interests are monetary and not scholarly.

Nevertheless, the book has value for a quick reference, but, to be meaningful, the information will need shoring up from source material. Hamilton, however, does not shy away from the bilingual problem, which is given ample attention in the introduction. He also brings to bear the problem of translation from one language to another in the entries. Of course, many of the English names have been challenged, especially in Quebec, sometimes with good reason. In general, these challenges and the results are noted. My major criticism, on the whole, is that the compiler has attempted too much and has left too much unwritten. Still, it is a handsome book and should be owned by all those interested in place-name study.

Kelsie B. Harder

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*Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms*, 2nd ed. By Frank Atkinson. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1977. Pp. xiii + 248. Price \$10.

Essentially, this is a new book rather than a new edition. Published in 1975 under the title *Dictionary of Pseudonyms and Pennames*, the new volume contains approximately 1,000 more "pen-names" than did the earlier one, besides including a large selection of North American authors who were not listed before. One reason for the earlier omission of North American writers is that the book is published in England [London: Clive Bingley]; hence, British writers were given more coverage. The second edition has corrected this shortcoming. All names, however, are limited to persons who write in English.

The sparse introduction barely touches the reasons for the choice of a pseudonym by an author. Writers somehow cannot avoid changing their names; they are "great name-fiddlers," as Atkinson states. In general, this monkeying around with names does not extend to poets and playwrights. The ones who dabble with different names are usually prose writers, such as novelists, book reviewers, essayists, and "free lance" writers. Prolific writers tend to use pseudonyms. For instance, Edward Stratemeyer, author of the Rover Boy stories, used the pseudonym of Arthur M. Winfield, the latter provided by his mother: Winfield, "win the field"; Arthur for an author; and M., added by Stratemeyer himself, in the hope that thousands of copies of his books would be sold. Frederic and Lee Dannay melded into the famous Ellery Queen.

It would be good to have on record the stories behind the choice of a pseudonym, but, unfortunately, we cannot find such information here, except for a few noted in the introduction. Because of limitations of space by the publisher, the author could not include what would have been surely the most fascinating and informative part of the book, other than the listing of the real names and the pseudonyms. Besides the one noted above, only one other is given, that of Corey Ford, who stated in his *Time of Laughter* that he took the New York City telephone directory and placed his finger at random on a name. It turned out to be Runkelschmelz. Corey discarded the directory and decided on John Riddell.

Punning occurs: Morris West to Michael East; Owen Seaman obviously became Nauticus; and Cecil John Street chose John Rhode. Anagrams or near-anagrams included the following: Melusa Moolson for Samuel Solomon; John Langdon became John Gannold; and my poet exception Walter De la Mare once wrote under the name Walter Ramal. Authors of Westerns choose names that tend to reflect the salty, sweaty, and saddle-sore cowboy: Charles Horace Snow, Louis L'Amour, and Archibald Lynn Joscelyn become Charles Ballew, Tex Burns, and Al Cody. On the other hand, romantic fiction requires names that are "suggestive of crisp, clean blouses and commonsense, yet with a hint of madcap moments": Elaine Carr, Phyllis Marlow, and Caroline Holmes, all three being pseudonyms of Charles Mason.

Despite the lack of details, other than those already noted, the dictionary is a valuable reference book. One would wish additional identifying material in the real name section, but, after all, the book is not a narrative but a listing with careful cross-referencing for the curious who want to know if this is *really* this author's name.

Kelsie B. Harder

*First Names First*. By Leslie Alan Dunkling. New York, N.Y. 10016: Universe Books, 381 Park Avenue South, 1977. Pp. 285. Price \$10.

Leslie Dunkling has again produced a book that delights and informs. His *The Guinness Book of Names* [reviewed by W. F. H. Nicolaisen, *Names*, 23:2 (June, 1975) 119-120] was knowledgeable as well as popular. *First Names First* does not cover as much name-territory as *The Guinness*, but it does maintain a theory throughout, one that can be missed if the reader indulges in the fun only, or in the personal observations—to which Dunkling has full privileges—that jack-box up and down throughout, sometimes with a jarring effect not unlike ear-popping during a French examination. That theory is this: first names have no meaning in the traditional sense, that is, etymologically speaking, but they do have associational meaning, in a sense imagistic connotation and spatial arrangement. Dunkling states rather bluntly: “In this book I begin with the premise that . . . feelings about names exist. . . .” Further, “our instinctive reactions are largely based on facts about name usage.”

