

Book Reviews

Mars and its Satellites: A Detailed Commentary on the Nomenclature. By Jürgen Blunck. Hicksville, N. Y.: Exposition-University Press, 900 So. Oyster Bay Rd., Hicksville, N. Y., Pp. 200. Price \$10.

This handbook to the names of surface features on Mars and its two satellites, Deimos and Phobos, is a thorough and careful job. An introductory chapter, rather awkwardly written, gives a brief history of the naming of geographical features of Mars, a process which began in the middle of the nineteenth century, a little over two centuries later than the beginning of naming features on the moon.

There follows a gazetteer of the names found on the 30 quadrangle maps of differing sizes which astronomers have laid out on the surface of Mars. Each quadrangle is accurately located by degrees. Then there are listed under each the four quadrants into which each quadrangle is divided. Under each quadrant entry is a alphabetical listing of its place-names. The author and date of the first application of each name are given, followed by an unusually detailed explanation. The great majority of the explanations concern mythological figures or noted astronomers and their careers. The two satellites are treated separately.

An appendix lists, with location, author, and date, many topographical designations which are rarely used. There are also numerous plates of maps old and new, a list of over a hundred maps and globes of Mars, all dated, with authors and places of publication, and a long index of names. The author, whose doctorate in history is from the University of Kiel, has been a consultant on the nomenclature of Mars for the International Astronomical Union. Much of his material on Martian names is here first published. The type is large and the page layout attractive. This is a good pioneer reference book in a field of growing interest.

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Signposts to the Past: Place-Names and the History of England. By Margaret Gelling. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 1978. Pp. 256. Price \$14.50.

This is simply a first-rate book, a piece of solid scholarship by a top authority in the field, thoroughly documented and presented with notable succinctness and clarity.

Dr. Gelling, whose husband is an archaeologist and who lives in Birmingham, has published voluminously in the field of English place-names for over a quarter of a

century. Among her important titles are *The Place-Names of Oxfordshire*, 1953-54; *The Place-Names of Berkshire*, 3 vols., 1973-76; *The Names of Towns and Cities in Britain* (with W.H.F. Nicolaisen and M. Richards), 1970; and three volumes, 1957-75, on early charters in England. She is chairman of the Council for Names Studies in Great Britain and Ireland. The present book is referred to as the first general study of its subject in 15 years.

Some study! Not only is Dr. Gelling in full control of British place-name literature and techniques—she also speaks authoritatively in the associated fields of archaeology and history. In her first chapter she deplores the ignorance of philologists, archaeologists, and historians of one another's disciplines ("Thus we little half-men struggle," said Browning), leading them to make the most absurd statements and mistakes. She herself is a shining example of the scholar completely at home in all three areas.

The book has values far beyond what its title suggests. Not only does it give many examples of English place-names with their interesting histories, it also analyzes the types of problems encountered in the English place-name field and warns of the numerous dangers snap judgments may lead to. She lays the groundwork, so to speak, by first pointing out the five or six historical layers of language to be found on the map of England, together with some of the traps laid for the unwary who are not equipped to recognize this evidence and who thus make ridiculous statements in print.

Indeed, the major virtue of this book is not really in the presentation of entertaining examples of English place-names. It lies rather in her evaluation of earlier place-name scholarship, in abundantly pointing out weaknesses and strengths of even the most prominent authors and titles with sharp incisiveness and in repeatedly calling attention to work still to be investigated, problems still to be solved.

After the first chapter discussing the history of languages in Britain, there follow chapters on the place-names of Roman Britain, the Latin words in English place-names, the Celtic survival, the chronology of English place-names, place-names and the archaeologist, personal names in place-names, boundaries and meeting places, and Scandinavian and French place-names. Twenty-one appropriate maps back up the text, and a good bibliography and a full index are provided.

This book, then, besides furnishing entertainment, amounts to a valuable manual of intelligent place-name procedure. It gives sound advice for the English scene, but much of that advice is also applicable to the American scene of place-name scholarship, as well as to that of other parts of the world.