In a social context, name usage, like language, is constantly changing, much as fashions in clothing, styles of living, or even hairdos. Dunkling attempts to document the change in name fashions on a more valid basis than has been done in the past, when “researchers” gutted telephone directories for name counts and then published pseudo-scientific statistics on first name preferences. I contend that Dunkling was not much more “scientific,” but he did make counts by generations, using primarily college registration lists from the United States, Canada, and Australia, while relying on the English Registrar General’s Indexes of Births. One criticism, of course, comes to mind immediately for the reliability of the U.S.A. lists: college students until the 1950’s usually came from the class of people that was economically, educationally, and socially superior to the common populace. Dunkling is aware of this: the figures for the top 50 first names for girls and boys in the U.S.A. are “based on university students, mainly middleclass whites, born in the years shown” (1900, 1925, 1950, and 1975). In England, Wales, and Scotland, he begins with 1850 and tabulates for each 25 years, or approximately one generation.

At the risk of giving away the book’s plot, I will note some of the rankings according to Dunkling’s counts:

The Top Five Names—England and Wales

	1900	1926	1950	1975
<i>Girls</i>	Florence	Joan	Susan	Claire
	Mary	Mary	Linda	Sarah
	Alice	Joyce	Christine	Nicola
	Annie	Margaret	Margaret	Emma
	Elsie	Dorothy	Carol	Joanne
<i>Boys</i>	William	John	David	Stephen
	John	William	John	Mark
	George	George	Peter	Paul
	Thomas	James	Michael	Andrew
	Charles	Ronald	Alan	David

The Top Five Names—United States

<i>Girls</i>	Mary	Mary	Mary	Jennifer
	Ruth	Barbara	Susan	Amy

	Helen	Dorothy	Deborah	Sarah
	Margaret	Betty	Linda	Michelle
	Elizabeth	Ruth	Patricia	Kimberley
Boys	John	Robert	John	Michael
	William	John	Robert	Jason
	Charles	William	James	Matthew
	Robert	James	Michael	Brian
	Joseph	Charles	David	Christopher

This short list is manifestly unfair to the extensive lists that Dunkling has carefully compiled. He groups the top 50 for boys and girls in the U.S.A., England and Wales, Scotland, Australia, and Canada. In addition, extensive lists of names are ranked according to the year a "name reached the . . . top fifty and the rank that was attained." This entails incorporating many more names than just the top 50 in the other charts. Also, "American Top Twenties: 1975 Graduates" gives the top 20 most popular names according to graduation exercise lists in 36 states. One quick conclusion is that names are enduring and in general change very little in popularity. For instance, those achieving Number One in randomly chosen examples are Iowa (Mary/David), Kansas (Deborah/John), Louisiana (Deborah/James), Kentucky (Mary/John), Illinois (Deborah/Robert), Florida (Susan/Robert), California (Susan/John), and Connecticut (Susan/John). Mary was first in 19 states; John in 16; Susan in seven; Deborah (surprisingly) in ten; James in ten; Robert in seven; Catherine and Linda, one each; David in two; and Michael in one. The second and third names were usually the ones that were first in other states.

Before it is concluded that Dunkling provides nothing more than many pages of lists of fashionable names at particular times in recent history, the record must be set straight. His theory that we react to a person's name and, because of this, stereotype him before we meet him has some basis in fact, perhaps a lot. For instance, I am sure that all of us would develop some preconceived notions about persons with names such as C. Bradley Brown, Clayton B. Brown, and Clay Brown. Actually, it is not so much the name as the way it is presented. Through previous associations and our own personality preferences (the latter still not studied or understood), we do make judgments about persons according to their names. Name fashions tend to point to a commonality of judgment at a specific time, the reasons for which can be traced to events, a popular name derived from a person of prominence or one who is spatially newsworthy, or some undetermined phenomenon among namers that dictates Kylie as a "very popular girl's name in Australia," where it has a literal meaning of "boomerang," at the expense of, for example, Heather.

In the section, "Naming the Face," Dunkling points out that "many people believe that names 'fit' faces." He then presents us with three photographs of women and three of men, with four names listed for each photograph, one of which is the correct one. All I can conclude is that I missed each one. A few pages later, he tests us with a photograph of a man and a woman, without names listed beneath. I came nowhere close to "guessing" the names. Until further evidence is available, I seriously doubt that names and faces have anything in common. Nature simply takes care of that matter.

Dunkling raises more questions than he answers. This is the wonder of the study of names and of the delightful text he has provided. Space does not allow an indulgence,

or reader-wallowing, in all the short, sharply expressive, and well written sections on "letter names," "love names" (Angelfish, Piglet, Stinker, Happy Hippopotamus, Honeyput, or Maggot), "role names," "magic names," "first name anagrams," "first names in the Middle Ages," "surnames as first names," "revolutionary names," "first names in the seventeenth century," "first names in the eighteenth century," "spelling pronunciations," "spelling variations," "link names," "the first names of Black Americans," "names in their infancy," "unusual first names," "assessing a name," and "first name quiz." These, and more, constitute the richest gathering of first-name information and provocative ideas and opinions available anywhere. To own the book is to enjoy it and to learn from it.

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*The Name Game.* By Christopher P. Andersen. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1977. Pp. 238. Price \$7.95.

Mr. Andersen is a journalist, formerly a staff writer for *Time* and at present an associate editor of *People*. His well-written book is a presentation of many familiar items and anecdotes in the field of onomastics, some of them very old, as well as some fresh material, particularly in the important area of the charisma or aura of first names.

The focus of the book is on this aura. The appeal, or pitch, is not to the scholar but to the man in the street, insisting that his success in his profession and life in general may well depend on what his given name is. How to choose a name which promises most of your child's success in life or one which may better your own fortunes, as movie actors have discovered, forms much of the substance of this book. A few chapter titles will illustrate: "You Are What Your're Named," "What Does Your Name Say About You?" "Don't Be the Victim of Your Name," and "How to Win the Name Game."

One important chapter lists nearly 900 names with their "real" meanings as opposed to their etymologies. The author gives, on p. 147, as his chief sources for this list "the Winsome Poll of 1,100, Barbara Buchanan and James Bruning's Ohio University studies, E. D. Lawson's research and the David Sheppard poll." Three of these studies are not listed in the short bibliography. Here are a few definitions for names reported as most popular in 1976:

*Boys*

Michael	very, very popular, extremely manly
David	not quite as terrific as Dave, but still an undeniable winner
John	trustworthy, surprisingly passive but very manly
Robert	diffident
James	a big winner in all categories

*Girls*

Jennifer	youthful, yet old-fashioned
Jessica	ambitious and beautiful
Nicole	average on all counts
Melissa	passive but graceful
Elizabeth	seductive

“For the first time,” we are told (p. 28), “this book gives you alternatives to just putting up with your name. It gives you the freedom not only to tailor you name to your ambitions, but to use your newfound knowledge to comprehend the motivations and the ambitions of those around you.”

A glossary of 2,500 personal names, with their etymologies, is included, followed by a listing of the laws on changing names in each of the 50 states, if you want to be official about it, but it is not necessary to go to law. The book is readable, entertaining for newcomers and amateurs in the field, and for the most part accurate, a good popular discussion on an important and not yet fully investigated subject.

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*Z. Biohrafii Slova.* (In Ukrainian: *From the Biography of Words.*) By Ievheniia Chak. Kiev: Veselka, 1976. Pp. 80 (65,000 copies). Price 17 kopeks.

Written in a very popular manner, comprehensible even to teenagers, one part of the book deals with correct usage of some often used synonyms. The other part explains the etymology and even “biography” of the origins of many words, both Ukrainian and of foreign origin. One chapter provides brief information about the origins of Ukrainina first and last names (e.g., Taras—the rebellious one, Ostap—the stable one). In reference to the semantic type of surnames, suggestions and explanations are given about their stress, or a variation in paradigms (e.g., honchar—honcharia, but when used as a surname Honchar—Honchara).

In many cases a note is made on the use of Ukrainian names in the Russian language. The author explains that “Ukrainian geographical names are given in Russian without being transliterated” (p. 54). Nevertheless, for some reason, this rule does not apply in the general usage in the USSR now, and Kharkiv is called Kharkov, Rivn—Rovno; even on some postage cancellations names of many Ukrainian cities are in their Russian form. The author also states that names of well known foreigners should always be given in transliteration from the original language. This is also not being practiced, especially since World War II, foreign names being printed in the Russian version, thus providing some curious renderings: Eisenhower became Aizenkhouer (since the letter “h” does not exist in Russian, but does in Ukrainian), Hiroshima became Khiroshima, etc., rather than Aizenhover and Hiroshima respectively.