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Archives Nationales. L'Onomastique Française. Bibliographie des travaux publiés jusqu'en 1960. By Marianne Mulon. Paris: la Documentation Française, 1977. Pp. xvi + 454. Price 150 French francs.

Every serious student of French onomastics is almost certain, sooner or later, to climb the spiral staircase of the Hôtel de Clisson to the fourteenth century tower which, since

1961, has housed the Centre d'Onomastique of the French National Archives. There he will be welcomed by Marianne Mulon who, in addition to her work as curator of the Centre, finds enough energy to shoulder the task of secretary both for the Société Française d'Onomastique and for the *Revue Internationale d'Onomastique*. In terms of published work, specialists are already indebted to her for taking a large share since 1960 in preparing the exhaustive French sections of the annual bibliographies which appear in *Onoma*: X(1962-3), pp. 69-81; XII(1966-7), pp. 65-77; XIII(1968), pp. 59-73; XIV(1969), pp. 295-319; XV(1970), pp. 497-529; XVI(1971), pp. 537-562; XVIII(1974), pp. 138-155; XIX(1975), pp. 168-185. Now, in the volume under review, she has brought together over 7,000 references spanning more than a century of onomastic work. (Indeed, even a few pre-nineteenth century works are listed, the earliest being J.P. Masson, *Descriptio fluminis Galliae*, 1618.) The cut-off date corresponds to the beginning of Mme Mulon's collaboration in the *Onoma* listings, so she has now provided us with a survey of the entire field of French onomastics from its beginnings to the last few years.

Within the limits the compiler has set herself, "ce livre austère" (as it is termed by Jean Favier, director general of the French archives, in his preface) seeks to be complete. It encompasses, therefore, everything from the earliest, non-scientific surveys of French names and the sometimes dilettantish contributions of local men of letters in minor periodicals to the masterly syntheses of Longnon, Vincent and Dauzat (now somewhat dated on certain specific points, but unlikely ever to be entirely superseded) and the earlier publications of today's leading specialists. As far as I can discern, Mme Mulon has been almost completely successful in attaining her aim of completeness. The sole oversight I have been able to locate among general studies is P. Nauton, "Les formes en -iec du suffixe -iacu," *Mélanges de linguistique offerts à Albert Dauzat* (Paris, 1951), pp. 235-243. Even among local studies, where the compiler recognizes (p. xii) her inability to trace and include everything, practically every article of any consequence appears to have been included: for the region of southern France with which I am most familiar, I note only the omission of E. Carou, "Dictionnaire géographique et historique de l'arrondissement de Béziers," *Bulletin de la Société archéologique, scientifique et littéraire de Béziers* 2^e série, III (1866), pp. 193-359.

By design, the volume is not critical—the maintenance of proper objectivity throughout such an immense, controversial field would be formidable; a handful of completely superseded works are, however, labelled "fantaisiste" (nos. 192, 1565 bis), "sans valeur" (no. 2169), "très vieilli" (no. 2172); comments are otherwise limited to precisely identifying the subject-matter of items with opaque titles. But this is a bibliography intended for specialists who, by definition, will normally be competent to distinguish, among the items listed, the more trivial speculations from the fully dependable analyses.

Rather than establish sub-categories so numerous as to result in wholesale overlapping, Mme Mulon has chosen to classify her material under a series of fairly simple headings: methodology, geographical themes, historical themes (sub-divided into pre-Celtic, Celtic, Gallo-Roman, etc.), word studies and regional studies arranged by province and department; wherever appropriate, cross-references are provided, and each section is further sub-divided between toponymy and anthroponymy. It is no doubt by oversight that the occasional item is listed twice: Bertoldi's important methodological article "Problèmes de substrat" is, for instance, included both as no. 578 (under pre-Celtic historical themes) and as no. 903 (under word-studies). With the exception of the

sections on methodology, word studies, and the toponymy of the department of Côte-d'Or, the categories resulting from the classification system each contain less than 100 items. Ease of consultation is further greatly aided by a generous set of indices—of authors, titles of anonymous items, terms studied and methodological heading—occupying a total of 85 pages; here again the compiler distinguishes herself by an impressive record of completeness and accuracy.