One chapter covers a very extensive area of the numerous old and present day Ukrainina nomenclature. E.g., for the month January the present name, *sichen*, is

explained as being derived from "sikty" (from cutting wood in January) or from the West Ukrainina variant "prosynets" (from *syn*—light, since the days started to grow lighter in January). This chapter is very rich in some little known facts, such as local variants or synonyms (e.g., for August—*serpen'* and *kopen'*). Several pages are also devoted to the explanation of both Latin and Ukrainina names of some most popular flowers (e.g., iris, gladiolus, etc.). The wide spectrum of areas which this publication covers makes it very useful for Ukrainian language instruction on the intermediate or advanced level.

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*Scottish Surnames*. By David Dorward. Edinburgh: Blackwood & Sons, Ltd., 32 Thistle Street, Edinburgh EH2 1HA, Scotland, 1978. Pages ix, 70. Price 1.00.

This is a list, after a short introduction, of about 200 surnames, plus variants, found in Scotland, with derivations and comments, supplemented in many cases by reference to some of the bearers of the name. A list of the 100 commonest surnames in Scotland in descending order of frequency, furnished by the Registrar General for the year 1976, follows the main body of the work. An index of names completes this pleasant pamphlet.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Nicknames Past and Present*. By Vernon Noble. London: Hamish Hamilton Ltd., 90 Great Russel Street, 1976. Pp. xv, 183. Price \$3.95.

The nicknames included in this small book are described by Eric Partridge in a Foreword as "historical ones, including those of sport" and others which the author "describes as 'package' words, or short verbless groups of words, which he neatly calls 'nicknames' close relatives."

From the tens of thousands of existing nicknames that could be included and explained in a book entitled "Nicknames," this work contains only about one thousand. This calls attention to the fact that the author had to be most selective in the nicknames he chose to write about. In an Introduction he discusses his choice of the classes of nicknames he includes and some of the classes he omits from the Dictionary.

Following the Introduction this book is a dictionary of some of the English nicknames that have interested Vernon Noble, journalist and writer. In each entry where appropriate he explains the historical setting, origin, and how they were used, making a work that can be used for serious reference or for just skipping about and reading for pleasure.

Elsdon C. Smith

## GALE RESEARCH REPRINTS AND ORIGINALS: XXI

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

- Crowley, Ellen T., ed. *New Trade Names 1976: Supplement to Trade Names Dictionary, 1st Edition*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977. Pp. xvi + 111. \$45 (includes *New Trade Names 1977*, ready spring 1978).
- Lanman, Charles. *Biographical Annals of the Civil Government of the United States During its First Century. From Original and Official Sources*. Washington: James Anglim, 1876. Republished, Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1976. Pp. xxvi + 676. \$27.
- Ruffner, James A., ed. *Eponyms Dictionary Index*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977. Pp. xxx + 730. \$45.

Lanman's *Biographical Annals* serves as a historical record of public servants "during America's first hundred years." It has been largely superseded by the annual, and costly, biographical dictionaries, published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, of those who are serving or have served in the American Congress since 1774, beginning with the Continental Congress. Beyond the members of both houses of Congress, Lanman lists ambassadors and diplomats delegated to other nations by George Washington and also those who were received by him. Historians have noted that many of the ambassadors received their positions through the usual paying off of favors, notwithstanding that many of those who served died at their posts, especially in areas or countries where diseases differed from those prevalent in the United States. Perhaps this was a good way of eliminating undesirable patronage problems. This volume, however, should be stocked by all reference libraries. The "tabular records" section is reliable and original, and the sketches of now obscure territorial governors and officials provide information that cannot be found conveniently otherwise.

*New Trade Names* supplements the excellent *Trade Names Dictionary*, adding "over 13,00 trade names and company names." Someone somewhere needs to devote a lifetime of scholarly study to this phenomenon, that of trade names and trademarks. Much compilation has been done, but nothing has been accomplished in analyzing, commenting on, or discussing the varieties of names, many of them humorously applied in a thorny area of practices and laws. Popular trade names protected by statutes become public vocabulary. *Xerox* is definitely protected, but the open-container attitude cannot keep it from becoming "noured" and "verbalized" in the lower case, as can be noted in random samplings from the scribblings of administrators who pay no heed to such niceties.

Some of the sunshine names include Merry Poppin (popcorn), Prints Charming (stationery), Justrite (chalk), Dad & Lad (roof coating), Sorority Pie (quick frozen food), The Girl Next Door (cologne), and Zippees (some kind of toy). The darker ones include Ruuthsbo Konservfabriker AB, Rybex Szczecin Polska, San Francisquito, Strathmore Shelburne, Dusk on the Snow (hair coloring), and Shirgkiky. Surely,



Harvard MBA's had nothing to do with this kind of selecting. EXXON had its fanfare with the computer, but Square Squire could only have come from a decent plumber who pays his taxes and owns half the village. Gale Research will publish another supplement in 1978.

The most important book to come from Gale Research in some years is *Eponyms Dictionaries Index (EDI)*, "a reference guide to persons, both real and imaginary, and the terms derived from their names." Faced with a dictionary of this type, a reviewer would be excused for remembering the words of Leslie Dunkling that there are more "proper names" than there are "common ones." The difference, if there is one, between the two is hazy and has been the subject of not a few book and articles. We still have trouble defining *name*, but as John Algeo says, we know one when we see or hear it. That is not our concern here, for these names listed are derived from the "eponym," that is, from the name of a historical person or from a deity.

James Ruffner, who has singlehandedly built Gale Research into a major publishing house, states that "several large categories of eponyms were excluded from EDI." Among them were trade names, planets, stars, and astronomical features. Fortunately, many of these are included, as a check on the entries for Mercury, Mars, Venus, or even Jupiter will prove. In addition, many cross-referencing errors occur, as well as line entries that somehow got misplaced. In a large undertaking such as this, with demands upon the most acute and sensitive proofreader, such errors are certain to occur, as most of us have learned. This is not the place to count the errors which certainly will be corrected in the next edition.

It must be emphasized that this is an index, one that lists eponyms beneath the biographical entry. Sources for each are cited and keyed to more than 600 references listed in the source bibliography. These cover "some 60 different subject areas." The *Index* provides only the barest information, but enough to lead the researcher to material where the eponyms "are defined or more completely explained." This is no doubt the most complete listing of eponyms anywhere and probably will be the only reference book of its type ever to be published. The undertaking represents the foresight of Mr. Ruffner and the editors of Gale Research as the publishing company moves more and more to provide historical information for current use. The volume is indispensable for any reference library and for anyone who needs to refer to eponymic definitions.

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*San Diego County Place-Names.* By Lou Stein. San Diego: Tofua Press, 10457-F Roselle St., San Diego, Calif. 92121, 1975. Pp. 165, paperbound; maps. No price given.

Here is another in the growing list of county place-name studies, the first I have seen for any western county. In some ways I hope to see more like it for, although I knew little or nothing about California, I felt I had really learned something about this section of the state by examining the little volume.

Following a brief introduction that merely classified, in very broad categories, the names with which he deals, the author presents, in dictionary form, an account of the

current names of some 800 places in all sections of the county. The kinds of places—settlements and geographic features—are fairly well represented, although urban neighborhoods and subdivisions, park and beaches, monuments, and city streets are excluded. Some of the entries are brief essays going into some detail on the early history and colorful personalities of particular places, and much local lore and tradition are presented. I can only assume that more such detailed accounts and descriptions await further research.

Each entry generally identifies the kind of place when the generic is omitted and gives a brief description of the place and an account or accounts of its name. As often as apparently possible, the namer is identified along with the conditions of the name's application. Many entries include the English meanings for Indian or Spanish names although, in the absence of any special competence in either language, I can only assume these are accurate. About equal emphasis is given to place and name in each entry.

The sources consulted are listed at the end of the volume and many are cited in the individual entries; but many entries are unacknowledged. Assurances are given in the foreword that data were obtained from manuscripts, maps, diaries, early newspapers and magazines, county histories, as well as interviews with and letters from long-time residents. The author acknowledges the cooperation of county newspapers, postmasters, chambers of commerce and historical societies in suggesting informants and publicizing his survey. Much of his data admittedly was derived from library investigations of the results of earlier researches, particularly those of John and Winifred Davidson and Lena Hunzicker.

I really hate to mention some serious deficiencies in this volume but, alas, for the record—no attempt was made systematically to locate the places in any way; while a map of Indian reservations and ranchos is given at the end of the volume, no other map is given and strangers like me are forced to rely on our own commercial maps to locate these places ourselves. The pronunciations of major Spanish and Indian names are given together in the Appendix and not in each entry where they belong. More information on the towns, such as their current population and economic significance, would have been useful. Perhaps the author is unduly modest but nothing about him is mentioned in his book. I think any reader is entitled to know the background of the writer so that the writer's capacity to inspire confidence in his achievements can be evaluated.

Nevertheless, it is an enjoyable little volume and we can accept the author's assurance that it is only a beginning and should go far to inspire and encourage further research efforts.

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