In the European context, onomastic research is so greatly dependent on other fields such as history, regional geography and dialectology that the bibliographer is constantly faced with the dilemma of what to include and what to exclude. In general, Mme Mulon has chosen to exclude primary sources and other works whose value for name studies is comparative rather than analytic or explanatory; as the introduction points out, however, other bibliographies that list most of these are already available. A restriction that is much more arguable is that the boundary here placed around French is, no doubt for administrative reasons, not linguistic but political: the specialists must look elsewhere for a guide to the French nomenclature of Belgium, Switzerland and Canada; on the other hand, material on Basque (insofar as it falls within the frontier of metropolitan France), Breton and Alsatian is fully covered.

Despite the extent of the literature recorded in this volume, French onomastics remains a relatively unexplored field. This is especially true of personal names, which have the potential to supply detailed documentation for many aspects of the country's social history. Even in toponymy, thorough studies integrating evidence from names with that from history and archaeology, comparable with those of Michel Roblin for the Paris area, remain extremely scarce. Thematic studies have tended to focus on relatively few name types, though others deserve equally careful investigation. In a country that has been intensively settled and cultivated for over 2,000 years, which possesses a complex linguistic and ethnic history, which is diverse geographically, and where primary source material is not equally available for all areas and periods, the scientific study of onomastics cannot be undertaken lightly. Nevertheless, the success of specialists in several departments (such as Chaume, Lebel, Thévenot and others in Côte-d'Or, Polge in Gers, Gros and Marteaux in Savoie, Nègre in Tarn) shows that the problems are not insuperable. If French toponymists sometimes cast envious glances across the Channel at the county surveys of the English Place-Name Society, it is because the greatest need of French onomastics is still a complete survey of place-names by departments: the official collection of topographical dictionaries launched in the mid-nineteenth century covers less than half the country, and several volumes of the series are seriously incomplete or inaccurate. Now, thanks to the work of Mme Mulon, it is easy to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of onomastic research through the whole of France: let us hope that many scholars with suitable background knowledge will avail themselves of the opportunities for significant research that await them.

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GALE RESEARCH REPRINTS AND ORIGINALS: XXII

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

Crowley, Ellen T., ed. *New Acronyms, Initialisms, & Abbreviations 1977*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977. Pp. xv + 172. Soft cover. \$35 (1976 and 1977 supplements, together).

———. *New Trade Names 1977*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1977. Pp. xvii + 175. Soft cover. \$45.

Hamlin, Marie Caroline Watson. *Legends of Le Détroit*. Detroit: Thorndike Nourse, 1884. Pp. xv + 317. Republished by Gale Research Co., 1977. \$10.

Hugon, Paul D. *The Modern Word-Finder*. New rev. ed. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1934. Pp. xii + 420. Republished by Gale Research Co., 1974. \$18.

Vincent, Benjamin. *A Dictionary of Biography, Past and Present*. London: Ward, Lock, and Co., 1877. Pp. lxxxii + 641. Republished by Gale Research Co., 1974. \$38.

Two of the books, although only recently announced by Gale Research, are dated as republished in 1974. No reason has been given for this delay, but the matter should hardly bother us here. *The Modern Word-Finder* has a subtitle, "A living guide to modern usage, spelling, synonyms, pronunciation, grammar, word origins, and authorship, all in one alphabetical order." It was originally published under the title, *Morrow's Word Finder*. In sum, the book is a kind of thesaurus with overtones of a rather conservative usage handbook, despite the compiler's statement under the entry *grammar*, "The rules of Grammar are not absolute; they merely record observed usage, and are subject to constant change as usage varies from one generation to the next." The section title *name* lists the pronunciation of some peculiar names of the English nobility and gentry, including Abergavenny (Aber-G-en-i), Belvoir (like beaver), Conisborough (Kun sbro), Sandys (Sandz), and Hawarden (Harden), along with about 30 similar ones. Listed are names of boys and girls from the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Holland, Denmark, Norway, China, and Japan. These from the United States may strike us as somewhat strange: Elmer, Royal, Asa, Ira, Everett, Orville, Junior, Hiram, and Homer, to name a few. Among the girls are Beulah, Sadie, Mamie, Mina, Cora, Clara, and Phoebe. Under "Family names" can be found Swartz, Mosher, Ladue, Chrysler, Yoacum, and Yerkes.

A Dictionary of Biography indeed has relevance as a handy compilation of the sketches of the lives of more than 20,000 prominent persons. The entries are sparse, but essential details appear, such as dates, achievements, titles, and positions. If one wishes additional information, this is not the place to find it. Nevertheless, within the limitations, the dictionary accomplishes its purpose. A typical short entry:

BOETHIUS, Anicius Manlius Torquatus Severinus, Roman Philosopher; b. about 470; constructed water-clock, &c. 503; prime minister of Theodoric, king of Italy, 504; unjustly imprisoned; wrote "De Consolatione Philosophiae," 523; strangled, 23 Oct. 526.

Some entries in the double-columned pages are much longer, of course, but these often are groupings of names under one heading, such as the names of kings, dukes, and earls. Entries cover 34 major countries. Although the price seems prohibitive for a home

library, the book is nevertheless worthy of considering, especially if a ready reference is needed.

The folk tradition is well served by the legends of *le Détroit* ("City of the Straits"). The stories can be read for their own interest, since they provided wierd tales, curious traditions, askewed history, and quaint customs. Throughout, however, can be found notes concerning the names of such places as Grosse Point, Lake Sainte Claire, Grosse Ile, Bloody Run, and others. For instance, Belle Isle was first named Isle Ste. Claire (Charlevoix); then it became Rattlesnake Island because of the number of snakes that infested it; after that, it was called Hog Island, for the animals placed there to destroy the snakes; and last, it was renamed in 1845 after Miss Belle Cass, daughter of a General Cass and afterward the wife of Baron Von Limburg. The names of Hennepin, La Salle, Pontchartrain, Cadillac, Pontiac, Joliet, Frontenac, Perry, and others appear on these pages, often with commentary on the places named for them. The last section provides genealogical information on 44 early French families, many of whose names are commemorated as street and building names in modern Detroit.

New Trade Names 1977 includes also all entries from the 1976 supplement to the first edition of *Trade Names Dictionary* (1975) and lists over 22,000 trade names and company names. One of the more valuable compilations by Gale Research, *Trade Names* and its supplements are "a kind of pop-culture history of the consumer's world." Some new items include Prestoburger (a fast cooker); Poke Along (a slow cooker); Billy Beer (obvious!); Watta Pizzaria (electric pizza baker); Cubbie Holds (children's slippers); Guestware (disposable plates); Gre-Sof, Grease Butcher, Grease Relief (cleansers); Greek Drama (knit goods); Guarantee (nylon, polyester); Karbothello (pastel pencils and chalk); and Zonk (video game). Low-calorie beer (Lite), low-tar cigarettes, yogurt products, and video games are among the *au courant* items.

New Acronyms parallels *New Trade Names* in that it cumulates the 1976 supplement and contains over 20,000 "newly coined or newly found terms." Current events or newly invented items furnish many entries, such as TAPLINE (Trans-Alaska Pipeline), MOPED (motorized bicycle "whose name derives from Motor and Pedal), PTL (Praise the Lord, and popular among religious fundamentalists, as well as being the initialism for a late night television program), WGJB (World's Greatest Jazz Band), BAM (Brothers to all Men), DAD (Dispense as Directed), HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), to name only a few.

Each volume noted here has its special uses and possibly right for existing. The least important is the *Word-Finder*, which must have been republished because it is a sentimental favorite of an editor. The *Dictionary* is a worthy reference book, while *Legends* needs a place among important folk texts. The two originals are continuations of the important collecting of contemporary trade names and acronyms, a chore that needs to be performed as new material appears. In sum, these are typical texts published by Gale Research

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